



Newsletter 2016

NYSO

National Youth String Orchestra

Music Director
Damian Iorio

This has been a very important year for NYSO. Now 21 years old we have come of age and are becoming more well known, and this has shown in the invitations to Cambridge Summer Music and the Three Choirs Festival, the oldest music festival in the UK, which we received for this year.

After very good preparations at the Easter course, held at St John's School in Leatherhead where we had held the previous summer course, we headed up to Harrogate to spend a lovely week preparing for our UK tour at Harrogate Ladies' College. We also welcomed a new member of the coaching staff, Judith Busbridge, Principal Viola at the Royal Opera House, who replaced our usual viola coach Ian Jewel. Our joint concert with the Intermediate Orchestra took place at St Peter's Church in Harrogate with a reduced programme of Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik and Suk's Serenade, and it was a very positive preparation

for the important concerts to come. It is always wonderful to see the support that both orchestras give each other and I enjoy these concerts very much.

The following day we set off early for the long coach journey to Cambridge for our important debut concert at Cambridge Summer Music. The venue we were to perform in was the beautiful Trinity College Chapel which suitably impressed everyone! There we met our soloists, the Piatti Quartet, for the first time. After a short rehearsal alone with the quartet I presented them to the orchestra and we rehearsed Howell's Elegy and Elgar's Introduction and Allegro together. Despite the short



Inis Oírr Asano

There are two types of people: those who spend every free waking moment breathing in the clouds of rosin from daily 25 hour practices, and those who 'actually have lives'. I'm glad to say you can be both types – especially if you're in NYSO!

Being in the first violins for the first time this year, I was looking forward to actually getting the tune, but one should never assume these things. The good thing about NYSO is that *basically* all the tutors are qualified in Kodály, Dalcroze and Alexander Technique. The bad thing about NYSO is that *basically* all the tutors are qualified in Kodály, Dalcroze and Alex Tech. Dalcroze seems easy; skipping around in 3/4 and having fun with interpretive sweat, the stress, the 'turn-around' and 'go-the-other-way'...

It was the first rehearsal of the year at Easter. As soon as we stepped into the room, Diana told us to put our fiddles down and lie on the floor. Guessing that this was Alexander Technique, we lay down and made ourselves comfortable. About 20 seconds in, the floor started to get really itchy and I began to notice gross things like the chewing gum stuck under tables and coffee stains on the ceiling (how...?). Five minutes later, half the room was probably sleeping. Once we were all 'balanced' and well trained on the science of the sitting bone, we got to play an exciting 40 minutes on the first note of the Elgar...

Playing a single part in such detail was a new thing for me, with new aspects to think about, such as sustaining posture, sustaining notes and generally playing nicely. We calculated that every day we did 9 hours 15 minutes of playing – 64 hours 45 minutes in a week. The food during the course was so good that it only seems fair that for every hour played, 76 calories are burned, apparently!

The best thing about this year for me was playing with the professional quartets – of course the Piatti and the ConTempo Quartets – but also the DIY quartet of the tutors. The professionalism of musicians like Diana Cummings and Jonathan Strange has always astounded me, and I couldn't have been happier to play with the adults who coached me for two weeks straight.

So that's just a shortish account by a cynical recorder player on what was actually the most productive and light-hearted (and slightly crazy) week of being tutored by Diana and Damian. The full rehearsals

rehearsal time with the quartet, the orchestra reacted really well and there was a security and enthusiasm in their playing which the quartet noted admirably, and the quartet's presence gave the orchestra an extra impetus and energy. The concert was very well attended and a big success. The festival director was very impressed and I am hopeful that we will return again in the future.

Our next concert was in London at St James's Church, Piccadilly. We were to perform the same programme as the previous day, but this time with a different quartet. It was a great pleasure to invite the RTE ConTempo Quartet from Ireland, with whom I had performed the Elgar with the RTE Orchestra in Dublin a couple of years ago. This wonderful quartet is from Romania, and I would like to thank both the RTE and the Romanian Cultural Institute for supporting their appearances both in London and at the Three Choirs Festival. The energy and enthusiasm they gave the orchestra helped create a memorable performance of the Howells and Elgar, and the orchestra was so inspired for the Mozart and especially the Suk Serenade. I was very proud of what they achieved that day!

with Damian are one of the main reasons I love playing the violin so much despite it not being my first study. The sound of all 28 instruments being sawed away with the greatest intensity and passion is the most amazing thing. As we lifted our bows off the last E of *Salut d'Amour* in the church in Cirencester and the sound blended in with the applause, I felt the same feeling that I always do on the last note – that we'd left our mark.

