

Southampton Youth Orchestra

Conductor : KEITH SMITH



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Dear Professor Warren

Firstly, may I thank you for telephoning Roy Jones a few days ago. I realise it is some time since I have been in contact with you, and I do sincerely apologise for this. Further, I can only apologise for the wretched news he passed on to you about the cancellation of the Youth Orchestra tour. This decision we have been disputing, hence the delay of my being in contact with you.

A new Education Act in the U.K. is shortly to come into force. Several clauses of this Act appear to create problems, with respect to our tour, which might be difficult to overcome by the coming summer, (or so we are told). Both Roy and I believe the new, special requirements for educational party-travel detailed in the Act would have been fully met by our organisation. However, neither of us has been able to convince the Senior Education Officer that it would be so for certain. Allied with the new regulations, 'the powers that be' were not happy for our students to miss the first few days of a new school year.

I can only apologise to you for having caused so much trouble and waste of your valuable time. Until two or three weeks ago, I felt very sure that all the travel arrangements, fund-raising and contacts I had made would certainly lead to a successful trip. So, as you may imagine, it is with the greatest disappointment that I have to write to you of these circumstances. Indeed, I also have a very disappointed Youth Orchestra with which to deal.

I have heard, just today, that our Authorities would agree to our making a tour in 1990, but of course at this stage I have little idea what standard of orchestra I will be able to muster next year.

Again, please accept my most sincere apologies for all the inconvenience I have caused you. I really do hope it will be possible for the Youth Orchestra to make a visit to the States in the not too distant future, and that you might still consider helping us at that time.

My very best wishes,

Yours most sincerely

Keith Smith.