



National ISCis Strings Academy

Musical Director: Viviane Ronchetti



Patrick Dawkins

NISA Newsletter

January 2004

From the Director:

A very happy New Year to everyone associated with NISA.

2003 was a very successful year for NISA with three excellent concerts in Aldeburgh, Birmingham and London, the orchestra going from strength to strength as the year progressed. We were delighted to welcome Ivey Dickson, OBE, former Director of NYO and Patron of NISA to our concert at St Peter's Church, Eaton Square, London in October.

You may be interested to hear that NISA has helped over one hundred and twenty young players since 1995.

Several ex-members are now either training for the music profession or at the point where they are starting a career as musicians.

They tell me they are finding that NISA has furnished them with practical skills and attitudes which are helping them make an effective start on a demanding career path.

Two ex-NISA members have actually won prizes for their skill in string orchestra playing at the British conservatoires they have attended.

Three 2003 members, who came into the orchestra with Grade 8 still a goal as opposed to an achievement, succeeded in passing this hurdle during the course of the year, with distinction in every case.

For 2003, the Trustees decided to charge an annual fee for membership of NISA rather than to charge by the course.

We also offered Instalment Plans for the first time. This was aimed at reducing administration time and emphasising the aspect of a commitment for the year on the part of both parents and youngsters. It also made the budgeting side of running NISA a little more manageable.

We are very happy to see Carolyn Parrish return to NISA as a member of the board of Trustees, after her spell in China.

NISA ex-members who have returned to help us during 2003 include Daniel Bull; Ruth Marriott; Louisa Stonehill and Alex Hurwitz, as well as Louise Gronberg who continues to be a great support on the House team

Queenswood School continue their valuable support of NISA and we are very grateful for this. The courses in February and July 2004 will take place at Queenswood while the Easter course takes place at Woodbridge School, Suffolk, a very popular venue with NISA members as they can easily get into the town. Not so popular with NISA parents as it is rather a long drive for some people.

Amy Wordingham continues as NISA's leader. The 2004 orchestra welcomes nine new members to NISA this year as well as some interesting new repertoire including 'Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings' by Benjamin Britten with soloists from the Royal Academy and the Guildhall and a new piece by Michael Finnissy, which we plan to include in the October concert at Eaton Square.

NISA Concert Dates 2004

Thursday 8th April

Jubilee Hall Aldeburgh

Saturday 24th July

**St. James' Church
Piccadilly, London**

Saturday 30th October

**St. Peter's Church
Eaton Square, London**



A Question of Funding

'Mind the Gap!'

NISA Course Dates 2004

14th/15th February
Queenswood School,
Hatfield, Herts

3rd – 8th April
Woodbridge School
Suffolk

18th – 24th July
Queenswood School,
Hatfield, Herts

28th – 30th October
venue to be confirmed

Fees

Membership of NISA for the year 2004 costs £900 to include full board and specialist coaching on all four courses.

Payment in instalments by standing order can be arranged.

NISA offers some bursary help towards fees based on talent and need.

Information and Audition Forms

For Audition Application forms; information about bursary-funding and all other enquiries about NISA, please contact:

Viviane Ronchetti
Musical Director

Tel: 01728 605917
e-mail:
director@nisastrings.org

www.nisastrings.org

Q. The NYO was recently quoted in the Press as needing to raise c. £800,000 per annum for their year's activities. There are 120 players in the NYO. As there are c.30, maximum in NISA does this mean that it costs around £200,000 per year to run NISA?

A. NISA runs on a budget of c. £35,000 per annum. Costs are kept to a minimum as most of the administration/web-site and accounting work is done on a voluntary or near-voluntary basis.

Q. How are Course fees calculated?

A. Apart from concert profits and Friends of NISA, course fees form the only real income NISA has. NISA's income has to cover music coaching fees; accommodation; travel to concerts; music hire where applicable; advertising and other professional costs incurred by charitable youth organisations generally.

