The Nash

Newsletter of "The Friends of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales"

www.friendsofthenash.org

Registered Charity No. 1,053,788

DECEMBER 2015

NYOW 2015 Manager's Report

Matthew Jones NYAW Manager (Youth Music) www.nyaw.co.uk

NYOW 2015 welcomed International Conductor Paul Daniel to work with the Orchestra on arguably the most challenging programme in its 70 year history.

Once again the 115 talented young musicians arrived in Lampeter at the end of July and got straight to work on Dukas' La Peri, Schmitt's La Tragedie de Salome and Stravinsky's Rite of Spring with the Orchestra's excellent team of tutors.

Connie Francis receiving the Irwyn Walters Friends

Award

With eight hours of

rehearsing each day, the Orchestra's Welfare team organised a varied programme of social activities in the evenings. The first few nights were dedicated to helping the members get to know their colleagues with ice-breaking games, the Nash Olympics and a team treasure hunt all demonstrating that an Orchestra can be as competitive as any sports team!

By Day 5 the notes were coming together and Paul Daniel arrived to add the finishing touches and get the Orchestra performance ready. He and the players immediately hit it off, with Paul's sense of fun and quirky imagery helping to get across his musical points to an attentive audience.

The annual 'Tutors' Night' gives the members a chance to sit down for a formal dinner with their sectional tutor whilst the NYOW Awards (as decided by the tutors) are given out. This year's Irwyn Walters Award, donated by the Friends to the most promising string player was given to Double Bass player Connie Francis.

Following eight days of intensive rehearsals it was time to hit the road. A return to the Prichard Jones Hall in Bangor kick-started the concert tour followed by an afternoon performance at a packed Hereford Cathedral as part of the Three Choirs Festival – the 4th time the Orchestra has now performed at this prestigious Festival. A first performance at Llanelli's Ffwrnes Theatre was well

> received before a fantastic final concert at St David's Hall brought another special NYOW year to a close.

I am always impressed with how the NYOW members always come up with the goods no matter what repertoire we challenge them with. Everyone in Wales should be extremely proud of the hard work these young people put in over the summer; it is their dedication, enthusiasm and energy that has ensured that the vision for a national orchestra of wales 70 years ago remains as relevant and as successful as ever.

I would like to thank the Friends of NYOW and in particular the committee for their continued support and for the generous contribution towards bursaries for those young people who without the financial assistance provided would not be able to take their places in the Orchestra. It is very much appreciated by us all.





Rehearsals at Lampeter with Paul Daniel

NYOW Alumni in Geneva!

In November the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra visited The Grand Theatre Geneva for performances of Berlioz's The Trojans. The RPO already has a fair contingent of former NYOW members within their ranks, but with this piece calling for a huge orchestra and an off-stage brass band even more NYOW Alumni joined them. The 14 NYOW alumni involved also included 4 past leaders of the Orchestra.

Thanks to NYOW Alumnus Roger Argente who ensured the opportunity for a photo call wasn't missed!

Picture below, from left to right, sitting: (Nash membership years in brackets)

Jonathan Clarke (1997-1999) Trumpet; Bridgend, Pencoed Comprehensive School

Katherine Lacy (1998 & 2000) Clarinet; Wrexham, St David's Comprehensive School and Chetham's School of Music

Jonathan Davies (2005-2011) Bassoon; Swansea, Bishopston Comprehensive School

From left to right, standing:

Kevin Morgan (1977-1978) Tuba; Treorchy, Treorchy Comprehensive School **Simon Cox** (2002-2005) Trumpet: Cardiff Kin

Simon Cox (2002-2005) Trumpet; Cardiff, Kings Monkton School

Roger Argente (1978-1982) Bass Trombone; Neath, Dwr-y-felin Comprehensive School Elen Haf Richards (1999-2006) Violin; Neath, Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera

