



**The National Youth Strings Academy
NEWSLETTER
2006/7**



“ It’s not hard to see what impresses audiences and fellow musicians alike about this focused ensemble.”

The Strad, October 2005

2007 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Easter Course:

31st March – 5th April, Woodbridge School, Suffolk.

*** Open evening-Thursday 5th April, 6.45 pm – 7.45 pm all Friends welcome.**

Summer Course:

22 -31 July, St John’s School, Leatherhead, Surrey.

**** Summer Concert at St James’s Church, Piccadilly, London on Saturday 28th July at 7.30 pm**

Tour to Ischia:

1st - 4th August

Concerts: 2nd and 3rd August

NYSA 2006

www.nysastrings.org.uk

The Summer course at Queenswood took place in sweltering conditions and, in the end, we had to adopt a continental-style day, starting rehearsals at 7am, stopping for breakfast and then having the whole of the middle of the day off due to the intense heat in the Essame Studios at Queenswood.

Despite this, NYSA produced a most enjoyable concert at St James's Church, Piccadilly, the Divertimentos by Mozart and Bartok being particularly stunning. The young Suffolk violinist, Jeanine Thorpe, joined the orchestra for an exciting performance of Haydn's Concerto in C major.

[CDs of the Summer Concert at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London on Saturday 29th July 2006 are now available for purchase @ £10 for a double CD set.](#)

The tour to San Francisco got off to an interesting start as the terminal building at Heathrow was evacuated due to a fire while we waiting to board the plane – three of the NYSA party were separated from the rest but, due to the timely intervention of Anne Wakefield, of NYSA's housestaff, they were soon escorted by herself and a fireman to join the rest of the party. This was a precursor of

things to come as, on our return, we flew into the middle of Heathrow on full alert due to a terrorist threat. We discovered afterwards that, had we left San Francisco any later, we would have been turned back which would have been disastrous. The cellos, carefully wrapped in their 'blobbies' went missing temporarily at Heathrow, but otherwise we came out of the whole experience unscathed - many NYSA parents had a very worrying few hours, however.

The concert venues in San Francisco were all special in different ways although my personal favourite was the first one – the wonderful modern architecture displayed in the shape of St Mary's Cathedral.



NYSA played particularly well at this venue inspired no doubt by some of the beautiful sights around them. There was more excitement to come - during the Shostakovich "Prelude and Scherzo" a local tremor shook the crystal chandelier in the centre of the cathedral.

After all the instructions on how to act in case of an earthquake, NYSA members played on without even noticing one was happening under their noses!

The chamber concert at Mission Dolores, one of San Francisco's oldest buildings gave the San Francisco audience a chance to appreciate what had been achieved in a few days by this partnership of British and American young musicians. The tour finished with a lovely performance at Grace Cathedral where the highlight of the whole programme was the performance of Vaughan Williams'

"Variations on a theme of Thomas Tallis" with massed strings from both sides of the Atlantic. Levon Parikian did a wonderful job, as always, NYSA was then invited to a most enjoyable post-concert reception before returning to the university campus to prepare for the return home.



['NYSA would like to thank Erica Miranda and her team of helpers for all their hard work towards the success of this tour.'](#)

Thank you!

Charles Clark
*For unstinting generosity
and support as
Chairman of the NYSA Trustees*

Dick Davison
*For wonderful photos from every
NYSA course so far*

Roger Garland
Jonathan Strange
Andrew McGee
Denis Vigay
John Gray
*For inspired coaching and constant
support*

Liz Needham
*For the Summer course at
Queenswood School and for her
input over the Fund-Raising
Auction Evening.*

Levon Parikian
*For conducting NYSA to glory
with continuing sanity and
a sense of humour*

Mrs Carol Parker
*For generous help with admin.
through 2006*

Janet Rutterford
*For the Easter course at
Woodbridge School*

Kathryn Skilton
Anne Wakefield
Alex Hurwitz
Ben Wakefield
For endless patience!

Moira Smith
Carolyn Parrish
David Woodhead
For fund-raising

NYSA parents/ Friends of NYSA
*For supporting the Fund-Raising
Auction by donations and by
actually being present.*

Anne Wakefield
*For organising the Auction
which raised over £2,450 for
NYSA's tour to San Francisco.*

And many, many more....

EVENTS IN 2007

In 2007, NYSA, led by Sam Parker, will give three concerts. The first, will take place at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London at 7.30 pm. on Saturday 28th July.

The programme will include Respighi's 'Ancient Airs and Dances' as well as Tchaikovsky's 'Souvenir de Florence' and will be conducted by Levon Parikian.

Both these pieces will also feature in the first of NYSA's two concerts on the island of Ischia.

The programme for the second concert in Ischia, conducted by NYSA patron, Sir Neville Marriner, will include Walton's 'Sonata for String Orchestra' commissioned by the Academy of St Martin in the fields and first performed by them with Sir Neville in Perth, Australia in 1972.

It is interesting to note that members of NYSA's coaching staff were involved in early performances of this piece world-wide as well as in the recording made by Argo.



NYSA would like to thank the following organisations for their generous support of NYSA's work and for making it possible for students to come to NYSA in 2006 through the Bursary Scheme.

John Lewis Partnership



Barbara Whatmore Charitable Trust
Emanuel Hurwitz Chamber Music Charitable Trust
HSBC Insurances Services
Queenswood School
The Radcliffe Trust
The Scarfe Foundation
Awards for Young Musicians
The Coln Trust



VALETE

Charles Baker James Downs Helen Charlesworth Raphael Hurwitz
Alice Pugh Clarice Rarity Fra Rustumji Eleanor Shone

New Horizons

STRING ORCHESTRA TRAINING FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS

In August 2007, NYSA is launching a course for Intermediate string players. This will take place at Queenswood School , Hatfield , Herts. from 20th August to 23rd August inclusive.

The course is aimed at players aged 9 – 15 with a playing standard of Grades 5, 6, and 7. Dalcroze Eurhythmic sessions and Kodaly groups will form part of the ensemble training on this course along with sectional coaching in true NYSA style and full orchestra work with Ms Ronchetti.

OUTREACH

As part of NYSA's Outreach programme, there will be two String Days this year in partnership with the Norfolk Music Service. The first Day is Wednesday, February 14th in Norwich. The second day will be at the end of May. The theme for the first day is dotted rhythms and playing in 3 - Dalcroze and Kodaly sessions will combine with sectional and full orchestra work to help c. 40 young string-players from Norfolk develop their skills in ensemble playing.

**For more information about NYSA courses and how to apply, please contact:
Viviane Ronchetti, Director: Tel/Fax: 01728 605917 e-mail: director @nysastrings.org.uk**