

United Youth Orchestra

Bringing Waikato's Young Musicians Together

Newsletter No. 6 – June, 2005

Editor: David J. Lowe

Warm up with our Winter Concert: 3 pm, Sun 19 June, at the Academy

Hello and welcome to our first newsletter of 2005. First up are details of our winter concert which is to be held on Sunday 19 June, 3.00 pm, in the Gallagher Concert Chamber, WEL Energy Trust Academy of Performing Arts, University of Waikato, Knighton Rd, Hamilton. The concert will feature UYO leader and award-winning violinist **PohSuan Teo**. PohSuan will play the first two movements of Russian composer D. Kabalevsky's Violin Concerto in C major accompanied by the UYO.



PohSuan Teo

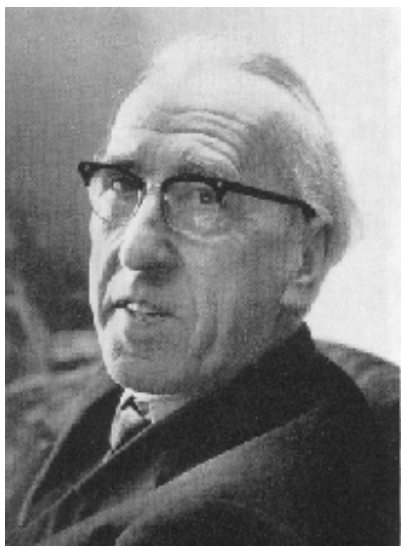
A scholarship-winning smile

PohSuan's exceptional music ability was recognised in May by the award to her of a scholarship from the Music and Art Waikato Trust (Arts Waikato). This will enable PohSuan to further her music studies at university from 2006.

PohSuan (16) has been playing for 12 years and in 2003 she passed both Violin Grade 8 (with Distinction) and Piano Grade 8 (with Merit). In 2004 she lived in a small village of Friedrichsdorf in northern Germany as an exchange student. She performed with several orchestras and as a soloist playing works by Vivaldi, Telemann and Gardonyi. As well as leading the UYO and the ensemble 'Tekila', PohSuan accompanies young musicians at concerts and competitions. She also plays in Opus Chamber Orchestra.

Music director Yoshi Tatsumi has selected a varied orchestral programme to complement the concerto. It will include Massenet's Bohemian Festival from "Scenes Pittoresque", Brahms' Hungarian Dance No. 5, Ketelbey's In a Persian Market, themes from "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" by Dukas, and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Symphonic Reflections. The concert will conclude with Bizet's Carmen Suite No. 1 comprising five movements.

The Tekila string quartet, led by PohSuan Teo and with guest players Bert Lin, Romelli-Rodriguez Jolly and Jenny Rogers, will perform the Tango Ballet by Astor Piazzolla at the concert.



Dmitri Kabalevsky (1904-1987), born in St Petersburg, is regarded as a great contemporary Russian composer, pianist and writer. In Russia he is best remembered for his songs, cantatas and operas but elsewhere he is known more for his orchestral music. The violin concerto, published in 1948, is a dramatic piece for soloist, orchestra and audience. Kabalevsky, a full professor at the Moscow Conservatory by 1939, became a member of the Communist party in 1940. In 1941 he received the Medal of Honour from the Soviet government for his music. During World War II he wrote various inspirational songs and battle hymns including in 1942 three large works “Vast Motherland”, “Revenge of the People”, and “Into the Fire”. In his later life Kabalevsky’s music became more interlinked with choral music and his 1962 “Requiem” was dedicated to those who died in WW II fighting fascism. He was also a strong advocate for music education and headed several major Soviet organisations dedicated to this end from the 1960s (photo and notes after T. Ursin).

Entry to the concert is by gold-coin donation. Please come along and support our young musicians – you won’t be disappointed. We record our gratitude to sponsorship and other support generously provided by the Hamilton Community Arts Council, Creative Communities New Zealand, Danny’s Music World, SkyCity Hamilton Community Trust, Pub Charity, WEL Energy Trust, Trust Waikato, SKY Riverside, Beattie Rickman Legal, Castle Trust Hamilton Brass, Tauranga Concert Orchestra, Etronics, and New Zealand Community Post, and other organisations and individuals.

