

Summer term 2009



Registered Charity no.
283789

Friends of Southampton Youth Orchestras Newsletter

HELLO AGAIN (FROM US) ...

Something that speaks volumes about the 'power' of music in Southampton is the number of teachers and ensemble directors here, who actually came up through the ranks of our various orchestras and bands. One of these is Karen Hatton, who for the last 6 years has been reunited with her first City orchestra, now the Southampton Youth Sinfonietta (SYS). Following a move some years ago to a relatively far-flung part of Hampshire, it was the continuing overhead of traveling into Southampton that eventually forced the decision.

Everyone who has known Karen, whether under the baton or otherwise, will miss her tremendous personality and sense of adventure. Fortunately, we caught Karen in time to ask if she could write a valedictory piece for the Newsletter, reproduced here:



... AND GOODBYE (FROM KAREN HATTON)

After an 18 year long association with the Southampton Youth Orchestras, I have decided to step down as director of **Southampton Youth Sinfonietta** in July. I have had so many fantastic opportunities throughout this time it would be impossible to mention them all.

In 1991 I started as a percussionist (and violin 3) in Southampton Junior orchestra, which today has become SYS. I have previously confessed that I was a bit of a naughty percussionist and do remember being told off by Joan [Male] on a few occasions! I also played in the Training Orchestra (now SYCS) under the baton of John Dover. I remember feeling so proud when I got the timpani bit right at the beginning of 'The Big Country'! In 1996 I got a place in the first violins in SYO. The high expectations of conductor Keith Smith were a bit of a shock at first. Some studious practice followed. In 1997 I moved to the viola section, where I spent my last year in SYO. Being in the youth orchestra gave me the opportunity to go to Italy, and also to play at the Angoulême organ festival in France. My fondest musical memory ever was playing the Saint Saëns organ symphony there - it felt magical.

My favourite concert every year is without a doubt the youth orchestra pyramid concert. I remember the feeling of amazement watching all the youth orchestras as a child - and experiencing a huge amount of pride when I see our young musicians today. *(The photo below is from the 2008 Pyramid Concert.)*



In 2003 I became Deputy Director of SYS, under the baton of Joan Male. It was here that I really got to put my conducting skills from university into practice and this quickly developed into a passion. Two years ago I had the honour of becoming Director of SYS as Joan stepped down. I set to work creating an orchestra ready to be the youth orchestra of the future, and we worked as a team to learn pieces such as the Barber of Seville overture, Polotsvian Dances - and YMCA. The

feeling of pride I have for the achievements of our young musicians is almost indescribable, and I feel privileged to have been part of their musical journeys. It has been an almost heart wrenching decision to leave, but the right one for me. I will be continuing to work for Hampshire Music Service and developing my role as Director of the Andover Area Schools Ensembles; and also getting married in October.

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Committee 2008–2009

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>	ex SYO
Secretary (inc. membership)	Sue Wilkins <i>sue@wilkinsfamily.plus.com</i>	SYCS
SYO Transport	Peter Gosney	ex SYS
FSYO Website	Linnet Evans <i>info@fsyo.org.uk</i>	ex SYO
FSYO Music Library	Alan Hobley* <i>a.p.hobley@hotmail.com.uk</i>	SYCS
Other committee members	Miyuke Archibald	SYCS
	Joan Male	ex SYS
	Liz Morris	SYO, SYCS
	Marianne Plater	SYS
	Claire Thompson	SYO
	Fleurette Waldron	SYO

Elected at the AGM October 2008, apart from Alan Hobley who has been co-opted..*

Ensembles, Directors and Rehearsals 2008–2009

ENSEMBLE	DIRECTOR	VENUE	TIME
Purcell Strings	Bev Geen	Sholing Junior School	Wednesday, 4-5 pm
Finzi Strings	Vanessa Jarvis	Hollybrook Junior School	Monday, 4.15-5.15 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 (to July 2009)	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

