



PERTH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

November 2015

On the road to Prague

The orchestra is looking ahead to next summer's concert tour to Prague. Our flights were booked last week and we can now confirm the dates, Monday 4th - Monday 11th July 2016. We are making a direct flight from Edinburgh to Prague with Easy Jet and more detailed information, including coach transfer to and from the airport, will be provided in the final itinerary in June 2016.

At our recent Tour Information Evening (28th September) families learned about our plans for travel, accommodation, food and concerts as well as finding ways to search out funding to ease the cost of the tour. At that stage only 24 places remained to be filled - mostly by our newest members.

Seats booked

On Wednesday last week the airline released the seats for booking - and also announced their 2016 prices.

Despite airline fuel costs falling by 50% over the past 12 months - somehow the cost of flights had risen, taking up all of our £50 air contingency.

Coach travel costs have also risen slightly but overall the cost of the tour to families remains the same as we had agreed from the outset.

Thanks to the support of parents and the hard work of your orchestra committee, we are on course to raise around £30,000 in support of the tour.

Events planned

Many of you will have already bought and distributed this year's 'Peel

to Save' cards offering discounts in local businesses and, most importantly, each card sold brings us £5 too.

Our books, DVD and baking sale on Saturday 31st October, 10-12noon, allowed families the opportunity to bring their friends and neighbours to support the orchestra.

On Saturday 5th December there will be a Family Ceilidh in Aid of PYO Funds in St Matthew's Church hall, Tay Street, Perth.

Joint concert

Thanks to members of Perth Symphony Orchestra and its supporters. They are holding a joint concert with PYO on Saturday 27th February - raising funds for us.

Later in the Spring we are planning to host our Chief Patron, principal cellist in the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, to give a recital in aid of funds for the orchestra. Su-a is an enthusiastic supporter of all that we do for young orchestral musicians and is a great inspiration to our players.

We were also thrilled to receive an offer from the Royal Scottish Na-



tional Orchestra to transport our instruments and equipment to Prague.

Taking an orchestra as large as PYO about is a major task and the RSNO's support has meant a huge saving for us - offsetting much of the increased costs mentioned earlier. The drivers, Michael and Craig, will also be our stage managers - a role that they normally undertake for the RSNO.

Thanks also to the individual families who are coming forward with fund raising schemes in particular Libby Morris' scheme to sell boxes of lamb.

What next?

We will be expected to provide the tour company and airlines with a lot of accurate personal details. It is likely that you will be asked for this during January and it is very important that you are able to provide these within the timescale set out.

PERTH YOUTH ORCHESTRA
FAMILY CEILIDH
 RAFFLE IN AID OF PYO FUNDS

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH HALL,
TAY STREET, PERTH - 7.30-11PM

SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER

ADULTS £8 - CHILDREN £5 - FAMILY TICKET £20

RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS WELCOME



...continued on the back page

PYO's CONDUCTOR FOR OVER 30 YEARS

Tributes paid to Mr Eoin Bennet

We were saddened to learn the news of the death of Mr Eoin Bennet, conductor of Perth Youth Orchestra from 1969-2001. His work with the orchestra spanned five decades and the legacy is to be seen in the continued success of what is, without doubt, one of the country's finest youth orchestras. His vision and hard work throughout

PYO's formative years won the backing and respect of successive local authorities, tutors and families.

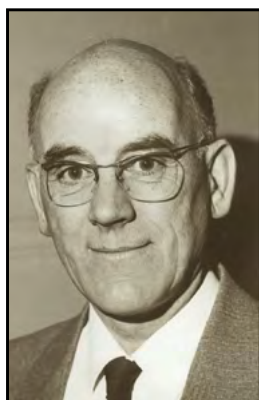
Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Nora and his family at this time.

Among those paying tribute to his life and work were Mr and Mrs Roddy McInnes from Aberfeldy.

"Our daughter Moira played bassoon with the orchestra in many concerts and also during their visit to Barcelona in 1998. Without the effort and dedication of people like Eoin, the world of music in Perthshire and beyond would not have been enriched as it is with the many orchestral players who received their teaching with PYO under his leadership."

