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winter 2011



**The National
Centre for
Early Music**

WINNERS OF THE 2011 NCEM INSTRUMENTAL COMPOSERS AWARD

The first NCEM Instrumental Composers Award, presented in partnership with BBC Radio 3 and the internationally acclaimed viol consort Fretwork, has been won by Bertie Baigent (16) and Sarah Gait (17) in the under 18 years category and by Chris Roberts (22) in the 19 to 25 years category.

The winners of this prestigious new Instrumental Composers Award were announced at a special finalists' public concert on Tuesday 25 October at All Saints' Church, North Street, York, where all seven shortlisted works were performed by Fretwork.

The winning pieces - 'In Memoriam In Nomine' by Bertie Baigent, 'Death-Fires' by Sarah Gait and 'my o'erflowing teares' by Chris Roberts will be premièred in a concert to be given by Fretwork on Wednesday 21 December 2011 at Kings Place, London. This concert will be recorded by BBC Radio 3 and broadcast on The Early Music Show at 1.00pm on Sunday 15 January 2012.

Bertie Baigent from Oxford commented after the event: "I'm thrilled to have won and was really pleased with the performance which sounded so different from what I had envisaged, but better. I'm very excited about Fretwork performing my work in London and the broadcast."

Sarah Gait from Wigton, who had also been a finalist in the 2010 NCEM Composers Award, added: "I was both shocked and thrilled to have won and very happy that all the work I've put into this piece has had such a great result. It has been really inspiring to work with Fretwork and share the experience throughout the day with the other finalists."

Chris Roberts from Teesside, said: "This was a great opportunity for me. I am currently doing a PhD in musicology at Leeds University where I'm an active member of the early music department and play the viol myself which I think has helped enormously in

understanding the viol consort. I really enjoyed writing for Fretwork's particular collection of instruments. The workshop process was very helpful, it was a bit nerve-racking hearing my piece performed but as the day went on the piece just got better."

Prior to the concert the finalists took part in a day-long workshop led by the composer Christopher Fox and Fretwork. The competition was judged by Chris Wines, Senior Music Producer, BBC Radio 3, Richard Boothby of Fretwork and Delma Tomlin, Director of the National Centre for Early Music.

Delma Tomlin said: "We were extremely pleased by the response we've had to the Award and were delighted by the overall high standard and level of invention these young composers have applied to these new compositions."

Chris Wines added: "BBC Radio 3's involvement demonstrates how important our commitment is to the artists of tomorrow. The gauntlet thrown at the feet of young composers this year represents the most challenging test to date, and yet the wide-ranging and imaginative response to the challenge has shown remarkable resourcefulness and creativity on the part of the young musicians."

The finalists received a recording of their compositions made on 25 October by music technology students from the Department of Electronics at the University of York.

The 2012 NCEM Composers Award featuring The Tallis Scholars will be launched on 15 January on BBC Radio 3's Early Music Show. Outline details of the Award will be available on the NCEM's website at www.ncem.co.uk/composersaward2012 in the New Year.





ANTHEM FOR A CHILD



The NCEM and the University of York are working in partnership with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment (OAE) in an exciting project for young people in York, as part of a national programme of concerts and events.

Anthem for a Child is the OAE's new education project. Working across the country in nine locations, the OAE will bring a series of workshops, teacher training and concerts to over 5000 children and students of all ages. The project aims not only to engage young people in musical activity, but to leave behind a lasting legacy of enthusiasm and excitement for music and music making, to 'pass on the baton' in sound.



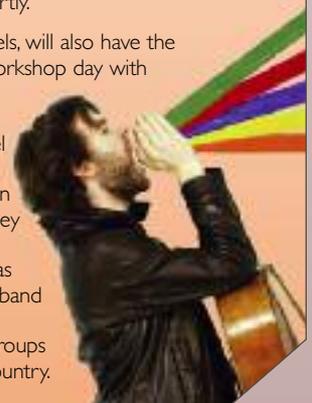
A common factor in the nationwide tour will be the performance of two newly commissioned pieces by James Redwood. Each concert will begin with a Fanfare and end with 'Anthem for a Child', a song which celebrates the power of each individual singer and their combined power as a choir. Every child will take part, either singing

or playing in these pieces, which are written to accommodate a range of different instruments to perform alongside the Orchestra.

The Anthem project is specially tailored to each area. In York, the OAE will work with the NCEM and the University of York, to provide workshops and coaching days for primary school children, the Minster Minstrels and University of York students.

The primary schools taking part are Bootham Junior, Dringhouses, Dunnington and Heworth. Events begin this autumn with a training session for those working alongside the OAE team. On Tuesday 27 March, the work will culminate in a concert (for the participating schools only) in the Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall at the University of York at 1.30pm. Later that day the University of York Baroque Ensemble and Chamber Choir will join the OAE in a celebratory public concert at the NCEM to mark the end of the Orchestra's tour. Details about this concert will be posted on the NCEM website shortly.

