



# YWO NEWS

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE

### Y M C A G L A S G O W

# WIND ORCHESTRA

## CONGRATULATIONS

We were delighted to hear about the recent success in music examinations of three of our members and say congratulations

. . . . to Anne Richards who has passed Grade 5 in percussion.

. . . to Declan Burns who has passed Grade 6 in trombone

. . . to David Hay who has passed Grade 8 in clarinet with distinction.



DECLAN AND DAVID RELAXING BEFORE A RECENT REHEARSAL.

We're quite sure that the band will feel the benefits of their achievements!

Congratulations also to Laura Friel (trombone) who has qualified as a teacher of Mathematics and has taken up a teaching post in Eastwood Academy. We wish her success in her chosen career.

Congratulations to Lissa and Tom James who were the winners of our last competition. We hope they enjoy spending their prize and don't fall out over what to buy! Thank you to everybody who took the trouble to send in entries. We don't usually give the answers to the competitions but on this competition nobody gave the expected answer to the clue "Lord Lucan". The correct answer was "The Man That Got Away" but we accepted other equally good suggestions such as "Runaway", "Catch Me If You Can", "Where Are You Now" etc. Please have a go at our next competition. It's easier! Honest!

Douglas Suckle has joined that select group of our members who have played for royalty! During a visit to Coalburn in Lanarkshire, HRH the Princess Royal visited the newly refurbished rehearsal rooms of the Coalburn Silver Band in which Douglas is a member. Not only did they play for the royal guest but were surprised and pleased when she spoke to every single member of the band individually. The Coalburn Silver Band is proud to be the only brass band left in South Lanarkshire.

Audrey McCrone (euphonium) has been celebrating a big brass band contest win with her band the Johnstone Band. There was a mighty contesting shock sent through the Scottish band world in Troon when the first section band took the Land o' Burns Entertainment title beating Scotland's top two championship sections bands along with bands from England, Ireland and Scotland.

Congratulations to two of our newest members, Laura Sands (flute) and Mark Davis (Tuba) who got married in July. The newly weds jetted off to enjoy a wonderful honeymoon in the Dominican Republic. We wish the new Mr and Mrs Davis many years of happiness together.



MARK AND LAURA, THE NEWLY WEDS.

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## FUTURE CONCERTS

- 5th November  
Erskine Hospital
- 3rd December  
Paisley Abbey
- 17th December  
Christmas Concert in  
Adelaides
- 19th December  
Christmas Service in  
Glasgow University  
Chapel

In a break from our usual custom, the reviews for our summer concerts have been written by two regular members of our audience. We thought this would give an interesting insight into what it's like to be at the receiving end of our efforts!



**Summer Concert** -This year's Summer Concert was held on a Friday evening in early June in Adelaide's, which proved to be a pleasant, airy venue for a varied programme of music, with some familiar pieces and some old favourites but enough challenge to keep complacency at bay. The band struck up with their customary rousing start going straight in to the march "Winds" which got things off at a toe-tapping brisk pace - not quite as entertaining as "Liberty Bell" but then what is? That old school bell and hammer really is a crowd pleaser! Next on the programme was Shostakovitch's "Festive Overture", a really difficult piece with some splendid big themes and a most dramatic ending with plenty of scope for people to end dramatically. In much gentler vein and complete contrast we were then treated to a lovely piece written by the Orchestra's Musical Director, Michael Philip. Called "At the Eleventh Hour: Rain", this featured the audience making the sound of rain which worked really well and created a charming effect. Although modern in feel, I found this

piece engaging and accessible even on this first hearing. Elgar's "Chanson de Matin" was next and who could ever tire of that beautiful lyrical tune? Like so many of Elgar's best tunes there is, I think, a hint of sadness in that lovely romantic music which featured some notable solo moments for clarinet. Last up before the strawberry-less interval (Wot? No Strawberries!) was a very catchy medley of tunes by Antonio Carlos Jobim. Possibly the best known is "The Girl from Ipanema", which I cannot hear without it lodging in my head for several days afterwards. Although the other tunes were less familiar to me, this medley was full of appealing, swaying music from somewhere hot and a long way from Bath Street and featuring a splendid trombone solo from **D a v i d W e l s h**. After the interval, as if to make up for the lack of strawberries, we had the delight of "Homestretch" a wee gem from Leroy Anderson, whose genius in his chosen niche has often been commented upon by Michael in his pre-amble. Leroy Anderson's music seems to be having something of a rehabilitation on the Radio so the YMCA Wind Orchestra must have been setting a trend by keeping his happy, infectious music in the **r e p e r t o i r e**. Binney's "Charivari", an unfamiliar piece in three movements was next. I thought this was super. It was the most challenging item on the programme for the audience, many of us hearing it for the first time and some of it quite unusual, but it was accessible and kept the attention with some particularly engaging passages. The first movement builds up to a fanfare that seemed to involve absolutely everyone, which sometimes makes the quieter slow movement following seem less exciting but this slow section, "Collage", I found particularly

