

# The Nash



Newsletter of the Friends of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales

Registered Charity No. 1053788

[www.fnyow.cymru](http://www.fnyow.cymru)

February 2026

## Annual Report by the Chairman of the Friends of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales



It continues to be a great privilege and honour for me to be chairman of Friends of the Nash. This is my third annual report as chairman and, at the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all committee members for their hard work, ideas, expertise and support.

In 2025 there was further evidence that NYOW is going from strength to strength following the challenging days of the pandemic. It was a privilege and a pure pleasure for me to be able to 'come home' to Pembrokeshire and attend the concert at St Davids Cathedral on the last evening of July. The orchestra was conducted this year by Kwamé Ryan in an all-American programme including Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from West Side Story and the Symphonic Picture from Gershwin's Porgy and Bess. I was genuinely thrilled by the outstanding performance of the orchestra under the direction of Kwamé. On a fine summer night the cathedral was packed and I felt extremely proud of my continued involvement with the orchestra through the Friends and my deep personal conviction of the value and importance of instrumental activity for us as a nation. Similar feedback was received from other members of the Friends following the other performances of the concert tour.

The purpose of Friends of the Nash is twofold. Firstly, we exist to support NYOW financially and I am pleased to announce that we are currently in a healthy position to continue to do so in the coming years. The Friends awarded bursaries and prizes totalling £8,650 in 2025. The Friends rely entirely on financial donations to sustain our work. We are grateful to those people who have seen fit to present sums of money, small and large, and as a result support instrumental music making among the youth of Wales. This year we were able to present two new bursaries in the name of Hywel Davies and the late Beryl James.

In April 2025 members of the Friends committee were invited to attend the NYOW Easter residential workshops for the orchestra's string players at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. This was a priceless opportunity for the young players to familiarise themselves with the demands of the music they would tackle on the summer course. However, without the financial support of the Friends this would not have been possible.

As well as agreeing to provide the financial support that made this residential course viable in 2025, the Friends agreed to support a project that would make it possible for members of the Nash to rehearse and perform alongside members of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Again, without the support of the Friends it would not have been possible to realise this important and exciting activity in the autumn. So, on Sunday 30 November a group of the Friends' committee members travelled to Cardiff Bay, first to socialise over lunch and then to enjoy the

concert in Hoddinott Hall which included Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra together with 'Mistico' by Gwydion Rhys, a talented member of the youth orchestra itself.

The Friends also aim to provide a network for former members to keep in touch with the orchestra and each other. It is inevitable that we will learn during the year about the death of former members of NYOW. It was with sadness that we heard in 2025 of the death of Brian Buckley, a former member of the Nash and of the Friends' Committee and we have included a tribute to Brian in this newsletter. Brian was a musician of great importance who made a significant contribution specifically to brass bands in Wales and throughout the UK as a player, conductor and judge. He worked tirelessly to promote music among the youth of Wales. He was proud of their achievements in the arts and determined that they were duly recognised. We thank his family for their generous contribution to the Friends in memory of Brian Buckley.

Well, it's 2026 and the Nash, the FIRST national youth orchestra in the world is celebrating its 80th birthday! The small group of volunteers who form the Friends' committee are always keen to welcome new members into the fold and invite fresh ideas about how to steer our work in the future. I would like to appeal to all of us Friends to spread the word among family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances in order to expand this network of former members and supporters of the orchestra and invite them to support this charity. Why not draw their attention to the website [www.fnyow.cymru](http://www.fnyow.cymru)? The website is a repository for Nash's old programmes, articles and photos from each of the orchestra's eight decades. Much of the initial material has been provided from Kathryn Webber's extensive collection and the aim is for former members to continue to contribute. In our latest newsletter we launch our '80 memories over 80 years' project. I have had the privilege of contributing the first memory and now I would like to see former members and other Friends follow my example and contribute their own memories of the orchestra. Thanks in advance!

I conclude this annual report by referring to the close working relationship that exists between the Friends of the Nash and National Youth Arts Wales (NYAW), the administrators of the orchestra. We have continued to meet regularly during the year with Evan Dawson (chief executive of NYAW) and his staff and have developed a good mutual understanding of each other's work. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Matthew Jones, NYAW's deputy chief executive and head of music on receiving the OBE in the new year's honours 2026. At the same time we fondly remember David Jackson, NYAW's former chairman who passed away in the autumn. I am confident that this relationship with NYAW will continue to grow as we work together even more closely to achieve our ambition for NYOW. This will be of particular significance this year as the Nash celebrates its 80th birthday.

