



EYS January/February 2010 Newsletter

"Aiming for a greater understanding and enjoyment of music"



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome to a new year of music making. There are lots of exciting events on the horizon and some wonderful opportunities for the students to develop their skills

Congratulations

Congratulations go to:

Jackie Oates who has been nominated for three awards at the **BBC Folk Awards 2010**. The awards are for the **Best Album, Best Singer** and **Best Traditional Track**. The awards are taking place on the **1st of February** at the **Barbican** in **London** so we should soon know if **Jackie** has been successful. Keep your fingers crossed! If you want to find out more about **Jackie** and her reputation as a folk musician, you can read this brilliant article in the **The National** by following the link

<http://www.thenational.ae/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100127/ART/701269961&SearchID=73380557616803>

Sophie Payne who passed her **grade 5 cello** with a **merit**

Emily Ballantyne who passed her **grade 1 violin** with a **merit**

Forthcoming Events

Senior Concert

The **Senior concert** – “**Strings and Things**” is taking place on the **12th of February** at **Southernhay Church**. Works including “**Death and the Maiden**” by **Schubert** and the “**Double Viola Concerto**” by **Telemann** will be performed by senior members of **EYS**. The concert starts at **7.00pm** and costs **£3.00** for adults and free for children.

Day of Chamber Music Fun + Finzi Quartet

This is a **workshop** for string players studying at grades 4 – 8, taking place on the **7th February** from **11am to 5pm** at **St Nicholas School**. Friends and family are invited to listen in from **4.30pm**. It's a huge bargain and a great chance to meet other local string players and to share music and ideas for only **£3.00 per player!!!**

To take part email rebeccalouisewillson@googlemail.com

Deadline – **February the 1st**

The **Finzi Quartet** are playing at the **Northcott Theatre** on the same day and tickets can be purchased from http://exeternorthcott.co.uk/finzi_quartet

Pluck Concert

If you haven't had a chance to put your name down for tickets for the **Pluck Concert** at the **Brewhouse Theatre** in **Taunton**, which takes place on the **1st of April** then there may still be time. **Pluck** are a very funny string trio who are extremely talented musicians. It sounds like great fun. Tickets are available at **£10 per adult** and **£8 per child/student in full time education**. If you want to go can you please email or speak to **Kirsty**.

Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning is scheduled for **Sunday 28th February**, from **10am to 12pm** at **Belmont Hut**. Please come along and bring some cakes and nibbles. We raise valuable funds for **EYS** and the students get a chance to perform in a non-threatening environment. It's great fun.

Other News

Exeter Young Strings are particularly proud of their continuing involvement with children in **Whipton Barton** and **Willowbrook**. Two years ago **EYS** was awarded a **Youth Music Grant** to work in disadvantaged areas of Exeter. We chose to do this at **Willowbrook School** and **Whipton Barton Infants**. We are really pleased to say that children are still learning with us through these schools and one child has been followed through to **St James** where she is now having lessons with **Hannah Willson** (one of our seniors who is just starting to teach)

As you can tell from the above item, some of our seniors are now reaching the lofty heights of string teachers in their own rights! **EYS** will be **10 years old** in September and we are now getting our 3rd generation of teachers coming through. This avalanche of teaching talent started with **Rebecca** who was one of our senior members for many years and then went on to do a music degree at **Dartington**. **Rebecca** has been our senior chamber coach for the last year and is working well with our current senior chamber group "**Obligato**". Three members of this group are now just preparing to start teaching and are working towards teaching diplomas or other suitable qualifications.

Easyfund – this is a way that you can fund raise for **EYS** or for any charity or beneficial cause just by doing your shopping on line. If you visit <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> you can register and up to **15%** of any of your purchases can be sent to your good cause.

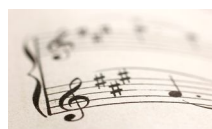
Recital Certificates

We are planning on introducing **recital certificates** as a way of members being able to work towards something without the pressure of exams or as a valuable addition to practice for exams.

The aim of these recitals is to offer the opportunity for members to perform and gain a real sense of achievement either instead of or in addition to grades. We are hoping they will be a useful assessment tool for teachers and will also provide feedback on pupil performance from other staff. These **certificates** will be at **11** different levels from **open strings** to **post grade 8**. Members taking part will need to perform three pieces at the appropriate level. They will be awarded their certificates at the end of the concert at the level entered with no pass or fail. The certificate is proof that they have got up there and done it!

Stringbabies workshop

The **Stringbabies Workshop** held by **Kay Tucker** the creator of the **violin/viola** and **cellobabies** string method was a great success. **Kay** spent the first hour with parents highlighting the many benefits of general music tuition for children, followed by a quick outline of the **Stringbabies** method. Members of **EYS** (parents and children) took part and practiced solfa rhythms (ta tete etc.) and linking strings to shapes and names. The rest of the day was spent with **EYS** and other string teachers giving a more thorough understanding of her method. The day was inspirational and very informative. Watch out **Mini Music Makers** and their parents as **Kay** suggested that parents should get involved in many of the activities!!!



Friends of Exeter Young Strings for 2010

Become a friend of and support our young musicians.

For just £15 you will receive a monthly newsletter, tickets at members prices and priority booking for events for all of 2009. Please phone **01392 460444** or email exeteryoungstrings@yahoo.co.uk if you are interested.

You will be helping to keep our members fees as low as possible meaning more of Exeter's children and teenagers will be able to take part.



From Kirsty and Staff

Cost of printing this newsletter was paid for by Devon Strings