enjoyable. It was an interesting choice for the programme and a real pleasure to hear something completely new and unexpected. There has to be a medley of familiar songs so that Michael can tell people that if they feel like joining in they shouldn't, and this time it was a "Salute to Bob Hope", which had tunes that I recognised and even knew the words to - though I didn't join in because I know the rules. However, I hadn't ever associated most of these songs with Bob Hope before so this just goes to show that you can learn something every day - and quite often at a YMCA Concert. Then there was the clever new arrangement by Tichelli of "Loch Lomond" discovered in Kalamazoo via Londonderry which does, indeed, work very well and gives the horns their big chance as they get the tune on Danny Boy and happily head off with him up the glen. And for the finale there was Dvorak's "Slavonic Dance No 3" an evocative and entertaining end to another programme of music with something



for everyone and plenty for most! I am grateful to Lorna for asking me to write this review as it gives me the opportunity to thank the band for many entertaining Friday evenings in unlikely venues across the West of Scotland over a number of years. All the best for your next season  
Anne Ritchie

**Pollok Park**—Welcome to my review of the Pollok Park Concert. Thankfully the sun was out as were the crowds As in previous years, the dance displays preceded the YWO

and when they have finished, the majority of the audience usually disperses. This year, however, a lot stayed on to listen and – I hasten to add – thoroughly enjoyed the concerts.

It was a well chosen programme enjoyed by all. The Bob Hope selection even raised a cheer from some. Toy Story's "You've Got a Friend in Me" went down well especially with the young members of the audience and "YMCA" got some audience participation going.

Unfortunately along with the sun came a swarm of flying ants but thankfully this did not deter the audience – they just swatted them away in time to the music! At times the grass seemed to sway to the music when all the winged beasts landed on it.

In my opinion this was a very enjoyable afternoon listening to a lovely programme played by a very talented group of people. They obviously enjoy what they are doing as this comes across in their playing. I look forward to next year.

Yvonne Burns



Sam McCormack started to learn the oboe in Primary 5 when his teacher asked if anyone was interested in learning to play the instrument. Although he had no idea what an oboe was, Sam volunteered as he felt it fitted nicely into his exploration of the unknown! He confesses that he didn't really enjoy playing until he reached Secondary School when he joined the Glasgow Schools Concert Band. As a member of the Glasgow Schools

**"An oboe is an ill wind that nobody blows good."**

**Bennett Cerf**

Symphony Orchestra he attended the summer school at Castle Toward of which he has fond memories. Some of this enjoyment stemmed from the habit of some pupils of sneaking out of the dormitories at night to go down to the pier but there was also much pleasure in learning a great variety of music. This was when he became a fan of the music of Sibelius. In 2007 he joined the YWO on their trip to Alpertsbach in Germany. He names this as one of the highlights of his musical life so far as he greatly enjoyed playing for such attentive audiences.

Sam is also a keen guitarist and has been known to play the occasional game of hockey.

At present he is a student at Caledonia University studying Audio Technology with Electronics.



**SAM IS DEFINITELY "BLOWING GOOD" AT A RECENT REHEARSAL.**

Although born in Cologne, Susanne Fokken has spent most of her life in Birmingham where in primary school she learned to play the recorder. At the age of eight, she auditioned to advance to oboe although she confesses that like Sam she had little idea of what exactly an oboe was. It wasn't until she moved to secondary school she discovered that she could join orchestras and other ensembles and that there was more to life than practising scales! While at school she joined various schools orchestras and performed at the National Indoor

Arena in Birmingham in a large Wind Band Festival. She also enjoyed taking part in the annual music camp at Ingestre Hall in Staffordshire. She passed Grade 6 in oboe in 2002.

As a student at Aberdeen University, she was a member of the University Concert Band, a massive band with up to 9 oboes so it was easy to hide at the back! Every year this band performed a Christmas concert with the University Choir in Marischal College. Susie loved playing Troika every year.

In 2006 she played as part of a small ensemble on a "road train", a procession travelling down Union Street in Aberdeen City Centre for the Christmas lights ceremony. Michael Barrymore was the guest celebrity turning on the lights. She also performed in the debut of Graham Fitkin's "The Ring Cycle" at the Music Hall in Aberdeen in 2005.