**Hywel Jones, Chair**

## Annual Report from National Youth Arts Wales

Following a successful audition period in November 2025 we worked with an orchestra of 103 members last year, an increase on 2024 (by 5) and with all sections, bar the violas, well covered.

### Easter Strings Rehearsals

As per the last few years (since returning to activity after COVID), we ran two days of rehearsals at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama for the Orchestra's string players, kindly supported by the Friends of NYOW. Our string sections have the greatest range of experience within the orchestra and generally have the most to do within the repertoire. So, these rehearsals have become an essential part of the Orchestra's preparation with the days providing an early opportunity for the members to work through the music with our NYOW tutors and understand what needs to be prepared ahead of the summer.

### NYOW Summer Residency

The Orchestra residency was once again held in Lampeter at the start of the summer holidays. The initial five days were spent in a combination of sectional rehearsals with our fantastic team of tutors and tutti rehearsals led by our regular Rehearsal Conductor, Adrian Dunn.

Kwamé Ryan, returning to conduct after a successful stint in 2022, chose an all-American programme including Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from West Side Story and Gershwin's Porgy & Bess suite. It was a fantastic programme with plenty of challenge, but also great fun and so the Orchestra really relaxed into it and enjoyed themselves. Kwamé was brilliant at getting them to do that – it was a pleasure to work with him again.

The Orchestra performed a 4-concert tour this year, closing the Fishguard Festival at St David's Cathedral and performing the penultimate concert of the Three Choirs' festival in Hereford. We then headed north to St Asaph and then back down to Swansea for our final concert in the Brangwyn Hall. Fishguard and Three Choirs were again very happy with what we brought to the festivals and it's always nice to have ready-made audiences. Our own promotion concerts did very well as well with a decent audience in St Asaph and a great audience in Swansea. We even had a really good-sized audience (in fact larger than St Asaph) at our pre-tour dress rehearsal concert in Lampeter.

Audiences across the board this summer were really pleasing and it has made a big difference having an in-house, full time marketing role within National Youth Arts Wales now.

**Bursaries:** The Friends donation in 2025 supported 15 members with their membership fee.

**Prizes:** The "Irwyn Walters Prizes" prizes donated by the Friends were awarded to the front desk 2nd violins – Tristan Xuan and Jemima Soper.

## BBC Collaboration

The now biennial Side-by-Side project between the NYOW and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales took place between 28-30 November. 45 of the Orchestra's senior and most experienced members took part in the project held at BBC Hoddinott Hall. The project was led by the exciting conductor, Nil Venditti, with a repertoire of Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra, Copland's Fanfare for the Common Man, and Mistico, a piece written by NYOW member Gwydion Rhys - who also played in the Orchestra in his final performance with us.

As ever, the opportunity for our members to rehearse alongside the BBC NOW musicians and to a professional rehearsal schedule is an invaluable experience for all those who take part, especially those who are looking to go into the profession. Working with Nil was excellent; she has great musicianship and worked really well with the combined orchestra. It led to a fantastic afternoon concert at the Hoddinott Hall and it was lovely to see so many of the Friends' committee there.

Thank you to the Friends for their support of this project.

## 2026 Auditions

We held auditions throughout Wales in November and December, as well as accepting video auditions. We saw another increase in application numbers and, according to the audition panels, the standard of those auditioning was great and made for some difficult decisions. We have offered places to 105 musicians and are currently finalising confirmations ahead of the start of this year's activity.

## Strings Development

Over the last year we've been running some String development activity in association with the National Music Service and the local authority music services across Wales. In a bid to raise the profile of the Orchestra and provide opportunities for middle level string musicians, we held three weekends of workshops in Cardiff, Wrexham and Carmarthen. The weekends were led by NYOW tutors and supported by current members of the NYOW who acted as Peer Mentors. The weekends were attended by a total of 130 young musicians of Grade 4 standard and above and we saw a number of these come through to audition in the Autumn with some of them getting places.

Last Easter we also ran a Viola development workshop with Laura Sinnerton from BBC NOW. Aimed at violin players of Grade 6 and above, the session was aimed at offering the musicians a chance to "add another string to their bow". There have been a number of violinists through the years who have converted very successfully to Viola and if more can be tempted to develop their Viola playing, this could help with issues we have in filling our viola section. We are currently putting together funding applications to continue and develop this area of work.

