

Aldenham School, Elstree
Aldro School, Godalming
Arts Educational School, Tring
Ashby Ivanhoe High School, Ashby de la Zouch
Bingley Grammar School, Bingley
Bishop of Llandaff Church in Wales School, Cardiff
Bloxham School, Banbury
Brighton and Hove High School
Chesterton Community College
Chetham's, Manchester
City of London School
Dame Allan's Girls School, Newcastle upon Tyne
Dauntsey's
Eton College
European School, Culham Oxon
Francis Holland School, Clarence Gate, London
Gordonstoun School
Haberdasher's Aske's School, Elstree
Haberdasher's Aske's School for Girls
Henley College, Henley-on-Thames
Highgate School
Hitchin Girls School, Herts
Hipperholme Grammar School, Halifax
Hymers College, Hull
King Edward VI Grammar, Chelmsford
Kings College, Taunton
Lady Margaret School, Parson's Green
Latymer Upper School
Llandovery College
Lycee Francais de Londres
Maidstone Grammar School for Girls
Monmouth School
Musikkonservatoriet, Felun, Sweden
Nastegardzsalan, Kvaenum, Sweden
North London Collegiate School, Edgware
Notting Hill and Ealing High School
Purcell School
Queenswood School, Hatfield
Roedean, Brighton
Scairsbrook Hall School, Ormskirk
Sevenoaks School, Kent
Sibford School, Banbury
St Helen's School, Northwood
St. Maur's School, Weybridge
South Hampstead School, London
Southend High School for Boys
The German School, Richmond
The Latymer School
Trinity School, Croydon
Wellington College
West Kirby Grammar School
Wisbech Grammar School, Norfolk
Yogol y Preseli School, Wales



A last note

As a founder member of NISA it was great to be part of the fifth year anniversary concert in St. John's, Smith Square, with the renowned conductor Sir Neville Marriner.

Over the five years the chamber group has developed and matured. The coaching is second to none, with the rehearsals being detailed, always preparing us well for our performances.

We were daunted about playing under such an eminent conductor as Sir Neville, but I found the rehearsals to be a truly inspirational experience. We tackled one of the hardest pieces in the chamber orchestra repertoire, Schoenberg's 'Verklärte Nacht', and I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge.

Playing in St. John's, Smith Square, was an experience, having heard so many concerts being broadcasted live on the radio from there. In the afternoon rehearsal Sir Neville had forewarned us that if he wasn't pleased with our performance we'd know, as he wouldn't shake the leader's hand at the end. Was he being serious? We didn't know. But we relaxed as he shook her hand and kissed her! The auditorium was packed and when I spoke to members of the audience in the reception after the concert, the recurring comment was "When I closed my eyes it could have been a professional group playing".

I have gained a great deal from my time with NISA, musically, technically and socially, and I wish them all the best for the future. I would also like to personally thank Viviane Ronchetti for her time, dedication, and the wonderful opportunities she has given us. Thank you.

Angharad Morgan

All correspondence and enquiries to:

Viviane Ronchetti
Musical Director
NISA
c/o Queenswood School
Brookmans Park
Hatfield
Hertfordshire
AL9 6NS

Tel/fax: (+44) 01707 642244
Email: vrnisa@queenswood.herts.sch.uk

www.nisastrings.org

Newsletter January 2001

NISA NEWS from the DIRECTOR

The year 2000 has been an exciting and productive year for NISA. In addition to a much acclaimed concert at the Country Club in Aldeburgh in April, the orchestra had the opportunity to rehearse with Sir Neville Marriner during the July course. Sir Neville was very generous with his time and gave NISA students the chance to work with him over a day and a half as well as on the day of the concert at St John's, Smith Square. The concert programme included Schoenberg's 'Verklärte Nacht' which is a demanding and difficult piece for any orchestra. The performance was deservedly very well received, and the whole concert provided a fitting climax to five years hard work and training from students and coaching staff, with the added excitement of having Sir Neville there conducting. NISA is very grateful to Sir Neville for all he has given in time and expertise, and we hope that we may be able to persuade him to consider another visit at some time in the future.

The year's activities were rounded off with another enjoyable occasion at St Peter's, Eaton Square, in October. This is such an attractive venue, and the concerts we have given there have always had that special edge to them as this is the opportunity to test our students yet further by training them to provide a programme in the minimum of rehearsal time. This year we went a step further and produced a programme learned completely from scratch in forty eight hours – apart from the first item – Purcell's Chacony – which is a repertoire piece. Needless to say the concert was excellent and much enjoyed by all.

Now we turn our minds to 2001. We welcome a new leader, Martin Lissola. Martin

comes to the orchestra from Sweden where he is studying at the Musikkonservatoriet in Falun. We would like to thank Catrin Morgan, our leader for the past two years, for all her hard work and commitment to the orchestra. We anticipate welcoming her back in a solo role at some point in the future. We will have several new faces next year as some present members move on to new phases in their lives. We will follow everyone's career with interest, as always.

