

EDUCATION MANAGERS MEETING



WEDNESDAY 6 JUNE 2007, 10.30am – 4.00pm
BECHSTEIN ROOM, WIGMORE HALL, LONDON

Chaired by **Keith Stubbs**, *Education and Projects Manager, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra* and **Simon Woods**, *Chief Executive, Royal Scottish National Orchestra; ABO board member*

R E P O R T

Simon Woods, *Chief Executive, Royal Scottish National Orchestra* welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the joint chair initiative that the ABO board had decided to trial. Simon spoke of his background working in the United States, and the culture of sharing education ideas there.

Keith Stubbs, *Education and Projects Manager, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra* welcomed everyone to give brief introductions of themselves and their organisations.

Annual Conference 2008

Thorben Dittes, *Projects Manager, ABO* highlighted the annual ABO conference that would take place in Brighton from 17 – 19 January 2008. One of the main themes of the conference would be community engagement and Thorben welcomed everyone to contribute ideas for speakers and topics.

Current Projects

Keith then invited each organisation to speak in more detail about their current projects.

Ben Sandbrook, *Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music*, spoke about the Sound Junction interactive learning website. The ABRSM were interested in putting orchestras' work on their website in the future. Margaret Anderson, *Birmingham Contemporary Music Group*, spoke about a two year programme of collaboration between Birmingham University and the BCMG.

Peter Hayward, *BBC Concert Orchestra*, spoke of the issue of local versus national and the duplication of effort in certain geographical areas for the BBC orchestras.

Keith Stubbs, *City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra* informed the group of a DCMS project in Telford, on the outskirts of Birmingham. Other cultural partners included Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Dance Exchange and three MLA partners (Ironbridge Museum/library and Telford Archive). The aim was to integrate these cultural partners and Keith highly recommended working with diverse groups on a project of this type. Keith also highlighted that from September 2007 he would become the chair of the National Association of Music Educators (NAME). Prior chairs had been from the university sector, educational institutions and local authorities.

Julia Roderick, *City of London Sinfonia*, spoke about their current project with Wandsworth Prison.

Craig Thome, *London Symphony Orchestra*, spoke of the challenge of having limited staff and wanting to reduce their workload. They were currently moving eastward in London with their projects.

Jackie Allen, *Milton Keynes City Orchestra*, explained that her role had recently started to develop the

community and outreach work of the orchestra. They were currently working with family centres, independent schools, Youth Music, local schools and colleges, and adults with learning difficulties.

Opera North spoke of the recent move in to a new theatre which was now their permanent base. They were currently focussing on Leeds and the local area, especially with an Early Years project. For a year they were also undertaking a 'residency' in a local secondary school whereby eight players were spending nine days working with the schoolchildren. A web-based project was currently underway as well.

Alexandra Loewe, *Orchestra of St John's*, explained the difficulties of only having two full time staff and one intern. They were currently undertaking a concert series in Oxfordshire, outdoor summer concerts and some concerts for people with dementia.

Orchestras Live spoke of the recent changes to the structure of their organisation and the charitable status they now have. They were currently finalising agreements with the local authorities in the East of England.

Isobel Timms, *Philharmonia Orchestra*, spoke of their involvement with a school in Bedford at the Key Stage 1 level, of Music and Maths. In addition the Philharmonia had been involved with six primary schools in Lambeth, who had composed a piece to be played as a fanfare at the first concert at the Festival Hall on the 12th June (at 6pm).

Sue Withers, *Royal Opera House*, was in a very different situation to other orchestra, as her education department consisted of sixteen people, amongst a total staff of 900 at the Opera House. The Opera House had been working with the Southbank Sinfonia. Also they had worked with five performing arts colleges in Cornwall, who had each written an opera to be performed in the Linbury Theatre in July 2007. There were also plans to use the main stage for education work in March of 2009.

