



The Newsletter of the **Y M C A W** Wind Orchestra

Spring 2008

BAND NEWS



... to Nikki Donaldson who has been accepted as a student at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama where she will study for a B.Mus starting in September. Nikki, a talented cellist and pianist, is the sister of clarinet player Julie who is understandably very proud of her. We wish Nikki every success in her future musical career.

... to clarinet player Alison Glen who celebrated her 40th birthday in March. To mark the occasion Alison held a wonderful party for all her family and friends. Alison continued her celebrations by jetting off with husband Iain to have an exotic holiday in the Caribbean. We wish her Many Happy Returns.



As we missed having our usual Christmas Night Out last December, it was decided to have a "Beat the January Blues" night out instead. For that purpose, on a wild stormy January evening, 25 members and friends assembled at Cottiers Restaurant in the West End of Glasgow to enjoy an evening of feasting and fun. It turned out to be a wonderful evening - a delightful venue, good company, a plentiful supply of wine and delicious, interesting food. (What on earth was in that fish stew?) Thanks to everybody who came along and made it so enjoyable and special thanks to Duncan Parkinson who organized the whole event.

Our picture shows Duncan and fellow trombonist Laura Friel enjoying the meal.



WELCOME

We welcome Lindsay Graham to the flute section and Suzie Mills and Shona Barcroft to the clarinet section. We hope that they have an enjoyable time playing with the YWO.

BUT FAREWELL

We are sorry to lose the services of flautist Debbie Adams and percussionist Eva Harris. We thank them both for the valuable contribution they have made to the band and wish them all the best in the future.



AND BON VOYAGE!

We have also lost, temporarily at least, another percussionist Ross McMahon who has gone off to China where he will be teaching English as a Foreign Language. We wish him success in his exciting venture and hope he will be keeping us posted about how he's getting on.



FUTURE CONCERTS

Friday 6th June
Summer Concert
Renfield St Stephen's
Church Centre

Saturday 2nd August
Pollok Family Day
Pollok Park

Friday 12th September
Arthurlie Church
Barrhead

Saturday 4th October
Paisley Abbey

Inside this issue:

A Tribute	2
Concert Report	2
Brass Band Success	2
Spotlight On: The Flute Section	2
Carnival in Maastricht	3



A TRIBUTE

We were all very sorry to hear the sad news in January that Simon Reid had lost his battle with cancer at the age of just 36. Simon was the husband of clarinet player Catriona and like many of the partners of our members, he was considered part of the YWO family. Several band members attended their wedding in 2002 and we were all delighted when their little boy Caleb was born four years later in 2006.



Simon was a young man who had a lovely laid back attitude to life and was held in high regard by everyone who knew him. He will be greatly missed.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Catriona and all her family.

CONCERT REPORT

In March, the YWO took part in a special Children's Concert in Renfrew. It proved to be a delightful evening and we were fortunate that our special correspondent Megan McCormick was in the audience. Here is Megan's report:

"On Friday 14th March, I went to see my Mum play the clarinet in the YMCA Wind Orchestra. I was very excited because it was held in my school Newmains Primary. The band played a few tunes then Primary 5 sang some Scottish songs. My favourite was "Wee Jimmy's lost his Jorry".

After the interval, some children played percussion instruments with the band in "Yellow Bird". I was amazed that they could keep time with the band!

My favourite bit was playing the bell in "Liberty Bell". It was very heavy. I really enjoyed the concert and I was very proud of my Mum and I am sure everyone else enjoyed themselves too".



AND THE WINNER IS . . .

We had a respectable number of entries to our last competition but for the first time ever, only one all correct one! Congratulations to Charmaine Butler who sent it in. We hope she enjoys her prize. Thank you to everyone who took the trouble to enter and remember even if you didn't win, you have saved the competition for the next time at least!



We have had some happy news about a former member. Congratulations to horn player Fiona Martin on the birth of her first baby. Fiona and her husband Paul are celebrating the arrival of their daughter Louise Alice McLean on 2nd April. We send best wishes to the whole family.



BRASS BAND SUCCESS

As we have so many talented players in our band, it is no surprise that many of them are in demand to play in other musical groups. At the recent Scottish Brass Band Championships in Glenrothes, some of them enjoyed great success. Duncan Parkinson's band Kirkintilloch came second in the Championship Section while Audrey McCrone's band Johnstone Silver came second in the Second Section just one place ahead of Laura Friel's band Croy. We congratulate them all on their success.



