

NW RDO MOVES ON FOR A NEW CHALLENGE



PHOTO: EDDIE TAYLOR

We were very sad to say goodbye to Sally Smith our Regional Development Officer in January, but we wish her every success and happiness in her new appointment.

Several members of the committee met in

Manchester in January to launch the Making

Music NW Web-site and it was here we also said our goodbye to Sally. She has left us with something very tangible to remember her by in the Web-site; a site described as excellent and sophisticated. She spent time working closely with Stuart Isaac (Yorkshire RDO) and collaborating with the Web Development Group which was made up of key representatives from both the NW and Yorkshire Committees. This is just one example of the skill she had in bringing people together, valuing their contribution and engaging them in collaborative projects. However this is by no means the bulk of her work. She has been very successful in making strong contacts with our members and other Arts Organisations and everyone speaks highly of the level of satisfaction they gained from this contact. She was a sympathetic listener, empathised with the problems and tried to find solutions where possible. Everyone felt they had a personal relationship with her yet her professionalism was at all times exemplary.

This booklet can be made available in larger format and is available to view online on the Making Music NW website at www.makingmusicnorthwest.org.uk/

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Sally has certainly proved the worth of the Regional Development Officer Post in the NW and Making Music now has a much higher profile in the region through her networking, training and funding surgeries. She has firmed up our contacts with the other Professional bodies in the area and we look forward to continuing these in the future.

The role of RDO has become much clearer in the NW through Sally's work, how it dovetails with that of the Regional Committee and its member groups. We look forward to building on this with confidence and purpose to even more exciting times. Thank you Sally.

Anne Shepherd – Chair MMNW

Website Progress

Since her report in the last newsletter, where Sally expounded the virtues and benefits to member groups of our new website, a number of 'administrators' have been nominated from the North West Committee to take on the day-to-day running and maintenance of the site.

We now have a very useable and interactive site where every member group has the facility to input its own information and concert announcements which will appear almost immediately (entries have to be vetted by an administrator). Please look at the site often. The calendar system will build into an unmissable reference section and will help with audience attendance and even with anti-clash relief.

All Making Music Representatives from each member group should have received notification from Sally asking that they request a Login ID and password for the new site and to provide us with an accurate rehearsal venue so that your potential new recruits know where and when to find your rehearsals.

If you still need a username and password email

webmaster@makingmusicnorthwest.org.uk

[Ed]

DEVELOPMENT GRANTS 2009 - 2010 SEASON

Letters and Application Forms, for grants to be awarded in the above season, have been circulated to all member societies. This scheme is commended to you all and if you have not yet sent in your application, it is not too late to do so, as the deadline does not expire until 30th May 2009.

If you have lost your forms or require further information, please contact John Fisher on 01946 692185 or Graham Crompton on 0161 928 6498 or view Latest News on www.makingmusicnorthwest.org.uk

Graham Crompton – Vice Chair MMNW

WARRINGTON and DISTRICT YOUTH ORCHESTRA Development Grant Award

One Saturday in November, last year, I visited the Warrington and District Youth Orchestra at their regular rehearsal venue at the Bridgewater High School, Appleton near Warrington. This was one of our members who had been successful in their application for a Development Grant last Summer. I had good clear directions from their Making Music Representative Terry Fry and a bright sunny winter's morning made for a pleasant journey. I set out with high expectations and I was not disappointed.

The Youth Orchestra have been experiencing a drop in the numbers of String players coming forward and had set about a scheme trying to rectify this. They had organised with the help of the grant, six weeks free trial string lessons for young people. Instruments were loaned to these children in the appropriate sizes and an experienced teacher of the young beginner string player had been employed. After a very warm welcome by many of the committee I was escorted round the school by the Vice-Chairman Michael Walton. My first port of call and the reason for my visit was to see this beginners String lesson in action. This was the third week of a six week project. What I saw was a large semi circle of twelve violin players and two cellos all concentrating on making the best sound they could, listening

attentively to the teacher and totally engaged. It was a real joy to see this project being so well executed. The committee had worked very hard canvassing the local junior schools for these volunteer string pupils and I do hope that several of them have caught the bug for playing and will continue. I then visited the intermediate orchestra who have sectionals before the break and then a full orchestral rehearsal afterwards and the Youth Orchestra itself after coffee. I was extremely impressed with the sound of this orchestra. They had a concert the following week so I guess it was a good time to hear them.

What also impressed me was the numbers of parents and committee members who were there helping on a Saturday morning. All keen and really working hard to support the work of the staff and musicians. I'm sure the quality of the musical sound is not unrelated to the support they give. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers in our area. I had a delightful and enlightening morning and I came away with a real spring in my step to think such high quality work was happening and that Making Music had played a part in helping to ensure it will continue.

Anne Shepherd – Chair MMNW

PROMENADE CONCERT ORCHESTRA



The Promenade Concert Orchestra in Morecombe is a new member to Making Music. Howard Rogerson describes his background and the recent few months for the orchestra.

For over forty years, I have collected music of all kinds to be used in performance, but in particular over 700 sets of light orchestral music. As a youngster, we often listened to the 'Grand Hotel Orchestra' with

Tom Jenkins, Max Jaffa's Orchestra, Eric Robinson's 'Music for You' and other similar programmes and live performances.

In 1971, I played in the remnants of the Torquay Municipal Orchestra but the orchestra ended in the mid 70's.