The orchestra's return visit to Washington DC is taking shape. We have three concerts in place with two others in the pipeline. Before leaving for the USA, NISA will give a concert at the Adrian Boulton Hall in Birmingham on Saturday, July 21, 2001.

The establishment of a second, slightly smaller orchestra looks like becoming a reality. This group will run concurrently with the main orchestra but members will only attend the courses in February, April and July. During 2001, NISA hopes to establish links with the Borough Music School and other similar music projects to offer support and encouragement.

One of the highlights this year has been the very generous sponsorship given by Quilter & Co. Ltd. This sponsorship has made it possible for NISA to provide all the extra tuition necessary for the preparation of the St John's, Smith Square, programme as well as the ongoing training the orchestra offers during the whole year. Quilter & Co. was also extremely supportive with the extra financial help they gave towards the advertising for this concert, and for the provision of a very special reception afterwards. Our thanks must go to Emma Vigus for all her hard work and enthusiasm leading up to the Smith Square concert.

NISA Dates

• Concerts

21 April 2001

St Mary's Church,
Finchley, London

21 July 2001

Adrian Boulton Hall,
Birmingham

American Tour to Washington DC:

24 July 2001

The Church of Epiphany

25 July 2001

Kennedy Center
Millennium Stage

27 July 2001

Capitol Hill Series, US
Army Band

27 October 2001

St Peter's, Eaton Square,
London

www.nisastrings.org

Linking up with others...

Excellence at Eaton Square

This was the second NISA concert which we had attended and, having failed to realize the extent of Eaton Square, we arrived a few bars into the first piece.

Once again we were so impressed by the evident enthusiasm and excellence of the young performers. It was a most exhilarating experience, and we look forward to attending many more NISA concerts in the future.

Jan Mair

The **Borough Music School**, founded in 1995, aims to provide individual instrumental lessons at subsidised cost to local primary age children, whose parents would not be able to afford the cost of private tuition, and whose schools do not have the funds to provide it. The founders of the school feel strongly that their children should not be denied opportunities because of lack of means, and from the numbers enrolling for the school, the parents clearly agree!

From the beginning, the children are given the opportunity to perform in the end of term concert, and we are also exploring ways in which they can do ensemble work. This improves their musicianship and has general educational benefits.

The gap between cost and parental contribution is met through the generosity of a number of donors, including the Financial Times, and the Peter Minet Trust. The Borough also makes a small contribution.

Anne Worsley
Tel: 020 7525 9002



Sir Neville Marriner

Quilter & Co. Ltd

Quilter & Co. is a proud sponsor of the National ISIS Strings Academy and wishes them all the best with their activities during 2001 and beyond. Like NISA, Quilters is proof that it is not only the big institutions and organisations who can produce outstanding results.

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Triumph at St John's

We arrived at the concert in July with some trepidation having bought the tickets via friends who were helping to organise the event. This was our first NISA concert and we didn't know whether to expect one step up from a school orchestra (although with Sir Neville Marriner involved we hoped for something better than that), or musicians who were as good as professionals. To our delight, it was the latter.

To our surprise, we also thoroughly enjoyed the Schoenberg having arrived with the preconceived idea that we wouldn't like it (had it been programmed after the interval, we may well have left at half time). In fact, we stayed and found it sparkling and full of vitality – a tribute to the enthusiasm and talent of the performers.

And finally, we expected the audience to be full of nothing but doting parents and friends of the orchestra. There may well have been some of those but they were well mixed with members of the public so, with luck, everyone will spread the word about the talents in this excellent orchestra.

Lucilla Herrmann

The future...

To realise their plans, NISA needs practical support and encouragement, and funding. Support and encouragement are gradually growing with NISA gaining new Friends as a consequence of its terrific success. We appreciate their interest and generosity and shall be letting them know of the orchestra's activities and development in the coming months and years.

The funding side is, as everyone knows, a little more difficult! Donors have been extremely generous; some have given us funds for general use, others for specific purposes, particularly bursaries and coaching/tuition fees. These last two areas are essential to the well being and continuance of the orchestra, and the maintenance of its ideals and standards. Unspecified funds will always be added to these two areas. However there are other areas to which donors funds could be earmarked.

- Tour funding
- Funding for a second orchestra
- Sponsorship of specific concerts
- Sponsorship of marketing material
- Administration & development
- Educational development (promotion of links with music workshops in deprived areas)

I could go on and on about needing funds for all these activities but I think I had better stop! However if anyone out there knows of someone who would like to become involved with any of these areas, please get in touch with Viviane Ronchetti 01707 642244 or me, Alex Pearce 01442 851403.



Sir Neville Marriner at work with the orchestra