

# The Nash

*Newsletter of "The Friends of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales"*

[www.friendsofthenash.co.uk](http://www.friendsofthenash.co.uk)

Registered Charity No. 1053788

## February 2018

### Greetings from Brian Clarke our new Chairperson



I am very honoured to have been voted in as the new chairperson of the friends of the 'Nash'. As a former member of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales (NYOW), it is a pleasure to undertake the role and I will endeavour to maintain the momentum of the committee in supporting

the National Youth Orchestra of Wales.

May I sincerely acknowledge the immense contribution of the previous chairperson Dr Gareth Tudor and our retiring minute secretary Mrs Noreen Harris.

The Nash, as with other youth arts organisations in Wales, is going through a challenging period of change and financial pressure, making the role of the Friends a critical one. The orchestra's long association with Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC) has now ended and responsibility for the organisation passed to a new limited company and registered charity - National Youth Arts Wales (NYAW) on 1 October 2017. This new organisation is responsible not only for the 'Nash' but also the brass band, dance, theatre and wind orchestra. The committee looks forward to working constructively with the officers of NYAW.

In establishing its priorities for the future, the committee remains committed to promoting and

supporting the 'Nash'. Key to its success will be to positively influence the strategic and innovative development of the orchestra. We look to our members to continue to that vision.

### Cyfarchion oddi wrth Brian Clarke ein Cadeirydd newydd

Teimlaf yn hynod freintiedig i gael fy ethol yn gadeirydd newydd i Ffrindiau'r "Nash". Fel cyn aelod o Gerddorfa Genedlaethol Ieuenctid Cymru (CGIC) mae'n bleser gen i ymgymryd â'r swydd a cheisïaf fy ngorau i gynnal momentwm y pwyllgor i gefnogi Cerddorfa Genedlaethol Ieuenctid Cymru.

Hoffwn gydnabod yn ddidwyll gyfraniad enfawr y cyn gadeirydd Dr. Gareth Tudor a'n hysgrifenyddes cofnodion Mrs Noreen Harris, sy'n ymddeol o'i swydd.

Mae'r "Nash", fel pob cymdeithas ieuenctid, gelfyddydol yng Nghymru, yn mynd trwy gyfnod heriol o newid a phwysau ariannol, sy'n gwneud swyddogaeth y Ffrindiau yn un argyfyngus. Mae perthynas hir y gerddorfa gyda Chyd-Bwyllgor Addysg Cymru (CBAC) nawr wedi gorffen ac mae cyfrifoldeb y gymdeithas wedi'i throsglwyddo i gwmni cyfyngedig ac elusen gofrestredig; - Celfyddydau Cenedlaethol Ieuenctid Cymru (CCIC) ar Hydref 1af 2017. Mae'r gymdeithas newydd yn gyfrifol, nid yn unig am y "Nash", ond hefyd y band pres, dawn, theatr a cherddorfa chwyth. Mae'r pwyllgor yn edrych ymlaen i gydweithio'n adeiladol gyda swyddogion CCIC.

Wrth sefydlu'i flaenoriaethau ar gyfer y dyfodol, mae'r pwyllgor yn cadw at ei ymrwymiad i hyrwyddo a chefnogi'r "Nash". Allwedd ei lwyddiant fydd i ddylanwadu'n gadarnhaol ar ddatblygiad strategol a newydd y gerddorfa. Edrychwn at ein haelodau i barhau i gyfrannu at y weledigaeth honno.

## “Magical Music” with Wynne Evans

On Sunday 17th September last year at The Brangwyn Hall in Swansea, I was very pleased to organise and conduct Magical Music, a concert given in support of The Friends of the NYOW. The programme, with music from The West End, Hollywood and Broadway was performed by a 70-piece orchestra, many of whom are former members of the NYOW and *The Mike Plowman Singers* who added a very special ingredient to the evening. All the instrumentalists and singers gave freely of their time and their support is very much appreciated. Singer and BBC Wales broadcaster Wynne Evans (aka Gio Compario from the Go Compare commercials) presented the concert and sang several songs with the orchestra and chorus. Many of us were in the firing line when it came to his jokes but that’s all part of the fun. We all hope that the concert raised the awareness of the great work done by *The Friends* to support the talented young musicians of Wales. Plans to hold a similar concert in Porthcawl in September 2018 are in the pipeline. Please look out for further details. We hope very much to see you there.

**David Hughes**



## Friends’ Fundraising Evening at the Brangwyn Hall



# Friends of NYOW Manager's Report Summer 2017

The summer of 2017 saw the youngest and least experienced orchestra during my 10 years as manager gather together at Lampeter. A number of senior members of the Orchestra had 'retired' the previous summer, whilst others had chosen to take other opportunities open to them. An enforced delay to recruitment and an increase in the residency fee also had had an impact, and as we welcomed the Orchestra on that first day, we all wondered how the class of 2017 would cope with another gargantuan programme. We needn't have worried – but more on that later.

Carlo Rizzi was once again lined up to conduct the Orchestra and between us we had agreed on a programme of music that was once again going to be a great challenge for the Orchestra. Strauss' *Till Eulenspiegel* and *Rosenkavalier Suite* along with Britten's *Four Sea Interludes* and Debussy's *La Mer* meant that the members of the Orchestra once again had a lot to learn in a relatively short space of time. Thankfully, as ever, we had our fantastic team of tutors to guide them through those initial days of note bashing, before Maestro Rizzi came along to work his magic and bring the pieces up to his meticulous standards.

As ever, the summer residency is not only about hard work. The social side is always a big part of any residency and helps bring the Orchestra together on stage as well as off. A varied programme of activities was provided by our dedicated team of Welfare Staff and included some ice-breaker games on those first nights, a sports day, table tennis and pool tournaments, the annual quiz and of course a Twmpath!

The priority however is always the music and the 100-strong orchestra worked extremely hard and produced 4 outstanding performances in Lampeter (our dress rehearsal concert), Prichard Jones Hall, Bangor, St David's Cathedral and St David's Hall. This young orchestra tackled a difficult programme with professionalism and

great ability – they did Wales proud. Needless to say, Carlo was once again extremely proud of the Orchestra and addressed the audience at each of the concert venues to express as much. All concerts were well attended including a sell-out audience at St David's Cathedral where our concert once again brought the Fishguard Festival to a close.

Once again, the support of the Friends of NYOW is very much appreciated. The contribution of a subsidy for each member of the Orchestra meant that the increase in fees was not felt so keenly. As ever, the contribution towards the music hire is a vital part of helping towards the operational costs of the Orchestra.

The Irwyn Walters Friends prize for 2017 was awarded to the Orchestra's principal Double Bass player – Elen Roberts. A very promising player and an excellent principal who this year worked alongside a young and inexperienced section.

I want to give my personal thanks to the outgoing Chair of the Friends, Gareth, who has been excellent, and to all the committee members whose support and commitment to the Orchestra is very much appreciated. I look forward to working with Brian and the committee as we look towards *Nash 2018!*

**Matthew Jones**

# Elen Roberts – Bas Dwbl – yn derbyn Gwobr Irwyn Walters 2017 oddiwrth Matthew Jones



megis perfformio darnau heriol dan arweinwyr rhyngwladol fel Semyon Bychkov Edward Gardner a Sir Mark Elder. Yn ddiweddar rwyf wedi bod yn chwarae fel 'freelance' i Gerddorfa Gymreig y BBC.

Mae bod yn aelod o gerddorfa cenedlaethol yn anrhydedd i bawb. Mae'n gymuned glos iawn o gerddorion ac mae'n braf cael cwrdd a phobl ifanc o Gymru gyfan sydd a'r un diddordebau i mi. Trwy'r gerddorfa rwyf wedi gwneud llawer o ffrinidau bydd gyda fi am byth. Rydym yn ffodus o gael tiwtoriaid gwych sy'n herio ac yn annog yr aelodau i gyrraedd eu potensial yn unigol ac fel cerddorfa. Rwyf hefyd wedi mwynhau'r profiad o weithio o dan arweiniad Carlo Rizzi.

## Neges wrth Elen

Yn ystod y cwrs cefais yr anrhydedd o ennill gwobr Irwyn Walters, sy'n cael ei rhoi i'r chwaraewr mwyaf addawol yn yr adran llinynnau. Irwyn Walters oedd yn gyfrifol am sefydlu'r gerddorfa yn 1945.

Rwyf wedi bod yn aelod o Gerddordfa Ieuentid Cymru am ddwy flynedd a fi yw blaenwraig yr adran fas. Cyn i mi ymaelodi gyda'r gerddorfa roeddwn yn aelod o Gerddorfa Ieuentid Prydain am bedair blynedd.

Ar hyn o bryd rwyf yn fy nhrydedd flwyddyn yn astudio yn yr Academi Brenhinol yn Llundain o dan Graham Mitchell, Tom Goodman a Dominic Seldis. Yn y coleg rwyf yn cael profiadau anhygoel

## **Jeff Lloyd's letter to the Western Mail**

***Jeff, former leader of NYOW, continues to lend his support to the Friends and promote the cause of the orchestra in every way he can. He has given permission to reproduce this letter which was published by the Western Mail shortly after last summer's concert tour***

Dear Sir, I was delighted to read the article concerning the Catalonia String Orchestra and the accompanying balletic photo. However, I would have preferred to see a similar article and photo of our very own National Youth Orchestra of Wales who are at present giving concerts throughout Wales. The standard of performance from these talented young musicians is fantastically high, performing works normally associated only with top professional orchestras.

I find it quite sad that any mention of this youth orchestra hardly ever appears in Wales's NATIONAL newspaper! In my own time with the NYOW (in the deep mists of time!) we could always rely on the late Kenneth Loveland in the South Wales Argos to write a critique of most of the concerts: these were invariably complemented by a few suitable photos of the orchestra. We also frequently appeared on BBC Wales television, but that also has stopped.

The laudable activities of these youngsters should, surely, be enthusiastically celebrated: and what better than in The Western Mail?

Jeff Lloyd

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You are very welcome to contact the Friends of the National Youth Orchestra of Wales. We would particularly welcome any articles for the next Newsletter.

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To link to the National Youth Arts Wales follow:

<http://www.nyaw.org.uk/>