

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2003

This year's Christmas Concert took place, in front of a capacity audience, in Banbridge Leisure Centre and featured the South Ulster Youth Orchestra, South Ulster Youth Band, South Ulster String Orchestra and South Ulster Harp Trio.

This year the Music Service was delighted to share the stage with the choir from Dromore Central Primary School.

Guest of honour at the event was Mr David Trimble MLA and Upper Bann MP, accompanied by his wife Daphne, and the Head of Educational Services for The Southern Education and Library Board Mr Walter Burke.

The entertaining programme was introduced by Head of Music Service Mrs Eithne Benson and under the baton of their principal conductor, Mr. Seamus Dinsmore, the South Ulster Youth Orchestra began the evening with a sparkling performance of Suppe's Overture 'Poet and Peasant'.

In a more reflective moment the Youth Orchestra paid tribute to the recently deceased Mr. Rex Blake, former Music Advisor, by dedicating two items "A little Tale" and "In the Quiet" to his memory. Under the direction of Mr. Darren Canmore the South Ulster Youth Band brought the audience on a musical journey that included The theme from Superman by John Williams, Bourree by Praetorius featuring soloist Nicholas Dean (Piccolo) and an arrangement of the Christmas Classic 'In the Bleak Midwinter' by Gustav Holst.

The South Ulster String Orchestra conducted by Mrs. Brigid Walton continued the festive flavour with the popular 'Snowman Suite' by Howard Blake. The enthusiastic applause, which greeted the final notes of Leroy Anderson's Christmas Festival, reflected their appreciation of a hugely entertaining evening.



Ms. Ann Cloughley, Assistant Conductor of The South Ulster Youth Orchestra puts the orchestra through their paces at the recent Christmas Concert in Banbridge Leisure Centre

MARKS OF DISTINCTION

Congratulations to all those who successfully passed their Associated Board Examinations in November 2003. 22 distinctions were gained by students who entered in this session. An additional 52 merits and 36 passes showed all those weeks of intense practice were all worthwhile!! Good luck to all those who are preparing for the examination period in March!!!

DISTINCTION:

Brigid Shine, Alexandra Curran, Cathy Brown, John Dilworth, Colette Donaghy, Gemma Mc Kee, Peter Rowntree, Katie Best, Ruairi Mc Conville, Sarah Hunniford, Victoria Black, Kirsty Bleakley, Andrew Leslie, Lynda Markey, Aisling McKay, Nicola Greer, Michael Corcoran, Christopher Day, Robert Magowan, Cathy Henning, Louise Henry, Danielle Rogan.

MERIT:

Brid O'Hagan, Shelley Uprichard, Natalie Poots, Susan Hunniford, Stephanie McConville, Conor Breen, Sinead Lavery, Hollie McDonald, Cormac Mackle, Christine O'Donnell, Samantha Graham, Tom Fraser, Alice McNaugher, Lauren Crozier, Ciaran Martin, Stephanie Henning, Debbie Moffett, Stephanie Brown, Jennifer Rafferty, Nicola Qua, Cemre Cubuk, Hannah Kerr, Jodie Comac, Victoria Menary, Gemma Finlay, Rachael McDonagh, Lindsay Burns, Kate Donnelly, Natalie Kennedy, Sharon Wells, Jessica Cairns, Gary Lennox, Sarah Dawson, John Dilworth, Edel McGee, Dominic Douglas, Emma McBride, Genevieve Scullion, Edel Devine, Jenny Murray, Michelle Scullion, Anna Doherty, Louise McKeever, Alison Donaghy, Stephanie McAreavy, Fiona Flynn, Kevin O'Reilly, James Murphy, Leanne Murphy, Edward O'Hare, Aveen Stewart, Aidan Deery,

PASS:

Katherine O'Donnell, Ronan Devlin, Ronan McBride, Michael McCaughley, Eoin McGrann, Linda Berry, Rosanna Moore, Kathryn Jennings, Rachael Steenson, Catherine Arthur, Rebecca Whyllie, John O'Donnell, Ross McWhirter, Kathryn Strain, Stephen Carson, Cherry McDonald, Laura Jayne Hughes, Emma Hutchinon, Christina McGown, Jill McFarland, Daniella Carson, Michelle Skeath, Oisín Mac Iomhair, Sara-Louise Cooper, Ciara Lynch, Sarah Kennedy, Joel McCaffery, Caislin Hughes, Ellen Thompson, Anthony Marsden, Kathryn Hillen, Turlough McKenna, Lynsey Bingham, Tara McGovern, Lyndsay Henning.

CONGRATULATIONS!!



