

# The Washington D.C. Tour July 1999



*On the way to Capitol Hill*

The tour to Washington D.C. this summer was a resounding success. All three concerts were of a high standard and enthusiastically received by large appreciative audiences. Standing ovations were part of the fun so that, at our last concert in the IDB Cultural Centre, we simply had to play an encore which caused some confusion as music had been left backstage. We have an invitation to return to Washington in 2001! We had a wonderful day with the Army band, culminating in the joint concert outside the Capitol building. As I was conducting Holst's St Paul's Suite, I looked up to

see the Washington Memorial in front of me and the Capitol building behind me, and I knew it was a moment I would always remember. We were very fortunate to see round the White House as it can be very difficult to get tickets. As it was, we had to leave the hotel at 7.00am to be allocated tickets on the last tour that day!! We spent time at Mount Vernon, George Washington's home, which was rather appropriate as he never lived at the White House. Other visits included the Air and Space museum and the Newseum, which was interrupted by a fire evacuation due to some smoke in a lift - not a NISA person smoking, I am happy to say. A definite high spot was the Duck Boat trip which looked and sounded like a lot of fun. Shopping - urrrgh - and the latest Austin Powers film, BEFORE it could be seen in the UK - wow - completed what turned out to be a very special experience for everyone.

*Viviane Ronchetti - Musical Director.*



*Fraternising!*

Other happenings will remain in the memories of all who went as this digest, recorded in some of their diaries, reveals;

*'We checked in at Heathrow and received a few odd looks because the violin cases looked like machine gun cases, as one passer by remarked, and the double basses looked remarkably like bodies. We all wore our light blue NISA baseball caps.'*

One hour after leaving Heathrow, the Captain announced that one of the four engines had overheated and they had to return to Heathrow. The result was a night at the 'posh' Renaissance Hotel, a morning coach transfer to Gatwick and a half empty plane in which to stretch out. *'As a special birthday treat I went up to the cockpit and spoke to the Captain who took the name of the orchestra and mentioned it on the loudspeaker later on. We landed at 4.10pm USA time, too excited to feel tired and were struck by the weather - very hot and sticky.'*

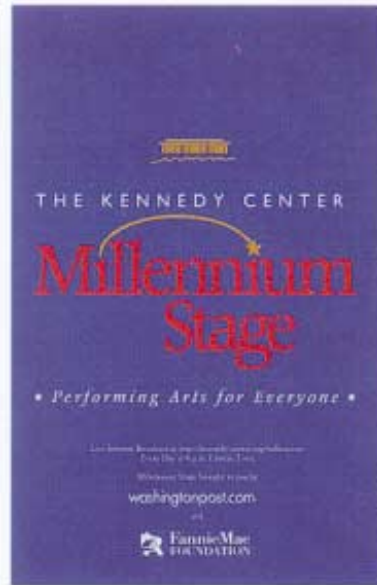


*Will we ever take off?*

So 36 hours after leaving Queenswood, the group arrived leaving them none of the planned time for acclimatisation or rehearsal. The first full day was very hectic with a morning rehearsal in the Kennedy Centre, an afternoon one on the Millennium Stage itself and the performance that evening not only to a packed hall but to many more for whom it was recorded on the internet where it remained accessible



*Gathering on the Newseum roof after a fire alert*



for four weeks. *'We managed to perform really well. The Americans seemed to*

The Cultural Center of the American Development Bank presents

the youth chamber orchestra from the United Kingdom

NATIONAL ISIS  
YOUNG MUSICIANS ACADEMY

*appreciate it and let's hope people listening over the internet did as*

Tuesday, July 27, 1999 at 6:30 p.m.  
Audelia Bello Auditorium  
Washington, D.C.



*Performing with the army band on Capitol Hill*

*well'. [Ed. They did!]. Thank goodness for the resilience of young people!*

Food figured large in the group's experiences: *'a large American pizza to an English person is a gigantic one'*. On one evening, accompanying parent Mrs Wong organised a delicious Chinese meal for everyone at a local restaurant



*A pause in rehearsals for two violinists*

and 'was in her element teaching us all to use chopsticks'. Plans to have a last meal at the Hard Rock Café failed to materialise but that will definitely be on the itinerary for the return visit of NISA to Washington in 2001.

The Duck Boat ride was 'an experience of a lifetime. It is a boat that travels on land and water. It collected us from the hotel and we were each issued with a beak shaped quacker. The driver played Glenn Miller's 'In the Mood' and at the appropriate moment everyone quacked together. The driver took us on a tour of Washington showing us all the sites and stopping for photo opportunities. We then went into the water and proceeded down the River Potomac. Everyone had a go at driving. We had great fun!'