**Matthew Jones - NYAW Senior Producer and Deputy Chief Executive**

## Matthew Jones awarded an OBE in the 2026 New Years Honours



The Friends were delighted to hear that Matthew Jones, NYAW's Senior Producer and Deputy CEO, was awarded an OBE in the 2026 New Year's Honours List. A richly deserved accolade for the outstanding work he has done to support music education for thousands of young people across Wales. Congratulations, Matthew!

## A Terrific Summer Tour



Many congratulations to NYOW on a brilliant 2025 summer tour. Under the expert baton of Kwamé Ryan, the orchestra wowed audiences with a vibrant programme of American music, including Mason Bates' *Attack Decay Sustain Release*, Samuel Barber's *Second Essay for Orchestra*, Gershwin's *Porgy & Bess: A Symphonic Picture*, Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*, and Wang Jie's *America the Beautiful*. The

concerts were a true showcase of passion, talent and musical excellence. *Bravi* to all involved! A particularly touching moment occurred in Hereford Cathedral, when Dr Gareth John Cooke — a member of the NYOW double bass section in the 1960s — met the bassists of 2025. We were delighted to receive a wonderful photograph capturing this special meeting.

The Friends are immensely proud to support the next generation of Welsh musicians.



## A Special Side-by-Side Concert

The side-by-side concert between the National Youth Orchestra of Wales and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales held on Sunday 30th November at 3.00pm in Hoddinott Hall was an extremely special occasion. For the young musicians of NYOW, the chance to rehearse and perform alongside BBC NOW's professional players was both inspiring and invaluable. The sense of shared purpose on stage was unmistakable, and the standard of music-making was a credit to everyone involved.

The programme, Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, Gwydion Rhys's atmospheric *Mistico*, and four movements from Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra*, offered the players a thrilling musical challenge. It was evident from the performance how much the young orchestral members gained from the experience, both musically and personally. Their commitment, energy and professionalism shone throughout.

It was also a pleasure for members of the Friends Committee to meet in person beforehand. A relaxed and convivial lunch at Côte Brasserie provided a welcome opportunity to catch up and enjoy one another's company before heading to the Wales Millennium Centre for the concert itself.

Many congratulations go to all the young musicians who took part, and to the BBC NOW for their generous collaboration. It was an uplifting afternoon of music-making, and one that will remain a highlight of the year for many of us.



## David Jackson



The Friends were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of David Jackson, Chair of National Youth Arts Wales. David was a tireless champion of young musicians, ensuring that no one was left behind due to financial or physical barriers. Through his leadership, countless young people across Wales have had the opportunity to grow, perform and be inspired. His dedication, kindness and vision will be profoundly missed.

Please [click here](#) to read National Youth Arts Wales' tribute to David.

## Brian Buckley



In this newsletter we remember and pay tribute to Brian Buckley who sadly passed away earlier this year aged 91. Brian was a Welsh musician of great importance who made a significant contribution, in particular, to brass banding in Wales and throughout the UK as player, conductor and adjudicator. We also thank him for his valuable contribution to the work of the committee of the Friends of the NYOW. He was very much involved with music making among young people in Wales. He was proud of the achievements of the youth of Wales in the arts and cared that these were given proper recognition.

C Brian Buckley's fledgling musical talent was nurtured through his musical family and especially by his father, Cornelius Buckley, a former solo trombonist and then conductor of Tredegar Workingmen's Band. He proudly retained the C (for Charles), as an affectionate link to his father under whom he made his contest debut as a cornet player with Tredegar, aged 9. Brian became the band's principal cornet player in 1946 at the age of 14!

Brian Buckley was one of the early products of the progressive Youth Music policy in the former county of Monmouthshire. He was an early member of the NYOW and this experience left an indelible impression upon his music-making activities. Over the next few years, he developed into one of the most sought-after young cornet players in Wales, supplemented by a growing reputation as a trumpet player. He was an acclaimed performer in numerous performances of 'Messiah' and was regularly asked to play in orchestras.

For 25 years he was principal cornet of Tredegar, a band which, under his father, enjoyed considerable domestic success. In 1964 the band qualified for the Royal Albert Hall National Finals. He later recalled that his father said it was the culmination of his conducting career, and that he was proud to have shared it with him.