Congratulations to Christopher Day (pictured with his tutor Mr. Luke Burke) on achieving a highly commendable 142 marks in his recent Grade 8 Associated Board examination. Christopher began his tuition in Carrick PS, Warrenpoint in Primary 5 and is currently a final year student in St. Colmans College Newry where he is studying A Level Music and holds the position of Deputy Head Boy. In addition to his school studies, having moved through the ranks of various ensembles, Christopher is currently a member of the South Ulster Youth Orchestra, Trombone Quintet and Brass Ensemble.



What's Going on in Your Local Music Centre?

What do those Music Service people do all day? Full weekly schedules from Monday to Saturday, providing instrumental lessons in schools and opportunities for young people to play together in orchestras and bands, are the activities that first come to mind. However, are you aware of the wider range of our work?

Have you heard about Music Examinations which are officially recognised and through which points can be gained towards University entrance? Do you know that we have an annual Prize night and Summer School or that our tutors take live music performance out into schools through 'Music Roadshows' at the end of each term? We have visited 57 schools in the past three years and engaged over 15,000 pupils in interactive performances as well as a number of our senior students in work experience. What about the Advanced Teaching Service? Do you know that there are opportunities for suitable students at Grade 6 level and above to benefit from longer lessons, with aural and accompaniment support at our Music Centres in the evenings after school finishes?

There are also opportunities for young people to perform to a high level as a soloist or member of a small group in our Student Recitals. These are held twice a year – in the Autumn and Spring terms, at our Music Centres in Dungannon, Newry and Portadown. The music performed ranges from Mozart to Mancini, from romantic 'Seguidilla' to 'Square Dance', from 'Rigaudon' to 'Rockfast' and 'Rag and Bone Rag'! In short – something to suit all ears!

The theme of the Autumn Recitals is 'Newstart!' At this set of recitals there is an opportunity for beginner students and their parents to hear other young people play a variety of instruments to a high standard at differing grade levels. This provides an initial model for what might be achieved in one year's time – in three year's time - or in the case of some more advanced students – at the application stage for study in University or Music College. We also provide a 'Welcome Pack' of information about our service for each 'Newstart' family, tailored to the particular instrument that is to be studied.

Our Spring Recitals feature students who have achieved outstanding results in recent Associated Board music performance exams or have worked especially hard in the opinion of their instrumental tutors. School Principals and School Music Teachers, as well as family and friends are invited to attend the recitals in support of these very able young people and the recitals are also open to the public.

I congratulate all students who took part in the November series of recitals on their professional approach and most enjoyable performances. Congratulations also to their hard working tutors and accompanists who have enthused and inspired the music making. Parents, teachers and friends – we could not do any of this without your invaluable support in encouraging practice, transporting instruments and enabling our young people to attend rehearsals. Thank you!

As I write, we are currently in the middle of our Spring series. We have had a most enjoyable night in Portadown and I look forward to some more splendid performances in our Newry and Dungannon venues on 12th and 24th February at 7:30pm. Please come along next time round! We promise a warm welcome, an enjoyable night's music and a nice cup of tea and some 'craic' to follow.

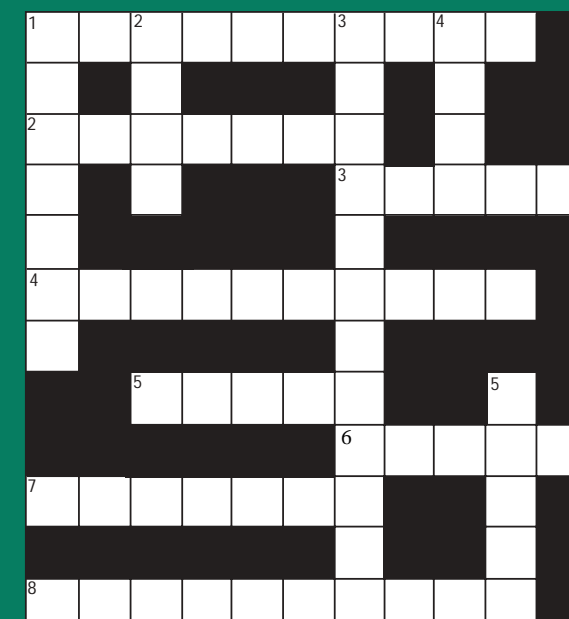
Noreen White - Head of Music Centres



Congratulations to Jake O'Keeffe St. Colman's Abbey Primary School Newry on winning a £10 CD voucher in our previous competition.

Complete the following crossword and submit answers to Mrs. Nuala Curran Newry Music Centre, Downshire Road, Newry, BT34 1EE no later than 2nd April 2004. The first correct entry will receive an Easter Egg and £10 CD Voucher.

- | ACROSS | | DOWN | |
|--------|-------------------------|------|---|
| 1 | Drums n stuff | 1 | One who plays piano |
| 2 | Lively (Italian) | 2 | Slow down (Italian) |
| 3 | Tempo | 3 | Russian composer |
| 4 | Sighing (Italian) | 4 | Double reed instrument |
| 5 | Medium/Middle (Italian) | 5 | Wind and brass are both ..to make a sound |
| 6 | Big Violin | | |
| 7 | Kettle drum | | |
| 8 | Curly brass instrument | | |



An Exciting New Venture

YOU have been chosen out of lots of bass instrument players to be a very special member of our **NEW**

BASS BAND!!!!

