

SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH ORCHESTRAS AND CHOIRS



NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH
ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR

need your support

Aims: To foster the musical development and artistic endeavours of past and present members of the Southampton Youth Orchestra and Choir.

Please help these talented young people by joining the 'FRIENDS'.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday 18 November 1978

A Beer Evening with "The German Band" at Blighmont Hall, Millbrook Road, Southampton, 8.0 p.m. - midnight. Cold Buffet plus a free beer mug.
Entry by ticket - Adults only.
Tickets £2.50 from
A Hunter 556175 or R Cowhig 557810

Thursday 25 November 1978

Informal Concert by some members of Youth Orchestra and Youth Choir, at Hill College, 7.30 p.m.
American Supper - Hot drinks available.

Thursday 21 December 1978

Southampton Youth Orchestra End of Term Concert, Social and Grand Draw.
Please make a special effort to come to this event at Hill College, 7.30 p.m. It will probably be our "Goodbye Mr Bridge" night.
Refreshments available.

January 1979 (exact date to be advised)

Annual General Meeting.
Please show support for the Musical Director, Committee members, and your children by attending. You will not be forced to become a Committee member. The few who turned up last year felt lonely and wondered if 80% of the Orchestra and 95% of Choir members were orphans!!! Parents, do come along this year.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends

This is the first of a series of newsheets that will appear from time to time. The purpose of these publications is to keep you informed of the activities of the committee you have elected to represent you, and to keep you informed about concert dates, social events, etc.

We feel that you will find the articles on past and present members of the orchestra and choir of interest, and hope you will pass on to us further information on other past members, so that we can keep everyone in touch.

It may well be that as we become more proficient at producing these newsletters you would like to suggest improvement and alterations. If you have any ideas please let us have them.

As you read about our activities this year we hope you will feel that a real effort has been made to catch the attention of as many people as possible with the express purpose of raising money for the young people in the orchestra and choir. This is the main function of this body. We need to raise a great deal of money to pay for courses, instruments, music, accompanists, bouquets, hire of halls, transport, soloists, etc. How we raise the money is by as many and varied means as we can think of. Perhaps you have an idea that would be worth trying. Why not contact us.

One way in which everyone could assist is by offering to be available to help at our various activities. We need people who are prepared to occasionally give up an evening to serve refreshments, collect tickets, run the cloakroom, and generally be there to exercise a calming influence, say at a disco!

Ideally we would like to compile a list of people who would be prepared to turn out should we need them. If you can help, please let us have your name and telephone number. The more offers the fewer times we will need to call you.

At the Saturday rehearsals for the Youth Orchestra the 'Friends' have a portable notice board on which may be found dates of forthcoming events, and other useful information. There is also a folder attached to the board to receive suggestions and other communications to the Committee.

I would like to place on record a word of grateful thanks to the hardworking ladies who give up a great deal of their time to run the refreshments for the Orchestra at Hill College. This is a service which is carried out (conscientiously!!) regularly with good humour and patience, and too often is forgotten or taken for granted. Our thanks also to Mr Faulkner for his continued efforts, and to the committee for their hard work throughout the year.

Finally, please make a note of the date for the A.G.M. and make every effort to be there.

J J Cornford

YOUTH ORCHESTRAby G Bridge

Well, it looks like my two month tenure as Conductor of the Southampton Youth Orchestra is at last coming to an end! As I'm sure everyone will know, Evan Watkin was taken ill in the summer of 1976, and I was asked in the September of that year to take over until he was fit, say, for a couple of months or so. It is so sad that he was unable ever again to take up the reins fully, as he was dedicated to the orchestra, and as his wife Megan said to me one day "Evan wants to make the Youth Orchestra as good as the R.P.O."

