

# The Nash

Newsletter of "The Friends of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales" June 2012  
Registered Charity No. 1,053,788

## NYOW 2012

This year the NYOW welcomes the internationally renowned Carlo Rizzi to conduct the World's first national youth orchestra in a programme of music which includes the wonderful *Daphnis et Chloe* suite by Maurice Ravel. 117 young musicians from across Wales will return to Lampeter for two weeks music making, learning from some of the best professional musicians in the UK.

Carlo Rizzi is already hugely well known in Wales having been music director of Welsh National Opera for much of the period between 1992 and 2007. Members of the orchestra can expect some of the rehearsals to be carried out in Welsh!

In addition to the Ravel, the orchestra will tackle Beethoven's 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony, Gershwin's *American in Paris* and a brand new commission by the British composer Judith Bingham, who origi-

nally combined a career of professional singer with that of serious composer before settling for composition. Mainly known for her choral compositions she has expanded her work into large scale orchestral pieces.

The new piece *Celticity* is the result of a joint commission between the National Youth Orchestras of Wales, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland and is supported by the PRS Beyond Borders scheme.

The orchestra will perform the World Premiere of *Celticity* in the Brangwyn Hall, Swansea on the 25th of July before presenting concerts in Hereford Cathedral (Three Choirs Festival) on July 26th, BBC Hoddinott Hall on July 27th and St Davids Cathedral (Fishguard International Music Festival) on July 28th.

Members of the Friends can claim a free ticket to either the Swansea or Cardiff concert by filling in and re-



Carlo Rizzi

turning the form enclosed with this Newsletter. We hope to see you at one of our concerts.

## The Nash at the PROMS!



Kristjan Järvi

For the first time in its 66 year history, 'The Nash' will be represented at the BBC Proms this summer. The Prom, on August 6th, is the latest of the annual collaborations between the NYOW and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and will also incorporate the National Youth Choir of Wales, and singers from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

It will be a very Welsh affair as over 400 performers give the Proms premiere performance of Bernstein's theatrical Mass under the direction of Kristjan Järvi, one of the work's most

ardent champions. It promises to be a fantastic occasion, tickets have practically sold out already and not only will the concert be broadcast live on Radio 3, it will also be recorded for a BBC 4 television broadcast on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Kristjan Järvi is an Estonian American, whose father Neeme Järvi and brother Paavo Järvi are also world renowned conductors. He has worked with major orchestras throughout the world and has particular experience with younger musicians having recently formed the Baltic Youth Philharmonic Orchestra.

### Contact the Friends of NYOW:

By Post: 10, Oak Tree Close, Radyr, Cardiff, CF15 8RW.  
Phone: 07968766848. Email: [leightonj8@gmail.com](mailto:leightonj8@gmail.com)

## Retiring Chairman - Kathryn Webber

An appreciation from Matthew Jones

In April this year, Kathryn Webber stepped down as Chair of Friends of the NYOW after four years at the helm. During her time as Chair she has helped continue the fantastic work of the Friends, has led by example in organising fundraising events and has put a tremendous amount of work into ensuring the Friends continues to support the NYOW through its bursary scheme for students, the annual prize and contributions towards music hire.

However, Kathryn's legacy is so much more – it spans almost every facet of Nash life, she has lived and breathed the National Youth Orchestra of Wales since she was a cellist in the orchestra.

On graduating from the Orchestra she became a house mistress for the courses, a popular member of staff, especially with the young lads on the course I understand! She continued in this role until 2009 and was an immense support to me when I started as NYOW Manager in 2007, her knowledge of the Orchestra and its members

meant I could really hit the ground running.

As archivist for the Orchestra Kathryn has amassed records that include photographs, programmes, promotional material, recordings and newspaper cuttings from the very first year. She has used these records to put together the display boards that are always a source of interest at concert as former members look at old photographs and reminisce.

After a particularly difficult year, Kathryn has decided to move closer to her son and his family in Cambridge and of course this means her involvement with the Friends will now be limited. However, I know that she will still keep in touch. She has already bought her ticket for the Proms, will be attending our concert in Cardiff, and of course she continues her membership of the Friends.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to Kathryn on behalf of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales, its members past and present, conductors and Friends



Kathryn with her two predecessors in the Chair, John Watkins and Jeff Lloyd

and supporters. We know you will continue to support the Orchestra you love so much – we hope we continue to do you proud!

