



From NYSA's Director
Viviane Ronchetti

As we approach Christmas and the end of the 'noughties' I find myself standing at the gate of the year, looking back with a real sense of achievement, at NYSA's progress in the last ten years. 2009 was another successful, enjoyable year while the work and planning of the last three months will take the orchestra forward to 2010, NYSA's 15th Anniversary year and beyond.

The visit to Edinburgh and Glasgow to take part in the 2009 Festival of British Youth Orchestras proved a happy decision – we had a successful and enjoyable course at St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh. We all enjoyed the food provided and even ate haggis in true Scottish style. NYSA had the opportunity to play in two superb if completely different halls re acoustics. The concert hall at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD) was quite delightful for strings and we entertained an enthusiastic and supportive audience who quickly became a rather impressed audience as they took in the standard of what was being

played. Central Hall, Edinburgh, the venue for NYSA's second concert in the festival, was not a particularly attractive building from the outside but it provided a resonant acoustic which presented new challenges from the night before and the performance was recorded. CDs will be available soon – the Polish recording engineer who made the recording was, and still is, full of enthusiasm for his work but it has taken much more time than usual to get a finished article that we can copy. NYSA gave the audience a most enjoyable evening's entertainment and I must thank Damian Iorio for all his excellent work with NYSA during the week's full rehearsals. In one of the many thank-you letters received, one NYSA student wrote:

"Mr Iorio is wonderful...."
Fair comment, I'd say!

The decision to combine the Easter Senior and Intermediate courses was a brave one - some might say foolhardy - and taken with some trepidation. Thanks to very hard work on the part of the coaching team and the pastoral team, and the helpful way the Purcell School staff offered NYSA full use of accommodation and rehearsal space, both courses went off without a hitch. Particularly gratifying was the performance of Vaughan Williams: March from Concerto Grosso at the final Workshop of the course. This piece was written for a rural schools' music association and has parts ranging from open strings to quite demanding music with both Concertino and ripieno parts. In this performance, the entire group of NYSA string-players, both Senior and Intermediate players, combined to produce a most enjoyable performance of the final March. What a good thing the Intermediate courses are proving to be!

FUTURE PLANS

Over the next three years, NYSA would like to develop Intermediate courses around the country while maintaining what is already being achieved. We now

have players who are at the top of the Intermediate Course age group (8 to 14) but are not quite ready to join Senior NYSA (entry level Grade 7/8). They still want to come to NYSA to learn more. We are hoping to be able to establish a new course – Intermediate Plus – to help these young players to continue to be part of NYSA.

Aberdeen

Performing at the Aberdeen International Youth Festival in 2010 is an exciting educational opportunity for Senior NYSA. We were required to put in a very detailed application where profile; achievements; recordings of past concerts and recommendations from international musicians such as Sir Neville Marriner were considered by the panel before an offer to perform at the Festival was made. As well as giving concerts in and around Aberdeen, NYSA will be taking part in a 'With Strings Attached' Gala concert at the Festival which will be an international event and include string orchestras from Russia, Canada and USA.

Ischia

Senior NYSA was been invited by the William Walton Trust to return to La Mortella, Ischia to play at the International Youth Music Festival there in 2010. We were not able to accept this year as the dates clashed with the invitation from the Aberdeen International Youth Festival for Senior NYSA to perform in Aberdeen in July 2010. However we hope to return to Ischia in the future.



FUND-RAISING

NYSA Appeal 2009

In addition to the normal fund-raising that is essential each year in order to run NYSA courses effectively, in 2009 we ran a special appeal to replenish NYSA's financial reserves which have been gradually eroded in the last few years by the organisation's expansion. Our target amount was £40,000. Letters went out to Sponsors, Friends and current parents. NYSA received some very generous donations as a result and we are very grateful for the help given. £3,275 was raised and, while this amount did not increase the reserve, it did stop it going any lower in 2009 which has been a very positive outcome.

Easter Course Tombola

As part of the appeal, a Tombola was put on at the Easter courses which raised £120. Lots of interesting items were donated by parents and supporters and the NYSA members had a lot of fun picking out numbers and winning or not winning what was on show. Towards the end, things became quite riotous and it was debatable who was the more outrageous – the NYSA students or the resident house staff, but a good time was had by all and useful funds were paid into the NYSA account.