The rehearsal the other week was very interesting for the Orchestra. This was the day when five aspiring - perspiring? - chaps came to be put through their paces in an attempt to find the new Conductor. The players responded wonderfully well and gave each candidate 100% attention and concentration. I was commissioned to talk to each man about the Orchestra, and the praise was heaped high about the ability, the sound, the attention. I felt terribly proud. The Senior Music Advisor, Mr Wickens, suggested to the Orchestra that they might take a part in the selection procedure by indicating their preference through the section leaders. This democratic gesture was much appreciated by the members. So, come Christmas, I ought to be able to relinquish my two month appointment which stretched for an additional two and a half years, and return to my job as Head of Woodwind Teaching in the County.

This has been a most enjoyable period in my working life. In some ways perhaps the most enjoyable. I will never forget, oh, so many things. In the early rehearsals I seemed to lose my temper so many times. The poor old brass section suffered so much abuse from my sarcastic

tongue that we were in danger of losing the lot of them. Having me, a mere oboe player, shouting at them must have been very demeaning, especially after dear Evan had cajoled and cossetted them. We sorted out our differences, however, and I then turned my attentions to the woodwind. This section has proved itself over the two years to be of a vintage to remember with a great deal of pleasure. Individually and collectively they have played beautifully. Always marvellously in tune, accurate and full of personality in solo work. These have been halcyon days for me - what a section to work with! My dealings with the strings have always been influenced by the knowledge culled from my professional orchestral experience that string players have to be dealt with carefully. The fact of their corporate existence seems to breed in them a need to be outlandishly individual in their personality. Extrovert, neurotic or introvert - there almost always appears to be an extreme personality trait. Not so the strings of the Youth Orchestra, of course! They have always co-operated most loyally and given of their best, and in some cases far exceeded their own expectations. I can think of many glorious moments where they have excelled themselves. The lovely quiet playing in the Debussy 'Prelude' and the Copland 'Appalachian Spring'. The lithe exciting bits in the Young Person's Guide. The unfailingly robust cellos and basses.....I could go on and on.

Last and very definitely not least I mustn't forget the percussion section. If Tony Taylor sometimes had a battle with himself about whether the Saints or S.Y.O. should come first, he more than compensated for his occasional support at the Dell by his wonderfully-toned tympani playing. He and his colleagues have sometimes had a very boring time, and I apologise to them if they feel that. I suppose it's the nature of things that a percussionist's life is not always a busy one. However, I won't

forget their playing in a hurry - the Young Person's Guide particularly. I will also recall with pleasure the laconic remarks from a certain excellent side-drum player; but I do wish he wouldn't smoke. Doesn't he know that even the Government warns us that smoking is a danger to health! Give it up, Alec, it could kill you!

My thanks are due to so many people and I am wary about naming them in case I leave someone out. I can't forget the help of the 'Friends' without whose support nothing would be possible, nor can I forget Tony Robinson, the man in charge at Hill College. He has been so helpful, calm and kind. Nothing seems to be too much trouble for him. A huge thanks to the two leaders, Lizzie and Martin, who weren't pleased when I christened them "Porgy and Bess". The work that these two have done in so many ways in the Orchestra's cause has been of inestimable value. If I have the tendency to praise and thank the members of the orchestra more than anyone else for making this time most enjoyable for me, please forgive me. The Orchestra is formed of young people and is for them, and this bunch have a self-perpetuating goodwill towards each other which is infectious. I have grown very fond of them all, and I consider that the next intendant is an extremely lucky man indeed to have been given the opportunity to work with such a marvellous group of people.

The best of luck to you all.

YOUTH ORCHESTRA COURSE-CUM CONCERT
TOUR IN ABERDEEN by Elizabeth Searle

For the benefit of all those friends who are not directly connected with the Youth Orchestra, and who have not heard all about our trip to Aberdeen at Easter, I would like to say as spokeswoman for the orchestra, that it was hailed as a most successful and very enjoyable week. (The memories of all the fun we had live on and photographs are still being shown around.)

Our home-base in the training college provided a lovely setting and excellent facilities, food and accommodation which undoubtedly contributed a lot to our enjoyment.

I would like therefore to thank all the Friends and especially the committee members for their fund raising efforts and contributions to support our worthwhile trip, all of which was most certainly appreciated by the Youth Orchestra.