Q. Do the course fees cover all this?

A. No! There is always a gap between the income from concerts and course fees and the costs of running NISA. Also, every year, there are some players who cannot afford to come on courses without bursary help.

Q. Is NISA therefore running at a loss?

A. No, definitely not, but we are very dependent on organisations with an interest in music education for the young to help make up the shortfall.

Q. Does all NISA's charitable funding come from Trusts?

A. The Trustees of NISA work very hard each year to ensure funding for the orchestra. In the early years, NISA was fortunate in attracting financial support for its work from both charitable trusts and business.

However, fund-raising is a difficult area at the moment. Many Trusts have as their brief the support of youth musical education but their stringent criteria are often impossible to meet even though, on the face of it, NISA should be an ideal candidate for assistance.

As a small organisation, working with the smallest possible budget for an arts organisation, because so much work is done on a voluntary basis, we have even been turned away because we were not operating a large enough budget!

We have had excellent business support in the past but this has always had a time limit on it, and so far we have not been able to put a structured business sponsorship deal in place since the end of 2002.

Q. Why do you think this is a problem?

A. Uncertainty in the Stock market affects everything to do with finance. Size matters, it seems, and as a small organisation, we really need a personal introduction to get started.

Q. In a perfect world, what would you like to see as NISA's financial future?

A. I would like to see more long-term financial support for NISA from the business community, and would welcome any suggestions as to how this could be achieved.

NISA Sponsors 2003/2004

**Emanuel Hurwitz Chamber Music
Charitable Trust
Angus Allnatt Charitable Trust
William A Cadbury Charitable Trust
H S B C Insurance Services Ltd
Lynn Foundation
Queenswood School
The Coln Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation**

Friends of NISA

If you are reading this, you are probably a Friend of NISA already. If not, why not become one? For £15 a year you will receive the NISA newsletter, concert notification with booking priority, an invitation to any social events prior to concerts and an invitation to watch rehearsals in progress.

In addition, there is the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting and encouraging talented young string players from all over the country. You are helping to give them the opportunity to experience world class coaching and the thrill of performing to the highest standard.

If you would like to join this band of NISA supporters, please contact Viviane Ronchetti on 01728 605917 or e-mail to: director@nisastrings.org

At the end of 2003, NISA said goodbye to Jane Brown who has successfully managed Friends of NISA for two years as well as working on the concert management side for NISA concerts in Birmingham and St Peter's Church, Eaton Square, London. I would like to say a very special thank you to Jane for all her hard work and to wish her a speedy recovery from a splintered heel. Thank you, Jane!

Patrick Dawkins was a member of NISA from 1999 to 2003. He has recently joined the NYO.

He writes 'Playing in an orchestra isn't nearly as enjoyable if you feel that you aren't able to play all of the music to a good standard.'

I joined NISA four years ago as a second violinist, and I remember being completely bewildered (as any 12-year-old should be) when given the music for Schönberg's "Verklärte Nacht". I thought that it would be the usual panic of trying to play at least half of the notes right, without time to worry about such details as dynamics or playing together. However, by the summer course (and the Fifth Anniversary Concert, conducted by Sir Neville Marriner), I had learnt about skills such as playing within a string section, how different sections can communicate, and of course how to play the pieces themselves to a high standard. The result was a very enjoyable experience and a memorable concert.

My interest in music and performing dramatically increased while being a member of NISA. The superb coaches managed to greatly improve my personal violin technique, and also my orchestral playing. I particularly enjoyed playing pieces last year such as Finzi's "Romance" and Shostakovich's "Sinfonia for String Orchestra", conducted by Levon Parikian.

The relatively small size of the orchestra creates a wonderfully friendly atmosphere, from which none of the players, house staff, conductors or coaches are excluded'.

