



Concert Promoters' Committee **NEWSLETTER** September 2004

IN THIS EDITION

- Mike Alexander, currently Chairman of the Concert Promoters' Committee, explains who is on the Concert Promoters' Committee and what it does.
- Orla Martin, the Making Music Promoters' Development Officer, brings you up to date with the Development of Voluntary Promoters Project.
- Richard Phillips, a member of the Concert Promoters' Committee and Organiser of Warwick Arts Society, offers you a free and easy way into Early Music.
- Kate Fearnley, a co-opted member of the Concert Promoters' Committee and administrator of the Philip and Dorothy Green Award for Young Concert Artists, introduces you to the latest artists under the Scheme.

Concert Promoters' Network Brochure - Mike Alexander

I hope that you are as delighted as we are with the new look 2005-2006 Network brochure, an extra copy of which is enclosed. There have been many favourable comments on the new format. Most of you will be planning your season over the next few months. If you require further copies to help you in this, do not hesitate to contact Orla Martin (her address is near the bottom of page 3 in this newsletter). You will also find full details of all the artists on the Making Music website: www.makingmusic.org.uk/cpn.

The Committee has begun its planning for the 2006-2007 edition of the brochure and we would like you to let us know how copies you wish to receive. Please take a moment to complete the slip enclosed with this newsletter and return it with a copy of your coming season's brochure in the envelope provided.

Concert Promoters' Committee - Mike Alexander

Who we are

As we received the exact number of nominations for posts vacant, there will be no Committee elections this year. From the AGM, the members are:-

Berkeley Ranby (*Chairman*)
Shirley Mitchell (*Secretary*)
Sue Hudson
(*Treasurer*)
Mike Alexander
(*Network Co-ordinator*)
Rosemary Allen
Richard Phillips
Lewis Orchard
Tomas Sherwood
Kate Fearnley (*Co-opted*)
Frances Shepherd
(*Co-opted*).
Orla Martin (*Promoters' Development Officer*).

What we do

The Concert Promoters' Committee exists to identify the support, services and resources required by concert promoters, and arrange to provide such services as are cost effective and justifiable. Within this brief, the Committee has identified six aims for 2004-2006:-

1. Develop and improve the Concert Promoters' Network scheme
2. Work with the Promoters Development Officer in the implementation of the voluntary promoters' programme and consider how to take this on as a committee in future years
3. Improve the information available to concert promoters
4. Work with concert promoters in the provision of more educational work, particularly with young people.
5. Improve concert promoters' knowledge and awareness, and encourage the performance, of non-classical and non-Western music and complementary art forms.
6. Improve the Committee's understanding of concert promoters' requirements.

For a copy of our full development plan, please contact: -
Mike Alexander, 7 Church Lane, Ticknall, Derby DE73 1JU
Tel: 01332 862549 E-mail: cpn@makingmusic.org.uk.

Development of Voluntary Promoters Programme

It is hard to believe that I have been in post for a year and that we are half way through the Development of Voluntary Promoters Project. So much has happened during this time; events, activities and projects have been developed and relationships established with organisations that can help to make a voluntary promoter's life a little easier. In the last Concert Promoters' Committee newsletter I explained that the project is basically broken into five main activities: Education Tours, Young Professional Seminars, Promoting Societies Development Project, Tours Planning Conference and Showcase Events. Below are some of the highlights of the past year.

Showcase Concerts

There will be two Showcase Events during this project. The first of these is planned for Saturday 18th September 2004 in the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester from 10.00am - 4.30pm.

'Imagining Audiences' is aimed at anyone who is responsible for organising and promoting concerts, engaging professional musicians and seeking new audiences. There will be a number of guest speakers throughout the day: Howard Raynor, Chief Executive of the Bridgewater Hall will talk about programming and Ivan Wadson, Chief Executive of Arts about Manchester will focus on Audience Development initiatives. There will be an education workshop demonstration by The Thalia Ensemble. The Blake Wilner Jazz Quartet and London Jing Kun Opera who both feature in the 2005-2006 Concert Promoters Network Brochure will also perform. The Concert Promoters' Committee AGM will take place at a suitable interval in the proceedings.