Tour to Taranaki

The UYO and a small but ever-so-keen group of parental supporters travelled to New Plymouth over the weekend of 9-10 April to perform a joint concert with the Taranaki Youth Orchestra.



Members of UYO and TYO enjoy the sunshine and hospitality of New Plymouth on Sunday 10 April before their joint concert later that afternoon. MDs Yoshi and Robert are at back left. *Photo: Ai-Ee Teo*

The trip was in return for the TYO travelling to Hamilton to perform a joint concert with UYO in October, 2003. The UYO travelled to New Plymouth on Saturday morning, departing at 8 am, and members and supporters were treated to lunch on arrival by the TYO management committee led by president Joy Hills. The afternoon was dedicated to rehearsals, separately by UYO and TYO and then together, with Yoshi taking two pieces and TYO's debut conductor Robert Greenfield leading two others. The combined orchestra of around 60-65 players performed well and had a well balanced and surprisingly big sound. Most members and office holders of UYO were billeted on Saturday night by TYO families. After more preparation on Sunday morning, the concert was held on Sunday afternoon in the New Plymouth Girls' High School hall. It attracted a large and appreciative audience, the combined orchestras receiving a standing ovation at the finale, and subsequently a great write up in the *Taranaki Daily News* by music columnist Harry Brown.



UYO and TYO combined in rehearsal under Robert Greenfield's direction in New Plymouth. *Photo: Ai-Ee Teo*

The UYO headed for home after takeways and arrived in Hamilton at 10 pm on Sunday night, tired but happy. One thing we noticed on our journey was that there are very few toilets between New Plymouth and Hamilton and, secondly, that drinking a large volume of Coca Cola at tea time had unfortunate consequences as the toilet stop seemed always just around the next corner...until we arrived at Te Kuiti to save the day.

We are very grateful to the hospitality and friendship shown to us by the TYO and management committee and we hope to host another trip to Hamilton by TYO in 2007. Our travel by bus was sponsored by Pub Charity.

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Our two Germans, Robin Stier (cellist) and Lea Grote (clarinetist), ham it up in New Plymouth (they *do* have a sense of humour!). Robin returns to Germany on 18 June, having been in Hamilton for 12 months, whereas Lea returns in mid-July after a six-month stay in Hamilton with the Lowe family. We wish them both well and hope they'll always remember their happy days at UYO.



Yoshi leads the combined UYO and TYO in rehearsal. *Photo: Ai-Ee Teo*

Korean music festival

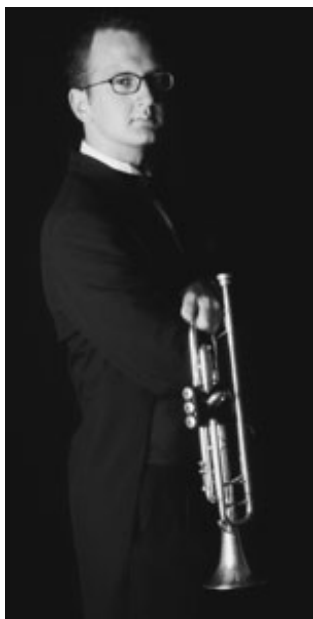
The UYO has been invited to perform a short programme at this year's Korean Music festival at the Academy of Performing Arts at Waikato University on Saturday 3rd September, 2005, from 7 pm. We hope to be able to support this event and invite all our supporters to attend.

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October spring concert: announcement of trumpet soloist

The Spring Concert is to be held at **3 pm, Sunday 16 October, 2005**, at the Academy of Performing Arts. We are really delighted to announce that our featured soloist is brilliant trumpet and cornet player **Bede Williams**, who will perform the Haydn Trumpet Concerto in E flat. Please mark the date in your diary now because you must not miss seeing and hearing this outstanding young musician.

