

United Youth Orchestra

Bringing Waikato's Young Musicians Together

Newsletter No. 1 – 7 March, 2003

Editor: David J. Lowe

1. Welcome

On behalf of musical director Yoshi Tatsumi and the orchestra's management team, I am pleased to present our first newsletter. We are very gratified indeed with the progress made so far in forming and developing our new orchestra – the United Youth Orchestra – and this newsletter is another step forward for our group. My intention as editor is to try to produce a newsletter for distribution approximately once a month or so. The main purpose is to inform members and supporters about our orchestra, its progress and about any upcoming events involving our group or other musical groups in Hamilton and the Waikato region. In due course I would like also to include other material, such as short articles on music or performance, photographs, concert or music video reviews, and so on. I will need your help and ideas and stories to achieve this, however, so please think about how you might like to contribute to the newsletter. My address and contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

The sections below include some of our policies associated with running the orchestra, the names of section leaders, details about subscriptions, news about sponsorship, some brief notes about your conductor and the management team, the FUN group we're forming, and some ideas about the possible programme for the year.



Maria's birthday cake Feb 14, 2003

2. Our new name

We have spent several weeks thinking up a suitable name for our group. My thanks go to all those who made suggestions. The name 'United Youth Orchestra' and our associated vision statement 'Bringing Waikato's Young Musicians Together' are, I think, most appropriate for our group: we are united in our love of classical and other orchestral and chamber music; we are united in our aim of helping young musicians of the Waikato to achieve their potential in music; we are united in bringing together young people of many different nationalities and cultures (we have nearly ten countries represented in our ranks); and we are united in our desire to enjoy our music making and social time together.

I have sent a press release about the formation of our orchestra to the local media including the *Hamilton Press*, *Waikato This Week*, and the *Waikato Times*, and *Radio New Zealand*. I will be working with several editors over the next week or so on the story because we hope to publish some photographs with the article. So, make sure your hair is brushed and your teeth cleaned in case a photographer turns up on your doorstep in the next few days! I have copies available of the press release if you would like to see it. Unfortunately, I understand that the *Waikato Times* may soon print a rather negative story about the appointment process last year and the background to the forming of the United Youth Orchestra. My advice is to ignore this negativity and to enjoy instead our positive and happy atmosphere making music together in the United Youth Orchestra.

I spoke with Dr Malcolm Carr of the Opus Chamber Orchestra recently. He told me that Opus is very supportive of our group and what we're trying to achieve, and that in time Opus has plans to develop further its education programme which would involve young musicians from the region including those in our orchestra. However, at the present time Opus is too stretched in terms of resources and commitments to make any formal arrangements with our group.

3. Rehearsal times and venue

Rehearsals are held every Friday from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm in the Bandroom, Waikato Times Hamilton Brass, Clyde St (next to Police Station) – at the Hillcrest end of Clyde St. Please remember that we expect players to arrive at around 6.15 pm so that we can start rehearsing at 6.30 pm. From time to time we may extend the rehearsal period to 9.00 pm prior to concerts (any such extension will be well advertised in advance).

The Bandroom has a telephone: the number is (7) 856-0260 (in the phone book it is listed under W for 'Waikato Times Hamilton Brass'). Please note that we must treat all fittings, equipment and instruments in the bandroom with respect – there is to be no touching nor playing of the percussion instruments. We are very grateful indeed to Mr Richard Edgecombe and the Band Management Committee for allowing us to use their excellent bandroom for our rehearsals.

4. Apologies

Please note that each member is expected to send apologies to either the manager (David Lowe) or the musical director (Yoshi Tatsumi) if they cannot attend practice. This can be either a brief phone call or e-mail message. It only takes a few seconds and saves me spending many evenings ringing around to find out why you were away. Contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

5. Leader/section leaders

Poh-Suan Teo is the new orchestral leader and leader of the 1st violins. These are demanding roles and I would ask for all players to appreciate this and to give Poh-Suan your full support. Poh-Suan has been playing for around ten years and is a Grade 8 violinist. She is also studying piano at Grade 8 level, and in her spare time tries the cello, flute, and guitar. We are pleased and grateful that Poh-Suan has accepted the leadership position.

The following players have been put forward as section leaders:

2nd violins: Bert Lin

Lower strings (viola, cellos, double bass): David Lorier

Woodwind: Rebekah Kim

Brass/keyboards: Alistair Porter

Congratulations are due to all of these players and I trust that they will receive your support. In consultation with Yoshi, section leaders will be responsible for deciding which part each player will take, for leading the section technically, and for maintaining discipline in the section during rehearsals, workshops and performances.