For everyone, the Washington Tour was a great experience: the hours of practising were rewarded by highly appreciative audiences at concert venues, the sight-seeing, the food, the shopping... 'We all felt we had a wonderful, rewarding holiday



Cellists in rehearsal at the Kennedy Centre

and I'm certain we will all remember it in years to come'.

So congratulations and thanks to all who made it possible and especially to Viviane Ronchetti for organising it all.

[Thanks to Anne Smith and Laura Steele for diary quotes. Ed]



# NISA Announcements

It is with great sadness that we record the death on September 3rd of John Fry who was a Founder Patron and a great supporter and benefactor. As Chairman of Governors of Queenswood, he encouraged NISA's development and thoroughly enjoyed their concerts. A memorable Thanksgiving Service was held at Queenswood for his family, many friends and colleagues on Saturday 11th September. We are delighted that his widow Diana has agreed to become a Patron in his place and continue John's interest in NISA.

## Patrons:

Our list of distinguished Patrons continues to grow and now stands as follows:-

Sir Neville Marriner, CBE  
Mark Elder, CBE  
Dr Jane Glover  
Ivey Dickson, OBE  
David Takeno  
Mrs Diana Fry  
Mr & Mrs Roger Smith

## Trustees:

The Trustees meet in London three or four times a year. They are:

Mr Geoffrey Parker, OBE (Chairman)  
Mrs Audrey Butler  
Mrs Carolyn Parrish  
Mrs Alex Pearce  
Viviane Ronchetti (Musical Director)  
Mr David Woodhead

## Sponsorship:


The Trustees are delighted to have secured a generous sponsorship from Quilter & Co. for the next three years. This is specifically for the music tuition on the NISA courses which is the core activity of the strings academy. Quilters is keen to support a small quality enterprise and provide the seedcorn for further development. They have also kindly agreed to sponsor the NISA Concert at St John's Smith Square next year.

Sponsorship results from contacts. Please will you be kind enough to give some thought to any possible sponsors you may know and tell us. Concerts, tours, publicity, printing as well as tuition make up the core of our budgeting costs. We would like to consider making a CD but will need financial help.

The Bursary Fund has been set up with the initial help of the Triangle Trust. It will need to be augmented. Awards are based on the criteria of talent and financial need. Please contact Viviane Ronchetti if you can help or know anyone who might.

# NISA's Repertoire

You may be interested to know that since NISA started in 1995, the players have given performances of the following works:



CHACONY IN G minor	PURCELL
BRANDENBURG CONCERTO NO. 3 AND NO. 6	BACH
CONCERTO IN A MINOR FOR TWO VIOLINS	VIVALDI
CONCERTO FOR VIOLA AND DOUBLE BASS	DITTESDORF
CELLO CONCERTO IN C major	HAYDN
DIVERTIMENTOS K. 136/137/138	MOZART
STRING SONATA IN G MAJOR	ROSSINI
ST PAUL'S SUITE	HOLST
STRING SYMPHONY NO. 9 AND NO. 10	MENDELSSOHN
SERENADE	TCHAIKOVSKY
SERENADE	DVORAK
INTRODUCTION AND ALLEGRO for STRINGS	ELGAR
SERENADE FOR STRINGS	ELGAR
DIVERTIMENTO for STRINGS	BARTOK

We hope to be able to commission a new work in the near future.

## Friends of NISA

*We have had a healthy response to our invitation which went out with our initial June Newsletter, but would like to hear from more of you. If you haven't filled in and returned your form, please think about doing it now.*

*This Newsletter will have a wide circulation for publicity purposes, but future Newsletters can only be sent to Friends of NISA (unless a sponsor comes along!) So do join.*

*If you haven't a form, please contact Viviane Ronchetti - details below, or use the website.*

*Our Easter Newsletter will contain more details about our fifth Anniversary Concert at St John's, Smith Square on July 22nd 2000 - a date for your diary now.*

## Plans for the Coming Year

### Courses for Players

28th-30th October	1999	At Queenswood School, Hatfield
25th-27th February	2000	At Queenswood School, Hatfield
13th-19th April	2000	At Woodbridge School, Suffolk
15th-22nd July	2000	At Queenswood School, Hatfield

### CONCERTS to which you are warmly invited

Sat.	October 30th	1999	7.00pm	at St Peter's, Eaton Square
Wed.	April 19th	2000	7.30pm	at Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh

**Sat July 22nd 2000 7.30pm at St. John's, Smith Square  
conducted by Sir Neville Marriner**

We hope to see you on Saturday October 30th, no tickets required.