

Spring term 2008



Registered Charity no.
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Friends of Southampton Youth Orchestras Newsletter

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NEW YEAR, NEW MODE

As you may remember from the Autumn 2007 issue, our previous Newsletter editor Jane Warren has had to stand down due to other commitments. Jane took over in 2004 from Laura Hewitt, who had been kerning the fonts since 2001. Now it's my turn to become FSYO **newshound**—but quite intentionally not for a three-year stint!



NEWSHOUND

Now that the website is well established, predictably there is an overlap in some of the content. In many cases, the web wins hands down for topicality and interactivity: a case in point are the newly-launched **Oldies** pages. On the other side, not everyone has internet access, and some readers may prefer to still receive a self-contained, paper-based newsletter that can be read, passed around and filed.

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PYRAMID CONCERT

The joint orchestras concert is held each year at Central Hall, this year on Saturday 15 March. It's a really special opportunity for the 'pyramid' of all our seven orchestras and ensembles to play together under one roof—though not concurrently! For some of the younger musicians, it will be the first time they have performed anywhere larger than a school hall. More importantly, for young players it is an unrivalled opportunity to see and hear the more advanced ensembles where they themselves could be playing in a few years' time.

In this season of more council budget cuts, this concert, and its equivalent with the Brass Bands, is a reminder of just how fortunate we are with the commitment of Southampton Music Services. In many areas, there is either a termly charge to play in an orchestra or other ensemble, or there are no publicly-supported orchestras at all.

So please support your sons, daughters and their friends. Tickets will be on sale at rehearsals in March, priced at £6 (adults), £5 (concessions) and £1 (under-16's). An alternative is to order and pay for them in advance using the form on the website. Those sold on the night will be at the slightly higher prices of £7, £6 and £1 respectively, so it pays to book in advance. Seats are unnumbered.

Each ensemble will be collecting gifts at rehearsals for a themed raffle prize. These are very popular, raising hundreds of pounds every year and enabling the Friends to help all the orchestras with purchases of new instruments and music, and subsidies on sectionals, workshops and tours.

The concert starts at 7pm, with earlier afternoon rehearsals for the string ensembles. It is expected to finish by 9pm, but with so many participants, please be patient if it overruns a little. Central Hall is on the corner of St Mary Street and Kingsway, Southampton SO14 1NF (behind Debenham's).

DID YOU KNOW?

Central Hall was built by the Methodists in **1925** as a mission centre for Southampton. It was designed for the community and in the early days a health clinic and poor man's lawyer were based in the building. In addition the building was designed with a projection room so that it could also be used as a cinema. The story goes that a film was shown every Sunday night immediately after a gospel service. If you wanted to get good seats for the film you needed to go to the Gospel service first!

Thanks to Elaine Davidson at Central Hall.

Committee 2007–2008

POSITION	NAME	ENSEMBLE(S)
Chair	Sally Boxall <i>sallyboxall@hotmail.com</i>	SYO
Treasurer	Richard Boardman	SYO
Vice Chair (inc. concert programme advertising)	Ann Smith <i>ann_smith@lineone.net</i>	SYO
Secretary (inc. membership)	Sue Wilkins <i>sue@wilkinsfamily.plus.com</i>	SYS
SYO Transport	Peter Gosney	ex SYS
SYO Librarian	Linnet Evans	ex SYO
	Miyuke Archibald	SYS
	Joan Male	ex SYS
	Liz Morris	SYO, SYCS

Elected at the AGM October 2007. One other elected member has not yet been able to participate in meetings or activities.



Newshound says: You don't need to be a Committee member to help. Selling tickets, stewarding at concerts, cake-baking, transport for the bigger instruments, helping on trips—these are just some of the ways in which parents can support their children's orchestras from time to time. And it's a great way to make new friends. Miss all the fun? You'd be barkin' mad!

Ensembles and Directors 2007–2008

ENSEMBLE	DIRECTOR	VENUE	TIME
Purcell Strings	Bev Geen (Helen Bullas is on maternity leave)	Sholing Junior School	Wednesday, 4-5 pm
Finzi Strings	Vanessa Jarvis	Shirley Warren Primary School	Monday, 4-5 pm
Holst String Orchestra	Zoe Hunting	Shirley Junior School	Monday, 4-5 pm
Elgar String Orchestra	Christa Porter	Sholing Junior School	Wednesday, 5:15 - 6:15 pm
Southampton Youth Sinfonietta (SYS)	Karen Hatton	Cantell School	Saturday, 9:30 – 11:45 am
Southampton Youth Concert Sinfonia (SYCS)	Martin Felton (mgr. Joy Tricklebank)	Regent's Park School	Saturday, 9:30am -12 noon
Southampton Youth Orchestra (SYO)	Jane Higgins	Taunton's College	Saturday. 9:30 – 12:30 pm

Events Diary 2008

DATE	ORCHESTRA	VENUE
Saturday 15 March	Pyramid Concert—all seven orchestras	Central Hall, 7pm
Saturday 29 March	SYCS, SYWB + A Touch of Brass	Central Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 26 April	Southampton Youth Orchestra	Thornden Hall, 7.30pm
Sunday 27 April	'Bridge Tea' fundraising for SYO—see website!	Crossfield Hall, Romsey
Wednesday 30 April	Southampton Schools Pyramid Choirs concert	Turner Sims, 7pm

For details of more concerts in the next few months, see www.southamptonmusic.org.uk/ensembles/concert_diary.asp or www.fsyo.org.uk.