Anthony Protheroe (1975-1981) Violin; Cardiff, Cardiff High School

Sali-Wyn Ryan (1995-1998) Violin; Swansea, Bishop Gore School

Sian McInally (1985-1990) Violin; Pembroke, Wells Cathedral School,

Non Peters (1997-2001) Violin; Pontardawe, Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera

Matthew Williams (2010-2013) Trumpet; Pontyberem, Ysgol Gyfun Maes Yr Yrfa Meilyr Hughes (2007-2009) French Horn; Cardiff, Ysgol Gyfun Plasmawr

Rupert Whithead (2006) – Trombone; Llandeilo, Ysgol Tre-Gib





(left to right)

Haydn Davies Award - most promising player still at school **Xander Croft**

Voice Award - most promising woodwind player still at school **Alexandra Hunt**

Taliesen Award - harpist who has contributed most to the section **Alis Huws**

Irwyn Walters (Friends of NYOW) Award - most promising string player Connie Francis

Goronwy Evans Award - most promising brass player *Jack Sewter*

Ffrancon Thomas Award - distinguished contribution to the NYOW **Michael Olivier**

David Harris Award - most promising cellist still at school **Osian Jones**

Gwynne Edwards Award - viola player who has made the most progress **Phoebe Williams**

A plea from Gareth Tudor – Chairman of The Friends

National Youth Orchestra memories

I have recently been contacted by former members of the orchestra interested in joining the Friends. Each time I get a request to join I ask if they have any old photographs or programmes etc. I have put some of these on our website but we are always looking out for memorabilia that we can share with other members of the Friends.

If you have any old photographs or programmes we would be very grateful for any copies. We could then start to build a library of items that members could access. In this issue of the newsletter we have a photograph from 1966. Can you recognise anyone you know or are you in the photographs? Please visit our website for a closer look (www.friendsofthenash.org) Photographs and programmes provide a wealth of historical information and are of great interest to former members of the orchestra.



The 2015 bass section in full flight!

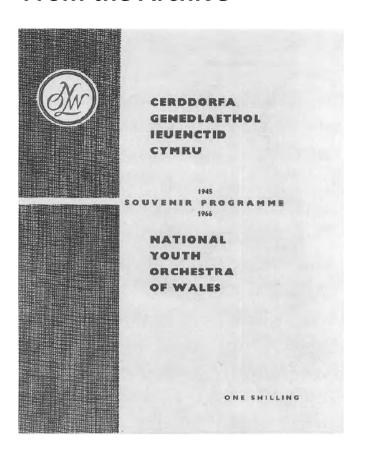


First and second violins with conductor Paul Daniel



Four former NYOW leaders
(left to right)
Non Peters, Siân McInally,
Elen Hâf Richards, Sali-Wyn Ryan

From the Archive



FLUTES Bernard Russell (Llanelli) Tennifer Thomas (Wrexham) OROES Sian Evans (Cardiff)
David Jones (Caersus) CLARINETS Stephen Beneventi (Newport) Huw Ceredig (Aberystoych) John Harries (Llandil) Susan Jones (Llandedrog) David Sketch (Casaiff) Sian Ellis Williams (Holyhead) Christopher Weeks (Penllergaer) BASSOONS Brian Sewell (Caraitf) Peter Morgan (Neath) Gareth Newman (Bangor) Elizabeth Davis (Cardiff) David Hughes (Particolat) Alan Jones (Welshpeal) TRUMPETS Adrian Evans (Pontypridd) Kenvin Evans (Pontypridd) John Oliver (Combran) Gwyn Williams (Llangefui) TROMBONES Alan Jones (Carmar hon) John Hendy (Badday) Trevor Herbert (Treorchy) Peter Mills (Coltan Bay) TUBA William Jones (Llangefui) HARPS Bethan Williams (Buthin) PERCUSSION Eurgain Jones (Llanlli) Hugh Marchant (Caerswi)

