



PERTH YOUTH ORCHESTRA

June 2016

PACK YOUR BAGS

The exams are over for another year, sports days, school shows and prizegivings are beckoning and then, in just under three weeks Perth Youth Orchestra will set off on its concert tour to Prague. What do we still need to do to be prepared for a safe and successful trip?

After months of planning we are on target to collect over £55000 from families. The staged payments, month by month, has helped spread the cost.

We have successfully supported a number players for whom the tour seemed an impossible expense - through fund raising and by assisting their applications to trust funds and grant awarding agencies.

Fund raising

Mrs Steffi Anderson, PYO treasurer, has worked tirelessly to gather over £13000 of funds from agencies some of

which have faithfully supported the orchestra over all of its 54 years eg. the Gannochy Trust.

We are also grateful for the support of Perth and Kinross Council, the Souter Charitable Trust, Guildry Association of Perth, Forteviot Trust, the Cross Trust, and Perth & Kinross Grants Direct and also for donations from Morrison's Academy and Kilgraston School.

As a charitable body in its own right, Perth Youth Orchestra is expected that we also hold fund raising events to support our work.

Events

In these past months we have organised Bag Packs, a Coffee Morning, a Ceilidh, a Race Night and most recently a concert given freely by our Chief Patron Su-a Lee and her colleague Matt Hardy together with the Kinross High School Chamber Group.

We are most grateful to all those who regularly support our fund raising, in particular the Friends of Perth Youth Orchestra, parents and players past and present who recognise the ongoing importance of our work.

When we look at the balance sheet of costs for the tour we will find that one big sponsor is helping us in a very special way. The Royal Scottish National Orchestra has more than halved our instru-

ment transport costs and, in addition, their drivers, Craig and Michael will become our stage managers whilst on tour - real professionals!

Local heroes

Individual players have made significant personal efforts on behalf of the orchestra.

Kinross High School's Chamber Group, under the direction of Sharon Doyle helped bring in a profit of almost £500 in their concert with Su-a Lee.

Just before Christmas, horn player Libby Morris's sales of lamb totalled £560 thanks to 12 families who took up her generous offer.

It's always sad to lose a player from the tour but Italy Tour veteran, violinist Shannon McGrath,

withdrew due to demands on her time. On leaving, Shannon topped up our tour funds with a cheque for £400 raised together with her orchestra friends Gemma Woodhead, Freya Turner, Rebekah Douglas and Heather Davis by playing at Shannon's local Burns Supper in Rait. Thank you.

Clarinetist, Catherine McLeod gave up her place on the tour to join Project Trust's work in Swaziland - but then went on to support PYO's Race Night wholeheartedly - taking careful notes.

Just a few week's later she arranged her own race night fund raiser amassing £1250 for her own work with Project Trust. A great example of individual initiative.

Most faithful among our supporters at fund raising





events are the members of the Perth and Kinross Music Service. Not only the orchestra's own tutors but music staff from across the whole service. We are grateful for all that they do to support our children.

A spin-off from our first performance of the Kinnoull Symphony (1st mvt), by Ian White and Andrew MacDonald, at our annual concert, has been the sale of CDs - the proceeds of which the composers have generously donated to tour funds - potentially £750.

In addition a souvenir DVD - with photos and musical highlights from the tour will be available in the late summer - all in aid of tour funds.

In parallel to the tour fundraising, we are also

raising funds to enable us to make a professional recording of the orchestra at the end of the summer.

Thanks to Mrs Hilary Whitaker for all her work contacting sponsors - Persimmon Homes have become the main backers of the project with a donation of £1000 from their Community Champions funds. Support has also come from Kilgraston School and Perth and Kinross Council.

The recording will be made on weekend of 20-21 August at Perth Concert Hall by Patrick Dalgety and Debra Salem are making the recording and Birnam CDs are editing the CD.

We will be holding a competition for pupils to design artwork for the

CD cover - orchestra rep Shona Rae will be able to give you more details - or check the website for updates.

Sales of the CD will go towards PYO funds.

The paper chase is over

Finally we have everyone's passport numbers, expiry dates, medical details, instrument makes and models, dietary concerns, emergency contact details and most of the ID photos!!!

Given the amount of over-sharing that already takes place we need hardly have asked for a photo - perhaps that's the problem.

Ready, steady, go

Before we settle in our seats on the coach to Edinburgh airport there are

just a few preparations we need to put in place.

Your instruments should be handed in for listing, labelling and loading onto the lorry between 1pm and 3pm on Friday 1st July at the Music Centre at the North Inch Community Campus.

If these hours are not convenient - you may choose to drop your instruments off at the same place between 6pm and 8pm on Thursday 30th June.

You will be given tour stickers for your instruments and luggage - as well as luggage labels for your case.

Luggage

We are flying with EasyJet and - at present they allow ONE ONLY 'carry on' bag in the cabin and a 20Kg WEIGHT LIMIT for the ONE SUITCASE going into the hold.