The *Royal Scottish National Orchestra* had been continuing their Schools Proms in Glasgow and Edinburgh, involving 103 schools (sponsored by Scottish Power). This involved teacher training sessions and player visits to schools. Plans were also underway to provide secondary school concerts in the autumn, with a pre-concert talk.

Marianne Quintrell, *sinfonia ViVA*, spoke of their partnership with Derbyshire City Council where they had two concerts as a residency.

Ursula Crickmay, *Wigmore Hall*, spoke of the community performance they were planning for June, to be performed in King's Wood in Kent, with the King's Wood Symphony.

ZONE : national music education magazine and web portal

Ian Clethero, *Publisher, Zone New Media Limited* presented to the meeting. Zone had been running for four years and provided a free termly magazine for music educators. 8000 copies were distributed to English secondary schools, local authority music services, all schools in the North East and individuals subscribers. There was also a web portal where organisations could edit their own information. From autumn 2007 both audio and video capabilities would be available on the website too.

Questions from the group were welcomed. The magazine and website were funded by advertising and online subscriptions; the magazine was sent out to schools free of charge. An account online was charged at £350 per year. Discussion followed regarding competition from Music Teacher and Link magazine and the overlap of continuing professional development with Music Leader.

<http://www.zonemag.net>

Early Years Cluster Programme

Fiona Harvey, *Early Years Pilot Programme Manager, Association of British Orchestras* provided feedback on the Early Years Cluster Programme, the Continuing Professional Development programme for educators at Early Years centres, funded by Youth Music.

The pilot was carried out by the London Symphony Orchestra and evaluated by Dr Susan Young of Exeter University. Youth Music had now agreed to a national rollout. Between September 2007 and February 2008 the following locations would be included in the programme: Bournemouth, 20,000 voices, Northumberland, Leicester, Leicestershire and Birmingham.

BBC Play It Again

Peter Hayward, *Learning Manager, BBC Concert Orchestra* provided feedback on the Play It Again project that had been organised by the BBC Learning team and involved all BBC orchestras in day workshops across the UK as well as a BBC series televised on Sunday evenings.

Each day's workshop had been facilitated by Tim Steiner, an animateur, and was themed around a particular piece. After an initial play through by the orchestra the participants were split in to groups for orchestral players, percussion, choral and guitar; after small workshop sections the piece was then performed with all participants and the orchestra.

The Play it Again website had seen 470,000 visits, and in addition to the events there were online resources available regarding the industry and further study. Over 6000 people had registered to take part in over 25 day events (including groups from schools and MENCAP). Feedback from participants had been extremely positive and people had been inspired to continue with their music making and/or attend concerts.

Family Centre – Community partners

Jackie Allen, *Education and Outreach Officer, Milton Keynes City Orchestra* had been employed on a one year fixed term contract for 2007 (funded by the Arts Council). Jackie was working with a family centre for the under 5s and also afterschool clubs. An orchestra member was teamed with a Music Mite animateur to work with children after school, and there was also the opportunity to involve the parents/carers.

Royal Scottish National Orchestra – Naked Classics

Simon Woods spoke about the Naked Classics series of concerts that the RSNO had performed earlier in the year. The animateur Paul Rissmann had taken his work with children to an adult audience and presented four concerts of popular classical music in Glasgow. The project was based on a 'discovery' theme and aimed at non-concert goers. Advertisements for the concerts were run in the 'Evening Times' tabloid. Attendance at the concerts had ranged from 700 to 1000 and had received very positive feedback.

Wigmore Hall – Music for Life (M4L)

Ursula Crickmay showed a presentation of pictures to illustrate the work that they had done for people with dementia. Several musicians had worked with individuals in day care centres/hospitals/residential care to establish communication. Wigmore Hall had entered in to a partnership with Westminster Council for a three year M4L programme. From January 2008 all of the programme would be managed by Wigmore Hall. Isobel Timms, *Philharmonia Orchestra*, had also organised two projects in Bedford with support from M4L. Musicians involved with the project had been fully stretched and were fundamental for M4L's success.

Date of next meeting : Wednesday 10 October 2007