



Symphony Hall, Birmingham A night to remember

On Monday 19 March, Oxfordshire County Music Service took over the Symphony Hall, Birmingham for one night only and performed to a packed house with a showcase concert.



The evening's concert started with a rousing Jubilee fanfare from the Oxfordshire Youth Wind Band. This was followed by the Oxfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra, who performed brilliantly works from their current repertoire ending with the very popular, 'Pirates of the Caribbean.' Before the interval there was a second performance of the Oxfordshire massed ensemble piece - 'Oxonia,' composed and conducted by John Traill. This was first performed at the Royal Albert Hall in the Music for Youth Schools' Proms. Schools from around the County were again involved on this occasion. The second half started with Oxfordshire's Big Bands taking to the stage with internationally renowned guest jazz saxophonist - Simon Bates.

The final performances were three pieces from the County Youth Orchestra. Gilly McMullin delighted the audiences with the first movement of Elgar's cello concerto and the concert came to a joyous conclusion with the rousing sound of 'Land of Hope and Glory.'

"Our children and their parents really enjoyed it. It made me feel proud of all my children and to be part of such a talented group of young people from Oxfordshire who all performed so professionally."

The Music Service are most grateful to the main sponsors of the concert; FYMA (Friends of Young Musicians Association) with support from SAE institute; John Packer Ltd and Yamaha.

Howard Goodall



Howard Goodall is to compère a special Jubilee Concert for the County Music Service in June. A specially erected stage is to be put up in Tom Quad, in the Oxford college Christ Church, for three special concerts, on 22, 23 and 24 June. Friday's concert features Dame Kiri Te Kanawa with the BBC Concert Orchestra and Saturday's is given by the Oxford Philomusica.

On Sunday the County Music Service will be presenting the concert. It will be compèred by Howard Goodall who was at school in Oxford as a boy and was in the County Youth Orchestra himself. He was also a student at Christ Church

He will be introducing the Youth Brass Ensemble and the Big Band in the first half as well as a special choral item featuring children from six primary schools from Abingdon and Oxford. These children have been taking part in a special choral programme over the year with the young cathedral choristers, and they will be joining forces to sing some British traditional songs. The second half will feature the County Youth Orchestra performing British pieces, by Walton and Bax with a grand finale of Henry Wood's 'Sea Songs' and Elgar's 'Pomp and Circumstance' March no 1. (Land of Hope and Glory)

Message from the Head of Service Tony Mealings

It is a major feature of working for this Service that one rarely has time to 'mourn' the passing of any one event before the next one is upon us! At the time of writing the 'adrenalin rush' from the Symphony Hall is just leaving us as we rapidly move into the arrangements for the Easter residencials for the touring orchestras. Planning for the tours is now complete; all venues and hotels having been visited and inspected; just leaving us with the hard work of the rehearsals.

Planning has also been relentless for the shortly to be established Oxfordshire Music Education Partnership (known nationally as 'Hubs') following the publication of the National Plan for Music Education, published by the Government last November. We have submitted a bid for 'Lead Partner' status and are currently waiting the announcement from Arts Council England, regarding the outcome, expected in early May. With over thirty partners keen to work together to provide musical opportunities and pathways for the children and young people of Oxfordshire we feel that the future has the potential to be very exciting.



News in brief

Headteachers entertained at annual concert...For the second year children from six primary schools went along to the Headteachers' conference to demonstrate their skills as beginner string players. Over Two hundred children from, Pegasus, Sandhills, Bayards Hill, Chilton, Windale and Long Furlong primary schools in their first and second year of playing, demonstrated the successful work of the government funded music programme, the Vocal and Instrumental Programme (1st access) that takes place all around the county each week.

Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre: Evita



As the Piper goes to press it will be the second night of Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre's annual production. This year it is at the Theatre, Headington and students are performing 'Evita.' The cast have all been working extremely hard and the directors, Ashley Harvey

and Debbie Rose, are thrilled with the outcome. There has been a great team 'behind the scenes' with a large number of costume changes for the cast, different styles of dance to be taught, wigs and make - up to be perfect, and a great group of well - rehearsed musicians to support the talented singers. The help of parents of the cast has been invaluable.