NYSO 2016 has been as exciting, exhausting and memorable as ever – I am so grateful to the staff, the tutors, Damian and the 27 extremely talented friends that I spent so many hours with. I look forward to making more music with NYSO in the future!



Stephen Nurse

Having returned from a memorable tour of Denmark in 2015, NYSO began life again in the town of Harrogate. Following the tremendous success of Tchaikovsky's "Souvenir de Florence" we had created for ourselves a tough act to follow. However with the exemplary aid of our tutors, our conductor, Damian Iorio, and two exciting guest quartets, we raised our standards to yet another level. Featuring Suk's Serenade for Strings and Elgar's dynamic "Introduction and Allegro" across 4 venues (including the oldest music festival in the United Kingdom), we were able to create a vibrant and exciting programme for sizable audiences wherever we went, and to ensure that we maintained our usual high standards of musicality in performance.

I for the first time experienced what it is like to be an "older member" of NYSO this year. I initially joined NYSO's intermediates course 7 years ago and following the departure of old faces that had been around since I joined the senior orchestra 4 years ago, I abruptly found myself amongst the oldest in the orchestra. However, it shed light on the excellence of support and development



Rachel Erdos – Intermediate Music Director

I feel strongly that young musicians should be given, amongst all the other repertoire they learn, contemporary music to play. Music is a living art, not just as we perform it live, but also as it is being created!

The 4th and final concert was the most important, our debut concert at the prestigious Three Choirs Festival. We performed on the last night of the festival at Cirencester Parish Church, their venue for some of the smaller concerts. The church was packed and the orchestra performed another memorable concert. The festival organisers were as impressed as the general public and the concert was a great success.

Every year it seems that the level of the orchestra improves, and this year the level has been amazing. It bodes well for the future and I look forward to welcoming back as many of the present

members as possible, as well as new players who we accept at the auditions in November. The success of NYSO is thanks to the many people who devote their time and energy, from the coaching staff to the pastoral team, to the board and our tireless behind-the-scenes staff and of course the players, without whom there would be no NYSO. We are also very grateful to the companies, trusts and individuals who generously support NYSO. Everyone involved plays an important part and helps create the successful concerts that we look forward to each year. I look forward to seeing you all again in 2017!

within the orchestra. To pass from one stage of one's musical life to another is not always a simple process, and NYSO has become indispensable in this respect, not only for me but for many members of the orchestra. This is due to a number of reasons: not only as a result of the exceptional tutors who guide us through the difficulties and subtleties of string music, but down to the chemistry of the orchestra, and the atmosphere of each course. As an orchestra which often prides itself on the chemistry and amicability of its members, the development of any player in the orchestra is clear to see.

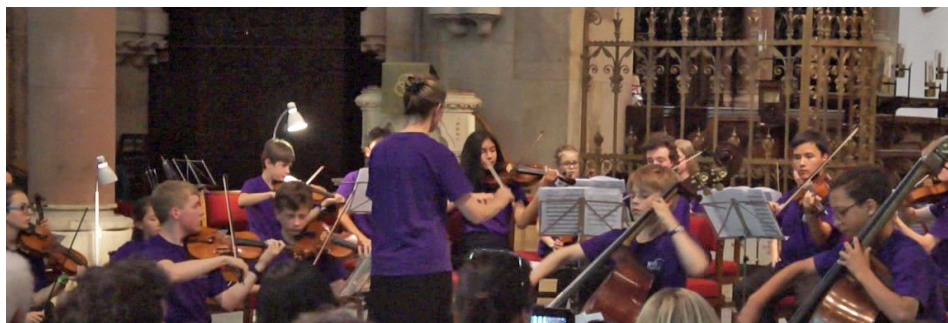
The members of the orchestra this year, as ever, applied themselves to new challenges and prevailed. On reflecting upon my musical journey in NYSO, I am certain that the orchestra will continue to find new levels, and to build its image as one of the most impressive young string ensembles in the UK over the coming years.

pun) the concert; his Impromptu and Andante Festivo. Working on Sibelius with the orchestra was a wonderful exploration of colour and mood.