As a founder member of the Opera North Orchestra, I formed a chamber group called 'The Music Serenade' which gave many recitals and broadcasts and recording of wind octets which was acclaimed by the BBC 'Building a Library'. I also formed the Palm Court Concert Orchestra with Simon Wright as conductor and had previously helped Anthony Godwin form the Palm Court Theatre Orchestra with members of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, where I often performed.

It has therefore been a great thrill, on having moved to Morecambe, to have formed a large light orchestra to perform music from the Palm Court, ballroom and café; film, TV and shows music; and the Viennese and ballet repertoire to perform at The Platform in Morecambe, whilst taking programmes to Grange over Sands and Settle Victoria Theatre, and hopefully, in the future, to Blackpool, Buxton, Southport, St. Annes, Fleetwood and Ulverston.

The first three programmes in Morecambe developed an audience from 137 to 167 to 350 members! This last sell-out programme was a 'New Year Viennese Concert', the others were a Centenary celebration of the Promenade station, opposite the nearly restored famous Midland Hotel – now The Platform for ten years – with railway and holiday music covering the century and a 'Sparkling concert with a firework theme'. The building lends itself to the Palm Court/Winter Garden ambience.

The light orchestral music performed covers the entire range from Palm Court, ballroom and café music; to shows, TV and film music; also featuring the Viennese and ballet repertoire. A concert on May 17 2009 at 3pm at The Platform, Morecombe will feature Music for you from the shows, including My Fair Lady and The Sound of Music, with Sarah Farragher and James Cockerill as soloists.

Howard Rogerson - PCO

Looking for a new conductor, accompanist, new members, etc.?

Have you seen the Adverts section on the new website?

If you go and have a look you will see there is not that much there. You can change that. If you want to advertise for anything at all please get in touch with me and I will place your advert for you – and it's FREE while space permits. There is just one rule - it is a service for Making Music members and is non-profit making (OK, that's two rules!) – we will be looking into professional adverts soon.

For more information, contact:

adverts@makingmusicnorthwest.org.uk

Ian Coomber

Write for the Making Music North West Newsletter

Your contributions are very welcome on issues relevant to all types of music performance and promotion groups. I look forward to your articles, letters, criticisms and ideas for the next issue in September.

Deadline: 1 August 2009 ... **Please observe this deadline.**

I rarely get enough copy. This is your group's chance to publish a report about your successes; recommend any new professional artists you have employed; send notice of future events which will interest new audiences; a history/background on your group.

The newsletter is only as good as the items you send me.

The Communications sub-group is also seeking your views on the usefulness and benefits of the printed Concerts Listing, which is produced and circulated to members, three times per year. Would you prefer a different format (A5 booklet perhaps)? Is the type face (print) too small? Does it contain sufficient detail? Would you be prepared to pay a small amount for an improved version (to allay some of the additional printing and postage costs)??

If you would like a say, send your views and thoughts to
events@makingmusicnorthwest.org.uk.

North West Region Committee members

You are very welcome to contact regional committee members if you have a query or want advice, or wish to know more about Making Music and its services. The committee members and their key responsibilities are set out below. All committee members are volunteers (except RDO).

Anne Shepherd	01253 737244	Chair
Graham Crompton	0161 928 6498	Vice-Chair
Una Talbot	01257 253689	Secretary
Alan Cantor	01253 724472	Treasurer
Sheena Williams	01978 752800	National Vice Chair

VACANCY NW-RDO

Michael Bonsall	01257 463646	
Ian Coomber★	0161 973 5018	
Nancy Dale	01606 42641	
John Fisher	01946 692185	Responsibility for Cumbria
Ken Griffin	01829 771533	
Andy Humphreys★	01772 742307	Newsletter Editor
Shirley Jarvis	01625 611594	
Hugh Malkin	01606 833023	
Shirley Mitchell	01706 655655	
John Perrin	01524 701500	
Bas Perrins	01477 537769	Liaison for hire of our Grand Piano with NW Pianos - 0161 225 4110

Mike Porter	01624 832143	
Berkeley Ranby★	01244 381995	Chair Strategy Committee, Communications sub-group & New Member Contact

Clive Walkley 01539 723482

Non-Committee Volunteer

Victor Sumpter★ victor@sumpter.freeseerve.co.uk - keeps concert list.

★ denotes member of the Communications sub-group and web administrators.

WHAT DOES MEMBERSHIP OF MAKING MUSIC OFFER ?

Making Music Central Office:

Information Sheets on all aspects of running a society

Repertoire service giving details of orchestration and vocal resources

Music Exchange loan or hire

Programme notes service

Insurance and PRS payment service

Annual conference and promotional events

National newsletters and Website

ANNUAL REGIONAL MEETING

Saturday 16th May 2009

St. George's Church, Altrincham

"See How It's Done"

Recruitment Audience Development Using the NW Website

Development Grant Successes

Application forms will follow and will be on the Website.

Diary Dates 2009

Regional Committee Meetings - 29 Jan: 24 Sep and 24 Nov in Fulwood.

Making Music Annual Conference - 5 Sept Leeds College of Music (further details from <http://www.makingmusic.org.uk/html/508.shtml>).

MMNW welcomes the following new members: Music at Wesley, Ladies in Harmony and the L G N Community Choir.

Any views or opinions expressed in contributed articles are those of the respective authors and may not necessarily represent the views, opinions or policies of Making Music.

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