Last year she moved to Stirling where she joined the Stirling University Concert Band, a group of just 14 players so no more hiding at the back! They spent a whole year practising "The Lion King"! She also takes part in a Boomwhacking group which last term performed a medley of 80s music to a select crowd in a bowling club in Stirling. Susie's boyfriend Tom is a member of our percussion section and she lists as one of her hobbies carting his heavy percussion instruments between music venues. We were just about to suggest that Susie should try to get out more when she added that she also loves travelling and last year spent 3 months working in a mission hospital in rural Zambia. We're surprised that Susie is able to spend time on her music as she is a second year doctor in a busy A&E department in a hospital in Stirling.





I had the opportunity to visit Budapest this summer as my daughter is working there this year. As I would be left to my own devices for the majority of the time, I decided to indulge myself in attending concerts at every opportunity. I booked 6 but only managed 5 due to the intense heat beating me into submission one day.

My first one was the closing season Gala at the State Opera House, which was just round the corner from where I stayed.

The building itself is wonderful - the prices are fantastic, you won't get cheaper tickets to an Opera/Ballet anywhere else in Europe.

I paid £20 and got a great seat in a box!!! My first and probably last time!

The acoustics in the theatre were amazing, nothing like I have ever heard before and each singer surpassed the one before. Engineers have classified the acoustics as the third best in Europe and that for an opera house that opened in 1884.



My next destination was one of the twice-weekly concerts at St Stephen's Basilica.

These concerts, which are performed every Tuesday and Thursday evenings, include works such as Schubert's Ave Maria or Vivaldi's Four Seasons among others, brilliantly performed in Hungary's most important church.

It was an opportunity for me to enjoy the music of significant composers from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, while admiring the richly decorated interior of the most beautiful neoclassical building in Budapest.

Like most Eastern European countries, Hungary has fine folk music and dance. The country's large Roma or Gypsy population has helped keep this fast fiddling tradition alive. There are not many countries besides Hungary, where the art of folk-dancing is at such high artistic level. The Hungarian State Folk Ensemble is one of the best professional Hungarian folk ensembles with the longest tradition. It was made up of around 30 artists. Their choreographies are based on authentic dances. Some of them were collected in isolated villages and date back hundreds of years. Through the performed dances you can get a broad view of the music, dance and costume heritage of Hungary and the Hungarian inhabited areas. They perform in a beautiful small theatre and I was riveted by their performance.

Last but not least was a concert performed by the Danube orchestra featuring my favourite instrument, the Hungarian cimbalom, conducted by András Deák.

Outside Hungary it sounds unusual to include this typical Hungarian folk instrument, the cimbalom, to perform with a symphony orchestra, but in Hungary the beauty of this instrumental combination has been known since the 19th century.

I have been fortunate to hear Heather Corbett of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra play the cimbalom here in Glasgow twice, and I was very keen to hear it played in its native country.

I am returning to Budapest in October for a long weekend and I am already searching for a few concerts to squeeze into my tight schedule.

Anne Richards (percussion)



COMPETITION

As so many people seemed to struggle with the Dingbats, this competition is much easier and more straightforward. It is also a tribute to all the wonderful composers of musicals much of whose music we play in the YWO.

In the first column are the titles of songs and in the second column the names of the musicals from which they are taken. When you have worked out the answers, send them either by post to

L. McMillan, 56 Lounsdale Drive Paisley PA2 9ED or by email to [mcmillan2008@btinternet.com](mailto:mcmillan2008@btinternet.com) by 14th November 2010.

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|----|---------|-------|
| 1  | ICH DAN | MFL   |
| 2  | TMOTN   | TPOTO |
| 3  | BUYS    | KMK   |
| 4  | CEM     | TSOM  |
| 5  | IDKHTLH | JCS   |
| 6  | WWTBAM  | HS    |
| 7  | ODM     | FR    |
| 8  | SAM     | MS    |
| 9  | SITC    | ALNM  |
| 10 | IDAD    | LM    |
| 11 | SOTR    | TWOO  |
| 12 | IEBAG   | TFDS  |
| 13 | IFP     | WSS   |
| 14 | IHWARM  | FOTR  |
| 15 | TNWM    | SP    |
| 16 | BYBH    | SBFSB |
| 17 | AWT     | CJ    |
| 18 | DWCN    | AGYG  |
| 19 | ASOS    | MP    |
| 20 | ITCSMN  | SC    |



GOOD LUCK!

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