6. Policy regarding membership and discipline in rehearsals

All members will be required to register their membership with the orchestra. Most of you have already provided me with details and I hope to be able to prepare a comprehensive list and database in the next week or so. A formal membership application form will be prepared in due course. As noted in our first flier about the orchestra, we are a youth orchestra with an age range normally of 13 years through to 23 years – most members will therefore be at high school or at a tertiary institution, or in the work force. We are normally unable to take members younger than 13 years – the Waikato Schools Symphony Orchestra (conducted by Martin Griffiths: phone Hamilton 839-9990) is available for these players. In addition to age limits, we require that players are normally of grade 4 or higher in reading and playing ability, i.e. working towards grade 5 or higher level.

Players who are unsure of their level (e.g., they may not have sat formal exams but are experienced players nonetheless) may contact me or Yoshi and arrange to meet before rehearsal for a short audition or to sit in on a rehearsal on a trial basis. On this basis, Yoshi will decide in consultation with management if a player is to be accepted as a member. Membership will require payment of an annual subscription to the organisation (see below).



Yoshi conducting the first rehearsal of the United Youth Orchestra

Our policy regarding discipline is that we expect all players, once accepted as members, to undertake to attend rehearsals on a regular basis, to arrive at around 6.15 pm so that practice can start at 6.30 pm, and to advise management in advance if they are going to be absent (see 4 above). Rehearsals have been going really well so far but with the influxes of new players from time to time, etc, they can become a little unsettled. I would like to see rehearsals now settle down and for younger players especially to concentrate a bit more during actual playing time – I will be looking to section leaders and senior members to show the way in encouraging players to develop good discipline and concentration during actual playing time (i.e. minimise chatter, comments, even though they are funny at times!) so that ensemble playing standards are always moving forward. At the same time we aim to have a relaxed, friendly and supportive atmosphere. We will have a break of 10 minutes or so each week for supper and this is a time when members can socialise.

It is expected that all members practise at home their own parts to help Yoshi achieve far more readily the highest possible standard of playing and performance by the orchestra. Remember, this is *your* orchestra – its progress requires input from everyone to the best of their ability.

7. Subscriptions

At a meeting of the management committee, the following subscriptions have been set for 2003.

1 member: \$40

2 members from same family: \$70

3 members from same family: \$90

Rachel Kreymborg is our treasurer and she now has an account into which subs can be paid. Please see her to pay your subscription. Cheques can be made out to 'United Youth Orchestra' or 'UYO'. We expect all subs to be paid before April if possible, please.

8. Sponsorship and funding

As announced at the first rehearsal, we are thrilled to acknowledge and thank Danny and Joyce Roguski, and Danny's Music World, as foundation sponsors of the orchestra. We would encourage members to consider Danny's Music World for musical purchases. UYO members will receive a discount (on proof of membership). Details are as follows:

Dannys Music World
World of Music Ltd
P O Box 6048
Glenview Centre (Hamilton)
Ph 07 843 8161 for Appointment

In order to function and to grow and develop, the orchestra needs funding support. Consequently, we are pleased to advise that Ai-Ee Teo will be our Funding Manager (contact details below). Already we have running costs and we see a need for purchasing music and instruments, and we are grateful that Ai-Ee will be working hard approaching various funding agencies on our behalf.

9. Friends of United Youth Orchestra (FUN)

We plan to set up a Friends of United Youth Orchestra group for our supporters. In return for a donation to the orchestra, FUN members will receive the newsletter and gain entry to concerts at discounted rates. Please tell your parents, supporters and music teachers about FUN and get them to contact Rachel Kreymborg or me to join. Please make cheques out to 'United Youth Orchestra' or 'UYO' (contact details are at the end of newsletter). At the top of the list of FUN members are Maryla and Johan Endert, Sue Lim & family, and Danny & Joyce Roguski – thank you for your generous donations .



Enjoying our first-ever rehearsal and that birthday cake

Sponsored by Dannys Music World – Foundation Sponsor Ph (07) 843-8161 for appointment

10. Meet our musical director and the management committee

Yoshiki (Yoshi) Tatsumi is our Musical Director. Originally from Kobe in Japan, Yoshi studied brass performance especially French horn and spent ten years with a civic wind orchestra in Tokyo while training as a conductor. In New Zealand, Yoshi was selected for Conductors' Master Classes under the direction of Nicholas Braithwaite and Miguel Harth-Bedoya of the Auckland Philharmonia in both 1999 and 2000, and he has been a guest conductor of the Tauranga Concert Orchestra since 1998. He is a very experienced conductor of youth orchestras, having previously been musical director of both the Waikato Schools Orchestra and Waikato Youth Orchestra since 1995. He also directed an annual music workshop for schools in Hamilton for eight years. Yoshi has a BA degree in economics from Doshisha University and a Certificate in Teaching Japanese Language to foreigners and also a Certificate for Community Interpreters. He is Representative of Park International Golf Course. Yoshi's wife Aiko is a percussionist and she and son Yuri (also percussion) have often played as guest members of youth orchestras in the past.