Easy Fund-raising Web-site

In addition to specific giving, Carol Parker has researched other ways of helping NYSA financially without incurring any cost. Carol says:

*"With just a few clicks of your computer mouse, you could help NYSA raise funds at no additional cost to you. Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk and click on **Register** on the tool bar. Complete your personal details selecting **'The National Youth Strings Academy'** as the charity you are supporting and start shopping!*

Through the Easy Fund-Raising web-site, you can search for your favourite sites, click on the links to your usual on-line shops and start raising funds for NYSA today!

You can visit all the major retailers, including John Lewis, Marks and Spencer, Amazon, Direct Line and Churchill Insurance, to name but a few. You can even book flights! In fact, anything that you would normally purchase on-line you can still do so for exactly the same cost as going directly to the retailer. Retailers either pay a percentage of what you spend to your chosen charity's Easy Fund-Raising account or donate a fixed sum for each purchase (this is indicated on the links to the stores).

NYSA members, friends and supporters have raised a total of £194.00 in 2009. How much more can we achieve in 2010?"



QUOTE

'My intonation is much improved after NYSA courses... largely due to the rigorous sectionals where we were encouraged to listen punctiliously and really match our sound and tuning'

Emma Gait: Violin 2006...



COMINGS AND GOINGS

In 2009 NYSA said goodbye to **Moira Smith**, NYSA trustee from 2005-2009. Moira is a very experienced fund-raiser and helped NYSA tremendously during her time on the board of trustees. We would like to thank her very much for all her hard work raising funds for the orchestra. Moira will be continuing to help with bursary allocation during 2010.

We welcome **Abigail Toland** as NYSA's new fund-raiser. Abigail is a graduate of Cambridge University and University College, London. She has been successful raising funds for "Second Movement" an acclaimed young opera company she co-founded in 2005. She has always enjoyed being involved in music making, having learned the violin from a young age.

In 2010, we extend a warm welcome to the conductor and composer, Jonathan Willcocks and to the French-horn player, John Bimson, who have agreed to become members of NYSA's board of trustees.

Jonathan Willcocks is conductor and musical director of the Portsmouth Choral Union and Chichester Singers, and of the professional chamber orchestra Southern Pro Musica. He works extensively as a guest conductor of both choral and orchestral music, a career that has taken him all over the world. As a composer, Jonathan's music is published by Oxford University Press and the Lorenz group of companies and by Prime Music. His published music includes major choral works, and instrumental works. He was Director of the Junior Academy, Royal Academy of Music, from 1990 to 2008.

John Bimson is one of Britain's most experienced principal horn-players, playing principal in the BBC Northern Symphony Orchestra at the age of 17; the London Symphony Orchestra under Andre Previn and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra where he was principal horn and Chairman of the RPO Board.

QUOTE

'NYSA has really helped my ensemble skills and taught me how to use my eyes and ears. Very enjoyable and informative sectionals'

Jordan Sian: Viola 2008...



James leading the cello section in a NYSA rehearsal conducted by Sir Neville Marriner, Senior NYSA Summer Course at St John's School, Leatherhead, 2007

Poacher turned Gamekeeper

James Greenfield

NYSA Member 2005-2007.

Member of Pastoral Staff 2008 onwards

NYSA is, and always has been, an adventure.

I've been on two different continents with them; I've played a solo during an earthquake as mist rolled down the hills of San Francisco, seen flaming horizons during a night-time boat-ride in Capri and been hit in the face by a rogue humming-bird in the gardens of La Mortella, Ischia; and that was before I took the job as pastoral staff! People don't believe me when I tell them the stories.

NYSA seems to cram learning experiences into a very tight time-frame.

One thing has always struck me: somehow by the end of the week we seem to have a closely-bound group of kids, brought together by the music and the work and the laughs. Perhaps they unify because they're all angels, but I doubt it. I believe they unify as a group because they learn to work together as a team and to respect one another. These are difficult skills, crucial in life. To be honest, I can't think of anywhere better to learn them. I know that they are not in the GCSE syllabus.

The coaching staff are fantastic. It's rare that you ever get the chance to work closely with people of their calibre, even at Music College. I see their names, or the staff themselves, littered around every music college in London, framed on the wall or lost in the lobby; they are part of the fabric of music in this country and even as a pastoral staff member I still learn from simply watching a rehearsal or sectional. I graduated from Royal College of Music last year and on getting my first teaching post, the Head of Music at the school turned and said, "I see you work on NYSA, I did that when I was a kid... great course."

So, there is some clear evidence.

