



• • • • • **BAND NEWS** • • • • •

**Congratulations -** Congratulations to Anna and Alan Baker on the birth of their baby. Anna and Alan celebrated the arrival of their daughter Laura Ruth Elizabeth on 12<sup>th</sup> October. We send best wishes to the whole family. We hear that Baby Laura has a fine set of lungs but will she be a horn player like her mum or a saxophone player like her dad? Only time will tell. Although she is only a few weeks old, Laura has already attended two YWO performances and we are pleased to report that she behaved

impeccably on both occasions!  
As far as we know Laura is our first ever "Band Baby" i.e. the offspring of two people who met at the YWO - unless of course you know different!



*Proud parents Anna and Alan with Laura at the YWO Christmas concert.*

**Congratulations -** to Laura Friel (trombone) and Duncan Parkinson (tuba) both of whom graduated from Glasgow University this

year. Laura has gained a BSc (Hons) in Mathematics and is now training to be a Maths teacher. Duncan gained an MA (Hons) in Philosophy and has now embarked on an

**Welcome -**

We have had an influx of new members recently and extend a warm welcome to the following players:-  
Anne Richards (percussion), Katie Hood (string bass), Lorna McLean (flute) and Sarah McNally (trombone). We hope that they have fun playing with the YWO.

**And Welcome Back -**

We are pleased to welcome back Jimmy Lee to the trumpet section. Jimmy has been missing for a couple of years because of family commitments but we're delighted to see him back where we think he belongs, with the YWO!

**But Farewell -**

We are sorry to lose Clare Quinn from the trombone section. We thank her for the valuable contribution she has made to the band and wish her all the best in the future especially in her profession as a doctor.

• • • • • **Inside this issue:**

CHANGES	Page 2
HALLOWE'EN	Page 2
CONCERT REPORT	Page 2
HONOURS FROM CHINA - DESTINATION TIANJIN	Page 3
COMPETITION	Page 3
A BOLD INITIATIVE	Page 4

MSc course in Information Technology. We wish them both good luck in their chosen careers.

*Laura and Duncan enjoying a holiday in Florida.*



## Changes

Two of our longest serving committee members have decided that the time has come to hand over responsibility to other band members. We take this opportunity to express our grateful thanks to Gayle Davis and Lynn Jeppesen-Thomson for all the work they have done on our behalf. We also welcome Jo Paton who has taken over as committee secretary.

## Hallowe'en

One of the unsung heroes of our band is Janice McCormick who makes sure that we have some welcome refreshments at the halfway break in our rehearsals. Being a woman of imagination, Janice often surprises us with some extra special treats - mince pies in December, Easter eggs in April - but she really surpassed herself on 30<sup>th</sup> October, when she provided not only some Hallowe'en cakes but even a chance to dook for apples! (For the benefit of non Scottish



Our chairman David Welsh can't quite conceal his delight at his successful dook!

readers we don't duck for apples in Scotland - we dook!) Judging by the squeals of delight that greeted each successful dooking, it seemed that we were all transported back to our childhood. We thank Janice for always managing to bring us a bit of cheer.

## Concert Report

Our first Concert of the season was at New Dennistoun Parish Church, where our host was Rev. Ian McInnes - lately of Blawarthill and Barlinnie (i.e. the man who facilitated YWO performances at those two places!) Because the event was very early in our season, our programme was a mixture of last year's pieces and our Pollok Park repertoire. However, we did include one new addition to our pad: 'Valse Triste' by Sibelius

Thereafter, rehearsals were dominated by Scottish repertoire in preparation for our next appearance. On 13<sup>th</sup> November we played in St. Machan's Church, Larkhall, in a concert organised by the local Burns Society to mark the conclusion of Scotland's 'Homecoming Year'.

Frank Ticheli's lovely setting of 'Loch Lomond' was included for the first time in a YWO programme, and my own 'Five Burns Sketches' was played in its entirety for the first time in many years. I was particularly pleased at this, since I had also conducted it near the start of 'Homecoming Year' with the Kalamazoo Concert Band in Michigan, USA.



Christmas included two concerts for us this time round. The first was our own annual Christmas Concert at the Renfield Church

Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Along with tried-and-tested items from our established Christmas repertoire, we added Philip Sparke's reflective setting of 'Whence Is That Goodly Fragrance Flowing?' and a gang of YWO kids provided the jingles for Prokofiev's well-known 'Troika' We completed 2009 with the first annual YMCA Glasgow Carol Concert in the splendid (but very chilly) University Chapel. I must say we sounded particularly fine in this venue, which we shared with the Glasgow Youth Choir under Audrey McKirdy Now we will make some big changes to the music in the folders and gear ourselves up for further concerts in 2010 - and perhaps a tour into Europe as well!

