



Sarum House
Roborough
Winkleigh
Devon EX19 8AF

01805 603386

Dear Friends of YMS

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2009

The sole purpose of YMS is to find and help the musicians of the future. In pursuit of that goal, we have just completed our audition process for 2009 and I am delighted to report that we have seen a record number of youngsters deserving of our help, and distributed a total of just over £4,500 to the 25 successful candidates. The young musicians we met ranged from a 7 year old pianist already displaying his aptitude and enthusiasm for music, to a Grade 8 oboe player who has recently been offered a Specialist Musician place in the Sixth Form at prestigious Wells Cathedral School.

It is a sign of the times that we have seen an increased number of families who find themselves in financial difficulty and it is thanks to our loyal and generous supporters that we have been able to provide help for so many of them, whether in the form of a contribution to the cost of lessons or the loan of an instrument. We have also been able to offer mentoring support and subsidised tickets to concerts throughout the year.

Last year we promoted a number of very successful concerts which not only raised money, but also provided performance opportunities for some very talented young professional musicians. These included violinist Tamsin Whaley Cohen, mezzo soprano Claudia Huckle and chamber group The Berkeley Ensemble. We also hosted a visit by Gaudeamus, a youth orchestra from Latvia. YMS awardees had their own chance to perform at a number of less formal events.

We aim to continue 2009 with an ambitious programme of concerts and other events:

The weekend of **May 9th and 10th** will see YMS at an **Open Garden** at **Elm House, Bishops Tawton**, courtesy of Hugh and Rachel Thomas. Many of the young musicians we support will in their turn support YMS by performing for the visitors to this garden, which in itself has plenty to offer. I enclose a leaflet giving more details.

On **June 19th** **The Berkeley Ensemble**, with clarinettist John Slack, will perform at Barnstaple Parish Church as part of the North Devon Festival. A month later, on **Saturday 18th July** a select few of YMS's most talented protégées will perform in an evening of words and music at **Pilton Church**. A few days later, on **Wednesday 22nd July**, a wider group of young musicians will take part in **YMS Showcase** in the Gallery Café at the **Queen's Theatre**.

After the summer break, YMS will present a special lunchtime recital at the **Queen's Theatre** starring violinist **Jeanine Thorpe** scheduled for **9th September**. Later in the month, YMS hopes to continue its involvement in the Sunday evening classical finale of the **West Buckland Festival** on **20th September**. We have yet to finalise further events for the autumn season but, in any case, October will be busy with the Two Moors Festival.

We hope you will join us at some of these events or will be able to support the work of YMS in other ways. Any and all donations are most welcome. If you would like to find out more about our activities, please visit our new website www.ymsndevon.org. For the more traditionally inclined, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me.

Thank you for your support

Heather Shorten