

The Nash

Newsletter of "The Friends of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales" June 2011
Registered Charity No. 1,053,788



Takuo Yuasa, Conductor for NYOW's 65th Anniversary

The Nash celebrates its 65th anniversary in 2011, and for this very special year we are able to announce the appointment of world-renowned Japanese conductor, **Takuo Yuasa**, as its Guest Conductor. Takuo Yuasa's musicianship and versatility have won him rave reviews throughout the world. His leadership has attracted engagements with many leading professional orchestras. He has been Principal Guest Conductor of both the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Ulster Orchestra and has worked with all the leading orchestras in his native Japan as well as with many in Europe, Australia and the USA. He has also made many recordings mostly with Naxos. The fact that Takuo Yuasa is Associate Professor

at the Performing Arts Centre, Tokyo University of Fine Arts and Music, where he is closely associated with the Geidai Philharmonic Orchestra and the University's wonderful new Sogaduko Concert Hall and that he has a wealth of experience with youth orchestras, including the national youth orchestras of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Eire, makes him an ideal person to conduct NYOW. That is why we are thrilled that Takuo Yuasa has agreed to lead its young musicians in 2011.

Matthew Jones, NYOW Manager says: "Maestro Yuasa is a world class conductor who will bring a wealth of experience, plus a different energy and musicality, to our members. I have no doubt that they will thrive with his input and guidance"

How we spent our money in 2010

Last year we were able to help with funds for the commissioning of a new work from Brian Hughes. The cost of hiring music gets even more eye watering each year. This time we gave £1121.

One of our main functions is to provide bursaries for students who otherwise would not be able to attend the course. £640 was needed last year.

The Friends' Prize of £100 for the most promising string player went to Eluned Williams.

Our other contribution was £240 for conference bags for new members.

Our printing costs amounted to £360. These will diminish greatly in the future as we are now able to have our printing done at cost thanks to Pro-Copy Ltd.

There has been an increase in our membership numbers over the last year, something referred to by our Chairman elsewhere in the Newsletter. This means that our current assets stand at £17125

Contact the Friends of NYOW:

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News Items

Format of our Newsletter

We would like to thank all members who replied to the request regarding the e-mailing of future newsletters. As very few of the total membership declared an interest in this method of circulating the newsletter we have decided that we will continue to print copies and to post them to you.

65th Anniversary of the Nash

A WINTER BALL is to be held at the Holland House Hotel Cardiff on Friday November 18th 2011 to celebrate the 65th anniversary. It is hoped that as many former members of NYOW as possible will attend so please let anyone that you are still in touch with know about the event. Why not take a table and invite some of your contemporaries to join you? Members of Friends who are not former members of the orchestra are also most welcome. Further details can be obtained from Matt Jones the Youth Music Manager on 02920 265047

Membership Drive

We are pleased to report that the drive to increase our membership last Summer and Autumn was successful, but not so successful that we can rest on our laurels! We would be very grateful if you would consider passing your newsletter on to a friend after you have finished reading it, together with an invitation to join us in the important work we do in supporting NYOW. If we all did that and it worked, we could double our membership and double what we are able to do for the orchestra. Membership forms can be obtained from phippskathryn@hotmail.com



Alun Francis receiving his award from Sir Norman Lloyd Edwards

Welsh Music Guild Awards

The Awards Dinner of the Welsh Music Guild was held recently at the County Club in Cardiff. Two awards were given for services to NYOW. The Sir Geraint Evans Award to Owain Arwel Hughes and the Joseph Parry Award to Tony Moore who was a member of house staff and Course Director for many years. Two other awards were given to past NYOW members. Alun Francis, the conductor, received a Fellowship and Mark Thomas, the film composer, the John Edwards Memorial Award.

Legacies

Matthew Jones, the manager of NYOW, has informed us about a scheme which would enable people to make a lasting gesture to support the National Youth Orchestra of Wales. The management of the orchestra is currently developing its fundraising portfolio to include a Legacy Scheme. Increasingly people are leaving legacies to charitable organisations and a tax-free legacy to the NYOW will help to safeguard its future for generations of young musicians to come. If you would like to talk to someone in confidence about leaving a legacy to the NYOW, please call Pauline Crossley on 029 2026 5033.



This Year's Brochure Cover

Since 2009, National Youth Arts Wales has used photographs of current members taken in interesting locations around Wales for the programme covers and publicity material of the various National youth groups that come under its umbrella. This is the latest for NYOW

This Year's Tour

Matthew Jones

With the NYOW Summer Residency starting on 1st August, final preparations are underway and we are looking forward to welcoming our 116 talented members from across Wales back to Lampeter. Our excellent team of tutors are in place and ready to put the Orchestra through their paces and prepare the fantastic repertoire for this year's concerts.