Made up of people who play; Tuba, Bassoon Trombone, Euphonium, and Double Bass

Rehearsals on Monday nights in Portadown Music Centre. Cost of course ONLY £10 !!!

Have you checked out these music web-sites?

Musical Mystery Tour (for Primary School)
www.bbc.co.uk/ni/schools/music/mmt

All Things Strings
www.stringsmagazine.com

Rock/pop/jazz.
www.allmusic.com

Irish Traditional Music Centre
www.ceol.ie

CD's to buy
www.amazon.co.uk

Music Search Engine
www.classicalsearch.com

Associated Board
www.abrsm.ac.uk

Ideas for AS Composition
www.championhousepress.co.uk

Sheet Music
www.musicsales.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 9th March	St. Mark's High School, Warrenpoint. Schools Day Concerts. South Ulster Academy Orchestra and South Ulster Academy Band
Wed 10th March	St. Mark's High School, Warrenpoint, 8.00pm Newry Area Junior Ensembles
Friday 12th March	The Sean Hollywood Arts Centre, Newry South Ulster String Orchestra, South Ulster Recorder Ensemble, South Ulster Harp Ensemble, South Ulster Academy Recorder Ensemble.
Monday 15th March	Craigavon Civic Centre, 8.00pm Portadown Area Junior Ensembles
Thursday 18th March	Dungannon Leisure Centre, 8.00pm Dungannon Area Junior Ensembles
Friday 19th March	Craigavon Civic Centre, 8.00pm South Ulster Academy Orchestra, South Ulster Academy Band, South Ulster Intermediate String Orchestra.
Friday 16th April	Helix Theatre, Dublin, 8.00pm South Ulster Youth Band, South Ulster Trombone Quintet with Cross-Border Orchestra and Bunclody Band.
Friday 30th April	Craigavon Civic Centre, 8.00pm South Ulster Youth Orchestra and South Ulster Youth Band in association with BBC Music Live.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Nuala Curran
 Darren Canmore
 Luke Burke
 Krista Ward
 Teresa McArdle
 Ita Mathers
 Edel Geary

If you have any news items, photographs or information you would like to share with us, please do not hesitate to contact me at Newry Music Centre; 028 302 53168.

We welcome your comments and ideas for future issues.
 Thanks, Nuala Curran.

Where have all the Bowers gone!

Calling All String Players

Do you play a stringed instrument? Are you interested in playing in an orchestra?

Come and Play Day

DATE: 24th April 2004
 TIME: 1.30 - 4.30 pm
 PLACE: Portadown Music Centre
 COST: £5.00 (includes tea/coffee)

CONDUCTORS: Steven Hine, Roger Jarvis

Further information: Roger Jarvis, Tel: 3834 1952, e-mail: rjarvis@bepersworld.com

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A TRIBUTE TO OUR FORMER MUSIC ADVISER, MR. REX BLAKE (R.I.P)

When Rex Blake came to Northern Ireland 37 years ago in 1966, his arrival was eagerly awaited by the musical confraternity here, as there were exciting plans to provide a Music Service to schools. Our eager anticipation was not misplaced for, over the next 30 years, the musical landscape was to be transformed.

Under Rex Blake's leadership the service soon employed a staff of 3 instrumental tutors, one for each family of instruments: strings, woodwind and brass. From such early beginnings we find ourselves now with a team of over 30 tutors, and, from small beginnings with the County Armagh Orchestra, there are now more than 25 different orchestras, bands and ensembles in operation.

Bringing about change of this magnitude required a particular brand of leadership and Rex had the necessary zeal, determination and passion for music to bring this change about.

Among the high points over his 25 years as Music Adviser and Conductor of the South Ulster Youth Orchestra were trips to Salzburg and Vienna and performances at Hillsborough Castle. His passion for music came through in his conducting. Inspired by Sir John Barabroli and Sir Thomas Beecham, he gave powerful, energetic and flamboyant performances, particularly of music by favourite composers such as William Walton, Elgar and Strauss.

Rex Blake made a huge contribution to the development of instrumental music in this board, building a strong organisation on firm foundations and sharing his love and passion for music with thousands of young people and adults from all communities and backgrounds. He has indeed enriched all our lives with music.

Eithne Benson - Head of Music Service



Conducting the SUYO IN Queens University Belfast at the 10th Anniversary of the EEC (1983)



Pictured with Ted Heath MP at the 10th Ann. of the EEC at Q.U.B, Belfast.



Outside the Opera House, Vienna (1982)

Photographs courtesy of A. Tohill

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