FAREWELL

Several members of the Youth Orchestra left at the end of the summer term. Many went on to music colleges and universities so we hope to have reports from them in future newsletters. They were such a happy (sometimes 'mad!') crowd that we still miss them.

THE SOUTHAMPTON FLUTE QUARTET By Robin Soldan

Alias

THE FOUR C'S (Elizabeth Cornford

Hazel Comber

Isabelle Carre

Clare Cowhig)

When the four girls who form the flute section of SYO first started to play flute quartets together (less than a year ago), little did they think that their often hilarious evening rehearsals would result in journeys to the Fairfield Halls, Croydon, and the Royal Albert Hall this year. I'm sure that they thought to themselves with a pitying sigh "poor Mr Soldan's got a bee in his bonnet about lots of flutes", and just played along to humour me! Of course they are quite right: I've always been very keen on the sound of a flute quartet, but have never really got down to persuading pupils to learn some of the surprisingly large repertoire to performance standard. However the "Four C's", so-called (after many other strange suggestions) because their surnames all start with a C, soon justified this hare-brained idea by giving a successful lunchtime recital at the Mountbatten Theatre last March, and later getting invited to take part in the National Festival of Music for Youth at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon, where they won an award in the Chamber Music section for "Outstanding Performance". In fact the adjudicators got quite excited by their playing of what they called some "delicious French titbits", and the Times Educational Supplement wrote: "An amazingly refined quartet of flutes played a delicate French impressionist piece by Bozza with total unanimity of tone and expression - a type of music and quality of performance rarely if ever heard on the professional concert platform".

After this heady experience the girls felt that nothing could ever match the excitement of the National Festival, but they were wrong. In August came an invitation to perform in the Royal Albert Hall on 28 November at the Schools Prom. The long-suffering but ever helpful parents of the girls got down to organising a coach for friends, relatives, hangers-on etc, and after some fairly animated discussion about patterns and colours the mums started stitching long evening dresses.

Meanwhile the girls have got some other concerts lined up, including an appearance at Tudor Merchants Hall, and they are busy learning new pieces to add to their repertoire. Whatever career they pursue later on, I don't think they will ever forget the experience of making music together, and especially of letting the sound of their flutes float up into the dome of the Albert Hall.

FROM G BRIDGE

In honour of the success of the Flute Section here are what the ancient Greeks and Romans think of you.

Plutarch says: Spartans played upon the flute to alarm the enemy.

Theophrastus: The sound of the flute will cure epilepsy, and a sciatic gout.

Ovid: The music of the zither, flute and the lyre enervate the mind.

Old Greek Proverb AD 200

To Flute-players, nature gave brains there's no
doubt
But alas! 'tis in vain, for they soon blow them
out

(Ed. I am so pleased Theobald Boehm put a stop
to all that)

THANKS

The Four C's and their parents wish to thank
Mr Robin Soldan for all the time he has given
up on their behalf. His dedication and enthusiasm
never fails to inspire them.

SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

This group of 32 talented musicians got together
a few months ago under the direction of Dave
Hooke. The aim of the group is to try to raise
money for the funds. They enjoy playing and are
good at it, so they decided to use these talents
to help the group. If they get a small fee for
a performance this will be donated to the funds.
The committee are delighted and encouraged by
this enterprise - well done Dave & Co.

The Chamber Orchestra will be giving a concert
at The Church of the Ascension, Bitterne Park, on
Wednesday 20 December 1978. The concert, which
includes Christmas music and Carols, commences at
7.30 p.m.

A concert on Thursday 1 March 1979 at Itchen
College - 7.30 p.m. - will include Schubert's
Sixth Symphony and Weber's Concertino for
Clarinet and Orchestra.

SOUTHAMPTON JUNIOR ORCHESTRA

by Miss J Male

The Southampton Junior Orchestra meets every
fortnight on Saturday mornings at Shirley
Middle School. It consists of over seventy
players all under the age of 14. This term we
are delighted to welcome 28 new members (18
'full' members and 10 'associate' members. At
last we have a Brass section so we can truly
claim the "real little" orchestra as reported
in the Southampton Echo, July 1978.