SPOTLIGHT ON:



The Flute Section

Karen Clayton's first flute was purchased for her by her grandparents just a week before her 8th birthday. She remembers the occasion well because when she was walking away from Biggar's music shop in Glasgow proudly clutching her shiny new flute, a very drunk man accosted her with the words "Hey hen! Are you wi' the baun? Gon yirsel!" At this point the street was suddenly filled with massed flute bands. They had inadvertently gone flute shopping on 12th July!

That week she began taking flute lessons and a year later took up the piccolo. Not long afterwards she had her first taste of orchestral playing when she joined the Dunbartonshire Divisional Schools Orchestra. Some of her happiest memories are of taking part in their residential summer schools and one of the highlights was taking part in a performance of the 1812 Overture in St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh. Karen continued her flute studies right through to Grade 8.

On leaving school, she worked as a legal secretary and during that time played with the Dunbartonshire Concert Band. There then followed what she describes as her "musical wilderness years" while she concentrated on her studies in Quality Management in Hospitality at Paisley University before putting her skills into practice working in various hotels and pubs. Two of her more unusual jobs were playing in a small group in a restaurant in Andalucia and teaching music and English in Morocco.



At present Karen is involved in the BBC SSO's project the Merchant Sinfonia and recently she took part in Making Music Scotland's workshop and performance of Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" playing solo flute and piccolo and raising funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care. She joined the YWO in 1998 just before our trip to Massachusetts and is looking forward to the next 10 years.



Karen getting ready to play at our Christmas concert



Lindsey(right) and Melissa at a recent concert.

Lindsey's Choice

1. "Faure's "Pavane"
2. "Pinball Wizard" sung by The Who
3. "Hymn of the Highlands" by Philip Sparke
4. "Fever" sung by Michael Buble
5. "Sweet Home Chicago" sung by the Blues Brothers
6. "Stairway to Heaven" by Led Zeppelin
7. "Don't Mean a Thing" by Duke Ellington
8. "Sinner Man" sung by Nina Simone

Melissa's Choice

1. "Moonlight Serenade" played by Glenn Miller
2. "Feeling Good" by Muse
3. "Pirates of the Caribbean" Soundtrack
4. "Less talk More Rokk" by Freezepop
5. "Your love is a Lie" by Simple Plan
6. "Mazama"
7. "30 Seconds to Mars" by Attack
8. "Walk Right In, Sit Right Down" sung by Dr Hook

Carnival in Maastricht



Some time ago I wrote about the Dutch festival of fraternization: Carnival or: Lent Eve. These three days before lent starts are very important in the South of the Netherlands, especially in the capital of the south, Maastricht. During these days all people from this area (including babies and elderly people) are like one family, they dress up and celebrate this "feast of relativity". Loads of activities take place during these days, like parades through the city centre, costume contests, official opening and closure of the party and a contest for carnival bands.

Music plays a very important role in the culture of the south. There are many so called 'harmonies' and every town or village has its own wind orchestra/ marching band, sometimes even 2 if the band had split due to a fight or disagreement. As the carnival is a major part of the Maastricht culture, music has an important role in it as well. Since the 1950's there are 'harmonies', which come together and play during carnival. As the members of these harmonies are usually not sober, these are called 'drunken harmonies' (in Maastricht dialect Zaate Herremenie) and they perform on the streets and in the pubs of Maastricht during carnival.

Every year a new prince is announced and also a new song is chosen annually. Additionally many songs are written and performed every year by the many artists/musicians in Maastricht. The members of these bands like a drink, enjoy making music together and it doesn't matter how it sounds. Every year I try to go to Maastricht to celebrate carnival and I very much enjoy playing in one of the many bands. Musically it's quite a disaster, but it's great to make music with your friends and make friends through music!

Sabine Vos (saxophone)



Brunei trip – 2008

Following on from my trip to the Falklands last year, I was asked to head up a team to carry out the same type of survey work in Brunei. The MOD has a Gurkha garrison stationed in Brunei guarding the sultan and also the Shell oil reserves. In fact Shell own all the land that the MOD base is on.