During this period, Brian made many life-long friendships with the likes of John Childs, who played solo euphonium, and who was to eventually take the baton at Tredegar in 1970. Brian proudly accepted the role of President of Tredegar Band in 2017, to mark a family connection to the organisation that tracked back over a century.

Brian Buckley began his conducting career a little down the road from Tredegar with the Rogerstone Band near Newport in 1969. He immediately revitalised the band before leaving to spearhead the emergence of the Hymac (Rhymney) Band. Once again, he revitalised a contesting approach to become a hugely respected top section force in Welsh banding.

He maintained his commitment to Welsh banding with the bands of Pontardulais, Lewis Merthyr, Pontypool, Rogerstone and Tongwynlais Temperance. He also led Markham & District and Upper Rhondda Brass before his final contest appearance with Gwaun Cae Gurwen Band in 2012.

In later life he continued to enjoy his music, taking huge pride in his son Richard's professional orchestral musical career and that of his daughter Caroline. With his wife Pam they were regular attendees at orchestral concerts and at brass band events.

By profession Brian was a chartered scientist of international standing working in the water industry. When asked in an interview for the Chartered Scientist Journal about his working approach he said: "Very simple — you conduct yourself in a manner that allows people to see clearly that whatever you say has serious content. If you do this, people will regard your presence and your contribution as being reliable and being thoroughly thought through."

It was an approach that also defined him as a musician of the highest calibre.

## Current member profile: Sharon Liang, Violin



### **Tell us a little about your background: Where do you come from? How did you get involved in music in the first place?**

I grew up in Cardiff and was first introduced to music through piano lessons. My older sister plays the violin, and going to hear orchestras with my family was a regular part of growing up. Watching how much fun the orchestral musicians were having on stage, alongside seeing how much my sister loved playing, really inspired me to give the violin a try. Today, connecting with other musicians and sharing music with audiences remains one of my favourite parts of being a violinist.

**What does being a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales mean to you, and how did you feel when you were first chosen?**

Being a member of the National Orchestra of Wales has been a huge part of my musical journey. Across eight courses, I've played a wide range of repertoire with world renowned conductors, which has shaped me as a musician. I was honoured to join the orchestra at 14 years old, though a little nervous tackling such challenging music for the first time! Those early experiences helped build my confidence and nurture my love of playing in an orchestra.

**How do you prepare for the NYOW course / concert tour?**

Ahead of each course, I will listen to a variety of different recordings and play along to see where my part fits into the bigger picture.

**Who's your favourite composer / what's your favourite piece of music?**

There are so many composers and pieces I love, but Strauss, Mahler, and Prokofiev are definitely among my favourites because I always have the most fun performing their music. I also have a real passion for chamber music, and it would be a dream to play Enescu's String Octet one day. Lately, I've been exploring underrated composers and underplayed works, and I think Respighi's Violin Sonata deserves far more recognition!

**Do you have a particularly musical memory you could share with us?**

There have been so many inspiring musical moments for me, but one that stands out is performing Mahler 5 with NYOW. At the end of the concert in Hereford Cathedral, we were met with a standing ovation from hundreds of people, and I remember feeling that we had truly achieved something incredible.

**What would you say to a young musician hoping to join the orchestra one day - any tips or lessons you've learned so far?**

Just go for it! It may feel a little scary at first, but there are plenty of people in the same boat as you, and the tutors are there to support you every step of the way. Most importantly, have fun and enjoy sharing music with your friends!

**What else do you enjoy doing as well as music? Do you have any particular hobbies and interests?**

Outside of music, I love travelling and exploring different cultures. I'm a big fan of trying new foods and collecting postcards from the places I visit. So far, Switzerland and Korea have been my favourites.

**What are your ambitions for the future?**

Looking ahead, I'd love to keep sharing music with different audiences and hopefully inspire others to pick up the violin. It would be amazing to do this while travelling and performing with my string quartet!