Every time I came home from a NYSA course, whether as a student or as staff, I had always learnt more than I'd expected to. The children never fail to surprise me in what they can achieve. I remember being a fairly rebellious, sceptical and arrogant teenager. At the start of a course I see aspects of myself (foibles and strengths) turn up in every child there.

I remain part of NYSA because I know I gained a lot from it and have every faith that they can too.

The Head of Pastoral's Tale

Judy Anderson

When I agreed towards the end of 2002 to head the Pastoral Team for the forthcoming NYSA course, I wasn't really sure what I was letting myself in for. Seven years later, I have learnt that the one thing one can safely expect is the unexpected. The duties of the Head of the Pastoral Team are many and varied, ranging from checking Health and Safety paperwork and organising fire practices (yes, I do have a current Fire Warden qualification) to liaising with caterers about dietary needs and with parents about various aspects of the members' well-being.

One of the first tasks on arrival at any venue is to allocate bedrooms. A few years ago, a school had provided the correct number of beds, but had unfortunately omitted to take gender into account. As our Director was in the air en route from Hong Kong at the time, it fell to me to sort this out – the famous 7-bed room thus created lives on in the memories of the staff and of the girls concerned!

Ischia in 2007 threw up a range of interesting scenarios. Explaining that it isn't really acceptable for the pastoral staff to be sleeping in a small chalet on the other side of the swimming pool from the girls they are supposed to be supervising when we spoke no Italian and the hotel staff spoke no English was tricky, as was trying to convey that, friendly as the NYSA members are, they really would prefer to have the beds made up as singles rather than doubles. Eventually we discovered a common language in German and everything was sorted out. I have been attending Italian lessons for the last couple of years, in readiness for NYSA's next visit!

The Pastoral Team provide entertainment and activities for the members in the evenings – as this is not my particular forte, it is generally delegated to the younger members of the team, who do an excellent job with treasure hunts, quizzes and so on. We also organise an evening out during each course, and it is surprising just how many useful phone numbers I have collected for cinemas, bowling alleys, leisure complexes and taxi companies in various parts of the UK. One of the more unexpected jobs recently undertaken by a member of the team was to chase missing luggage round Scottish railway stations – before we could catch up with it, the luggage eventually went back to London, so we decided it was best just to leave it there for collection after the course!

There is never a dull moment on a NYSA course. Personally, I find it enormously rewarding to be a part of an organisation which provides this unique experience for talented young musicians, and it is a real pleasure not just to listen to rehearsals and hear the transition from the initial work in sectionals to the final polished performance but also to get to know the individual members and witness their development, sometimes over a number of years, as they come back for successive courses.

QUOTE

'Being able to study music abroad, especially with such a passionate group, has been a particularly enriching experience for me..'

Chloe Tron: Cello 2007...



Six years with the NYSA

Theo Vinden NYSA Member 2004-2009

I had my first NYSA course back in 2004 – at this time I was a bit arrogant and sceptical of how much more there could be to orchestral playing than just playing well your own instrument and part. In retrospect, having spent six years with NYSA, I can see how naïve I was and how much NYSA has taught me.

Perhaps the best training there is for a string player is string orchestral playing (or string ensemble playing generally) due to the transparent nature of the texture; NYSA has taught me to be a more sensitive player and merge myself into part of the whole unit of an orchestra, and so in effect my perception of how to play and work in an orchestra has matured.

NYSA has given its participants many opportunities that we cannot take for granted – the tours to Ischia, America and Wales were all brilliant experiences as well as meeting people such as Lady Walton, Sir Neville Marriner and Damian Iorio – these will all remain as wonderful memories. NYSA also gave me my first insight into conducting under the valuable tuition of Levon Parikian. I have since taken conducting more seriously (I conducted my school orchestra earlier this year), and now that I am on the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM)/Manchester University Joint Course, I am taking this further. I have also met many people with common interests as me through NYSA and I am grateful that I have been able to make these friends as well.

There is so much that I owe to NYSA; the training it has given me will always stand me in good stead. I am proud to have been part of this organisation and I am very thankful for everything that Ms. Ronchetti, Mr. Garland and all the coaching staff have done for the orchestra.

I wish NYSA every success it deserves in the future.



T H A N K Y O U !

