

teachers are very well placed to undertake this work as they know the capabilities of players, understand their difficulties and are adept at re-arranging instrumental parts if necessary.

The Music Service has also benefited from this development as staff have welcomed the greater diversity in their work and appreciated the opportunity to put their wider skills at the service of schools and pupils.

A Special Celebration for Christmas

Winchester Cathedral was again the setting for A Special Celebration for Christmas on 9th December at 11 a.m.

This was the fourth year that Ian Smith had arranged this event where children from special schools all over the county gather to participate in readings, prayers and the nativity play during the service.

The Southampton Youth Brass Band played, Lissa Gray conducted the Hampshire Children's Choir and Keith Smith conducted the audience.

The proceeds from the retiring collection will go towards the Wessex Children's Hospice Trust.

Many thanks go to all the participants from the special schools.

New Certificates on Offer to Schools

Messages of support have been received from headteachers for the new Certificates of Achievement which are now on offer to schools. These have been designed as a possible alternative to the early graded examinations and have been introduced in response to those schools which have identified problems over the increasing cost of entry fees and the organising of examination centres and accompanists for graded examinations.

In schools which have adopted this initiative headteachers will be asked to sign and present the certificates to pupils who have met the required criteria; one of these is that they should perform to an audience outside the instrumental lesson, perhaps to a class or assembly.

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A phased introduction for the certificates was originally planned but at the request of schools it has been decided to make all the certificates available from the Spring Term 1995. Music Service staff will, of course, continue to prepare pupils for graded exams if this is requested.

For further information about the certificates please contact Mervyn Grand on 01962 861502.

Hampshire County Youth Choir

Early in September the County Youth Choir made a second visit to Normandy where they gave three highly successful concerts. Cultural visits and sightseeing were intermingled with the musical events which ended with members giving an ad hoc performance to crowds of visitors in the delightful fishing town of Honfleur.

After each concert immediate requests for a return visit were received.

New singers aged 15-19 are always welcome to join and future plans include concert events in Warwickshire and London as well as at more local venues.

For further information please contact Keith Smith at the Music Centre on 01962 861502.

Southampton Youth Orchestra 1965-1995 "30 Years of Musical Joy"

In 1995 Southampton Youth Orchestra celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of its formation with a series of varied events. On February 3rd and 4th they will perform in Southampton Guildhall and Christchurch Priory under Romanian Conductor Florian Totan, major items being Gershwin's 'Cuban Overture' and the Second

SYO are regarded nationally as one of the Country's leading Youth Orchestras and have been asked to represent the UK at International Events on many occasions. Nowadays they recruit members from the whole of Hampshire, however the historical name has been retained.

The tour to Canada will be a first for the Orchestra, and follows visits in recent years to the USA, Sweden, France, Germany, Holland, Austria, Gibraltar, Portugal and Spain.

Let's hope the next thirty years are as successful.

'Home Entertainments' Exhibition

Hampshire Museums' newest touring exhibition explores the world of entertainment in the home from the piano to the video. Over the last century and a half sitting rooms have witnessed all manner of music making and merriment beginning with pianos and moving on through gramophones, radios and televisions. Using room settings and our extensive collections, the exhibition shows how we have spent our evenings since 1830 - singing, playing, listening, and finally watching.

The exhibition will be going to at least 8 local museums and will still be touring in 1997. During 1995 the first three locations will be:

Havant Museum,
January 28 - April 22

Allen Gallery, Alton,
May 6 - July 29

Andover Museum,
August 12 - November 4

For further information please contact Oonagh Palmer, Assistant Curator, Westbury Manor Museum on 0329 824895.



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