If there are Friends and/or Parents who could
spare half an hour (approx. 10.15 - 10.45 a.m.)
and who would be willing to dispense squash to
thirsty players during our break, we would be
extremely pleased to hear from them. Please
phone Hamble 2588 if you would like to help.
Our next rehearsal will be 11 November.

SOUTHAMPTON AREA TRAINING ORCHESTRA

The musical director, Mr Fred Harvey, will tell you
about his orchestra in the next issue.

YOUTH CHOIRby J Palmer

The Art Gallery has turned out to be a useful and pleasant place in which to hold rehearsals. However, occasionally events are planned there beyond our control which can affect our rehearsal schedule.

N.B.

There will be no rehearsal on Friday 17 November
Instead there will be an extra rehearsal on Tuesday 21 November, at the usual time, as well as the normal one on Friday 24 November.

The importance of these practices cannot be overstressed, as the Choir will be taking part in the Schools Music Association Concert on Thursday 30 November. They will sing at the beginning of the second part of the evening, and the programme will consist of a wide variety of shorter pieces from Palestrina, Bach and Kodaly, to Michel Legrand and John Rutter.

Membership

Why should it be so difficult to recruit tenors and basses? As sections they just about exist, which is a shame since most of the members of Youth Choir have now had their auditions, and both the soprano and alto sections are at full strength and much improved. The potential is enormous, and I am restricted to working with a dedicated few who yearn for a bit of moral support!

Some future dates:

Sunday 4 February - Art Gallery

Combined concert with the Training Choir.

Thursday 5 April in the Turner Sims Concert Hall

Fancies

John Rutter

Serenade for tenor, horn and strings Britten

Hiawatha's Wedding Feast Coleridge-Taylor

sponsored by the Schools Music Association

SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH TRAINING CHOIRby Miss P Phipps

The Youth Training Choir is a new venture, begun in September. It is the junior branch of the Youth Choir and has been formed to train singers, aged between 11 and 14 years, who hope to join the main Choir in the future. Members are drawn from Primary, Middle and Secondary Schools in the area on recommendation of staff. Prospective members, however, may be auditioned.

This new choir will perform a wide variety of music for treble voices and its first public concert, shared with the Youth Choir, will take place in the Art Gallery on Sunday 4 February.

Rehearsals are held in Above Bar Church Hall, Ogle Road, on Friday evenings from 4.15-5.30 p.m. Anybody wishing to make further enquiries should contact Miss Phipps at Ludlow Middle School.

CASSETTE RECORDINGS

Beverley Wood has been recording Southampton Youth Orchestra and Choir concerts for some years, largely as a hobby. He records on a reel-to-reel recorder and later makes a master cassette from which we make copies to sell to Youth Orchestra and Choir members, Mums and Dads, and any other relatives who are interested. The prices include some profit which goes to Friends' funds. The standard of recording on the master cassettes is very high, and we hope that the standard on the copies is also high. Different makes of cassette can sound different on different cassette players, so for some people it might be better to pay more for copies on more expensive tapes. The latest three recordings available are:-

Southampton Youth Orchestra and Choir Concert, 22 February 1978, including Porgy and Bess, on a C90.

Southampton Youth Orchestra, 20 April 1978, including Beethoven's Coriolan Overture, Dvorak's Cello Concerto, Arnold's Four Scottish Dances, Copland's Appalachian Spring, and Marche Militaire by Saint Saens (C120).

Southampton Schools Music Association Instrumental Festival Concert, Central Hall, 13 July 1978, including Southampton Area Schools Orchestra and the Junior Orchestras, the Wind and Youth Bands (C120)

Current prices are:

	Standard Quality	Super Quality
C120	£1.00	£2.05
C90	.80	£1.70

Cassettes are available either through Hazel Comber, flute section of the Orchestra, or via the Committee Members of the Friends who are in the Choir, or by post (+15p per cassette) from R Comber, 5 Bridlington Avenue, Southampton (Tel: 774957). Complete list of tapes available from R Comber (s.a.e. please).

GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW

Members of the choir and orchestra who are over 16 years should make a special effort to sell draw tickets this year. Those under 16 years should obtain help from their families. I am sure you must realise that when the "Friends" are giving cash subsidies or services everyone is in the queue but when we try to distribute draw tickets some members disappear into the background. Three or four parents sold about 70% of last year's tickets which meant that 150 members of the choir/orchestra did not do so well. We suggest that a few members try to help with fund-raising activities whilst many do nothing. Last year some people took tickets and never returned them. The Committee feel that the Draw gives all members the opportunity to replenish our funds. We sincerely thank those who made the effort to sell tickets last year.

THE CHALLENGE :

A prize will be given to any member of the choir and orchestra who sells more tickets than Ray Cowhig.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND GIFT WRAPPING PAPER

Martin Cook, Co-Leader of the Orchestra, will have items for sale at rehearsals and functions. Don't buy your cards and paper until you have seen Martin's selection.

'NAMED' PENCILS AND BALL POINT PENS

Mr and Mrs Cornford bought some pens and pencils with their own money just to try out the market. The venture was so successful that they have now re-ordered. It is hoped to keep the price to 5p each for pens or pencils. At these prices the profits will be modest but every little added to the funds is appreciated.

Ed: These good people are providing a service as well as fund-raising and deserve our support. Can you start a little profit-making activity?

REFERENDUM

SUBSCRIPTIONS:- It has been proposed by a number of parents that the minimum subscription should be increased from 50p to £1 per annum. The 1979 subscriptions are due as from January and we would like you to vote by ticking the appropriate column on the questionnaire.

Please return completed form to any committee member

Name.....

Address

Postal Code Telephone No.....

My son/^{*}daughter is in the Youth Orchestra/^{*}Youth Choir /Area Orchestra/Training Choir/Junior Orchestra.

I am willing to help as indicated by a tick ✓ below.

- Organising Jumble Sale
- Selling at Jumble Sale
- Selling Raffle Tickets
- Organising refreshments for functions
- Selling refreshments at functions
- Serving refreshments at Saturday rehearsals - 11.00 a.m. on alternate Saturdays
- Organising dances
- Helping at dances/discos
- "Policing" School premises during discos (Dads required)
- Organising Bring and Buy in your area
- Organising coffee mornings
- Organising a Bazaar Stall (1979)
- Making items for Bazaars

- Editor of News Bulletin
- Help produce News Bulletin
- Entertain at informal concerts
- I am unable to help in any way

I suggest the committee tries the following fund-raising activity

.....

.....

.....

Signed

REFERENDUM ON SUBSCRIPTIONS

- I would like subscriptions raised to £1.00 per annum
- I feel subscriptions should remain at 50p

EXCHANGE & MART

Are you interested in this?
 We feel that senior members of the orchestra have instruments which they no longer require and many younger members are probably looking for good second-hand instruments. You may be searching for a piece of music which someone else would like to get rid of. There must be several copies of each exam grade piece of music for every instrument in the orchestra so please let us have a list if you wish to sell or swop. People in the Area Orchestra and Junior Orchestra would probably benefit from this service.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Some Orchestra/Choir members or parents must have a flair for producing a "News Bulletin". We desperately need your help - please contact Ray Cowhig 557810.

NEWS ITEMS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have an item of general interest to the group please submit it via any committee member.

OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE 1978

CHAIRMAN: Mr J J Cornford, 43 Forest Hills Drive,
Townhill Park, Southampton SO2 2FX


TREASURER: Mr A W Hunter, 60 Shaftesbury Avenue,
Portswood, Southampton SO2 1SD

SECRETARY: Mr W F Wallis, 69 Glenfield Avenue
Bitterne, Southampton SO2 4ET

STOP PRESS

(1) A.G.M. DATE NOW FIXED

31 January 1979
7.30 p.m. Hill College



(2) Could some kind parents make cakes, sausage rolls, mince pies, etc. for 21 December 1978 Social Evening/Concert, so that we can sell them to raise funds.