Michael Philip

## Honours from China — Destination: Tianjin

The city of Tianjin has a population of nearly 12 million and is located about 110km southeast of Beijing. It has two major universities, Tianjin and Nankai. Nankai was founded in 1919 and is ranked as one of the top 10 universities in China. In October this year my husband Neil and I travelled to Tianjin in order for him to receive an honorary professorship from Nankai University. The conferral ceremony took place in a grand new sciences building. We were amazed when we arrived to see a huge welcoming banner hung on the building.



We were met by the President in the VIP room and given some small gifts including for me a beautiful book on paintings from artists in the court of the Emperors of the Qing dynasty. In the lecture hall where the ceremony took place, the excellent University choir gave a short recital which included a melody you might have recognised as Tannenbaum (or perhaps 'The Red Flag'). Most pertinently here, it is the Nankai University song. There were introductions, presentations and speeches to follow.

Neil received a handsome plaque which reads "Honorary Professorship is hereby conferred upon Dr Neil William Isaacs in recognition of his honour and achievement and in acknowledgment of the esteem of Nankai University". Such awards

have been conferred on various dignitaries over the years. It was with mixed feelings that I read that Henry Kissinger was one of them!!



The day concluded with a magnificent meal at a restaurant which specialised in the famous delicacy of Tianjin 'baozi' that is, freshly made dumplings with many different and delicious fillings. The décor of our private dining room and the standard of cuisine and service was enough to make us feel that we were reliving the days of the Emperor. From start to finish we were treated with amazing hospitality and generosity. It was an experience to relish and remember.



Margaret Isaacs - Flute.

## Competition—Back by Popular Demand.

And the winner is...Congratulations to Douglas Suckle who was the winner of our last competition. We had a record number of entries to this competition so a big thank you to everybody who took the trouble to send one in.

As so many of you seemed to have so much fun with the Dingbats in the last competition, we have decided to give you another chance to work on them.

Once again each Dingbat represents the title of a well known song, some old, some not so old. The only clue we'll give to help you is to say "Think prepositions!" Of course this will only help if you know what a preposition is!!

When you have worked them out, send your answers either by post to L. McMillan, 56 Lounsdale Drive Paisley PA2 9ED or by email to [mcmillan2008@btinternet.com](mailto:mcmillan2008@btinternet.com)

The closing date is 14th March 2010 and the usual prize is on offer.

1	PAPARRIILS
2	MOON
3	METHUSELAH CLYDE
4	TEG
5	YOO HOO ROMEO AND JULIET!
6	K C A P YURO
7	TTHRH EADSE
8	THE BALL SAW
9	THE FIRST LADY
10	Mannering Fawkes - Petrushka Barbie
11	BE A MUNRO BAGGER
12	SENTRY ME
13	T 4 2
14	DARLING, SWEETHEART, BELOVED!
15	DIGIT
16	1P Cleo
17	SUMALTAN
18	is is is is love is is is is is is is
19	R tra la A la la l la N
20	RIBBONS

## A Bold Initiative

Although we all greatly enjoy playing with the YWO, there are some of us who think of ourselves more as orchestral players so the news of a new orchestra being formed in Glasgow two years ago caused a great deal of interest.

The Merchant Sinfonia is run under the auspices of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and is an attempt to introduce, or sometimes reintroduce, as many people as possible to the pleasures of orchestral playing. So long as the appropriate



Photograph by John Wood, courtesy of the BBC

applications are made, no one is turned away and so it is an ideal opportunity for people who consider themselves to be too inexperienced, too rusty or too nervous to join an established orchestra.

As a result, it is a rather strange collection of players who assemble for the first rehearsals. For a start there are as many flutes and clarinets as there are violins and there is a sprinkling of instruments not normally associated with a symphony orchestra like saxophones and classical guitars. The ability ranges from the experienced gifted player to people who have been playing for only a few months not forgetting those players who have had

to dig their dust covered instruments out from the attic not having played since their days in the school orchestra!

So how on earth do you turn this odd collection of players into a coherent orchestra? Answer: you bring in a charismatic young conductor in the shape of professional cellist Louise Martin. With patience, with enthusiasm, with humour, with well planned rehearsals and with the help of some good natured members of the SSO who act as tutors, she gradually moulds this motley collection of players into an orchestra capable of giving an impressive performance at the end of the year. There must be times when she feels like tearing her hair out with frustration but if she does, she never shows it. Always upbeat, always courteous, always encouraging, she manages to convince her nervous orchestra that they're going to give a great performance in City Hall. And do you know what? They do!

The word is that because of financial constraints the Sinfonia won't be able to continue for much longer and that would be a great shame. Even in the amateur music world there is a culture of exclusiveness that prevents many people from even attempting to join any of the established orchestras and bands in the area. In this respect, with its all inclusive policy, the Merchant Sinfonia is unique. Let's hope a way can be found to let it continue for some time to come.

Lorna McMillan (horn)

.....

Editor: Lorna McMillan -  
mcmillan2008@btinternet.com

Layout Design: Lorna Johnston (YMCA Glasgow)