



*Dartington (North Devon) Trust*  
**YOUNG MUSICIANS' SUPPORT**

*Registered Charity No. 281310*

## **Newsletter, August 2007**

### **Dear Friends**

I am writing to give you news of our activities over the past year, as well as to let you know about some exciting events coming up over the next few months.

### **Fund Raising**

First of all thanks are due to many people for generous gifts which have boosted the funds raised at our various concerts and events. The two Bridge Trusts, at Barnstaple and Bideford, have repeated their contributions of £500 each. St John's Garden Centre also made a substantial donation.

Earlier this year we were saddened to learn of the death of **Peter Lyons**, a founder member of YMS who devoted many hours to our cause and to whom we owe a great deal for his wisdom and enthusiasm. To his widow, Bridget, we offer out grateful thanks for a considerable donation given in his memory.

This generosity enabled us to increase the grants awarded to our candidates to some £3,500, up by nearly 50% over last year. We have thus been able to make a more meaningful contribution towards the considerable costs faced by the young musicians we support, and we are fortunate to have at present a number of very good players who are really worthy of our attention. They include, Ming Liu, now a full-time student at the Royal College of Music, Patrick McEntee, poised to take up the offer of a place at Birmingham Conservatoire, and Pip Ash who has just completed his second year of attendance at the Junior Royal College Saturday School. Several younger students of great promise are ready to follow in their footsteps.

The current nucleus of players repays us in good measure when they contribute to our fund-raising efforts as in April at Westacott when **Bruce and Heather Osborne** kindly opened their garden for the benefit of YMS. Several of our protégées provided incidental music from the tallet of the barn to accompany a delightful sunny afternoon and scrumptious cream teas. Many thanks to the Osbornes and their many helpers for raising £570!

A more formal event, also well supported, was the lunchtime recital at the Queen's Theatre in March given by young mezzo soprano **Miranda Westcott**. With excellent and spirited accompaniment provided by our own Susan Steele, she presented a wide range of her repertoire including song cycles by Samuel Barber and Manuel de Falla. The audience was delighted to see two such talented

musicians obviously enjoying making music together. Our warm thanks to them both.

## **Susan Steele**

This brings me sadly to the news that Susan has decided to bow out after her long association with YMS. From being a founder member some 20 years ago, she has continued her commitment to young people who show promise and dedication with practical advice and enthusiastic support, and has always been willing to give of her own considerable talent at fund raising events. Not least she has given her time, skill and good judgment as a member of the audition panel. She has put many a nervous young candidate at their ease with her lovely smile and, whilst accompanying their sometimes tentative performances, has helped to identify any talent ready to be nurtured. At the same time she has been a realistic and occasionally stern critic, unwilling to waste YMS's resources on youngsters who show little aptitude. She will be greatly missed in this capacity but we hope to see much of her still at local events and concerts. As a token of appreciation, in July we hosted a lunch party at the Tarr Farm Inn with Susan and Robin as our honoured guests. This happy event also provided a musical treat as we (and the other patrons in the bar!) were serenaded by a quintet of youngsters who count Susan as teacher and friend.

## **Collaborations**

A new venture this year has been funding a limited number of free tickets to classical concerts in the area, mostly at the Queen's Theatre Barnstaple and the Plough, Torrington. We have set up an alliance with the **North Devon Music Centre** through its organiser **Alicia Stolliday**, and the scheme is now reaching a wider group of much younger players. For some of these children, some as young as 8, seeing live musicians and full orchestras in performance has been a revelation, an opportunity which without the offer of free tickets they might have missed. These same youngsters are also being encouraged to put themselves forward for YMS awards.

**Ambrose Miller**, who has been on our audition panel for the last three years, and who arranges tours for the European orchestra **Sinfonia Classica**, kindly arranged an opportunity last time they visited Barnstaple for one of our awardees, oboist Zoë Cartlidge, to have a master class with the orchestra's Dutch oboist. Ambrose hopes to extend this idea with further workshops and master classes in the coming months, culminating in a residential course next spring linking up these professional musicians from across Europe with the Music Centre and YMS awardees.

## **Forthcoming Events**

Looking ahead I want to draw your attention to the exciting events planned for the autumn months and in particular three events organised by YMS in September.

On **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September** we are hosting a special supper evening at **Highbullen Country House Hotel, Chittlehamholt**, with our guest, the operatic soprano **Dame Josephine Barstow**. Dame Jo is a very entertaining speaker and promises to share many anecdotes of her life working with the great names of music and opera over the last thirty years. Further details are given on the enclosed leaflet. Please make your bookings as soon as possible and promote this event amongst your friends and acquaintances. We hope to discover a new group of friends amongst the opera buffs!

The other two events in September feature several of the most talented of our own youngsters in particular providing a platform for pianist, **Ming Liu**. You may have seen her performing at the Landmark last year with the Buckland Trio. Now she has completed her first year at the Royal College of Music and returns to West Buckland a more assured and mature musician. On **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September**, at **West Buckland School**, she will perform Mozart's *Piano Concerto in F*, supported by musicians of the Exmoor Sinfonia. The programme will also include Bach's *Second Brandenburg Concerto* which gives us the opportunity to highlight five more young musicians we are proud to be supporting - **Patrick McEntee** (violin), **Pip Ash** (cello), **Zoë Cartlidge** (oboe), **Josh Price** (trumpet) and **Emily Hopper** (flute). This will give us a real feast of music and there will also be a bar and buffet, provided by sponsors James Lighting Ltd. Ticket information is on the leaflet. Proceeds will be shared with the School Foundation.

Later in the month we have a further opportunity to hear Ming play, this time as a soloist when she will give a recital on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September** at **West Buckland Church** as part of the West Buckland Festival. The first half of the concert will see the reunion of the **Buckland Trio**, with Ming, Pip and Emily playing together again.

Not a YMS event, but **Julian Lloyd-Webber** comes to the Queen's Theatre on September 15<sup>th</sup> and, knowing his keen support for bringing classical music to a wider and younger audience, we have managed to secure a backstage visit for some of our young cellists, to meet Julian during the interval. We are most grateful to Ambrose for arranging this for us.

In November, the **Gaudeamus Chamber Orchestra** from the Riga Academy in Latvia returns to Devon. They will play a programme of Vivaldi, Mozart, Bach and Grieg at the **Okehampton Parish Church** on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November**. This event has been generously sponsored by the local Waitrose and the Okehampton Educational Foundation.

## 2008

Looking further ahead, we are promised a return visit to **Winkleigh Church** by the Phoenix Quartet featuring violinist **Lizzie Ball** and, provisionally arranged for

the weekend of 31<sup>st</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June, Paul Ellis will open his West Buckland garden in aid of YMS, and with some of our young musicians providing a suitably harmonious accompaniment this promises to be a very pleasant occasion.

If you have read this far, I hope that means you wish to continue supporting YMS. The best way to do this is to come to our events and enjoy wonderful music while contributing to our funds. If you are unable to come, any donations, large or small, are always welcome. Send a cheque to Michael Downward, including a Gift Aid declaration if appropriate or contact him for a mandate form.

We look forward to seeing you and warmly thank you for supporting this wonderful cause.

Heather Shorten  
CHAIRMAN

**August 2007**

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