



Friends of Southampton Youth Orchestras

Registered Charity No. 283789

Newsletter

Autumn 2015

From Tim Edmonds – Chair of FSYO

Work of the Friends

The Friends had a busy year doing all the usual concert support including the Pyramid concert but also organising the 50th anniversary concert and the SYO Germany tour.

I want to take this opportunity to draw attention to the funding of music teaching in primary schools that we are doing. We have significant funds at the moment and want to increase this. It's already bearing fruit and numbers are up at the bottom of the pyramid. We are currently funding things in five schools.

We need to do this because too many other initiatives, while valuable, focus on giving pupils a taster, or getting them started, and we really need pupils to move on a bit quicker. Ideally they will have to be reaching grade 4 round about the time they leave primary school so there is a good chance they'll be at grade 8 standard for a couple of years when we'd hope to have them in SYO.

AGM of FSYO

This year looks like being less busy so please consider volunteering to be on the committee! It involves about 8 meetings a year, on Thursdays.

We already have a Secretary and Membership Secretary and someone to look after the website. But the Treasurer is retiring so we need a new one, and the Chairman needs to retire soon as he no longer has children in the orchestras.

The current Chairman, who is an ex-Treasurer, will be on the committee in one capacity or another for another year so anyone who offers to help will have his support and a whole year's handover. If enough volunteer it is not arduous!

We could do with someone to coordinate and support the work in schools, and someone to take forward the funding appeal which is following the 50th anniversary, and which will give the work in schools some long term security. This really is essential to the future well-being of the orchestras.

Save the date!

Please do come to the AGM on Sat, Nov 7th 10.00 am, at Richard Taunton Sixth Form College, Hill Ln, Southampton, Hampshire SO15 5RL. We may even have some cake and other goodies to tempt you!

Tim Edmonds, Chair

Committee Members

Chair	Tim Edmonds info@fsyo.org.uk
Treasurer	Uli Munford
Secretary	Amanda Mitchell secretary@fsyo.org.uk
Paula Curry (SYO)	
Yoriko Jones (SYCS and Elgar Strings)	
Music Library	Sue Edmonds
SYO transport/ Logistics	Peter Gosney
Membership	Nicola McArdle membership@fsyo.org.uk
Schools Support Coordinator	Vacancy
Funding Appeal Coordinator	Vacancy

Musical Directors

Acorn	Anca Campanie
Elgar	Zoe hunting
SYS	Christa Porter
SYCS	Kevin Withell Anna Robinson
SYO	Jane Higgins

Ex Officio Members

Newsletter & Graphics	Rob Curry info@fsyo.org.uk
Web site	Rob Curry
Database	Roger Munford

Primary Interactive

*Tour of Primary Schools by ex-SYO
Professional Musicians*

5th
Anniversary
Friends of Southampton Youth
Orchestras



Images courtesy of the [Oakwood Live blog](#)

As part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations, a new partnership was forged between FSYO and the Southampton Music Hub. Together they conceived an idea to inspire and excite a new generation of musicians from within Southampton Primary Schools.

A chamber group of Professional musicians who also happen to be Ex-members of **SYO** were recruited and a brand new interactive concert was designed and performed in 9 primary schools to over 1800 young people. These concerts were a great success. Music was reduced and rearranged to suit the forces and adapted to give the greatest impact in performance.

They aimed to break down the barriers that classical music can sometimes put up through music that is long and complicated and is built on huge variation of melody, harmony and texture. These variations can sometimes make classical music disorientating and hard to grasp, especially for a young mind on a Thursday afternoon.

The concert was based around exciting classical music that contains fantastic stories, melodies and moments. It included music that showed off the skill and musicianship of the performers whilst making it clear that this is something that the pupils could do themselves! It showed the children that all the performers had been in their shoes, and with a bit of help and some hard work they were able to get to the top of their profession.

What set this tour apart was the quality and impact of the performers. Nothing prepares you for dramatic instrumental music played to the highest of standards. It is simply so exciting and immediately satisfying. One of the pieces performed was Night on a Bare Mountain, by Mussorgsky. It was incredibly exciting and spellbinding for this atmospheric introduction followed by a French Horn and Bassoon entering fortissimo on that sensationally spooky melody. Nothing can quite prepare you for that.

The impact was clear on both staff and pupils. Many comments were received from grateful staff wanting the concert to come back soon. Children were heard saying excitedly on the way out *'They were awesome'* and *'Best Assembly Ever!'*

We hope to bring this style of tour back to Southampton Schools, to keep inspiring and encouraging the future musicians of Southampton, who with a little support and some hard work, one day will fill the ranks of **SYO**, making it stronger than ever.

Neil Valentine

SYCS and 't jong

SYCS and 't jong Joint Concert –

Sunday 12 July 2015

Dutch Youth Orchestra 'Jeungdorkest Nieuwegein' ('t jong) began their concert tour of Hampshire by sharing Turner Sims Concert Hall with the Southampton Youth Concert Sinfonia.

Between the orchestras' individual rehearsals, we squeezed over 80 young musicians onto the stage together to rehearse our joint pieces; John Williams' music from 'Hook', conducted by 't jong musical director **Gerard Poot**, and 'Music from Frozen', under the baton of **Anna Robinson**.

The two orchestras gelled immediately, with a friendly and professional atmosphere fuelling an enjoyable and productive rehearsal, before we all sat and got to know each other over a large delivery of pizza.

't jong took the first half of the performance, playing a wide variety of music from classical masterpieces through to concert hall show tunes. The visiting orchestra dazzled and inspired our local young musicians with a series of virtuosic solos, played to a high level of technical and musical brilliance. The unabashed enthusiasm of their conductor creates a relaxed atmosphere for orchestra and audience alike.

The second half of the performance began with an impressive performance by **Southampton Youth Concert Sinfonia**, who convincingly showcased a wide variety of musical styles, including music from the musical 'Miss Saigon', and William Walton's notoriously tricky 'Crown Imperial March'. The evening was topped with a fantastic performance of the two joint pieces, before the two orchestras bid each other very warm congratulations and farewells.

This concert marked the end of a very successful year for **SYCS**, who have taken to a new directorship with a professionalism and musicality that does them proud.

Kevin Withell, Director SYCS





Some happy memories of the 50th Anniversary event at the Southampton O2 Guildhall on July 4 2015. [See more at fsyo.org.uk](http://fsyo.org.uk)

STOP PRESS!

SYO and the European Union Chamber Orchestra

The EU Chamber Orchestra are booked to perform a concert at the Turner Sims on February 9th 2016.

The programme includes Tasmin Little playing a violin concerto in the first half.

At the beginning of the second half, the front desk players from the strings of SYO will join the orchestra for a performance of *Two Wings and a Prayer*, a work written earlier in 2015 by Jane Wells for performance with members of the Norfolk Youth Orchestra and the EU Chamber Orchestra

This is an 'upside-down' concerto grosso with the 'concertante' (soloists) played by the young people, and the 'ripieno' (rest of the orchestra) played by the professionals. We are hugely honoured to be asked to play and are looking forward to it very much.

Jane Higgins

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www.fsyo.org.uk