

School PROMS '06

MUSIC FOR YOUTH SCHOOLS PROM 2006 SCALING THE HEIGHTS - THE YOUNG MUSICIANS WHO ARE TOP OF THE CLASS PERFORM AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL, LONDON SW7 13-15 NOVEMBER 2006 AT 7.00 PM

Music for Youth invited 3,000 young musicians, singers and dancers to perform at the Schools Prom on Monday 13, Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 November in the Royal Albert Hall, London. Acclaimed lyricist Richard Stilgoe, composer Howard Goodall and Classic FM presenter Lisa Duncombe introduced these joyous and jubilant concerts. The thirty groups of young instrumentalists and singers from across the country were invited to perform at the Royal Albert Hall concerts following their performances earlier this year at the National Festival of Music for Youth.

Symphony and string orchestras perform alongside classical Indian musicians, rock, folk, jazz and funk bands, steel bands and string trios; Japanese drummers and renaissance brass consorts are joined by wind bands, brass bands, steel bands, music theatre groups, choirs and acappella singers. Each evening eleven different groups aged from seven to twenty-one years old took to the stage, for the highlight of the youth music year. These groups were chosen from those who performed to great acclaim at the National Festival of Music for Youth in Birmingham in July 2006 where Brent Holder judged the Steel band category.



On the first night of the Schools Prom, Haringey Young Musicians' Steel Orchestra opened the second half of the concert with its exciting and vibrant performance of two pieces arranged especially for the orchestra by its musical director, Chris Storey. This is not the first time the orchestra of twenty 9-19 year olds has been invited to play at the Schools Proms, but it is in fact returning to the Royal Albert Hall after a rapturously received performance at the Music for Youth Primary Prom in October. On the same evening, Portobello Snorkel, a mixed instrumental and choir group of twenty one 7-12 year olds from Notting Hill Prep School, London W11, brought their innovative and original composition to the Royal Albert Hall. These youngsters painted a sound portrait of the colourful Portobello Market with some of their own compositions, music by their director and teacher, Ben Harlan, Miles Davis and Fiocco. The snorkels came in as they compared being in the market with swimming in a beautiful lagoon - and the bubble

blowers, workmen and women; traders, rapping buskers and the irate policeman were great.

In addition to the thirty groups that performed at the National Festival of Music for Youth, massed choirs from three music centres have also been invited to perform over the three evenings. Richmond (Surrey), Bristol and Northamptonshire presented massed choirs of primary school children - over 500 each night ranged in the choir stalls - accompanied by young musicians and dancers, giving over 1500 young children the breathtaking opportunity to perform in the Royal Albert Hall.



As well as hearing the cream of the crop of young musicians who guarantee the future of marvellous music-making in Great Britain, audiences were encouraged to join in the fun, singing as Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No.1 was played each evening, marvelling at the balloons, fireworks flags and tickertape of the finale. The range of composers performed included the classical - Copland, Dukas, Gabrieli, Gershwin, Holst, Khatachurian, Mussorgsky, Sibelius, Walton; the pop and jazz - Lennon/McCartney, Harrison, Shifrin, Quincy Jones, Herbie Hancock - modern choral from Bob Chilcott, Lin Marsh and Mike Brewer, as well as original works from eight groups - written either by a member of the group, the group as a whole, or their musical directors. Music is alive and well in the schools and educational centres of the country and the Schools Prom underscores and celebrates this.

Music for Youth is an educational charity with a world-wide reputation for its work in music education, which provides free access to performance opportunities for all kinds of young musicians through its annual programme of festivals and concerts. Music for Youth believes that performing in front of live audiences is a vital element in spurring on young people to greater achievement.

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