Valete

Paige Campbell

Violin 2009

Emily Clay

Violin 2009

Will Edwards

Double Bass 2009

Takeru Kumon (Leader 2008, 2009)

Violin 2007 - 2009

Tom McCluskey

Cello 2007 - 2009

Theo Vinden (Principal Cello 2009)

Cello 2004 - 2009

Emily Wyke

Viola 2006 – 2009

Sean Yoon

Cello 2008 - 2009

Mrs Moira Smith

NYSA trustee and fund-raiser
2005 - 2009

Patrons

Sir Neville Marriner, CBE;
Sir Mark Elder, CBE;
Diana Fry; Dr Jane Glover, CBE;
Ivey Dickson, OBE; David Takeno

The following organisations gave generously in support of NYSA's work in 2009, making it possible for students to come to NYSA through the Bursary Scheme:

Angus Allnatt Charitable Foundation
Emanuel Hurwitz Chamber Music Charitable Trust
Friends of NYSA
HSBC Insurances Services
John Lewis Partnership
Musicians Benevolent Fund
SFIA Educational Trust
Stanley Tee Solicitors
The Thistle Trust
The Ernest Cook Trust
The Riverside Trust



'Friends of NYSA' is an association for those who are interested in NYSA and keen to support its work. 'Friends' receive regular Newsletters detailing NYSA's activities and concerts and have the opportunity of priority booking for public performances. 'Friends' are also invited to attend Open Days and post-concert receptions. In 2009, many 'Friends' have made additional generous and very welcome donations.

Friends of NYSA 2009

Mr & Mrs S Andrews
Mr D J & Mrs W M Baish, Mrs A Butler
Mr D Campbell, Mrs R Chegwin
Dr R Deroy, RP Douglas Esq
Mrs C Edwards, Mrs D Fry
Mr Y & Mrs M Kumon, Dr & Mrs S Lock
Mr & Mrs L Makhariinsky
Mr & Mrs R Moggridge, Mrs J Mitchell
Mrs D Rarity, Mrs R Roberts
Mrs M Rushworth
Mr J & Mrs I P Sheeran
Mr J & Mrs J Sian, Dr & Mrs A Turnbull
Mr & Mrs D Tyson, Mr D E Vigay
Mr D A & Mrs Y Vinden
Mr P & Mrs F S Waller
Mrs S Wong, Mr D Woodhead
Mr Y H & Mrs G H C Yoon
Mr and Mrs D Parrish, Mr & Mrs R Smith

Trustees 2009

Charles Clark, Richard Davison
Carolyn Parrish, Viviane Ronchetti
Moira Smith, David Woodhead

Conductor

Damian Iorio

Coaching Team

Jonathan Barritt, Dietrich Bethge
Leon Bosch, Elizabeth Bradley
Rachel Erdos (Kodaly) Carmel Kaine
Roger Garland, Jonathan Strange
Daisy Vatalaro (Dalcroze)
Monica Wilkinson (Dalcroze)

Pastoral Team

Judy Anderson, James Greenfield
Pippa Harrison, Carol Mullins
Sam Parker

Support Team

Carol Parker, Jane MacArthur

Webmaster

Timothy Garland

Course venues

The Purcell School, Bushey
Catering and Admin Staff
St. Mary's Music School, Edinburgh
Catering and Admin Staff



John Lewis Partnership

Contacting NYSA

Visit the website: www.nysastrings.org.uk
Telephone NYSA Office 01728 605917
e-mail: director@nysastrings.org.uk

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A Company limited by guarantee.
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One Silk Street, London EC2Y 8HQ
Registered in England no 5482194.
Charity no 1110462.

Photography - Hannah Montgomery



DATES FOR YOUR 2010 DIARY

Easter Course

Senior NYSA

Saturday 10th to Thursday 15th April
Queenswood School, Herts

Easter Course

Intermediate NYSA

Sunday 11th to Wednesday 14th April
Queenswood School, Herts.

Easter Open Workshops

Intermediate NYSA

5 pm Wednesday 14th April
Queenswood School, Herts.

Senior NYSA

5pm Thursday 15th April.
Queenswood School, Herts.

Summer Course

Senior NYSA

Saturday 24th July to
Tuesday 3rd August –
venue to be confirmed

Intermediate NYSA

Tuesday 3rd August to
Friday 6th August
Queenswood School, Herts.

Summer Open Workshop

Intermediate NYSA

5pm Friday 6th August
Queenswood School Herts.

Summer Concerts

Senior NYSA

Aberdeen International
Youth Festival:
Saturday 31st July
Sunday 1st August
Monday 2nd August
Venues and times to be confirmed.