

Director's Report – Cambridge Holiday Orchestra – Christmas 2010

Director – Trevor Barlow

This was a highly successful, rewarding and fun course engaging over 200 young people in a wide variety of musical activities across a broad age range.

The course offered 2 Choirs, 3 String Ensembles, 3 Wind Bands, 2 Jazz Workshops, 2 recorder groups, Gamelan, Music Games and Belleplates.

Several pieces had a seasonal nature helping to create a festive spirit and we saw for the first time the choir combining with the Upper Band and the Orchestra.

The range of music was broad covering established classics to popular and jazz.

The tutors were particularly strong bringing a vast range of experience and enthusiasm.

The committee, as always, delivered excellent organisation. Working with the course director they organised the course so that it all ran particularly smoothly.

The final day rehearsal schedule took particular skill and involved many people to get it right.

Having a guest artist is always a plus but with the internationally acclaimed violinist Steve Bingham we were truly lucky. He worked with all the String ensembles and played in the Jazz ensembles then delivered an engaging, relevant, contemporary and hugely motivational concert with his laptop computer, sound loop system, electric and acoustic violins.

Having a guest artist deliver a lunchtime concert on the second day and then to follow it the next day with an in house Jazz Concert really enhanced the course.

Richard Parsons was an excellent director of strings and orchestra who displayed endless enthusiasm and skill.

The team of tutors all worked very well together, the children and students were all well behaved and the musical results were wonderful.

The ace Foundation sponsorship was very much appreciated and their stand displayed the exciting developments at Bury Farm. Many leaflets were taken regarding music playing days. The CHOA and ACE Foundation is developing into an excellent partnership.

7+ Choir



Directed by Lesley Ford Accompanied by Bobby Ford

Repertoire – Winter Wonderland arr. Lin Marsh, The Song of the Winter Wind by Chris Williams and A New Year's Resolution by David P Smith.

Lesley as always choose interesting, suitable and fun songs for this age group. The children all seemed toughly engaged enjoying Lelsey's vast and relevant experience as a junior choir director. The repertoire was beautifully pitched to encompass the season without being predictable.

10+ Choir



Directed by Marie-Cecile Henderson accompanied by Mark Roberts

Repertoire – Elijah and Joshua

Traditional Spiritual arr. Sally K.Albrecht

One Candle lights the Way

Jay Althouse & Sally K.Albrecht

El Ritmo de la Noche (The Rhythm of the Night)

Jay Althouse

Where does Marie-Cecile's drive come from? There was nothing but constant animation coming from the front of the choir with *Joie de Vivre* being second nature. The addition of electric bass, drums, saxophone and clarinet gave the music a real lift and bringing the choir together with the senior band made the 10+ Choir a fun and worthwhile experience.

Recorders



Directed by Adam Dopadlik assisted by Kate Harris

Repertoire – Shaker Melody arr. Ross Winters and Jingle Bells arr. Brian Bonsor

Recorders 1 had 14 players and recorders 2 had 6 resulting in a joint ensemble of 20. All players seemed engaged and happy with Adam and Kate delivering fun and informative tutelage. The repertoire felt to be set at the correct level with Jingle Bells sounding accomplished and secure with the addition of the piano making this straight forward arrangement effective and rewarding. The Shaker melody provided opportunities for good clean playing in several parts.

These groups are an excellent training ground for our young musicians and should be encouraged at every course. It is an excellent opportunity for young players to have skilled recorder players working with them.

Music Games



Directed by Kirsty Bodie assisted by Hannah Dickenson

Music games was once again very popular with 23 in group 1 and 29 in group 2.

Kirsty has such a repertoire of excellent material to bring young people

together, establish rhythms, develop co-ordination, turn taking, tolerance and understanding of each other – the list goes on.

Belleplates

Directed by Kirstie Bodie assisted by Hannah Dickenson

The Belleplates (hand bells but plate shaped) proved very successful and popular. They demonstrated one of the many musical skills Kirsty has to offer. All students played in the foyer opposite the reception desk before the Junior concert (along with a visiting lower sixth former Ollie King on Button Accordion) and this worked very well adding a seasonal touch the course.

Gamelan



Directed by Lindsay Dodsworth

These classes quickly filled up as always (15 in each session) and Lindsay calmly and intelligently delivered expert tuition to the various levels of experience. The Gamelan is such a privilege for the young people of Cambridge and adds a beautiful world dimension to the whole course. There is quite a lot of interest in music from other cultures.

Training Strings



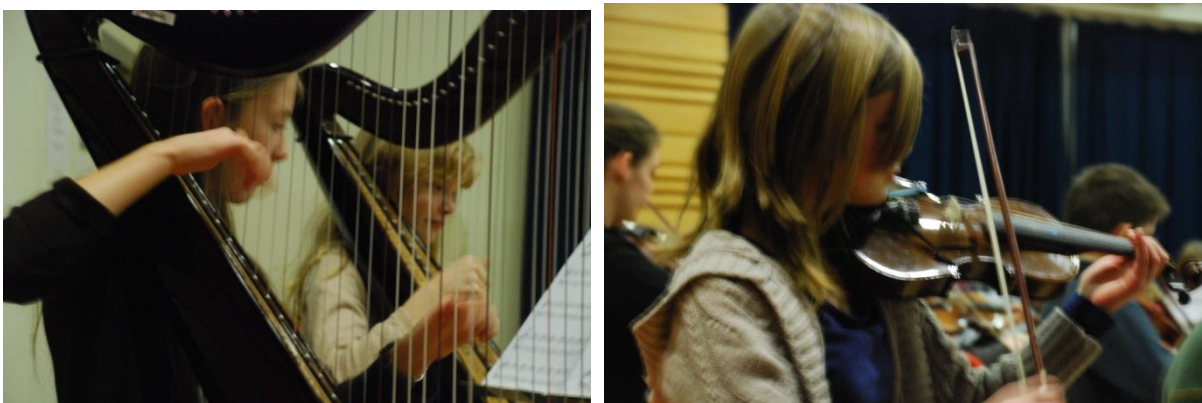
Directed by Richard Parsons, Andrew Ware and Christina Everson assisted by Helen Godfrey.