## AGM 2012

At this year's Annual General Meeting, held at Cardiff Golf Club on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, there was an important change of Chairman. After a difficult couple of years our Chairman, Kathryn Webber, has decided to move to near Cambridge, closer to her son and his family. Her contribution to the work of the Friends during her period of office has been immense and she will be sorely missed. An appreciation of her work with NYOW over many years and more recently with the Friends appears elsewhere in this Newsletter. Our new Chairman is Leighton Jones, who joined the Nash as a horn player in 1963. The rest of the committee is unchanged.

Concerns were expressed about a fall in membership numbers over the last year. At the last committee meeting it was agreed to put in place a Life Membership opportunity at a fee of £300, in order to raise more immediate monies. As this would mark a big change we need to get members' views on this. These could be posted on our new website at [www.friendsofthenash.org](http://www.friendsofthenash.org) (more of which elsewhere, except to say that

we are intensely grateful to Gareth Tudor for setting it up).

Another concern that has been raised is the age profile of those who are on the committee and who attend the AGM. The youngest member of the committee joined NYOW in 1980, the next youngest is our chairman and the rest joined in 1950s. Is there anyone out there who would like to contribute to our work or who has ideas as to how we can change this situation? Again the website will enable people to let us have their views more easily.

The Rhondda Sinfonietta has again kindly offered to use one of their concerts as a fundraiser for the Friends. This will take place on October 13th at at Cyncoed Methodist Church with a soloist from NYOW.

### Reception at the BBC Hoddinott Hall, Cardiff

A reception for Friends of NYOW will be held before the concert at Hoddinott Hall in Cardiff on the 27th of July at 6.30 p.m.

## The Friends' Website

The Friends of the National Youth Orchestra has recently developed a web site to promote our activities. The domain name is "friendsofthenash.org" and the site contains information about forthcoming events. The site also contains a library of old newsletters, photographs and a link to enquire about membership of the friends. The committee of the friends is always looking for new members and committee meeting dates can be found on the website. If you have anything that would like posted on the website please contact Gareth Tudor - [garethtudor@btinternet.com](mailto:garethtudor@btinternet.com)

## Gareth Walters

We were saddened to hear of the death of Gareth Walters, aged 84, on 31<sup>st</sup> of May this year. He was the son of Irwyn Walters, the founder of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales. A pupil of Messian, he became a distinguished composer also spending much of his career as a music producer at the BBC.

# Lunch With Music

A fundraising event held in March

March 30<sup>th</sup> saw over ninety people gather at Cardiff Golf Club in Cyncoed for the first lunch organised by the Friends. It proved a most enjoyable day with over £1000 raised for the Friends' funds. The Lunch was attended by several past members of the Nash, some of whom travelled a considerable distance to be present, parents of current members and Friends members with their friends.

Following an excellent lunch we were entertained by a string quartet made up of members of the Nash including the current leader of the orchestra, Lydia Marshall. The programme was varied and thoroughly enjoyed by an appreciative audience. Thanking the quartet the treasurer of the Friends, Allan Grayson Jones commented that the Nash was obviously still in good



Terry Johns with his wife Karin



Marilyn Davies (nee Evans, Sylvia Rhys Thomas and Wendy Jenkins (nee Sheppard)

hands with high standards being maintained. The speaker was Terry (Drac) Johns who had flown to Cardiff from Edinburgh with his wife, Karin especially for the Lunch. Drac read excerpts from his excellent book, "Letters from Lines and Spaces" and

very generously donated the proceeds of the sale of books at the end of the lunch to the Friends. Jeff Lloyd proposed a vote of thanks to Drac in his own inimitable style.

Matthew Jones, NYOW Youth Music Manager presented Chairman, Kathryn Webber with a bouquet of



Wayne Warlow with Jane Jenkins (nee Lewis) and Cathy Bolton (nee Hughes Jones)

flowers marking the end of her association with the Nash as member of the orchestra, member of the House Staff for 30 years, Archivist for 43 years and Chairman of the Friends for the last 3 years.



Kathryn Webber with the String Quartet