Rachel Kreymborg is Treasurer of UYO. She has BSc(Hons) degree and is a lecturer in biochemistry at the Waikato Institute of Technology (WINTEC) in Hamilton. Rachel has played the cello and has a long involvement with the New Zealand Suzuki Institute (Hamilton Branch) where she organises cello workshops, hireage and so on. Her daughter Tamsin plays cello in the UYO.

Ai-Ee Teo is Funding Manager of UYO. Ai-Ee is an accountant by training and experience, having been assistant accountant at the New Zealand Co-operative Dairy Manufacturing Division and then accountant at the Engineering Division, which she left in 1990. Since then she has been helping to raise her family, including our orchestra leader Poh-Suan, and her husband Siong's business Etronics.

David Lowe is Manager of UYO. He worked with Yoshi last year managing the Waikato Youth Orchestra. In his (fast fading) younger days David was a Bb cornet player in the Tauranga City Silver Band (1965-1971) and then in the Hamilton Citizens' Band (1972-1985). He was selected as a cornet player in the Junior National Band of New Zealand in 1968. David was a foundation member of the Tauranga Youth Orchestra and also played principal trumpet for the Waikato Symphony Orchestra several times in the early 1980s. He has three degrees including a doctorate (which means he is called Doctor). David has been a lecturer at the University of Waikato in the Earth Sciences Department since 1979, when he visited Antarctica as part of a Waikato research expedition that involved manhauling a sledge through the Transantarctic Mountains for nearly two months. He specialises in various research fields including the identification and application of volcanic ash deposits as a dating tool (tephrochronology), the study of the origin, distribution and classification of soils (pedology), and the reconstruction of climates and environments of the past 2.5 million years (Quaternary science). As well as working in New Zealand and Antarctica, David has undertaken research in Australia, the U.K., Japan, and Canada. He has published more than 80 refereed scientific papers including around ten book chapters and has received both national and international awards for his work. David's wife Maria, who plays the recorder, is responsible for making the excellent cakes and other goodies that appear from time to time for our suppers. David's son Sebastian plays violin in the orchestra; his daughter Lydia plays the piano. Currently the Lowe family is hosting exchange student Fabian Wigand from Hamburg, Germany – Fabian plays cello in the UYO and is with us until July.

11. Tentative programme for 2003

The management committee is working on the programme for the year. We do not want to overcommit our members because we are aware that many players have a lot on their plates. So far we have the following ideas and dates (details/dates to be confirmed as soon as possible):

Date to be advised: 'Resthome concert' preceded by a workshop/afternoon tea (late April?)

Sun June 8: 'Inaugural concert' by UYO in Hamilton (venue to be advised)

- workshop/afternoon tea prior to the concert (Sun 25 May?)
- concert to be followed by FUN supporters' and members' shared afternoon tea

Sat 11 October: Workshop and social with a visiting youth orchestra (Taranaki Youth Orchestra)

Sun 12 October: 'Combined concert' in Academy of Performing Arts with Taranaki Youth Orchestra (1-6 pm)

Please mark these dates in your diary now – we will confirm them or otherwise as soon as we can.

12. Uniforms

Our management committee has been thinking about uniforms. Currently we have two options, both of which include black shoes, black socks, and black trousers/skirt. For the top part, we are considering option (a) long-sleeved, plain (i.e. no wording etc) shirts of one colour (yet to be decided), or (b) long-sleeved plain shirts of any colour. Please let us know any preference – we need your feedback.

13. Parental support

The musical director and management need parents' help in running the orchestra, preparing for concerts, etc. If you would like to help in some way and to be involved, then please contact me or any other member of the management team.



Yoshi cuts the cake while members and supporters look on

14. Other musical performances

New Zealand Symphony Orchestra – special music teacher discounts are available to both teachers and parents who are accompanying children to four NZSO concerts in Hamilton this year (see Manager for details about prices etc).

Opus Chamber Orchestra (four concerts) and **Auckland Philharmonia** (three concerts) Goldfields series – a wide range of concerts is being presented this year by both these orchestras. Please see Manager for details.

Finally, thank you to all who have worked so hard to make this orchestra form and thrive. Thanks to Poh-Suan Teo for the digital pictures.

Contacts UYO

- Conductor: Yoshi Tatsumi ph (7) 829-8390 (home); (7) 847-4374 (work)
Email: yoshi@hnpl.net
- Manager: David Lowe ph (7) 855-0692 (home); (7) 856-2889 extn 8238 (work)
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- Treasurer: Rachel Kreymborg ph (7) 838-0204 (home); (7) 834-8800 extn 8702 (work)
Email: Rachel.Kreymborg@wintec.ac.nz
- Funding Mger Ai-Ee Teo ph (7) 855-7378 (home)
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