To this end, central to the NYSO intermediate programme this year was Rautavaara's Divertimento; a compact and accessible piece but one with plenty of challenges for the orchestra such as mixed meter sections, dissonant passages, complex rhythms and some need for fast, nimble fingers. Sadly and astonishingly on the very day of our concert in Harrogate, July 27th, Rautavaara died in Finland at the age of 87. An extraordinary coincidence indeed.

The Finnish flavour of our programme continued with two pieces by Sibelius to finish (pardon the

Sandwiched in between we enjoyed two baroque concerti which honed the orchestra's skill as accompanist and put a spotlight on some outstanding solo playing. NYSO's intermediate bass section; Jude Chandler and Charles Campbell-Peek, gave a stunning performance of Handel's Sonata in G minor, op.2, arranged for bass soloists and string orchestra by Henry Brown. It is not often an audience is treated to a double, double bass concerto and Jude and Charles brought the house down with their performance. A sparkling rendition of the Allegro from Vivaldi's four violin concerto, op.3 followed. Our soloists were



Dylan Edge, Andrew Morton, Meera Patel and Katerina Lester, and Felix Waller, concertino cello. Many congratulations to them all.

I feel there is so little doubt about it that I am justified in saying that the standard of the orchestra is rising year on year. The fact that we had auditions for the 2016 orchestra has certainly played a part in this and as I write this I am looking forward to the weekend of November 12th for

Dylan Edge

Posture. I never knew that sitting bones were so important! I've learnt to keep my feet flat, to make sure I'm aware of my sitting bones and that my knees are the width of my shoulders.

Interaction with the senior orchestra through the Dalcroze session was good, as it gave me the opportunity to meet the seniors in a fun way. My favourite session was the Kodály as it really improved my relative pitch and dictation.

My favourite piece of music played by the orchestra was Rautavaara because it was upbeat in the first and third movements but also lyrical in the second, so making a good contrast. The dissonance in it was good!

I have made friends with members of both the intermediate and senior orchestras, friendships which I hope will continue to grow over the coming years.

Chris Green – Pastoral Assistant

I have been working as a pastoral assistant for NYSO since July 2015. I believe NYSO is a fantastic and rewarding course for young aspiring musicians; receiving high quality training and coaching from established professional musicians, with a chance to develop ensemble, time-management, leadership and social skills, broadening their repertoire and giving concerts across the UK and abroad. The courses, having worked for both NYSO Senior and Intermediate orchestras, are very well structured and include additional training away from the instrument, such as Kodály musicianship and Dalcroze Eurhythmics sessions, showing that this is not just a course on improving your instrumental skills, but an experience that supports your overall musical development as a burgeoning musician.

During an intensive week of rehearsals, sectionals and concerts, it is important that the participants have sufficient time to relax away from their instruments, so the courses are suitably timetabled with regular breaks and free time periods. The directors, music staff and visiting teachers, as well as the pastoral staff, are constantly looking out for each individual's wellbeing to ensure they are all contending with the pressures of the course.

As an older cohort of musicians, up to the age of 21, the seniors are given free time to socialise as they wish. This mature group of young musicians are able to organise their own activities, whether this be in-house or off-site (dependant on age), of which the pastoral team ensure they are responsible and punctuality is adhered to for the following rehearsals. Even on the 2015 tour

the auditions for the 2017 orchestra. We already have a long list of new applicants.

Yet beyond creating a concert performance of a very high standard, the tuition on the NYSO intermediate course continues to aim to develop our musicians in the broadest possible way. We are so lucky to have an exceptional team of coaches to deliver sectionals, Dalcroze and Kodály sessions. I would like to take the opportunity to thank them all. This year, for the first time, I invited cellist, singer and actor Matthew Sharp to join us. His workshops encouraged the orchestra to work as a team, to listen and communicate effectively



to Denmark, I was impressed at their ability to contribute by demonstrating a supportive attitude towards the pastoral staff and the inevitably difficult task of managing a tour, therefore making the job of the pastoral team much easier.

What I found interesting working with the Intermediates on the 2016 courses is that they all like to socialise together and include everybody in their activities during free time. Karen (NYSO Intermediates pastoral director) and I organise various activities and games in the evenings, whilst allowing them some independent free

Meera Patel

The NYSO course was amazing. I thoroughly enjoyed it and learnt so much, firstly at St Johns and then at Harrogate Ladies' College. All the teachers were so helpful and inspiring. I also made some lovely friends from across the country.

and to be flexible and creative in order to become open, courageous, risk-taking performers. I can tell you that no one held back! That surely makes for an exciting orchestra and I can't wait to see what 2017 has in store for us.

time. However most breaks, lunchtimes and evenings were spent on the school grounds either playing football or tennis. We also arranged a supervised visit into the local town to give them a chance to be off-site for a couple of hours.