CERDDORFA GENEDLAETHOL IEUENCTID CYMRU NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF WALES 1966 COURSE

VIOLINS

Patricia Sheppard (Bridgend)—Leader Jean Eowen (Berriew)
Gillian Brace (Southerndeuw)
Gillian Brace (Southerndeuw)
Geoffiny Carpenter (Pountewedd)
Rhodri Caredig (Aberrysteryth)
Richard Cree (Lanefi)
Jacqueline Darke (Sournsea)
Gernix Davios (Corris)
Jacqueline Darke (Sournsea)
Gernix Davios (Corris)
David Evans (Aminch)
David Evans (Aminch)
David Lyn Evans (Crynaust)
Willian Reuns (Aminch)
Sidonis Francis (Llanefi)
Sidonis Francis (Llanefi)
David Harries (Amonaford)
Jennifer Holday (Llanefi)
Ann Hooley (Mershy Tyzfii)
Migal James (Poundeusd)
Bethan Jones (Newport)
Celia Jones (Newport)

Gordon Back (Neath)
Robert W. Edwards (Llanelli)
Anthony Harries (Llanelli)
Anthony Harries (Llanelli)
Anthony Indikins (Newceen)
Sandre Jones (Cordiff)
Alan Mexite (Rividgent)
Bethar Milles (Aberystryth)
David Newman (Banger)

Gary Bromage (Seven Sisters)
John Cellis (Camfelinfach)
Joan Davies (Carnarthen)
Nigel Braney (Cardiff)
John Harvey (Skeven)
Margaset Heaney (Helyhead)
Philip Hier (Pyle)

Peter Francis (Llanelli) Peter Lamb (Haverfordwest) Teifi Lleyd (Ferndale) David Parr (Briton Ferry) David Jones (Llangthi)
Elizaisch Gwynne-Jones (Llangthi)
Olwen Jones (Machynlleth)
Moira Lewis (Goodwick)
Haw Lloyd (Neoth)
David Lloyd (Cernelly)
Errol Marthews (Rarzy)
Ernst Morris (Portundec)
Alian Rees (Hendy)
Anne Rowlands (Llanfair Caeranien)
Edward Roberts (Pearath)
Keith Stephens (Risca)
Robert Swalin (Postpyridd)
Avril Thomas (Bridgent)
Joan Webster (Brakham)
Gareth Williams (Llangthi)
Mary Williams (Llangthi)
Mary Williams (Llangthi)
Mary Williams (Llangthi)
Mary Williams (Llangthi)
Alan Verheyden (Swanza)

VIOLAS

Jennier Short (Part Talbet) Stuart Telling (Nelsen) Dewi Thomas (Tregaren) Elin Thomas (Llarelli) Geoffey Thomas (Gerseinen) Geoffey Thomas (Gangor) Michael Thomas (Carmarhen) Nigel Williams (Newtown)

TOLONCELLOS

Biriar Hopeyn (Llandysul) Keith Lewis (Llangesnech) Roges Lewis (Carmarthes) Gruffydd Miles (Abrryctayth) David Seymour (Fnysybwl) Diliabeth Street (Neath) Alan Thomas (Bridgend)

CONTRABASSES

Hino: Phillips (Ferndale) John Pugh (Newtown) Ann Thomas (Horton) Christopher Watkins (Newtown)

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The works performed that year were:

Brahms Symphony No. 1 in C minor

Alun Hoddinott Concerto Grosso No. 2 for

Orchestra, Op. 46

Verdi Arias from 'Macbeth' and

'Rigoletto'