We are especially pleased this year to be featuring a piece by Welsh composer and former-NYOW member Hilary Tann. Hilary currently lives in the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains in Upstate New York where she is Professor of Music at Union College, Schenectady. Hilary's early musical studies were under the tutelage of NYOW Founder Member Alun Hoddinott at the University of Wales, Cardiff, before continuing her studies with J. K. Randall at



Hilary Tann

Princeton University, USA. Her music continues to be influenced by her love of Wales and by her strong identification with the natural world. A deep interest in the traditional music of Japan has led to private study of the shakuhachi and guest visits to Japan, Korea, and China. The NYOW will be giving the UK and European premiere of Hilary's *From a Feather*

to the Mountain. Hilary will visit the Orchestra in Lampeter and we look forward to hearing her talk about the experiences and influences that led to the composition of this piece.

Liszt's evocative symphonic poem, inspired by the lamentations and triumphs of 16th century poet Torquato Tasso and Prokofiev's magnificent fifth symphony complete an exciting and energetic programme. The Orchestra will perform an informal concert in Lampeter before travelling to Wrexham, Gateshead, Manchester and Cardiff. Tickets are now on sale from the venue box offices (details below). Alternatively, as a member of the Friends, fill in the enclosed form to claim your complimentary ticket. I look forward to seeing you at one of the performances!

Dates for Your Diary

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| 10th August | William Aston Hall, Wrexham at 7.30pm, Box Office: 01978 293293 |
| 11th August | The Sage Gateshead at 7.30pm, Box Office: 0191 443 4661 |
| 12th August | RNCM Concert Hall, Manchester at 7.30pm, Box Office: 0161 907 5555 |
| 13th August | St David's Hall, Cardiff at 7.30pm, Box Office: 029 2087 8444 |

From the Archives

The 1966 Tour to Germany

Easter 1966 the Nash set off on their second concert tour abroad, the first had been to Holland in 1957. 69 players set off for the Baden Wurttemberg region of Germany to stay partly with families and partly in youth hostels. All the students were born after World War II had ended and they had no preconceived notions about their hosts, in the words of the leader, Roy Gillard *"We are going to Germany to make music and friends"*.

The Western Mail gave excellent coverage of the venture with seven articles appearing in as many days. Oh for such interest from the press nowadays! It began with the headline news

"Dr Raybould to miss NYOW German tour". "I look and feel as fit as ever", said the octogenarian *"but my doctor wants me to take it easy."*

"Dr Raybould's place will be taken by Arthur Davison who has been Assistant Conductor for the last three years."

"The orchestra and its accompanying party will leave from RAF St Athan. "The Customs and Excise Authorities have been wonderful in providing facilities which means we will not have to travel to Bristol Airport" said Mr Parkhouse of the British Council"

The orchestra arrived in Stuttgart at midnight, twelve hours behind schedule. Many reasons were given for the DC7's late

arrival at St Athan including technical trouble, bad weather in Germany and even at the German end "we were told there was a snow storm in Wales." It seems some things never change!

In spite of this difficult start the Nash, as ever, rose to the occasion and gave a magnificent opening concert in the medieval



Roy Gillard with Arthur Davison

town of Esslingen. The programme which included Dance Overture by Mathias, En Saga by Sibelius, excerpts from Tchaikovsky Sleeping Beauty and Cesar Franck, Symphony in D minor concluded with a standing ovation.

"The great contribution the conductor designate Arthur Davison made to the success of the concert cannot be over-emphasised. It is obvious that there is a great rapport between him and the players."

Following another successful concert in Ulm the orchestra were serenaded by a children's choir who performed Arwel Hughes' Tydi a Rhoddaist and

Mae Hen Wlad fy'n Nhadau in excellent Welsh.

Arthur Davison dashed home to Leeds following the Ulm concert on a flight from Zurich. He had a previous concert booked with the Little Symphony of London. He dashed back again after, but must have wished that he hadn't bothered as the last concert of the tour was cancelled, the concert hall was too small to take the orchestra. The newspaper records *"chaotic mismanagement"* and that one of the young Germans charged with looking after the Welsh party *"shrugged his shoulders and said he wanted nothing more to do with the tour"*.

All ended happily however when the Deputy Director of the local Grammar School invited the orchestra to an impromptu garden party at his home.

A J Sicluna concluded his final article of the tour by pointing out that Ruth Railton always visited the countries concerned before NYOGB toured abroad *"to make certain that no hitches occurred"*, but he ended positively, *"The difficulties experienced were certainly unfortunate, but it was the general impression that mattered and Wales could not have had better ambassadors than these musicians"*.