"We are grateful that he passed on his love of music to so many including our daughter who still plays in amateur orchestras in Edinburgh. When she returned to Aberfeldy after the rehearsals in Perth, she was always full of energy and inspired. Even after the the music camps at Aberfoyle when it usually rained!"

Former PYO Treas-



urer - and orchestra member, Katrina Leese, writes: "Such sad news. An incredible man who did so much for music in our area. Will never forget my time with PYO."

Percussionist, Mike Owen said, "Sad to hear this news. He was a great musician and an educator."

"I have fond memories of the Aberfeldy music camps 1972-6 which he headed so well. RIP Mr Bennett - good man."

Flautist Kimberley Boyle said, "I can still clearly remember my first rehearsal with the PYO (my first ever experience of playing in a symphony orchestra) rehearsing Schubert's Unfinished symphony."

"What an inspirational man and wonderful personality! Great memories I'll always treasure."



PYO Annual Concert in Perth City Hall - inspiring a new generation



In the early days of the Instrumental Music Service - a great leader



Conducting Perth Youth Orchestra - in tune with young talent



Presenting PYO soloists with the D. Eoin Bennet Award



**COME ALONG AND SUPPORT PYO - 7.30PM THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER
PLAYING FOR CHILDLINE IN PERTH CONCERT HALL**

Uniform

Girls - skirt or culottes in PYO Douglas tartan, white blouse, dark navy tights (or black or skin-coloured) and black shoes. Members will be given material to make a skirt or will be given information as to who to contact to have them made.

Boys - black trousers, white shirt, PYO tie and black shoes.

We will supply all new PYO members with a PYO tie free of charge.

PYO Skirt Material

We will also provide the tartan material for your skirt/culottes. However, you will need to supply zip/buttons/lining as required and make the skirt, or arrange to get it made.

You can choose whatever style you like, but please do consider that you will be sitting on stage, possibly facing the audience, and you want to feel comfortable in the skirt/culottes playing your instrument (and look stylish too).

What do you do next

Decide if you can make your own skirt or need a dressmaker. I can give you the contact details

of dressmakers who can make up your skirt but please allow them plenty of time. The first concert this year is the Childline Concert at the start of December.

Work out what style of skirt or culottes you want and how much material you will need. It can range from less than 1 metre for a straight skirt for a small girl, to 2 metres plus for a tall girl with a flared, long skirt. The material is 150cm wide. The pattern repeat is 15cm so you will need to allow for this when calculating the length required.

Contact Mary Woodhead, with your requirements at marywoodhead4@gmail.com and she will cut the material and get it to you at the next rehearsal along with your tie. Please return any unused material as it is always useful for alterations etc.

RECYCLE

Donations of skirts from members who have outgrown them, or left the orchestra are always very welcome. Please return your skirt to any of the committee members.



PYO DONKEY DERBY

BEFORE THE EVENT

We are looking for eight Race Sponsors willing to invest £50 in return for advertising in the event programme

Next we are looking for six people for each race willing to 'name a horse' for just £10

ON THE NIGHT

On the night of the race you will have the opportunity to BID to be a jockey on one of the 48 horses available

No previous experience is necessary for what is a hilarious evening 'at the races' - truly a great spectator event

You will be gently coached in the art of placing a small wager on each race

There will be prizes for the winning owners and jockeys

DATE (March 2016) and VENUE to FOLLOW

If you would like to be a Race Sponsor -or Horse Owner - please contact
tour-coordinator@perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk

PYO Prague Tour Lamb Box Sale

Libby Morris plays French Horn in PYO and having saved enough for her place on the Prague tour, she would now like to contribute funds to the PYO tour by selling a limited number of lamb boxes, produced from lambs born and reared on our family farm in Aberfeldy. All proceeds from the sale of the boxes will go to the tour fund.