Dohnanyi Suite in F sharp minor,

Op.19

Soloist in the Verdi arias was tenor Keith Leslie Jones of Merthyr Tydfil

Director/Conductor - Clarence Raybould

Assistant Conductor - Arthur Davison



NYOW 1966 with conductor Arthur Davison

1966 Concert Venues

AMMANFORD Palace Cinema

MILFORD HAVEN Grammar School

CARDIFF New Theatre

LLANELLI Public Hall

PORT TALBOT Royal National Eisteddfod

A View From The Pit
Jeff Lloyd

Jeff Lloyd, who led 'The Nash' in 1960, has just published this memoir of his life and times in music from early childhood up to the present. He became a very fine violinist who went on to carve out a distinguished career as a conductor and music organiser in South Glamorgan – to mention only two of his many roles! In this book he reflects on a lifetime at the heart of music-making in Wales during the second half of the twentieth century. People who know Jeff personally will not be surprised to discover that he writes in a vigorous and elegant style that reflects his own ebullient character. Here's the start of the chapter entitled "*The Glorious Nash*"

In 1955, in addition to the `Glam' courses at Ogmore, I embarked on further musical adventures with the National Youth Orchestra of Wales, which held its courses once a year during August. To be accepted into this prestigious organisation, I had to undergo a daunting audition with the orchestra's founder, Irwyn Walters. With his shiny bald head and piercing blue eyes, Irwyn cut a frightening figure when I first met him and he filled me with the fear of God. For my first course with the 'Nash', as it became known, I undertook the long arduous journey to the North Wales university town of Bangor. Loaded with our instruments and luggage, we had to trek up the steep hill from the railway station to the Bangor Normal College, where we would be domiciled for the next two weeks.

Like my first Glam course, virtually every detail is firmly etched in my memory.

Go out and buy this book – it's a snip at £4.50 from Amazon!

What 'The Friends' contributed this year

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF WALES

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

<u>INCOME</u>	YEAR ENDED 30.09,15		YEAR EN	DED 30.09.14
SUBSCRIPTIONS				
BARCLAYS BANK	:	1697.50		1885.00
NATIONWIDE B/SOCIETY		142.50		204.50
<u>INTEREST</u>				
NATIONWIDE B/SOCIETY		0.91		0.09
JULIAN HODGE BANK		160.60		33.41
<u>DONATIONS</u>		30.00		35.00
ABERYSTWYTH OLD STUDENTS EVENT		103.26		142.00
JOHN WATKINS EVENT				462.00
LUNCHEON				
TICKET SALES	:	1460.00		
RAFFLE PROCEEDS		240.00		
SPONSORED EVENTS				
MARATHON WALK	:	1487.00		
BEARD SHAVE	-	630.00		
TOTAL INCOME		6051.77		2762.00
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
WJEC				
MUSIC HIRE	1735.00		230.00	
BURSARIES	1165.00		2670.00	
FRIENDS PRIZE	100.00		100.00	
ADVERT WELSH PROMS	300.00			
JOHN ROBERT'S BURSARY	300.00		200.00	
PRINTING OF NEWSLETTERS FEB AND	IUNE 137.00			
ROOM HIRE TICKETS AND LABELS			370.99	
CARDIFF GOLF CLUB - LUNCHEON	1040.00			
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>.</u>	<u>4777.00</u>		<u>3570.99</u>
SURPLUS	:	1274.77	DEFICIT	(808.99)
CASH BALANCES	<u>30.09.2015</u>		30.09.20	<u>14</u>
BARCLAYS BANK	1470.98		3800.22	
NATIONWIDE BUILDING SOCIETY	420.77		277.36	
JULIAN HODGE BANK	<u>13624.90</u>		<u>13494.41</u>	

If you still need convincing that we should continue to support, nurture and promote the National Youth Orchestra of Wales in these times of austerity just read what some of this year's members have to say. Their accounts, together with much more material, are available from this website:-

http://nationalyouthorchestrawales.blogspot.com

Wednesday, 19 August 2015

<u>Gwen James reflects on another successful NYOW</u> Residency



I think that it's safe to say that everyone had a brilliant time on the NYOW tour 2015. The atmosphere was electric through the whole course as everybody took part and threw themselves into every challenge that came before them.