Repertoire - Tango by D.R. Bellwood and Oh, du lieber Augustin arr. By David Brooker.

An excellent String team was headed by Richard Parsons (Assistant Head of Salisbury Music Service). These tutors are very skilled at making good string teaching fun and dynamic. The joy was particularly seen in the final presentation with the whole ensemble comically taking at least five bows all synchronised to the second.

The ensemble had 35 players.

Intermediate Strings



Directed by Richard Parsons, Andrew Ware and Christina Everson assisted by Helen Godfrey.

Repertoire – Camel Song by Andrew Ware and Thoroughly Modern Varnish by Tony Osborne.

Andrew Ware's Camel Song demonstrated the level of understanding that our tutors have for this level of ensemble. The piece was interesting, challenging and fun. All students seemed engaged and enjoyed the whole experience.

Upper Strings



Repertoire –Prelude (Rhosymedre) by R.V.Williams and Let's Do It by Gershwin arr. Andrew Ware

Directed by Richard Parsons, Andrew Ware and Christina Everson assisted by Helen Godfrey.

With 37 players this ensemble managed to make a full string sound. Not only did these players benefit from the skill of the four string tutors but were lucky enough to have Steve Bingham take part of a session for extra stimulation.

Training Band



Directed by David Minchin assisted by Graham Dolby with Paul Rademeyer as percussion tutor

Repertoire- Power Rock arr. By Michael Sweeney,
Supercalifragelisticexpialidoious by Sherman & Sheerman and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer arr by David Minchin.

David Minchin is a very gifted director for the young ensemble – a level that is often the hardest to teach. His arrangement of Rudolph demonstrates his understanding and concern for this level of ensemble

Intermediate Band



Directed by Graham Dolby assisted by David Minchin with Paul Rademeyer tutoring percussion.

Repertoire – Winter Wonderland arr Eric Osterling and Kings Mountain Adventure by Ed Huckleby.

It was good to see Graham Dolby back at Holiday Orchestra and he delivered clear sensible advice in a fun manner. The ensemble of 30 was well balanced and Graham worked the ensemble up to a clean, together and focused band. All students seemed happy and engaged.

Upper Band



Directed by Graham Dolby, David Minchin and Trevor Barlow with Paul Rademeyer tutoring percussion.

Repertoire – Holst March from Suite in F, Highlights from Wicked and Festival of Carols by Leroy Anderson.

The 31 members of the ensemble had the benefit of 3 conductors and 3 completely contrasting pieces. Each piece offered differing challenges and styles with the Festival of Carols offering the rare opportunity to work with a choir.

Jazz Workshops



Directed by Josh Kemp with Chris Pepper and Micheal Denman assisting with the rhythm section.

The Jazz Workshops prove to be forever popular and it was wonderful to welcome back Josh Kemp. String players are particularly interested. This time we had our first jazz French Horn player! Josh really does teach improvisation well making these classes uniquely creative. Every student improvises in the classes although there is no pressure to perform in the concert. The lunchtime presentation on the third day worked well.

Orchestra



Directed by Richard Parsons with Graham Dolby as Woodwind tutor, David Minchin as Brass tutor and Paaul Rademeyer as percussion tutor.

Reprtoire – March Joyeuse – Chabrier, Pomp and Circumstance March No 4 by Elgar and Thank you for the Music arr. Kelvin Towse.

I have never seen a conductor learn all the orchestra's names within a few sessions before. By learning everyone's name Richard could really engage all students. He particularly made students sitting further back in the orchestra feel part of the ensemble resulting in a full sounding ensemble. Students quickly settled into his enthusiastic style.

We were lucky to have Kelvin Towse (who was co-incidentally in Cambridge as Music Director for the Panto at the Arts Theatre) attend the performance of his excellent arrangement of the Abba hit *Thank you for the music*. This brought together the 10+ Choir and the orchestra for a completely different genre of music compared to the Orchestra's regular repertoire.

The 10+ Choir (70) singing with the Orchestra of 56 provided an excellent finale to a very successful Christmas Course.

Guest Artist



Steve Bingham

With the sponsorship provided by the ACE Foundation it was a delight to welcome Steve Bingham to holiday orchestra. His skill, passion and style were a great inspiration to all – especially the string players.

How fantastic it was to include contemporary works by Micheal Nyman, a pop piece by Coldplay, rock by YES along with Pachelbel's Canon. These were all played with multiple loops and electronic wizardry coupled with Steve's great skill.

Students will be able to further their playing with Steve on String Day in March organised by ACE.