



Yorchestra Newsletter

June 2009

News from the Easter Course 2009

The courses were all very well attended. Yorchestra 1, conducted by John Stringer, gave a very exciting concert of music by Johann Strauss, the elder and younger and Yorchestra 2, conducted by Dan Shilladay, presented Britten's four Courtly Dances from the opera *Gloriana*, and works by Mendelssohn to mark his current anniversary this year. Further topical music was played in Yorchestra 3, conducted by Tim Bailey and Annabel Revell, featuring music from the life and times of Henry VIII. Tim Bailey is a member of the well-known early music group The York Waits. Some of the pieces of the music played can be seen heard on their recently released CD. www.waits.org/york/ Yorchestra 4 was well attended, particularly by string players, and as usual produced a lovely concert at the end of their one-day course; but where was the Dance of the Scarecrows?!



Summer Course 2009

The Summer Courses are always the most popular. We are looking forward to welcoming back those who will be leaving school this summer before they head off to pastures new.

Yorchestra 1 will be conducted by Alasdair Jamieson and repertoire will include:

A.J.Potter - Finnegan's Wake
Smetana - Vltava
Respighi - Adagio with variations for cello and orchestra
Greig - Sigurd Jorsalfar - Three Orchestra pieces
Copland - Buckaroo Holiday from Rodeo.

Alasdair Jamieson was born in Edinburgh. Having graduated from St. Andrews University he trained as a teacher at Cambridge. His first post was as Director of Music at Cheltenham College Junior School. Whilst in that town he organised the film programme for the Cheltenham Festival of Music. Other teaching posts followed - in Gloucester, at Birmingham University, in Abingdon, at Bootham School in York and in Skipton and Pocklington. A spell of research work in the 1980's into the music of the contemporary Italian composer Goffredo Petrassi led to him sitting on the international jury for the Choral Composition prize in Arezzo. He has recently returned to academia, and, having completed a doctoral thesis on the music of Scottish composer Hamish MacCunn (1868 - 1916), is now a research fellow at Durham University. In York he conducts the York Symphony Orchestra and York Opera. He is very much looking forward to working with Yorchestra again this summer.





*Photo from
Christmas 2008
course*



Yorchestra 2 Summer Conductor

Patrick MacBeth will conduct Yorchestra 2 this summer.



Patrick is Head of Keyboard at Ampleforth College. He studied piano and cornet at the University of Huddersfield before continuing his piano studies at Birmingham Conservatoire, the Aspen Music School, USA and the Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest. Patrick has performed extensively as a solo pianist and chamber musician throughout Europe and the United States and has recorded for BBC Radio Ulster. He has also been the recipient of many awards and prizes. As a conductor he has conducted a large number of youth ensembles, including the Ampleforth College Symphony Orchestra, the Ampleforth Brass Ensemble and numerous brass bands. He is currently on the artistic board of the Irish Vocals Masterclasses summer course and is a senior tutor at the Donegal Summer School of Music.

Amsterslam09 for Jessie's Fund

Susie Lockett, one of our Yorchestra Committee, and her husband John, are cycling 250 miles from York to Amsterdam and back in July, along with about 25 others in aid of Jessie's Fund. Also in the team of intrepid cyclists is Lesley Schatzberger. Lesley and her husband Alan George founded Jessie's Fund, and their son Jacob plays in Yorchestra 1. More information can be found at:

www.jessiesfund.org.uk

Please do give them your support and help raise their target of £10,000 at www.justgiving.com/amsterslam09

NOTICEBOARD

You may remember we posted news of the wedding of Andrew Cutler and Cat Harrison back in 2007. Andrew and Cat were former members of Yorchestra, and Cat has been one of our Yorchestra tutors over the last few years. We are delighted to hear they are expecting a baby in September.

If you have any news you would like to include in the Yorchestra newsletter, send this to: secretary@yorchestra.org

The Banks Prize

This has now become a regular feature of our summer course. Three awards in the form of tokens to be spent at Banks Music shop are awarded to three players from Yorchestra 1 or 2, who in the opinion of the tutors and committee have demonstrated musical progress and good musicianship during the course from whatever level they are currently playing.