## **Memories for 80 Years of the NYOW!**

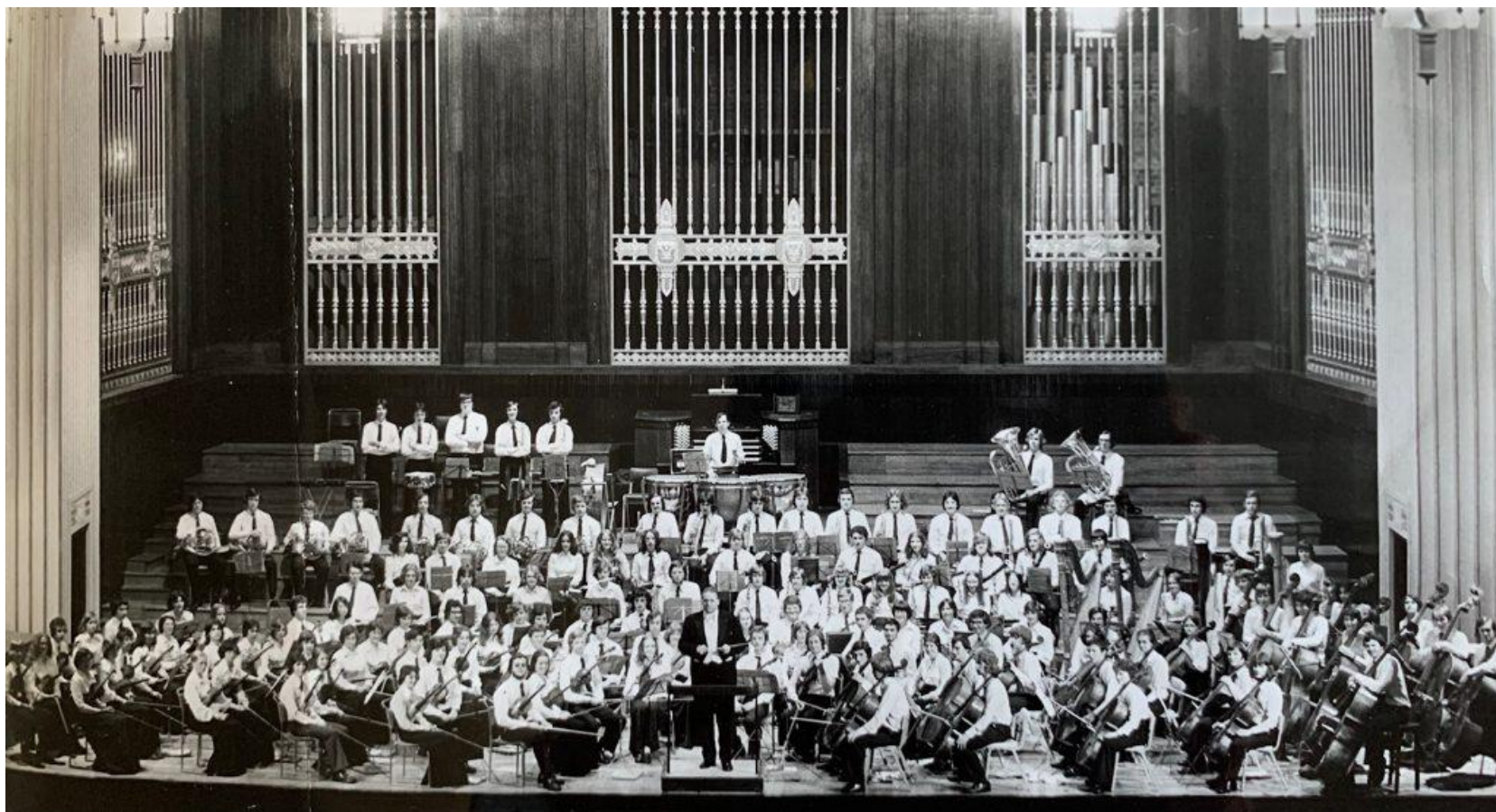
As many of you will know, the National Youth Orchestra of Wales celebrates its 80th birthday next year, a remarkable milestone for the Nash and for everyone who has been part of its history. To mark this special anniversary, we would love to create a collection of 80 memories from past and present members... and we need your help.

Whether you played in the orchestra last year or decades ago, your memories are part of what makes the Nash so special. Your contribution could be a short written memory, a favourite photograph or even a short video, whatever is easiest for you.

We would love to hear your stories: the concerts, friendships, tours, rehearsals, nerves and laughter. Please send your memories, photos or videos to Hannah Roberts at [hannahrobwales@icloud.com](mailto:hannahrobwales@icloud.com)

## Hywel Jones, NYOW 1976-1980, Violin

As chair of the Friends I feel duty bound to kick off this campaign to get at least 80 former members of the Nash to share their memories of being members of the world's oldest youth orchestra. My first memory is of the very first rehearsal of the 1976 course in Swansea. We played through Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture and when we finished, I remember thinking why did we need a week long course before the concert tour with sight reading like that?! I was a very impressionable 15 year old back-desk second violinist and had never experienced anything like it. The photo is of me two years later, front desk of the seconds by now and having long realised that learning Stravinsky's Firebird suite did indeed take some time. Great music, wonderful memories, lifelong friendships. I look forward to reading all your memories! And don't forget to include a photo!