You can bring liquids in your cabin baggage as long as:

- they are stored in containers no bigger than 100ml and;
- carried in a clear, resealable plastic bag with maximum dimensions of 20 x 20cms.

Each passenger can carry a maximum of 1000ml (e.g. 10 x 100ml). However remember that only ONE clear plastic bag is permitted per passenger. You'll need to present

your bag at security and you may be asked to dispose of liquids that do not meet these requirements.

Remember the 'no sharps' rule - no scissors etc. Only the doctor has exceptions to this rule.

Passport & EHIC and boarding pass

We will not collect your passport and EHIC Card before Monday 4th - so this means you need to check and double check you have both before you leave the house.

Your group leaders will take your passport from you at the coach - before your set off for the airport. It will be issued at the times you need - and collected back again - to be finally returned at the end of the tour.

The same will apply to your boarding passes.

Departure

The flight leaves Edinburgh for Prague at 6.40am - so we will need to load the coaches in Perth from 3.15am.

The PICK UP POINT will be at TESCO CAR PARK on the Crieff Road.

The location was chosen because of access to toilets, food and the convenience for dropping off. It is also a non-residential area.

(NB - the return DROP OFF point will be the Music Centre at the North Inch Community Campus).



We will pick up from Kinross Park and Ride at 4am - please let us know if you plan to take that option.

Local time

The local time in Prague is one hour ahead of the UK.

'Spending' money

The Prague Tour is 'full board' so almost all your food is being provided within the price of the tour.

Your first meal will be lunch in Prague on Monday 4th - and your final meal will be breakfast on Monday 11th.

£4.50 will buy you a meal deal at the airport for breakfast on the morning we leave - and a further £4.50 will buy lunch on the day we return.

As a rough guide to parents of how much MORE spending money is needed - your children can be reminded of the £995 of love you have already spent on the tour.

Local currency is CZECH KORUNA. £1 is about the same as 34chc - or 1czk is 3p!!!

An allowance of £10 a day would require 3000czk in foreign currency.

If you have concerns about your child looking after a debit card / cash - please let us know so that we can put some safety measures in place.

Groups

You will be allocated a group when you arrive for the coaches - each group will have 2 leaders. The groups are simply for registering and passing on information. It is likely that the groups will include your room-share friends. Each group will travel on their allocated coaches, A or B, but you do not need to sit in your group on the coach.

Room share

Room sharing can only be finalised once the hotel has confirmed the configuration of beds. Please be patient with us

as we are working hard to keep everyone happy. Meanwhile, if you have fallen out with all your friends it's not too late to let us know.

Diet and Allergies

Your group leaders will be aware of your dietary preferences and any allergies. Please remind them - and make them aware of how severe your allergy is. It's good to share. Please be vigilant and support each other in these matters.

Instruments

Our instruments will arrive on Monday 4th July and our first concert will be on Tuesday 5th.

Once we have unloaded the smaller instruments (cellos too) you should carry your instrument to and from concerts/ rehearsals - taking them back to the hotel each day.

We will use a smaller van for access to the narrow streets in the centre of the city or smaller towns and there will be a certain amount of porterage necessary.

Clothing

Normal PYO uniform is required for at least 2 of the formal concerts - indoors.

You will be supplied with two PYO Tour T-Shirts (white) for use at the informal 'groups' concerts - outdoors. These can be worn with shorts/ skirts as you wish.

The temperature is currently 22-26°C - and it will rain 3 days out of 7 this week.

Daytime shoes should be suitable for a brisk walk carrying your instrument.

Cameras & Phones

You are responsible for taking care of your valuables. Please make sure you are aware of the charges for using your phone abroad.

We should have the up-to-date contact details of all parents if there is any need to contact them whilst we are away.



If a problem occurs to you child they should speak to their group leaders in the first instance - rather than calling home.

Emergencies

Parents and players are respectfully reminded to use social media appropriately.

Before we set off - there will be a final email/ letter to all families with details of our contact numbers in transit and at the hotel. In the case of an emergency we will contact you by phone - using a communications tree for speed for dissemination.

Excursions

A number of cultural visits are being programmed in between our busy concert schedule. A full itinerary will be published very soon.

Concerts & venues

Concerts are being planned for Prague at the Old Town Square, Strahov Monastery, at the Harfa shopping centre (8th July 4pm), the Hlahlol Hall, the church of Ss Simon and St Jude (7.30pm, 5th July), as well as two holiday spa towns at Marianske Lazne (9th, 3pm) and Podedbrady (3pm, 6th July).

Marianske Lazne is about 2hrs 45 mins from our hotae and Podedbrady is just 45 mins.

In date order:

Tuesday 5th

7.30pm - Ss Simon & Jude

Wednesday 6th

3pm at Podedbrady

Friday 8th

4pm, Harfa, Prague

Saturday 9th

3pm - at Marianske Lazne

...with other dates to be confirmed.

In addition we hope to entertain ourselves with a ceilidh.