We were briefed before leaving on some of the possible difficulties of working in a strict Muslim country. Using the index finger to point is considered extremely rude, as is showing the palm of your hand, and also patting people on the head - which I'd consider rude in any country! For women, dress must be conservative - no upper arms to be shown, which put paid to the idea of surveying in bikini, sarong and flip flops.....But horror of horrors, Brunei is a "dry country", no alcohol to be consumed in public, and of course, Muslims are not allowed to consume it at all. Christian residents are given a "ration card" and alcohol cannot be purchased without showing this, even on the MOD base. We travelled as a group from Glasgow, via Heathrow, to Singapore. From there we transferred to the Royal Brunei flight and had our first taste of a different culture, as the plane was blessed before take-off. I'm not sure if this is meant to be reassuring, but for a nervous flier it had the opposite effect.

The MOD base is near Kuala Belait, the largest town outside of the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, known locally as KB and BSB respectively. KB is primarily based around the oil industry, with a single street of shops, hotels, restaurants and a bus station, surrounded by residential areas. KB shuts at 9.30pm, and as there is nowhere to congregate in the evenings, it is very different from Glasgow. The Brunei people are early risers, and the call to prayer is broadcast through loudspeakers at dawn and sunset, roughly 6am and 6pm.

KB is also only an hour away from Malaysia and our first weekend off we went to Miri to sample the bars and nightlife. Malaysia is one of the karaoke hot-spots of the world and every bar appeared to be hosting a karaoke night, all sung in English. The main restaurant area had all the local produce displayed in tanks outside, from fish to giant frogs. Dinner was not for the faint-hearted, although finding vegetarian food wasn't difficult. On the second weekend some of us travelled to the capital and went round the water village by water taxi to see the proboscis monkeys. The opening times of the mosque for visitors were quite strict so we weren't able to go inside, but the building itself is lovely. Brunei isn't really set up for tourism, there is a lot of litter, and not much information on places to go. It bills itself as a "country of undiscovered treasures". The people are very friendly, and although the wages are very low, the building standards are good and poverty wasn't particularly apparent.



A filling station Brunei style!

Our last weekend we stayed in a hostel in the rainforest, and went canopy walking in Ulu Temburong National Park. This involved a trip down river in longboats, a climb of 1600 feet, to find scaffolding at the top with another climb to take you above the rainforest canopy. The views were amazing, although as I've now discovered I'm afraid of heights, I wasn't able to actually see them myself! From the canopy walk we went back to the river and floated back to the hostel on large rubber tyres. No pictures are available for that part, fortunately.

We managed to finish the project slightly early and spent our last night in The Empire Hotel in the capital. This hotel bills itself as 7 stars, although 5 is more likely. It was certainly more luxurious than the accommodation usually provided with work!

Brunei was a fascinating country to visit, and I enjoyed the month I spent there immensely. We've just been asked to quote for carrying out more of the same surveys in Nepal, at the Gurkha base there, so watch this space.....

Glenda Johnston (clarinet)

COMPETITION!

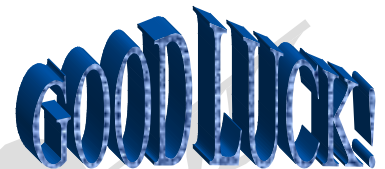
Spot the Composer

The answer to all of the clues is the name of a famous composer.

e.g. **He can open doors** = Handel.

When you have worked them out send your entry by email to lornamc@tinyworld.co.uk or by post to L. McMillan 56 Lounsdale Drive Paisley PA2 9ED by 28 June. The usual prize is on offer.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. the Emerald Isle | 11. And in Italy he's a green mountain |
| 2. Hark! | 12. But he's just green. |
| 3. He can fly | 13. He keeps us warm in winter |
| 4. You can see right through him | 14. Goodnight John Boy! |
| 5. He's capital – well in Germany he is. | 15. He can fix your set. |
| 6. He can mend your sole. | 16. Rent-a-noise! |
| 7. He's quite delightful | 17. Is he carrying it to Newcastle? |
| 8. But he's disgusting | 18. Use him to ward off a blow. |
| 9. And he's very outspoken | 19. He's one you can cross |
| 10. In Germany he's a beautiful mountain | 20. For a close shave |



Editor **Lorna McMillan**
lornamc@tinyworld.co.uk
 Layout design
Lynne Fairbairn
 YMCA Glasgow