Tours Planning Conferences

There are already two well established Tours Planning Conferences in England: the North East & Yorkshire and the North West, and it is hoped through the Development of Voluntary Promoters Project that many other regions will follow their lead. The first of the Tours Planning Conferences organised through this programme was held in Peterborough for promoting societies in the Eastern and East Midlands regions. The day was a success with more than 10 societies represented. It is hoped that the Eastern committee is going to organise another Tours Planning Conference in the near future.

Two more events are planned in the next couple of months. The first of these will be in the **Painters' Hall in London on Saturday 25th September 2004** from **10.30am - 1.00pm**. This is the morning of the National AGM and it is hoped that many of the promoters from London and the surrounding regions who are attending the Tours Planning Conference in the morning will stay on for the AGM in the afternoon.

A similar arrangement will also take place the following week on **Saturday 2nd October 2004** in the **Royal School of Church Music in Dorking** from **11.00am - 1.30pm**. A Tours Planning Conference is planned just before the South/South East AGM for all promoting societies in the South/South East region. Please contact me directly if you would like any further information on these two events.

There are also the two regular planning conferences listed on the back page of the 2005-2006 brochure.

The **North East and Yorkshire conference** will be held on **Saturday 23rd October** at their regular venue near **Scotch Corner**. For further details contact Dave Robson (E-mail him at d.robson@makingmusic.org.uk or telephone on 01325 469019).

The **North West conference** will be held on the morning of **Saturday 6th November 2004** at **Novatel, Preston**. For further details of this event, contact Norman Cutter (E-mail n.cutter@makingmusic.org.uk or telephone on 01925 265146).

Reply slip

Please don't forget to complete the reply slip enclosed and return it in the envelope provided. We want the brochure to get to the most appropriate person in your society. Please also enclose a copy of your forthcoming or current season of concerts. An analysis of the type and range of artists playing at Making Music societies' concerts will help the Committee's planning.

- Orla Martin

Education Tours

In January 2004 the Thalia Ensemble visited Grimsby Concert Society and New Waltham Primary School to carry out the first education workshop. The day was a great success with over 50 children between 7-11 years attending. The music club was delighted to be involved and was pleased that it was hopefully inspiring children to become involved with classical music in the future.

The remainder of the education workshops will take place during the 2004-2005 season. Due to the short lead-in time for arranging the workshops it was decided that the artists from the 2004-2005 Concert Promoters' Network would be used and the workshops linked to their existing bookings. The artists involved are: London Concertante, Oboeworks, Sarah Field, The Galliard Ensemble, The Thalia Ensemble and Zum, and they will be visiting Banstead Arts Festival Society, Horsham Music Circle, Matlock Music Society, Oxshott & Cobham Music Society, Steyning Music Circle and many others.

Young Professional Seminars

As one of the most ambitious elements of the programme, the Young Professional Seminars got off to a great start. The first seminar was held in November 2003 in the Royal College of Music and was attended by students from the Royal College of Music, The Royal Academy of Music and Trinity College of Music. The day contained lots of information that will help the students when starting their career. We provided general information on the voluntary arts sector and how music clubs operate. There was a session covering essential marketing techniques and what music clubs would expect from young artists when they engage them. The afternoon session concentrated on stage presence and negotiation skills.

The next **Young Professional Seminar** will take place in the **Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester** on the **26th October 2004** and it is hoped there will be two more, one in London and another in either Birmingham or the South West before the end of the programme.

Promoting Societies Development Project

Funded by the Performing Right Society Foundation (PRSF) this element of the project is providing music clubs from almost every region in England with a one-year development project that will involve promoting contemporary music. The societies chosen vary in the amount of contemporary music that they currently promote. Below is a full list of the societies involved:

- Barnes Music Club - London
- Birmingham Chamber Music Society - West Midlands
- Douglas Music Society - North West
- Hexham & District Music Society - North East
- Hinckley Music Club - East Midlands
- Maidenhead Music Society - South
- Plymouth Jazz Society - South West
- Ramsey Arts Festival - East
- Seaton & District Music Club - South West
- Sidmouth Concert Society - South West
- Woking Concert Society - South East

The projects vary greatly between each society. For example, Seaton & District Music Society and Sidmouth Concert Society are jointly promoting a jazz concert while Woking is going to work with local women's groups and involve them in an evening of music celebrating women composers. All of the projects are very exciting and at the end of the programme we will produce a book of case studies so everyone can learn from their experiences.