Auditions for next year's OYMT will take place in July. Contact the Music Service or see website for more information.

Concerto Competition in partnership with Oxford Philomusica

In January the Centre for Music was full for the semi - finals of this competition. The audience were delighted to hear movements from the eight musicians with concertos by Elgar, Khachaturian, Reinecke, Moeran, Schumann, Tchaikovsky and Bruch. The County Youth Orchestra had to attend several extra rehearsals to get ready for this. The panel of judges included Jennifer Pike (youngest ever winner of BBC Young Musician 2002 and Sir Curtis Price (Warden of New College, Oxford.) The three winners went on to perform the whole of their concertos at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford on Saturday 4 February with Oxford Philomusica.

At the Symphony Hall concert Lizzie Mundell - Perkins, Gilly McMullin and Jake Morter were presented by SAE Institute with awards for their **outstanding contribution** to music in Oxfordshire. The winner of this years **Muir Mathieson** young soloist competition held in March was Josh Dalton, leader of OCYO. The Music Service hosted five regional festivals for **Music for Youth** over two days. Hundreds of singers and instrumentalists from the Music Service and Oxfordshire schools took part.

SUMMER MUSIC FUN IN ABINGDON, BANBURY, OXFORD and WALLINGFORD

For children in years 3 – 6. No musical experience required.

Tuesday 25 - Friday 27 July
9.30am - 3.30pm each day
(All centres except Banbury, which is 9am - 3pm for years 3-7.)

Come and make new friends, join in a variety of musical activities
Including:

singing, playing, trying new instruments, exploring sounds and a host of other musical experiences!

Cost: £85 for 4 days please note: children must attend all days.

Contact the music service for more information or see our website.

DISTINGUISHED COMPANY

Congratulations to the following pupils, who have achieved a **DISTINCTION** in the February 2012 Trinity and Oxfordshire County Music Service examinations.

Violin

Grade 2: Eddie Conroy, Sasha Bagwell- Cox,

Grade 4: Wei Yi Tan.

Grade 5: Aaron Hadley, Benedict Hutchinson.

Grade 8: Pilsen Eu

Viola

Grade 8: Charlie Baigent.

Cello

Grade 2: Lucy Middleton,

Grade 4: Thomas Lunt, Tazu Walden.

Grade 5: Thomas Conroy.

Double Bass

Grade 2: Poppy Ringrose.

Singing

Grade 8: Francesca Hadland.

Flute

Grade 2: Alexandra Adams, Erica Smith, Skye Vokins, Elizabeth Bonsell.

Grade 3: Lydia Strong.

Clarinet

Grade 3: Hannah Vincent, Ruth Elizabeth Harris.

Grade 6: Raymond Brien.

Tenoroon

Grade 2: Rose Helen Wanstall.

Trumpet

Grade 3: Phoebe Haywood.

Grade 4: Morgan Leaver, Joel Khandiah, Scott Sellars.

Grade 5: Robin Skerrett.

Cornet

Grade 2: Rani Race, Carmen Powell, James Matthews.

Grade 4: Aeneas Chapman.

Tenor Horn

Grade 4: Philip Methley.

Grade 5: Meagan Giles.

Baritone

Grade 2: Micheal Shearwood, Marcus Birmingham.

Classical Guitar

Grade 2: Morgan Tadman.

Grade 3: Gracy Singh,.

Electric Guitar

Grade 3: Chelsea Sporle.

Grade 4: Simeon Bayer.

Guitar

Grade 2: Daniel Deacon, Jack Worthington.

Keyboard

Grade 2: Amy Pollard.

