

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter! It has been a busy period since the last newsletter and lots of things have been happening. Successful concerts have taken place and the orchestra is sounding better than ever!

### **Edinburgh Festival trip**— *Alice Cordwell*

Getting up at 6am on a Saturday morning in the school holidays is not what everyone would want to do, but on the 29th August SYO set off to Edinburgh to play in the NAYO (National Association for Youth Orchestras) Festival.

On arriving in Edinburgh (after a very uncomfortable coach journey!) we rehearsed all afternoon before the concert started at 7:30, to make sure we sounded super for our performance.

The concert went really well and everyone played excellently. Special congratulations go to Sophie for such an amazing performance in the bassoon solo she played (Elgar's Bassoon Romance, Op.62). SYO had selected the piece to enter into the Elgar competition. To enter, a short Elgar piece must be played then sent to the Elgar Society to be judged along with all the other entries.

Sunday was spent in Edinburgh city centre, where orchestra members had a choice what they would like to do. I chose to go to the castle which I've never seen before and was amazed by all the information I found out... and I even got to see the Scottish crown jewels! It was a very interesting place to visit.

The trip was overall enjoyed by all the orchestra members, and thank you to all the extra players we had to help us sound even better (we actually had four french horns which hasn't been known for a long time in SYO!)



### **Ben Ward's Gold Badge**— *Daniel Waite*

Congratulations go to the most recent gold badge winner, Ben Ward, the now lead clarinetist in the orchestra. Ben is a regular attendee of the orchestra and always put 100% effort into making his playing perfect (and not getting any of those funny squeaks you can get on the clarinet!) Not only is Ben a member of the orchestra, he also manages the orchestra website and any other computer based projects.

Gold Badges are awarded for outstanding contribution to the orchestra and longstanding commitment to its music, rehearsals and other events. Any orchestra member can receive one, and a few are distributed every year at concerts.



### **Manchester Camerata Workshop**— *Daniel Waite*

Earlier this year the orchestra were visited by members of the Manchester Camerata on two separate occasions, largely to work on the Beethoven Symphonies we performed at the concerts following those visits. The two members led sectionals, working on everything from the fine details to the playing style to better the performance. After the sectionals the orchestra came together to improve what we had worked on.

Everyone found the Camerata members' advice very helpful, and their comments led to great performances of all our pieces, as the orchestra worked well together as a whole.

Although the award received from Allianz (which we won in a competition with all NAYO's) has now been used, the members of the Camerata enjoyed their visits so much that they've offered to come back to the orchestra to work towards further performances.

### **Recruiting new members**— *Alice Cordwell*

Welcome to any new members who have recently joined the orchestra.

It's great to have you as part of the team, and the sound we produce improves with every extra person we have. It is encouraging that the numbers are on the up again, but we're still in need of new members, especially in the French horns, woodwind and upper strings.

If you know of anyone at all who you could persuade to come along, then they're more than welcome to come to any rehearsal, just to see how good we are, and I'm sure when they've been once they won't want to leave!



### **Donation towards the timps**— *Daniel Waite*

SYO has recently had its four copper kettle drums refurbished by Ray Paine in Thornhill. Ray is a former timpanist of the Black Dyke Mills Band and he serves timpani throughout the North of England. The timpani were last refurbished in 1994 with a very generous donation from Sir John and Lady Wood, whose daughter and son performed with SYO in the '80s.

Once again they have shown their appreciation of the work of SYO by making a second generous contribution to the present work. We have had new heads on all four timpani and purchased some quality, hand-made drum mallets from Aberdeen. The drums are now sounding better than ever.



### **Crich Residential Weekend, 13th-15th March 2009 - Daniel Waite**

Crich, the orchestra's annual residential, was a very enjoyable experience for all involved. During the weekend, we practiced many of the pieces we would cover in the Easter concert (Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 5 for example) and developed new pieces like an excerpt from Elgar's 'Nimrod'.

But we enjoy Crich not only because of the music. It is great for newer members to get involved in the orchestra and make new friends through a variety of activities.

Once again, the orchestra tried to fit as many people into a wardrobe as possible. This year, we fitted 19 in: a fantastic effort, largely due to our newer, younger members. I'm sure everyone who went will want to go again next year - 12th-14th March 2010.

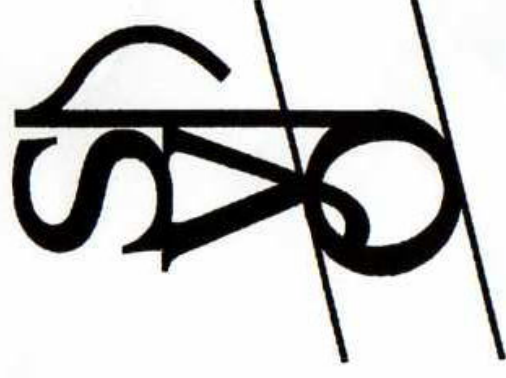


### **Other news...**

- SYO's website now has a forum for members (at the request of Sophie) so please keep an eye out for messages.
- Congratulations to Emma Godley (nee Vere) a flautist in the orchestra, who recently celebrated her wedding, with SYO playing after the marriage ceremony. We wish you all the best.
- DVD's of the whole performance of SYO at the Edinburgh Fringe are available from the chairman, Mike Blackburn (only £5: a steal!) Mob. 07717676384.
- A recording for our recent concert at St. Andrew's church is now available. Check the website below for more details.

### **Dates for your diary**

- \*Saturday 19th December, 19.00 – concert at Central United Reformed Church
- \*Friday 12th - Sunday 14th March - Crich residential weekend
- \*Saturday 20th March - Venue to be announced.



# Newsletter Autumn 2009

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