The music-making this year was phenomenal. Given the opportunity to work on pieces such as The Rite of Spring under Paul Daniel's baton was something that will stay with me for ever. The reaction from the audience at each venue was incredible, especially at St David's Hall where almost every audience member stood on their feet applauding us. As we can see from the reviews – the hard work paid off! Apart from St David's Hall I really enjoyed the experience of playing to a sold-out audience at Hereford Cathedral, even if it wasn't the easiest venue to perform at!

However, music wasn't the only side to the course. The social aspect was brilliant – we are "virtuosic celebrators" as Paul Daniel said,

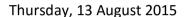


laughing with us one morning following the previous night's antics. My favourite events that had been organised by the Welfare team must have been the Tutors' Evening, the Twmpath and the Fancy Dress Competition where everyone got involved and had a great laugh, even if the dancing was atrocious by the majority of us!!



All in all we had a brilliant course, with memories made that will stay with us for a long, long time! A massive thank you to everyone who made it happen!





Hedydd reflects on her time with NYOW 2015 / Hedydd yn crynhoi ei hamser gyda CGIC 2015



I can't believe NYOW 2015 has come and gone! I have to admit, when I first heard what the repertoire was I was a bit sceptical but I have fallen in love with The Rite of Spring. I can't believe a youth orchestra has played one of the most influential works of the 20th century.

Last year the repertoire was challenging due to the fact that it was very physically demanding, especially for the strings. This year the music was mentally challenging due to the constantly changing time signature and various other challenges. Nobody could afford to 'switch off'. Everybody had to be on the ball. My favourite 'bits' in the Rite were the (if I do say so myself) gorgeous viola solos!

Paul Daniel was fantastic to work with. He was engaging and had some bizarre analogies for the



sounds he wanted from us – somehow those analogies worked!

I probably should say that my favourite part of the residency is playing the viola [insert viola joke here], but the best aspect of the course is the social side. It was great to catch up with old friends and making some new ones too. Although we don't see each other very often, we are thick as thieves on the course. I'm always surprised that we have things to talk about after 2 weeks of each other's company.

I would like to thank everybody on the Nash for making this course so enjoyable. I'm so sad that my time with NYOW is nearly coming to an end.



Wednesday, 12 August 2015

<u>Carolyn Burton yn sgyrsio am ei phrofiad gyda'r</u> 'Nash 2015'

Gwrando ar y radio i 'Berlioz Symphonie Fantastique' yn y Proms wrth i mi ysgrifennu'r blog hon yn deod ag atgofion gwych yn ôl o gwrs Nash llynedd. Ychydig ddyddiau yn ôl fe es i gyngerdd i glywed 'Dawnsiau Symffonig Rachmaninov' - yn dod ag atgofion yn ôl o'n taith 2013 ym Merlin. Mae Nash 2015 hefyd wedi bod



yn anhygoel a dwi'n sicr y byddaf yn cofio gofio llawer o atgofion arbennig ohono yn y flynyddoedd i ddod. Mae wedi bod yn 2 wythnos gwych o gerddoriaeth a gymdeithasu, a dwi'n meddwl bod CGIC 2015 wedi bod fy hoff gwrs dros ben allan o'r 4 mlynedd yr wyf wedi bod yn aelod! (Rwy'n credu fy mod wedi chwarae fwy o nodiadau cywir nag arfer, hefyd!)

Dechreuom i ffwrdd hefo ychydig ddyddiau o ymarferion 'adrannol' - waith caled ond yn werth chweil iawn. Dwi'n teimlo mor lwcus i gael bod yn rhan o adran ffidil 1af lyfli eleni; bod ochr yn ochr â cherddorion talentog a ffrindiau agos a cael y siawns i ddysgu dan hyfforddiant ysbrydoledig Adrian. Nid oes byth eiliad ddiflas yn ein sectionals! Nath Noson Tiwtoriaid ddod i ben ddiwedd y ddyddiau cyntaf o Nash, lle cawsom gyfle i fwyta gyda, a diolch i'n tiwtoriaid am eu holl waith caled. Hefyd digwyddodd y 'traddodiad Nash' o fynd am curry ffidil 1af yn Llanbedr am un noson yn ystod y cwrs!

Ni allai'r tîm gwych o staff tŷ wedi gwneud gwaith

gwell gofalu amdon ni dros y cwrs preswyl ac maent yn cadw ni'n brysur bob dydd ar ôl ymarferion gyda gweithgareddau cymdeithasol. Mae'r rhain yn amrywio o helfa drysor a nos



cabaret i
'Gemau
Olympaidd
Nash', lle nad
oedd y tîm
Oren (fy
nhîm) wedi
neud yn rhy
dda... Fel
bob amser,
oedd 'noson
gwisg ffansi'
yn llwyddiant
fawr ac yn
bendant fy

hoff weithgaredd o'r cwrs! Roedd amrywiaeth go iawn o ymdrechion a llwythi o wisgoedd creadigol (rhai yn well na'i gilydd!) - Y thêm ar gyfer y flwyddyn hon yn 'La Peri'. Penderfynnodd fy nghrŵp o ffrindiau fynd fel 'peris' (tylwyth teg) ac mi wnaethom ni creu adenydd allan o cardfwrdd a dod o hyd i ddeunydd Arabaidd o siopau elusennol Llanbed i droi i mewn i headscarves!



Mae cael y cyfle i weithio ochr yn ochr ag arweinyddion byd-enwog yn un o'r pethau gorau am Nash, ac fe wnes i fwynhau chwarae dan faton Paul Daniel eleni. Mae'r rhan 'daith' o'r cwrs hefyd yn aruthrol gan yr ydym yn cael y

cyfle i deithio ar draws y wlad ac yn chwarae mewn lleoliadau ysblennydd. Fe wnes i fwynhau chwarae yn yr holl leoliadau, yn enwedig Eglwys Gadeiriol Henffordd (cynulleidfa llawn am y 3 Choirs Festival) ac wrth gwrs yn chwarae yn fy lleoliad cartref Neuadd PJ, Bangor. Cefais 'buzz' o chwarae am 'cynulleidfa gartref' gyda'r Nash yn Bangor, ac mae hynny'n sicr yn noson y byddaf byth yn anghofio. Mae bob amser yn hyfryd i chwarae i fyny yn y gogledd a chael teulu, ffrindiau, athrawon cerdd ayyb yn dod i wylio ni! Eleni, rwyf hefyd wedi mwynhau'r cyfle i chwarae yn y 'Ensemblau Cyfansoddwyr' a cefais llawer o hwyl yn gweithio gyda Mark Bowden a'r cyfansoddwyr ifanc. Perfformiodd eu darnau mewn 3 lleoliad ar draws y daith gan gynnwys Llanelli, lleoliad newydd ar gyfer y Nash eleni!



Rydw i wedi sgwennu gormod erbyn hyn, felly ddylwn i stopio... ond beth bynnag mae Nash 2015 wedi bod yn brofiad anhygoel arall ac ni allwn gofyn am ffordd well o dreulio 2 wythnos o fy haf. Ni all geiriau ddisgrifio'r 'buzz' a gewch gan Nash, ond dw i wedi gwneud fy ngorau a gobeithio fydd y lluniau yn helpu ychydig! Rwy'n drist bod rhai o fy ffrindiau agosaf yn gadael eleni (yn enwedig Olivia a Dàire, gan fod yr ydym ni i gyd o Ynys Môn ac wedi tyfu i fyny yn y cylch cerddoriaeth ieuenctid gyda'n gilydd!). O leiaf mae gen i 2 flynedd ar ôl o wneud cais am Nash ac rwy'n bwriadu gwneud y fwyaf ohonynt! Mae bod yn aelod o CGIC yn un o'r cyfleoedd gorau y gellid cerddor ifanc o Gymru gofyn amdan. Bring on Nash 2016!