Overall NYSO provides a very inclusive and welcoming environment that the students like to promote themselves. There is such a good social dynamic between the different age groups with people all from varying geographical locations, which makes everyone feel so comfortable on the course.



Sir Neville Marriner CH CBE with NYSO's founder Viviane Ronchetti during NYSO's Tour in Ischia

Everyone at NYSO was very saddened to hear of the death in early October of Sir Neville Marriner CH CBE. He was a massive support to us both in the earliest days when Viviane Ronchetti founded the Orchestra and in the many years that he was our principal patron.

Much has been written elsewhere about Sir Neville's life, career and achievements. In NYSO however we shall particularly treasure the occasions that he came and conducted the

Orchestra at courses and in concerts, both in London and on tour in Ischia and Capri. Particular highlights were playing works by Tippett and Walton that Sir Neville had premiered.

Everyone was always immensely thrilled when he came and conducted the Orchestra: the sense of anticipation as he donned his trademark coloured rehearsal shirt and then launched into the rehearsal, treating them as fellow professionals yet recognising their youthful years and eagerness to benefit from his experience. The resulting performance of the highest level was an experience to be treasured and remembered.



Music Director

Damian Iorio

Founder

Ms Viviane Ronchetti (with David Woodhead)

Patrons

Sir Neville Marriner, CH, CBE, 1995 - 2016

Sir Mark Elder, CBE

Diana Fry

Dr Jane Glover, CBE

David Takeno

Trustees

Charles Clark (Chairman)

John Bimson

William Bruce

Richard Davison

Alison Pickard

David Woodhead

Coaching Team

Senior Orchestra

Leon Bosch, Judith Busbridge

Diana Cummings, Ian Jewel

Jonathan Strange, Gillian Thoday

Intermediate Orchestra

Leon Bosch, John Crawford, Diana Cummings

Rachel Erdos (Kodály and Intermediate Music

Director), Gwendolyn Fisher, Louise Lansdown

Matthew Sharp, Anita Strevens (Dalcroze)

Gillian Thoday, Daisy Vatalaro (Dalcroze)

Pastoral Team

Judy Anderson (Pastoral Director)

Jenny Begley, Karen Butler, Christopher Green

Vaughn Williams

Support Team

Carol Parker (Administrator)

Jane MacArthur (Accountant)

Anne-Marie Norman (Coordinator of external engagements)

Webmaster

Infotex

Course Venues 2016

St John's School
Epsom Road, Leatherhead, Surrey

Harrogate Ladies' College
Clarence Drive, Harrogate

Purcell School
Aldenham Road, Bushy, Herts

NYSO's work in 2016 would like to thank the following organisations for their generous support:

The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust

Four Hills Music

The Foyle Foundation

Future Talent

Garfield Weston Foundation

The Goldsmiths' Company

John Lewis Partnership

King David High School

Lord Lexden OBE

The UK Education Practice of Marsh Ltd

The Old Enfield Charitable Trust

Philip Bates Trust

Seaford Rotary Charitable Trust

South West Music School

NYSO is also pleased to acknowledge the generosity of a number of individual donors who have requested anonymity

Maki Asano and friends for organising a fundraising concert Charity concert at Trinity Church North Finchley in aid of NYSO funds

Friends of NYSO

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Mr & Mrs Tyson, Mr & Mrs Wadham

Mr & Mrs Waller, Mr & Mrs Waudby-West

Mr & Mrs White, Ms R Willis, Mrs Wiseman

Chi Yeung Wong, David Woodhead

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2017

Easter Courses 2017

Senior Course 8 - 13 April - Felsted School, Felsted, Essex CM6 3LL

Intermediate Course 8 - 13 April - Felsted School, Felsted, Essex CM6 3LL

Summer Courses 2017

Senior Course 21 - 30 July - Warminster School, Church Street,
Warminster BA12 8PJ

Intermediate Course 22 - 27 July - Warminster School, Church Street,
Warminster BA12 8PJ

Concerts

Senior and Intermediate

27 July 2017 - tbc

Senior orchestra

29 July 2017 - 7.30pm - Wiltshire Music Centre, Ashley Road,
Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire BA15 1DZ

30 July 2017 - 7.30pm - Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9AG

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