## Reminiscences of Place, Time and People: Glimpses into my Past - Gethin Williams

Trehowell Farm, Pembrokeshire, `Coleg Y Fro`, Rhoose, April 1953; and the National Youth Orchestra of Wales

Before we had begun asking former members to share their memories of their time on the Nash, we were delighted to receive the following wonderfully evocative recollection from **Dr Gethin Williams (viola)**. His story captures both the spirit of the orchestra and the unexpected twists that often lead young musicians to the NYOW. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we did.

“I was greatly looking forward to my lunch break, despite having the responsibility for assembling the meal. I had been on the Fordson Tractor since early morning dragging hooks and chains across a ploughed field, the largest on the farm, preparing a tilth for sowing.

About to reach my seventeenth birthday and in the first year of Sixth Form A Level studies at Llanelli Boys’ Grammar School, I was spending the Easter holidays with my maternal grandparents in Letterston, North Pembrokeshire. My father had died of Leukaemia the previous December and I was keen to find a job to supplement my mother’s pension, on which she relied to support herself and two teenagers. I therefore jumped at the chance, arranged by my Uncle Richard Symonds, husband to Auntie Win, the youngest daughter of my grandparents, to work during the holiday at Trehowell Farm.

Trehowell was a one hundred and ten acre, predominantly Dairy Farm, some six miles from Letterston, owned by his elderly uncles James and Richard Morse and run by his younger brother Gilbert Symonds. The all-male household had recently lost the services of Morfydd Maxwell, a near relation, with the result that they were left entirely to their own devices when I arrived on the scene. Gilbert, by his own admission, was at best a rough and ready cook and was delighted, as were his uncles, when, having sampled Gilbert’s cooking, I volunteered to take over lunch duties.

They were a colourful and intriguing trio who welcomed my appearance, enjoying the new social dimension I brought into their lives as well as my culinary skills. James Morse, the elder brother of imposing height, substantial girth and short legs, enjoyed the status which his seniority bestowed upon him. Richard, the younger of the two, was lean with a pair of specs kept on his forehead for close work and permanently in working clothes, ready for the next task. He was a highly intelligent, skilled, self-taught mechanical and electrical engineer, who applied his versatile skills to tackling any problems that might arise. As a result, the farm had its own electricity supply from a diesel engine which he had installed. Gilbert had been parked with his uncles after fathering a child with someone he was unable to marry, for reasons I failed to discover. He was happy go lucky, made the best of his lot and was great fun to work with.

As soon as I switched off the tractor's engine after arriving in the yard in front of the house, Gilbert appeared and sauntered towards me in no apparent hurry. After asking his new weatherbeaten farmhand how the morning had gone he followed my brief answer with an unexpected second question. Did I play the violin. Puzzled by its nature and timing, I replied that I played both the violin and viola at which answer he smiled quizzically and removed his cap before informing me that he had just received a call from Letterston asking me to ring a Mr Irwyn Walters, who wanted me to telephone him as soon as possible. As Irwyn was Director of Studies of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales, I concluded that the call had something to do with the orchestra, which was confirmed when I spoke with him. He wanted me to reach Cardiff General Station by 8.30p.m. where he would collect me by car. He calculated after our chat that I could catch a train from Llanelli after collecting my viola and packing a suitcase, to arrive for collection and a drive to Rhoose where the NYOW was assembled to prepare and record a special programme for the BBC to celebrate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II at *Coleg Y Fro* (a Y.M.C.A. Residential College).

And so it was that at 9.05p.m. (Irwyn drove fast in a fast car) I found myself playing the Brahms Academic Festival Overture in desk five of the violas. When I first joined the Orchestra in 1952 I was in desk eight and seemingly had little prospect of being selected for the smaller orchestra chosen for the BBC recording. But at the last minute the Second Violins were short of a player and Irwyn had switched Glyn Parfitt from viola to violin, which created a space for me to fill.

It was a special opportunity not to be missed and I was duly driven to Letterston in time to catch an afternoon train from Mathry Rd Halt to Llanelli. There, I hastily packed a case, picked up my viola and caught the train to arrive in Cardiff at 8.30, where Irwyn was waiting, as arranged.