Bede (20), recently appointed principal trumpet in the British Development Orchestra, is shortly to tour Europe with the National Band of New Zealand as deputy principal cornet, and then in August he tours China with a Royal Scottish Academy music ensemble. He began his musical career in Hamilton on piano and then added brass, gaining four diplomas, including a Fellowship of the Royal Schools of Music (with Distinction), before turning 18. Bede is past principal trumpet of the National Youth Orchestras of both New Zealand and Scotland and past principal cornet of the National Youth Band of New Zealand. In 2002 Bede received an Alex Lindsay Award. In 2003 he was awarded a four-year scholarship by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music to study at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama with virtuoso trumpeter and principal John Wallace, who described him as “one of the best”. Bede’s studies have been supported also by the Scottwood Trust.



Bede was the Sir John Barbarolli Recipient in 2004. Early in 2005 he won the highly prestigious Philip Jones Memorial Prize, awarded by the Royal Overseas League, after fighting his way through two preliminary rounds before appearing in the final with four other brass instrumentalists. Bede recently successfully auditioned for the Yehudi Menuhin “Live Music Now!” scheme and as a result formed his own brass quintet, ‘Alba Brass’, which performs at many venues and functions throughout Scotland.

Bede Williams (*Photo*: <http://www.royalphilharmonicsociety.org.uk/?page=youngArtists/biogs/williamsbiog.html>)

Formation of the UYO Trust

The UYO Trust, a registered Charitable Trust, is now a reality thanks to the generous work of sponsors Beattie Rickman Legal who facilitated its formation. Chaired by Grant Wilkin, and with secretary Dr Marianne Lammers, the Trustees have met twice this year. If you have any ideas to help further the UYO’s aims then please advise manager Dr David Lowe with items for the next meeting of Trustees.

Membership

A pleasing aspect of 2005 so far has been the steady addition of new players to UYO, especially as we lost a number of senior players at the end of 2004. We now have around 45 members registered with UYO. However, we are especially keen to attract new double bass and viola players in the strings, more oboists, bassoonists, and more brass players and percussionists.

Tour 2006?

The possible tour to Malaysia in 2006 has been cancelled. The Trustees felt that uncertainty in player commitment coupled with the substantial costs involved were too risky at this stage in the UYO’s

development. However, an overseas tour remains viable for UYO to consider in the future but would be subject to very detailed planning and commitment. Instead, the Trustees are looking at possibly attending the Wellington Youth Arts Festival, last held in 2003, in August 2006.

Letter from Germany (and London)

Sebastian Lowe, deputy leader of UYO since its formation, has been living in Berlin, Germany, since January this year with the Mundt family. Seb is learning German and having violin lessons with a tutor in Potsdam. A youth orchestra he joined is performing on 17 June (the programme includes Beethoven's 1st Symphony and Mendelssohn's 'The Hebrides' overture). Seb went to Vienna for his birthday in March and in May he travelled to London to join the U.K. Youth Division of the Order of St John to visit Buckingham Palace and meet with HRH Princess Ann (and to enjoy lunch in the House of Lords). A few weeks ago Seb stayed with Stefan Mutter (clarinetist), who was a member of UYO in 2003-04, in the Black Forest part of southern Germany. Seb returns to Hamilton and UYO in late July.



Seb outside Buckingham Palace with U.K. St John Cadet of the Year (with beret) and runners-up, and the Commander of St John Youth Division of U.K., Peter Brown



Stefan Mutter (r) and Seb in the countryside of the Black Forest. Stefan is returning to Hamilton later this year to begin doctoral studies in computers at Waikato University

Friends of United Youth Orchestra (FUN)

Some reading this newsletter will already be members of FUN, our supporters group. We greatly appreciate your membership, and the generous donations you make are helping us to achieve our aims in 'bringing Waikato's young musicians together'. For any readers who want to join FUN (only \$20 per year), or to renew your subscription for 2005, contact Rachel Kreymborg, our Co-Treasurer who coordinates FUN. Donations are tax deductible. Please make cheques payable to 'United Youth Orchestra' and send to Rachel Kreymborg, FUN Co-ordinator, 22A Dawson St, Hamilton East.

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