PYO return

We return to Perth on Monday 11th July - arriving in Edinburgh at 11.55am - dropping off at Kinross Park and Ride at around 1.10pm and arriving back at the MUSIC CENTRE, North Inch Community Campus at 1.30pm.

Instruments return

Our drivers make the long trip back by motorway and ferry - arriving in Perth on Wednesday 13th July - at around 3pm - time to confirmed. We will be available for return of instruments from 3pm-6pm

If you are unable to pick your instrument up at this time, or to get a friend to do this form you - please suggest an alternative arrangement.

Inspection

We are grateful to Mr and Mrs Young who visited potential venues in Prague and gave us important feedback to help us with these plans.

PYO Committee 2015-16

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Irene Watt,
Alison Wilson
Mary Woodhead

Tutor Representative
Gordon Seith

Orchestra Reps
Shona Rae
Ruaridh Clarke

Conductor
Allan Young



*Can you design a cover
for our CD recording?
Competition details
on our webpage*

www.perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk

Dates for Your Diary

4-11 July 2016	Concert Tour to Prague
20-21 August 2016	PYO CD Recording Perth Concert Hall
25 August 2016	Edinburgh Festival Fringe Concert 7.30pm Greyfriars Kirk Edinburgh (Transport available from Perth)
29 August 2016	7.30pm Perth Concert Hall
September 2016	New member auditions

**Latest updates on
our website**

www.perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk

On Twitter @PYOPerth

www.perth-youth-orchestra.org.uk

Jake Paterson (Leader)

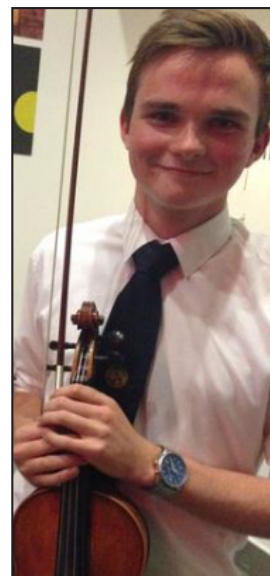
Jake started playing Scots fiddle with the Blackford Fiddle Group at the age of 7, where he now teaches other members of the group. He began violin lessons with Joelle Broad when he was 9 years old. He enjoys both styles of music and also a little bit of fusion!

Having joined Perth Youth Orchestra four years ago Jake has enjoyed playing in many concerts, including an event at Edinburgh Castle, which was part of the WW1 Centenary. Through PYO he has also played with the RSNO 'Join In' orchestra and took part in a Nicola Benedetti workshop, leading the group accompanying her in her performance. He has also enjoyed the social aspect of playing in the orchestra, spending time

with other musicians and meeting new people. He is very much looking forward to PYO's tour of Prague this summer.

Jake is also a member of The Gordon Duncan Experience, a traditional band set up in memory of the great piper. He is lead violin in the Community School of Auchterarder's string orchestra and he is also the school's Head Boy. In 2015 he won the Auchterarder & District Rotary Young Musician of the Year award. Jake also plays guitar and piano, taught at school by Gordon Baillie and Maureen Rutherford.

On Saturdays Jake attends RCS and is tutored on fiddle by Ruairidh MacMillan. He is thoroughly enjoying expanding his knowledge of traditional music, playing solo and in an ensemble.



Jake will attend Newcastle University to study their BA in Folk & Traditional Music course, led by Catriona MacDonald, a new challenge that he is looking forward to taking up in September this year.

Jenny Whitaker (Trumpet)

Jenny Whitaker a pupil at Kilgraston School, is also a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland where she is its only female trumpet player. She started learning the cornet at the age of 8, adding the trumpet to her repertoire three years later. Jenny is also a talented singer and pianist. At weekends she attends the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, in Glasgow, where she enjoys drama and musical theatre. But, inspired by the meteoric career of Alison

Balsom, Jenny is taking her trumpet playing to the highest level and plans to pursue the instrument professionally.

Jenny's trumpet tutor at Kilgraston, Mr Tom Smith, said, "Based on her natural talent, skill and perseverance I believe she would be an ideal candidate for the National Youth Orchestra this year and also has the potential to be considered for both the BBC Young Musician and Young Brass Musician Awards".



Joe Pickering (Clarinet)

Joe Pickering attends Kinross High School where is tutor is Mr Tim Mitchell. He follows in his big brother Magnus' footsteps by becoming a soloist with Perth Youth Orchestra. Joe is the youngest of three brothers and has grown up surrounded by music, especially jazz.

He decided to play saxophone at age seven to be different from his brass playing brothers. Now, as well as playing principal clarinet with Perth Youth Orchestra, Joe plays clarinet in vari-

ous Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (RCS) ensembles and played clarinet in the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland Junior Orchestra last year.

Joe also has a passion for composition, and studies with Tom Butler at the RCS. He was runner up in the RCS Junior's 'Composer's Crucible' last year and is currently working on an orchestral piece and has ambitions to be a composer of film scores.

