



Brighton & Hove Music and Performing Arts Newsletter



**SEPTEMBER
2006**

National Music Council
Major Trophy Winner
2000/1

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NEW WEBSITE
www.bhmpa.org.uk



YOUTH DANCE COMPANY

In July Brighton and Hove Youth Dance Company participated in the first ever National Youth Dance Festival, which was held in Leeds. The prestigious Festival, organised by Youth Dance England, profiled the work of 11 youth dance groups from across the country and culminated in public performances at the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

Brighton and Hove Youth Dance Company were one of 94 youth dance groups who originally applied to take part in the Festival. The five day event included three days of dance technique classes and choreographic investigation, led by a specially selected artistic team which included Artistic Director Bettina Strickler, founder member of Protein Dance; Leeds-born Adèle Thompson, founder member of Stomp; Stuart Waters from Motionhouse Dance Company; Tom Dale, an independent choreographer; Heidi Rustgaard, Co-Artistic Director of h2dance; and Tom Roden and Pete Shenton, Co-Artistic Directors of dance theatre company New Art Club.

The National Youth Dance Festival coincided with Big Dance, a week-long, national celebration of dance which took place between 15-23 July.

If you are interested in auditioning for B & H Youth Dance Company please contact Sharon Scaife on 01273 293524

Autumn Programme 2006

OCTOBER

BHYSE Rotary Conference

Fri 13th 8.30 Brighton Centre

Brighton Early Music Festival Recorder Consort - Schools Workshop

Wed 18th 2 pm City Music Centre (East)

Brighton Early Music Festival Recorder Consort - Public Performance

Weds 18th 6 pm Hove Town Hall

BHYSE play for Brighton Early Music Festival

Sun 22nd 3 pm Gardner Arts Centre

NOVEMBER

Music Centre West Lunchtime Concert

Sat 25th Blatchington Mill School

Big Band and City Music Centre East

Tues 28th All Saints Centre, Lewes

DECEMBER

Music Centre West Lunchtime Concert

Sat 2nd Blatchington Mill School

BYO Concert

Sat 2nd 7.30 pm Venue tbc

BHYP + BHYCB Concert

Mon 4th 7.30 pm All Saint's Church, Hove

Primary Schools Christmas Concert

Tues 5th 7pm Brighton Centre

Music Centre East Lunchtime Concert

Sat 9th City Music Centre (East)

Choral Christmas Concert

Sat 9th St. John's Knoyle Road Brighton

BHYSE play for University of Brighton Carol Service

Wed 13th 5 pm St. Peter's Church Brighton

BHYSE Concert

Fri 15th 7.30 Venue tbc

Christmas Course: BYO/BHYP/BHJYO

Wed 27th - Fri 29th Venue tbc

Orchestral Christmas Concert

Sat 30th 7.30 pm St Bartholomew's Church

Key to Orchestra and Ensemble Abbreviations

BHJYO	Brighton & Hove Junior Youth Orchestra
BHYCB	Brighton & Hove Youth Concert Band
BHYSE	Brighton & Hove Youth String Ensemble
BHBB	Brighton & Hove Big Band
BHYP	Brighton & Hove Youth Philharmonia
BYO	Brighton Youth Orchestra

The reality of amalgamation – just a well meaning idea – or reality? Can two totally disparate groups come together ?

BYO and Brighton & Hove Big Band represent two outstanding ensembles of totally different music genres which are also representative of some of the high standards achieved by young people coming from the two organisations which amalgamated two years ago, namely Brighton Youth Orchestra and Brighton & Hove Music and performing Arts. If put together on tour could they gel and learn from each other?

In July 2006 we have put this question to the test. The Orchestra and Big Band went on tour together sharing accommodation, food and transport but also having their own concerts as well as shared concerts. The Big Band played twice at Montreux Jazz Festival (one of the great jazz festivals of the world). To be asked was in itself an accolade of the standing of the Big Band. They also played in Lausanne and then shared 2 concerts with BYO in the Black Forest and finally in Hove Centre. Meanwhile BYO (who were recently called "Brighton's greatest musical secret" by the Argus after their Brighton Festival concert in the Dome) played its own concerts Bern and in the Paderewski Hall in Lausanne before the joint concerts.

One of the most moving aspects of the tour was the support that each group gave to the other during their performances. BYO was part of the audience for the first Big Band concert in Montreux and they were totally enthusiastic and enjoyed every minute. Later Big Band listened to a BYO concert in Lausanne and reciprocated the admiration and respect.

Coming together for concerts was always going to be an ambitious goal. The works were Gershwin's "American in Paris"- which was more orchestral but includes integral saxophone parts and "Car Wash" by Rose Royce with Sammy Sarfas as vocal soloist which was more of a band tune with added orchestra backing.

Both works came together well and a tradition grew up of each ensemble dancing in appropriate places when they were part of the audience.

For all of us involved the answer has to be a resounding yes- two totally disparate groups can really come together and bridge the genre divide – and the genuine respect felt by each group for the other led by the end of the tour to real integration and a seamless joining of hearts and minds to produce outstanding music and long standing friendships.

For further information about any of these items, please contact:

Brighton & Hove Music and Performing Arts
County Oak Avenue, Brighton BN1 8DJ
Tel: 01273 293524
Fax: 01273 293623
email: bhmpa@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Website: www.bhmpa.org.uk

BYO Parents and Friends

There is a vital organisation which helps keep the orchestras and ensembles going.

You can be involved – we need constant renewal as players move on so please volunteer. Some special volunteers help with the orchestras on a weekly basis as librarians while others help perhaps only once or twice a year serving refreshments for the orchestra or public.

If you would like to be part of a very friendly team please contact Robert Eastwood on: r.k.eastwood@sussex.ac.uk

City SoundMakers

Our SoundMakers programme, which aims to widen opportunities for children to learn a musical instrument at KS2, continues to go from strength to strength. This year we have seen two successful programmes being delivered, one at St Martins the other at Mile Oak Primary School. Feedback from the young musicians and colleagues in schools has been excellent. One SoundMaker group performed at our major music conference to great acclaim – so much so the guest speaker Leonora Davies, Chair of the Music Education Council, commented that it was one of the best performances of this type of programme she had heard anywhere in the country.

We are committed to building on this success and with the tremendous support of Headteachers we are launching 12 new SoundMakers programmes in the coming year, with the aim of offering it to all K52 schools from September 2007 – So watch this space!

We are also launching a SoundMakers KS2 ensemble in the new year which will be based at our City Music Centre (East) – the focus will be on writing and creating new pieces in a mixed instrument group setting. If you want to get involved just contact us at MPA.

Returning to Lessons – Your Questions Answered

Primary School Pupils

Instrumental teachers will notify schools directly of the date lessons will recommence for pupils continuing tuition. Please contact your school if you do not know when lessons will resume this term. Parents of pupils who are beginning tuition will have been contacted by the teacher directly with arrangements and requirements for lessons.

Secondary School Pupils

Rotating timetables with lesson times for secondary school pupils will be displayed on the Music Department noticeboards by instrumental teachers during the first few days of term. Please make sure your child checks the noticeboard. Year 7 pupils should ask the Head of Music for help if they experience difficulties. Recruitment meetings for year 7 pupils wishing to enrol for lessons will be held at all secondary schools during the first few weeks of term. Your school will inform you of when the meetings are to take place.

Withdrawals

Please note that the terms of withdrawal are quoted on your Tuition Agreement and as a reminder on each termly invoice. If your child has an instrument which belongs to the Brighton & Hove Music and Performing Arts please make sure it is returned to the instrumental teacher at school in the first week of term so that it will be available for other pupils waiting for