Selections from the Events Diary

DATE	ORCHESTRA	VENUE
Friday 3 July, 7.30pm	SYO in association with Wessex Cancer Trust	Turner Sims Concert Hall, 7.30pm
Saturday 4 July, 7.30pm	SYCS	Turner Sims Concert Hall, 7.30pm
Monday 6 July, 7.00pm	Holst & Finzi String Ensembles	Shirley Junior School, 7pm
Wednesday 8 July, 7.00pm	Elgar & Purcell String ensembles	Sholing Junior School, 7pm
Saturday 11 July, 11.30am	SYS Summer Celebration Concert	Cantell School

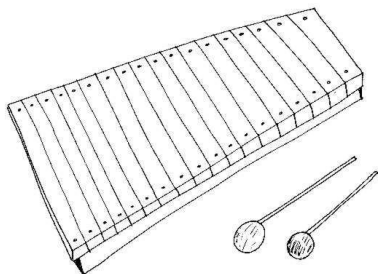
COMMITTEE VOICES

FSYO Committee members are usually elected at the Annual General Meeting in October or November of each year, although they may also be co-opted during the year. Committee 'officers' - roles such as Chair and Secretary—are also confirmed at the AGM. The Committee generally meet, on a weekday evening, three times a term to arrange support for concerts and other events, organise fundraising, approve expenditure, and discuss wider issues.

Three of our members share their experiences here.

Liz Morris is based in Romsey, and has been on the FSYO Committee for nearly two years, joining at the 2007 AGM. She writes:

I came in with no pre conceived ideas of how the committee would be as my two daughters joined the orchestras at the same time. I have been really impressed by the enthusiasm of the committee and how everyone can make a difference however small a part they play.



It is also a great way to meet new people and I have found everyone very welcoming. The committee also gives a good insight into the amount of work that goes in regarding organising Tours, Concerts, fund raising ideas etc. I have been really interested to learn how much Southampton offers in the way of music, as I have worked for Children's Services in Southampton since 1989.

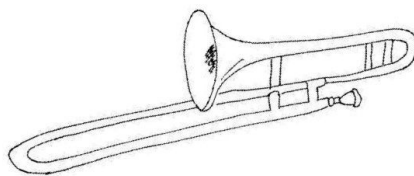
Claire Thompson, who lives in Rownhams, joined in November 2008.

I am still quite new to the committee but have helped out in various ways

before that. You may have encountered me selling tickets.

I've discovered that the orchestras couldn't function without parents helping in many and varied ways. One of the good things about being on a committee is seeing how people are good at different things.

We first heard of the pyramid orchestras when my daughter's friend encouraged her to join the SYCS as they were short of violas. After the first pyramid concert her twin sister wanted to join too and, being a flute player, was slotted in to the flute choir which she enjoyed for several



years before joining SYCS. My youngest daughter, who plays the violin, joined Holst at around the same time. There was a time when they all needed taking and collecting from 3 different places on a Saturday morning, but this year they are all in SYO.

I am very involved in my local church where I wear a number of hats. I have recently become the Church Administrator. I also volunteer in the Fair Trade Shop in Shirley.

Linnet Evans, based in Southampton, joined in 2005

I feed and water the website and currently also edit the newsletter.

Both my daughters started in the Holst, which was at the time a full orchestra. One decided her interests lay elsewhere; the other is still playing at University.

FSYO is my third experience of

NOT JUST THE COMMITTEE

Rehearsals and concerts don't happen just by magic. True, it's funding from Southampton Music Services that pays for the rehearsal room and for the Musical Director's services. But the people who set out the chairs and stands, help with string tuning, move the percussion instruments, make the MD a cup of tea at breaktime, organise raffle prizes and sell tickets, drive the van, sell refreshments, clear up at the end - these are almost all parents of orchestra players who have chosen to give up a little of their time. So please don't take it all for granted!

serving on a committee. For the previous 5 years I had helped to support the Southampton flute ensemble Flautissimo. Both of these have been thoroughly civilised affairs however compared to a baptism by fire (or chicken incubator at least) at a city farm in inner London. There was endless vandalism and thefts, a blaze in an outbuilding, staff injuries at work, an assault, an industrial tribunal, and constant scramble for funding. I learned as much about team building and employment law as about goat worming and pig fertility! Amazingly all ended well, and the farm is still flourishing 16 years later.