Conclusion

So as you see it has been a busy year and there is still much more to come. I wish you all good luck with your forthcoming season and if you would like more information on any of the events or the Development of Voluntary Promoters Programme please do not hesitate to contact me: - *Orla Martin, Promoters Development Officer, Making Music, 7-15 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4SP*
Tel: 0870 909 2610 (direct line) E-mail: orla@makingmusic.org.uk

Important brochure update - London Concertante

Chris Grist, the contact for London Concertante (page 20 in the 2005-2006 brochure), has moved to 8 Winsham Grove, London SW11 6ND and his new telephone number is 0207 738 2586. The e-mail address remains the same.

A Way In To Early Music - Richard Phillips

The historic town of Warwick has for some years been one of the leading centres for early music in Britain. Over the weekend of 24-26 September 2004, the town will host the fifth Early Music Network Showcase. Based on an event developed in Utrecht, previous Showcases have taken place in York, Birmingham, Wingfield in Suffolk to demonstrate what a lively rural promoter can achieve and Trinity College of Music based at the Royal Naval College in Greenwich.

Delegates will come not just from all over Britain but also the continent and further afield. They include early music promoters, festival directors, radio producers, agents and enthusiasts. The concerts will feature over a dozen of this country's leading groups including Sonnerie, I Fagiolini, The Dufay Collective, Ricordo, The Bach Players and Savadi, the winners of the 2003 Early Music Competition in York, each taking the platform for half an hour to demonstrate their skills.

This is a great opportunity for Making Music programmers to see what is on offer, to meet the musicians or their managers and to broaden the range of artists they invite in future seasons. There are many Making Music societies who do not include early music in their programmes, so here is an opportunity to see how new audiences might be tapped by moving into this field. A free pass is available for concert promoters.

For full details and a leaflet, contact Warwick Arts Society on 01926 410747/496277 or visit www.warwickarts.org.uk.

Young Concert Artists' Scheme - Kate Fearnley

Samantha Ward, Nadia Wijzenbeek, Juliette Bausor, Jennifer Johnston and the O Duo. Here are the 2004 winners of the Philip & Dorothy Green Award for Young Concert Artists and their names will become very familiar to concert promoters over the next 14 months or so.

Already more than half of their subsidised engagements have been snapped up - and I have been delighted to find that several societies, which until now have not taken advantage of the scheme, have realised what a bargain it is; and more Orchestras are realising that here we have brilliant and very attractive concerto soloists. As usual, they are covering the country - Sam will be playing in Dumfries and Bideford, Nadia in Rutland and at St. John's, Smith Square, Juliette in Truro, Dorset and Devon. So far Jennifer's engagements are mostly in the south east but the O Duo are much in demand and will be travelling to Worcester and Boston (Lincs, not Mass.).

The Recommended Artists are getting bookings as well, and I hope to find work for Alex Redington, the winner of the Raymond Fox Bursary.

Last year's winners are now in the thick of their engagements and have been tremendously popular. They are thinking ahead and some of them will certainly be applying for inclusion in the next Concert Promoters' Network brochure. In recent years the network has included several previous Award and Bursary winners: Jamie Walton, Ashley Wass, Benjamin Frith, Viv McLean, Sarah Field, Owen Dennis and Richard May.

As always, the new Wigmore Hall programme is sprinkled with the familiar names of former Making Music Young Artists, from Ian Bostridge and Christopher Maltman to The Schubert Ensemble, which includes Simon Blendis, and Chamber Domaine with Stephen de Pledge. Every Festival brochure, which comes through our door, shows us what good careers our Young Artists are making.

We look forward to the next set of auditions in the New Year; if your society engages exceptional young artists do please encourage them to contact me: -

Kate Fearnley, Awards for Young Concert Artists Administrator, Making Music, 7-15 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4SP Tel: 0870 909 2618 E-mail: kate@makingmusic.org.uk or visit the Making Music website: www.makingmusic.org.uk

Large Print edition of this newsletter

If you would like a large print version of this newsletter, please contact

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Tel: 01332 862549 E-mail: cpn@makingmusic.org.uk