

# Orchestra tunes up for 40th anniversary celebration

THE CREAM of Southampton's musical talent have been rehearsing vigorously for their milestone performance this weekend – as they celebrate 40 years of the Southampton Youth Orchestra.

The 85-piece orchestra has developed a reputation as England's finest city youth ensemble and has frequently been asked to perform at the Royal Albert Hall.

Hundreds of teenage musicians from the city have struck up notes with the group since its formation in 1965.

This weekend, under the expert conductorship of Jane Higgins, who has been with the SYO for 16 years, the orchestra will perform at Southampton Guildhall.

Principal conductor Mrs Higgins said: "This is indeed a prestigious milestone and demonstrates the passion and commitment of everyone involved.

"Over the past 40 years, some great friendships have been established among our members and there have even been some SYO weddings. We hope to see lots of SYO old boys and girls at our celebrations."

The anniversary performance will feature renditions of Brahms' *Symphony No. 4 in E minor* and Dvorak's *Cello Concerto*.

Following the concert, the audience can mingle with performers while live-jazz is played into the night.

The concert takes place at 7.30pm on Saturday at Southampton Guildhall. Tickets cost between £4.50 and £10 and are available by calling the box office on 023 8062 2601.



**ORCHESTRAL MANOEUVRES:** The young musicians in rehearsal under the direction of Jane Higgins, right.

Pictures by John Luthwaite. Order no: rad8d35a (above), rad4a46b (below), rad9105f (right)



## NEWS ROUND-UP

### Bus named in honour of Spitfire man

A bus has been named R J Mitchell in honour of the famous designer of the Second World War Spitfire aircraft, as part of the city's VE Day anniversary celebrations.

Reginald Joseph Mitchell, pictured, lived in Southampton and worked at Supermarine Aviation in Woolston.

He designed Schneider Trophy-winning sea-planes in addition to his world-famous fighter, which played a

decisive role in winning the Second World War. In all more than 8,000 Spitfires were built in Southampton.

George Fair, head of bus operations for Minerva Accord's uni-link services, said: "Our namings bring to prominence citizens past and present who have contributed to our city's heritage. We intend these namings to enforce the bond between our city, our passengers and the economic success of our local region."



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