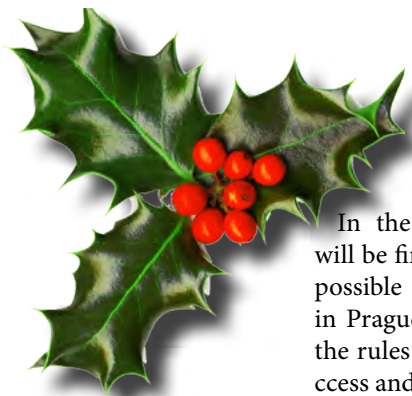
Libby's parents have given her five lambs in return for her help during lambing. These will be ready for sale in boxes containing £40 worth of a selection of cuts (butchered, packed and chilled). The selection boxes will all be different and in the past have contained leg roasts, rolled shoulder, lamb shank, fillet steaks, noisettes, loin chops, lamb mince etc. The boxes also come with a few recipe ideas to help you make the most out of your purchase.

Sales will be on a first come first serve basis, and the boxes must be collected from the North Inch Community Campus on Monday 14th December.

If you are interested in purchasing some fresh lamb for Christmas, do email Libby's parents: morris@errichel.co.uk to reserve your lamb and they will be more than happy to take your order and answer any questions you may have.

Please note that the last rehearsal of the term will have taken place on Monday 30th November - but the North Inch Community Campus will be open for you to collect your box of lamb on 14th December - between 6-8pm.

Our thanks to Libby and her family for this most generous donation to tour funds



...continued from the front page

We will be asking for full players names (as shown on the passport), emergency contact details, instrument make/serial/ value..., room sharing suggestions... more details to follow.

In the meantime we will be finding out more possible concert venues in Prague together with the rules about local access and transport.

You should contact our tour coordinator, Mr Andrew Mitchell, if you have any queries/worries/suggestions/offers of help - no question too stupid and no problem too big!!

Here also are some links to funds you may be eligible for:

Your guide to finding some support funds for going on tour

Perth and Kinross Grants Direct

Perth and Kinross Grants Direct is the local one-stop-shop providing information, advice and support to find and apply for funding. You can phone them on 0345 605 2000 or visit them at <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/pkgrantsdirect> for more information.

Some funds are specific to Perth, Auchterarder, Kinross, Blairgowrie, Crieff etc

The Cross Trust

The Cross Trust have made generous donations to our members in recent years - applicants will be asked to give details of their income and personal circumstances. <http://www.thecrosstrust.org.uk/>

Help from your workplace

A number of employers are prepared to match your fund raising efforts pound for pound. Ask if your employer is willing to do this.

We welcome new ideas

Perth and Kinross Music Foundation

Whilst not offering direct support for the tour, PKMF supports families with tuition fees and Music Camp costs - so reducing the overall expense.

Support is based on qualifying for child tax credits/ working tax credits.

Ask your school

Parent Councils are frequently asked to support school trips, at home and abroad. Ask for £50 - and, at the same time, offer to perform at an open evening with a group of other musicians.

Dates for Your Diary

3 December 2015	PYO play at Childline Concert
5 December 2015	Ceilidh at St Matthew's
27 February 2016	Joint Concert with Perth Symphony Orchestra
March 2016	Donkey Derby
10 April 2016	PYO Annual Concert Perth Concert Hall
22 May 2016	Perth Festival of the Arts Service St John's Kirk, Perth
4-11 July 2016	Concert Tour to Prague
20-21 August 2016	PYO CD Recording Perth Concert Hall
29 August 2016	Perth Concert Hall
31 August 2016	Greyfriars Kirk Edinburgh
September 2015	New member auditions

www.perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk



We invite you to join the Friends of Perth Youth Orchestra, who donate £30 or more annually to the orchestra. In previous years this has helped buy new percussion instruments and fund the tour.

Friends receive regular newsletters and updates about the orchestra's activities and their name are listed in concert programmes, unless requested otherwise.

If you or any of your friends or relations would like to support the orchestra in this way, please download a form from our website or pick up a leaflet at a concert, or email:

friends@perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk

On Twitter @PYOPerth

www.perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk