

The Nash

Newsletter of "The Friends of the National
Youth Orchestra of Wales"
Registered Charity No. 1,053,788

January 2015

www.friendsofthenash.co.uk

Matthew Jones reports on last October's NYOW/BBCNOW collaboration

The National Youth Orchestra of Wales' collaborations with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales are always special occasions. A highlight was in 2012 when the two orchestras combined to perform Bernstein's Mass at the Royal Albert Hall, the first time (but hopefully not the last) the Orchestra has performed at the prestigious BBC Proms.

Last October's project was completely different, but no less special. The Halloween Spooktacular was a family concert with plenty of fantastic music and lots of fancy dress. The BBC NOW has led the way in its education and community and their family concerts have been enjoyable yet informative spectacles; teaching its young audience (and those a bit older) about the Orchestra, offering opportunities for some audience participation along the way whilst always being true to the music.

For the members of the NYOW this collaboration wasn't just about the spooky music and the fancy dress, but much more about the process. The opportunity to sit next to professional musicians at this stage in their musical career is fantastic and one which they grasped with both hands. It also offered the perfect opportunity to work again with former member and NYOW 2012 Conductor, Grant Llewellyn. During the two days of rehearsal, the Nash members rehearsed as a professional orchestra, doubling their BBC counterpart and at times taking the limelight themselves. During the breaks they mixed and socialised with the BBC members, an excellent opportunity for some of our older players especially to make the connections that may lead to some valuable 'extra' work further down the line. The concert was a sell out with young and old decked out in their spooky finery and enjoying the pre-

concert entertainment of magicians, face painters and balloon makers. Harry Potter, Pirates of the Caribbean and of course Doctor Who were set alongside Hall of the Mountain King, Berlioz Symphonie Fantastique, and Danse Macabre amongst others. All in all it was another thoroughly successful and enjoyable collaboration between Wales' two national Orchestras – long may the initiative continue.



(Photos: Betina Skovbro)

The Friends of the Nash has a new website!

It was felt that The Friends of the Nash website was looking a little outdated and in need of a new look. We decided to create a new website that was more user friendly for those visiting the site and easier to maintain and update. The new site consists of a home page with a gallery and updates on forthcoming events. A drop down menu from the home page gives an outline of the aims and ambitions of the Friends. There is a news page where we will post any articles of interest and will publish the most recent newsletter. A page for events is also available where we will post dates of meetings, concerts and other events. There is a page for recordings of previous Nash performances and the possibility of including video. The contact page features a section where anyone interested in joining The Friends can enter their email details etc. and we will return their enquiry with membership information.

It would be great if we could post on the site any old photos you may have of previous National Youth Orchestra courses. We would also be grateful for any contributions in the form of old programmes, news articles etc. that you feel would be of interest to a wider audience.

I hope you visit the new website and find it interesting and a good avenue to contact us or share news and information with other members. The website address is www.friendsofthenash.co.uk

Mae gan Gyfeillion y Nash wefan newydd!

Teimlwyd bod gwefan Cyfeillion y Nash yn ymddangos yn weddol hen a bod angen edrychiad newydd. Penderfynwyd creu gwefan newydd a fyddai'n haws i'w defnyddio ac yn rhwyddach i'w chynnal a'i diweddarau. Mae'r wefan newydd yn cynnwys tudalen gartref gyda galeri a diweddariadau ar ddigwyddiadau'r dyfodol. Mae'r dewislen ar y dudalen gartref yn rhoi amlinelliad o amcanion ac uchelgeisiau'r Cyfeillion. Ceir tudalen newyddion lle byddwn yn uwchlwytho unrhyw erthyglau fydd o ddiddordeb ac fe fyddwn yn cyhoeddi'r cylchlythyr diweddaraf. Mae yna hefyd dudalen ddigwyddiadau lle byddwn yn cyhoeddi dyddiadau cyfarfodydd, cyngherddau a digwyddiadau eraill. Ceir tudalen arall ar gyfer recordiadau o berfformiadau blaenorol y Nash a'r posibilrwydd o gynnwys fideo. Mae'r dudalen gyswllt yn cynnwys adran lle gall unrhyw un sydd â diddordeb mewn ymuno â'r Cyfeillion gofrestru eu cyfeiriad ebost ayyb ac fe fyddwn yn ateb eu hymholiad gyda gwybodaeth am ymaelodi.

Byddai'n wych pe byddwn yn gallu cyhoeddi unrhyw hen luniau sydd gennych o gyrsiau'r Gerddorfa Ieuencid Genedlaethol. Byddwn hefyd yn ddiolchgar o unrhyw gyfraniadau ar ffurf hen raglenni, erthyglau newyddion ayyb yr ydych yn teimlo y byddai o ddiddordeb i gynulleidfa ehangach. Gobeithiaf y gwnewch ymweld â'r wefan newyddion ac y byddwch yn ei gweld yn ddefnyddiol ac yn ffordd dda i gysylltu â ni neu rannu newyddion a gwybodaeth gydag aelodau eraill. Cyfeiriad y wefan yw

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Musical evening with the Rhondda Sinfonietta Saturday 18th October 2014

Conductor Andrew Walters

The Sinfonietta put on another excellent evening on behalf of the Aberystwyth OSA and the NYOW, playing a wide range of classical works for chamber groups ranging from Bach and Boccherini to more modern works by Holst, Grainger and Teddy Bor. The audience were regaled in the interval by much socialising over some excellent food provided by the Old Students of Aberystwyth. This has become part of the whole enjoyment of the annual evening. The second half ended with a work by Teddy Bor who was at one time the leader of the Aber University Quartet and who later became known as an arranger and composer. This work Mozart Eine Kleine Nacht Music proved to be a great hit with both audience and orchestra, weaving in as it did Scottish reels and dances with Eine Kleine. Thanks go to George Thomas and Andrew Walters for getting the music for us. Close on for half of the Sinfonietta were ex members of the NYOW, illustrating once again that the teaching of instrumental playing in the schools and youth orchestras is a lifelong gift to those lucky enough to have experienced it. It is troubling that this is becoming more rare. The proceeds from the concert, which was held in the Cyncoed Methodist Church, were split on a proportional basis between bursary funds for Aber students and NYOW students. One disappointment was that the great efforts put in by the players and providers were not rewarded by a good audience. We would love to have any suggestions from the Friends about how to expand our audiences. A huge thank you to all who gave their time and skills for the benefit of others.

A Fundraising Evening

Report by Noreen Harris

A very successful event was held by the Friends in Llandaff Parish Hall, Cardiff on 23rd September 2014. Our previous Chairman and instrument maker extraordinaire gave us an enthralling talk on the subject of Stradivarius and the secrets of violin making. John Watkins, after a successful career in teaching, turned to making violins cellos and violas for many people, including some very successful professional musicians, not least for his own son - the cellist Paul Watkins. John took us through the process of making these beautiful instruments from their inception at the stage of choosing exceptional pieces of wood for the bodies (often from other European countries) to the carving and final locking together of the whole work of art. John had brought many examples of the various stages (some of which we were allowed to handle) and many of the tools of his trade. His splendid workshop was a work of art in itself judging by the photograph! At the end cheese and wine were served much to everyone's enjoyment, but to round off the evening a quartet of professional players - some of whom were ex Nash members - played us some Mozart on instruments made by John. This was an evening to savour; let us hope we can repeat it before long. Thanks go to all the people who helped on that occasion not least Hetty Watkins and Sian Jenkins. It contributed nearly £500 to the Bursary fund - much needed in the present climate.



John explains the importance of thickness and weight in a cello front



Dr. Bernard Richardson of the School of Physics and Astronomy, Cardiff University assists John by describing the bowed-string dynamics



Dr Gareth Tudor, chairman of The Friends, introduces the speaker – John Watkins



Members of BBC NOW – led by Carl Darby, a former leader of NYOW – perform a Divertimento by Mozart on John's instruments

The National Youth Orchestra of Wales

The Sage, Gateshead – Summer 2014



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COUNTY BOROUGH OF SWANSEA
PARKS and ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE

BOOK NOW!

BRANGWYN HALL
Tuesday 11th August, 1959
at 7.0 p.m.

**NATIONAL
YOUTH ORCHESTRA
OF WALES**

JUPITER—Bringer of Jollity (from "The Planets") - HOLST
Aria for BASS voice: "Ella giammai m'amò" (from "Don Carlos") - VERDI
Soloist: EMYR GREEN
FOUR WELSH DANCES - ALUN HODDINOTT
Concerto for HORN—No. 1 in E flat - STRAUSS
Soloist: ANTHONY RANDALL
SYMPHONY No. 2 in D - SIBELIUS

CONDUCTOR:
CLARENCE RAYBOULD

The National Youth Orchestra of Wales is maintained by the Local Education Authorities in Wales and Monmouthshire, and is managed on their behalf by the WELSH JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TICKETS:—5/-; 3/6; 2/6; (All reserved and bookable)

Booking Offices: Guildhall, Swansea. Telephone: 5-0821
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COUNTY BOROUGH OF SWANSEA
PARKS AND ENTERTAINMENTS COMMITTEE

BRANGWYN HALL
MONDAY, 8TH AUGUST, 1960
AT 7.0. P.M.

**NATIONAL
YOUTH ORCHESTRA
OF WALES**

Overture: "Carnival" - DVORAK
Aria: "O Mio Fernando" (La Favorita) - DONIZETTI
Symphony in B minor (The Unfinished) - SCHUBERT
Overture: "Brownie" - HOLBROOKE
Two Movements from Double Concerto for Piano and Harp - MOZART
Suite No. 2: "The Wand of Youth" - ELGAR

Wasser-Contralto: MARGARETTE WILLIAMS
Harp: JEAN THOMAS
Piano: HENRIETTA GEORGE

CONDUCTOR:
CLARENCE RAYBOULD

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TICKETS — — — 5/-; 3/6; 2/6.

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Do these bring back memories?