Roger Garland has been coaching the first violin section at NISA since the orchestra's first course at Queenswood School in October 1995. He has been a member of the English Chamber Orchestra and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields. He has led the Park Lane Sextet, the Gagliano Trio and the Guarnerius String Quintet and has broadcast regularly on BBC Radio 3. He is a keen champion of 20th century music, his latest CD being of the String Trio by Michael Finnissy on Et Cetera Records with the Gagliano Trio.

He writes: 'The training that the members of NISA receive teaches them to play together as an ensemble as well as a section, whilst learning to fit with the larger picture as regards structure, style and interpretation. It also helps them to develop an awareness of other players and sections around them.'

The string orchestra is an enlarged string quartet.

The string section forms the foundation on which a symphony orchestra is built.

Whatever these young players go on to in later years, they have learned the basic essentials of good ensemble playing and can make an effective contribution to chamber music, the chamber orchestra or the symphony orchestra, either as amateurs or professionals.'

NISA CD Recordings

The new CD from the Adrian Boult Hall concert in July 2003 will be available at £5 from April this year, at NISA courses and concerts. The programme, conducted by Levon Parikian, includes Shostakovich 'Sinfonia for String Orchestra Op 110'; Britten 'Simple Symphony'; Finzi 'Romance' and Vivaldi 'Concerto for 4 violins'.

NISA 2004

Schools represented

Aldridge Comprehensive School
 Bishop Stortford College
 Farlingaye High School,
 Forest School
 Headington School, Oxford
 Ipswich School
 King's School, Ely

King's College School, Wimbledon
 Mill Hill School
 Millfield School
 Orwell Park
 The Purcell School
 Queenswood School, Hatfield
 Repton School

Royal Masonic School for Girls
 St Bernard's Convent, Slough
 St Teilo's Church in Wales
 Woldingham
 Woodbridge School, Suffolk
 Woodhouse 6th Form College

Ideas for the future:

The composer, Michael Finnissy, has agreed to write a new piece for NISA and some of the young musicians from the Borough Music School, Councillor Anne Worsley's own project. The piece will be built around ethnic tunes and rhythms, exploring various ways of making sounds and colours. The aim is to open up new approaches to composition for those involved in Music GCSE and A-level while demonstrating to the younger players what their own commitment to music can lead to.

Michael Finnissy was born in Tulse Hill, London. A precocious talent at the piano, he was reading scores by Sylvano Bussotti at the age of eleven. He went on to study composition with Bernard Stevens and Humphrey Searle at the RCM, then with Roman Vlad in Italy. Recently appointed to the Chair in Composition at the University of Southampton, Finnissy has become an inspirational figure to a new generation of composers, both for his unswerving commitment to raw intensity and for the formidable technical accomplishment that allows him to realise his ideas.

As a bit of fun this year, we have compiled a mostly musical crossword below. The first three correct solutions received will win a small prize and the offer of free concert tickets to the NISA concert of their choice in 2004. Please return your solutions to : Musical Director, NISA, Stud Farm Cottage, Stratford St Andrew, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 1LW

Down

- 1: Irritated, musical note at the start of the year
- 2: Nothing taken from equine support
- 3: Idiot losing slice of bread
- 4: Afternoon's idyll for French deer, work for 1 across
- 5: Pen points crushed coffee beans
- 7: Sound of music
- 11: Medic's calling sounds like many frogs
- 12: Love re-ordered for NISA's favourite conductor
- 14: NISA's flower, Egyptian deity
- 16: Cha-cha for two
- 17: Shelter for Carnival Animals

Across

- 1: Pianist of polish, beach lover
- 6: Instinctive impulse to identify
- 8: Angry noise, of approval
- 9: To-ing and fro-ing in the Underworld
- 10: Calling a Russian composer
- 11: Affectionate term for composer king
- 13: American calling coloratura
- 15: Brazilian pianist loses right to girl's name
- 18: Musical mark around the neck
- 19: Why mention E-string player ?
- 20: Why record co. is without, heir

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8						
9						
	10			11	12	
13	14					
15		16	17			
18						
19				20		