Drum Kit

Grade 3: Joel Gedge, Charlie Austen

Touring Orchestras on Residential



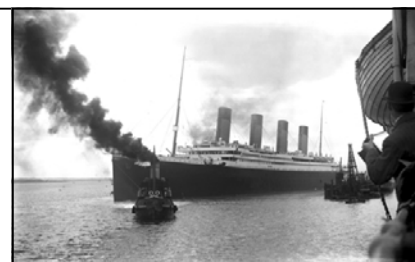
All in purple! The players of the Oxfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra (OSSO) not only played extremely well at their end of course concert

in the beginning of the Easter holidays, but all looked extremely smart wearing their latest touring 2012 hoody! The County Youth Orchestra (OCYO) went to Radley College to prepare for their tour in Slovenia this Summer. Meanwhile the Oxfordshire Schools Orchestra (OSO) came to the Centre for Music for three days preparing for their residential at the end of August in the New Forest and also for their part in the Diamond Jubilee Concert in Dorchester Abbey. See back page for details of concerts and information about auditions for one of the orchestras or the wind band for the 2012-13 season.

Exam Week
18 June 2012
For grades 3 - 8
Lower grades are now being assessed continuously

'Titanic' Celebrations


On Tuesday, 27 March, over 250 children from seven Abingdon primary schools joined together to perform 'Unsinkable' a



musical cantata, telling the story of the Titanic's voyage, written by Abingdon school teacher Jeannie Harrison. This piece was accompanied by the Oxfordshire Youth Brass Ensemble, with the music especially arranged for this concert by Mark Prowen. (Oxfordshire County Music Service brass teacher.) Also in the concert were string and recorder players from Abingdon schools and separate items from Caldecott, St Nicolas, St Edmunds and Dunmore schools. Other schools who also took part in the massed choir were Clifton Hampden, Culham and Dry Sandford.


Oxfordshire County Music Service Event Summer 2012

June

 **West Oxfordshire Music Centre Concert (in partnership with Carterton Lions)**
Friday 15 June at 7.00pm, Carterton Community Centre, Tickets £5

Oxfordshire Youth Big Band Concert


Tuesday 19 June at 7.30pm, Centre for Music, Bayards Hill School (retiring Collection)

 **Gala Concert of British Music with Howard Goodall and the County Music Service**
Sunday 24 June at 6.30pm, Tom Quad, Christ Church Oxford, Tickets from £5,
<http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford/>

July

Music For Youth (MFY) National Festival Finals, Birmingham

2 - 7 July (announcement of groups chosen, not yet made)


 **Evening of Chamber Music**
Wednesday 4 July at 7.00pm, St Mary's Church, Kidlington

South Oxfordshire Youth Performing Arts (SOYPA): 'Dracula Spectacular'

4 + 5 July at 7.00pm, Brookes University, Headington. Tickets: £6/ £4 from the Music Service

Oxfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra (OSSO) Concert for Schools Students

Friday 6 July at 9am – 3pm, Oxford Town Hall, Public Invited Tickets: £5 from the Music Service

 **A Summer Celebration of Popular Music, Orchestra's and Wind band**
Saturday 14 July at 7.00pm, Dorchester Abbey

Oxfordshire Summer Music Fun: Four day course for children in years 4, 5 and 6

Tuesday 24 July -Friday 27 July, at 9.30am to 3.30pm, Abingdon, Banbury, Oxford, Wallingford (See advert on page 2)

Oxfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra (OSSO) Final Concert after their Germany tour

Saturday 28 July, 7.00pm

Oxfordshire County Youth Orchestra (OCYO) Final Concert after their Slovenia tour

Sunday 29 July at 7.30pm, Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford. Tickets from

<http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford/>

August

Oxfordshire Schools Orchestra (OSO) Summer Concert

Friday 31 August at 5.00pm, Centre for Music, Bayards Hill School, free admission

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations



The Music Service have four special concerts lined up for the season around the county celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Some students are also looking forward to playing at a Garden Party in Henley by the river where the Queen and Prince Phillip will be present. This is being organised by the Lord Lieutenants of Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. Also

the brass ensemble will be playing at a special Garden party following the County Jubilee service in Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday 26 May.

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Photos by David Brown. To view more of these go to www.davidbrownphotographer.co.uk