Why serve on a committee? To large extent, it is about giving some backing to things that your children are doing, and also incidentally supporting the musical directors and others involved. It is about seeing change and progress along with the smooth running of weekly rehearsals, termly concerts or annual trips. It's an opportunity to see behind the scenes, exploit some skills and interests, perhaps acquiring some new ones, to cement some old friendships and to make new ones, and sometimes even to have some fun! Whatever the reasons, when I 'retire' from FSYO, I will probably be looking for the next committee to join....



ROGUES' GALLERY

Turning the clock back 30 years, Alan and Pearl Mace supplied us with this shot of SYO in the grounds of Winchester Cathedral in 1979. Pete Gosney, who then was among the foppish lads in the back row, reckons that everyone was smiling at the 'Keep off the grass' sign:

"Being the rebels of '79 we all conveniently ignored this instruction in order to record this event for you today. Seriously, I believe this photograph was taken in the summer term following the April course at Nottingham University and the subsequent concert with Malcolm Williamson at the Southampton Guildhall."

The orchestra would have been under the direction of a newly-appointed Keith Smith. There are more of Pete's recollections to read on our website. Meanwhile, can any other readers share their experiences of three decades ago?

KAREN HATTON (CONT'D)

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I would like to thank all of the parents, players and the Friends of Southampton Youth Orchestras for your support which appears in so many different ways. I hope that Southampton Music Services continue to financially support rehearsal venue and staff costs so that the fantastic fundraising work of FSYO can continue to help where we need it most.

I'm sure I will see you at concerts in the future, and if you see me first, please come and say hello and tell me how you're getting on.

With very best wishes for the future to you all.

Karen

PYRAMID SELL-OUT

Karen mentioned the Joint Orchestras' 'Pyramid' concert as a major inspiration for her as a young musician.

As announced in the last newsletter, the annual **Youth Orchestras Pyramid Concert** took place this year on **Saturday 14 March**. It came within a whisker of being a sell-out event, and the standard of playing was very high. The younger ensembles, some with only a few months' experience of working together, put on a particularly impressive debut!

Between ticket sales and the raffle, the concert raised over £4000 before expenses. Profits will as ever go to helping all the ensembles with extra expenses through the year, be it printed music, instruments or equipment.

Thank you again to everyone who came to hear their children and grandchildren take part, and to all the volunteer helpers on the night.

FIDDLING AT THE HOUSE (BUT NOT OUR EXPENSES...)

On 12 May, Alison Thompson, Simon Harper (violins), Sarah Spencelayh (viola) and Stephanie Williams (cello) had the honour of an invitation to perform on the terrace of the **House of Commons**.

The occasion was the launch of the 2009 Prospectus for the **Sixth Form Colleges' Forum**. SFCF is a body representing all Sixth Form colleges nationally, lobbying on issues ranging from curriculum to staff

pay and conditions.

All four string players are current members of SYO as well as students at Taunton's Sixth Form College.



FOR SALE AND WANTED

Looking for a 'starter' instrument, one careful owner? Trading up from a half- or three-quarter size violin or cello? Keen to find a good home for something outgrown or no longer needed?

Our website carries a selection of advertisements on its **Small Ads** page. Advertising is FREE for orchestra players and families—simply email the text with your contact details to the usual address.

DA CAPO

Newshound writes:

For any sightings of bones, cats, postmen or anything else less predictable but still worth chasing, just let me know at info@fsyo.org.uk.

Woof woof!