NEW YEAR, NEW MODE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Let us know what you would like to see in the newsletter in future through the survey. You can tick or circle your answers. Other family members can submit separate forms—but no more than one per individual please. A summary of everyone's responses will be published in the Summer 2008 issue.

You are welcome to give your feedback anonymously. However, as a 'thank you' for taking part, there is also a small mystery prize up for grabs, although obviously to be in with a chance we will need some contact details.

SURVEY FORM

Please photocopy and return to FSYO, 28 Highfield Crescent, Southampton SO17 1SF by 31 March 2008 or fill in online.

Are you a:

- Orchestra player
- Parent/family
- MD/Teacher/Other

How much of the current, paper-based Newsletter do you read?

- Every issue, every page
- Most issues, most pages
- It doesn't usually emerge from the instrument case
- I wasn't aware there was a newsletter

Do you read the newsletter for:

- General interest—nothing specific
- News
- Reference—contacts, rehearsal times, concert dates etc
- Advertisements
- Other—please state:

How often do you visit the website (www.fsyo.org.uk)

- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- Occasionally
- Was not aware there was a website
- Don't have internet access

If relevant, do you visit the website for

- General interest—nothing specific
- News
- Reference—contacts, rehearsal times, concert dates etc
- Music library
- Advertisements (small ads)
- Other—please state:

How do you feel about a web-based newsletter?

- No need for a separate newsletter—I can get everything I need from the website anyway
- A 'News' section (separate from the home page) would be good
- No strong feelings
- No web access or not interested.

If the website were to carry a News section, should it be

- Much like any other page, but which can be printed out and distributed if required
- Laid out more like a traditional newsletter, which can be printed out

(In both cases, the 'News' section can then be printed out and distributed as required)

If you currently visit the website, what do you read the most? What is most useful?

What do you read the least? What do you find least useful?

Any other comments on newsletter or website?

The following details are optional:

Name

Phone or email

Orchestra



ROGUES' GALLERY

No prizes for recognising that this shot of SYO with conductor **Peter Davies** was taken in front of **Southampton Guildhall**, sometime — judging by the skirts and hairstyles — in the very early 1970's. Andy Crespin was a percussionist at the time, and is in the second row back, second from the right. But who are the others—and where are you now?

If you, or your big brother or sister, mum or dad, have been in SYO or indeed any of our orchestras in the past, we would love to hear from you. If you have any more photos, formal or otherwise, from past decades, please send in a scan and we can include it in the newsletter or on the website. And if you would like to catch up with desk-mates and coach-buddies from those halcyon days, visit our latest set of website pages, www.fsyo.org.uk/fsyoldies_login.asp.

FROM THE CUPBOARD

The Friends of Southampton Youth Orchestras have a library of well over 600 items of music suitable for all abilities. A good fraction of these are classified as suitable for Grade 4 and under, and so could be particularly attractive for school ensembles. Many are relatively modern, and in near-mint condition. The great majority are either strings-only, or for strings plus optional woodwind/brass. We also have a smaller stock of chamber music, again for various abilities.

All the scores we hold are available to borrow, without charge, by teachers working in Southampton LEA schools, or employed by Southampton Music Services. To get an idea of what is held, you can search the database via **the website's Music library** link. This includes search options on Level (for example up to Grade 3) and other criteria. The information icon at the top right gives more details about search options.

To ease overcrowding in our storage space in the 'cupboard' at Taunton's College, some items are now being withdrawn, and will need re-homing. Scroll to the foot of the music library page for details.

DID YOU ALSO KNOW?

In the 19th century, the Serpent—so called because of its shape—was a common sight (and sound) in town bands and church orchestras. The standard church instrument had eight feet of tubing! Later models had two or three keys, but early versions, like the natural trumpet, depended entirely on the players' skill with the mouthpiece. In classical music, it survived to feature in Mendelssohn's *Reformation* Symphony no 5 of 1832. A modern version has been played with the Boston Pops Orchestra. Eventually, the serpent lost out both to the church organ, and elsewhere to more compact and better-engineered brass instruments.

You can read about 21st century serpents on <http://www.scot-f-hall.co.uk/musica.shtml>



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