I wasn't the only late arrival, as I discovered in startling circumstances. Rhoose was a residential college with individual bedrooms and on my first night I was awoken from a deep sleep by loud tapping on the window to the outside. There I found Geoff Gambold, the bassoon player (who would become a famous Principal Bassoon of the BBC Symphony Orchestra) seeking my help to secure entry, which he did via my window. I don't remember the explanation which he offered, or whether he bothered to give one. He was among the oldest members of the orchestra and would hardly have thought an explanation necessary.

There followed four days of intensive rehearsal before the recording was made by the BBC on the fifth. It was recognised to be a big deal for all involved as the NYOW had been chosen by the General Overseas Service of the BBC to contribute to a special series of programmes performed by chosen Commonwealth orchestras to celebrate the Queen's Coronation and broadcast worldwide for a series called *Commonwealth Concert Hall*. Our recording was broadcast on 23 July to coincide with a Queen's visit to Wales.

I have treasured memories of the course. The accommodation was fine. The hospitality paid for by the BBC was excellent. There was an exciting sense of occasion making for high playing standards and commitment during rehearsals, an interesting programme to prepare and enjoyment in each-others' company. The Brahms Academic Festival Overture was a great choice to show off the capabilities of a student

symphony orchestra, even though, lacking a contra bassoon, it was necessary to call on the services of the Principal double bass to cover the part. There was also some nervousness about the exposed trumpet parts in the early section but the ensemble and tuning turned out well. Given that the course was held in Rhoose, near the Barry home of composer Grace Williams, the choice of her *Sea Sketches for String Orchestra* seemed particularly well made as we looked out beyond the nearby coast to the channel. It's a terrific piece enjoying a deserved revival and the viola section enjoyed meeting its technical challenges in a committed performance. Patricia Kern, Mezzo Soprano, sang *Where Corals Lie* from Elgar's *Sea Pictures* superbly, as she had done on the 1952 Summer Course.

To help us relax in the evenings we had first class entertainment from two of the orchestra's best-known characters, Graham Jones from Aberdare (viola) and Lionel Erenberg from Cardiff (clarinet), also fellow students at Cardiff University. They formed a very funny double act of ad-libbing with instrumental messing about that had everyone in stitches.

I returned home on a high but remember nothing about the journey itself. I believe that there may have been sufficient days left for me to return to Trehowell to earn a few more pounds driving a tractor and preparing lunch but I cannot be sure. In any event, I did return for a large part of the Summer Holiday despite joining the NYOW for the 1953 Course and Playing Cricket for the Welsh Secondary Schools against the English at Worcester.

## Stay Connected with the Friends of NYOW!



Don't forget to follow us on Instagram: [@nyowfriends](https://www.instagram.com/nyowfriends)! We share a mix of treasured archive photos and behind-the-scenes snapshots from recent events – a wonderful celebration of the past and present of the Friends and the NYOW.

We are always keen to add to our growing collection. If you have any photos or memories from your time with the Nash that you would be happy for us to share, please send them to Hannah Roberts at [hannahrobwales@icloud.com](mailto:hannahrobwales@icloud.com) – we'd love to hear from you!

And of course, don't forget to visit our website: <https://fnyow.cymru/>

## Annual Subscriptions and Becoming a Friend

The Friends' committee has decided to retain the existing rates of annual subscriptions for this year; these are £20 for an individual, £35 for a couple, and £10 for students. These rates are certainly low compared with those of other charitable organisations and members who are prepared to give a little more are most welcome to do so. Some members already pay an increased amount and we are very grateful to them for their generosity. You may increase your standing order if you wish to give a different amount regularly or you could make a separate donation if you would prefer to do so. We are, of course, very grateful to all those who pay the standard subscriptions too.

For one-off donations to the Friends (or to set up a new regular donation), please use the following bank details: Sort code: **20-10-26**, Account number: **80361151**, Account name: **Friends of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales**.

If you are not already a member of the Friends and would like to play a part in nurturing the next generation of Welsh musicians, we'd love you to join us. Annual subscriptions are excellent value and, by becoming a Friend, you'll be directly supporting the inspiring work of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales and helping young musicians thrive.

Joining is easy, just visit: [Join the Friends of NYOW / Ymunwch â Ffrindiau CGIC – FNYOW](#)