The Minster Minstrels, will also have the opportunity of a workshop day with OAE players on Saturday 12 May. They will then travel to London on 29 June to participate in a concert, where they will perform by themselves as well as joining in a massed band with the OAE and secondary school groups from all over the country.



VOCAL ENSEMBLE WINS THE INTERNATIONAL YOUNG ARTISTS COMPETITION

Profeti Della Quinta, vocal ensemble from Israel and Switzerland, won the prestigious biennial York Early Music International Young Artists Competition which took place as part of the 2011 York Early Music Festival this summer.

The group triumphed over strong competition from a superb field of 10 ensembles featuring young musicians from 13 different countries: Le Petit Concert Baroque (France); Quadro Melante (Croatia, Malaysia, Australia and Iran); Sebastian Chamber Players (USA); Borromini String Quartet (UK); Den Haag Piano Quintet (Japan, The Netherlands); Habsburger Camerata (UK, USA, Canada); Encantar (Belgium); Les Ombres (France) and L'Istante (Switzerland).



Encantar - Winners of the The Friends of the York Early Music Festival prize

Profeti Della Quinta's Doron Schleifer, David Feldman *countertenors*; Dino Lúthy, Dan Dunkelblum *tenors* and Elam Rotem *bass* impressed the international panel of judges with a programme entitled 'Hashirim Asher Lish' Lomo: Songs of love and praise' featuring Hebrew settings of psalms and prayers by Rossi and madrigals by De Rore.

The group received £1,000 alongside a series of opportunities to work with the National Centre for Early Music and a prestigious recording contract with the award-winning Linn Records.

The Competition was presented by Elizabeth Wallfisch, the internationally renowned Australian Baroque violinist. Philip Hobbs, Linn Records Chief Classical Producer and Chairman of the Judges, said: "We have been privileged to enjoy a truly astonishing day of music-making from

these young artists and were thrilled with the diversity and invention of their programmes which offered the audience an extraordinary sweep of music from the 13th through to the 19th century. Choosing a winner was inordinately hard from this superb field but in the end we came to a unanimous decision. Profeti Della Quinta's stunning authentic performance practice and quality of execution was truly magnificent."

The Friends of the York Early Music Festival awarded their own annual prize, which this year went to the all-female renaissance vocal ensemble Encantar from Belgium.

The next York Early Music International Young Artists Competition will take place in 2013 as part of the York Early Music Festival. Outline information will be available soon on the NCEM website at www.ncem.co.uk/competitions

ROCK AND WORLD MUSIC PROJECTS IN THE HUMBER REGION



Headlands School at Musicport 2011



The Dead Hormones at The Power Tour 2011

This autumn Music4U – the Humber Region Youth Music Action Zone – co-ordinated by the NCEM – ran two high profile music events in the region – Musicport and The Power Tour.

Working in partnership with the four local authorities in the East Riding of Yorkshire, Hull, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire young people had the fantastic opportunity to take part in these projects.

In Bridlington, Music4U collaborated with the world music festival Musicport and Headlands School and Community Science College for the 4th year. Music students worked with Cuban musicians from the group Asere.

The school was also privileged to have a visit from Goldie's Band 12live – 12 multi-talented young musicians from diverse and difficult backgrounds, brought together by Youth Music Ambassador Goldie. They talked about their own musical journeys and how they had overcome their own personal obstacles. More than 50 students from all year groups were involved this year. They prepared five songs in both English and Spanish with Asere, which were performed on the main Musicport stage on Friday 4 November to great applause.

Jim McLaughlin, Director of Musicport said it was a pleasure to have the school involved and felt that the young people had really immersed themselves into the culture they were learning about.

Headlands Head Teacher Scott Ratheram was equally as impressed: "They have worked so hard over the past few days and to pull such a

professional performance together so quickly is quite an achievement. I was very proud of them."

Throughout the Festival weekend there were also excellent performances from local community groups from across the Humber Region including; Gyoko Youth Taiko from North East Lincolnshire; Escola de Chaos, a samba group from Goole High School in the East Riding of Yorkshire; Rhythm Pixies, a world music group from Hull and Stomping Macaronis, a singing and body percussion ensemble from North Lincolnshire.

The Power-Tour 2011 was a collaboration between five Youth Music Action Zones, which aimed to identify and develop musical talent and potential in young rock band musicians. The project has been run as two separate mini-tours: a North of England leg, involving Music4U (Humber), More Music (Morecambe) and CoMusica (Gateshead) and a Midlands leg, involving Make Some Noise (Staffordshire) and The Hive (Shrewsbury).

The first leg of the tour saw Hull-based alternative rock group The Dead Hormones team up with folk singer Katy Pickles from Morecambe and five-piece female rock band Frock-On! from Gateshead. Their story began on 25 October at the Junction in Goole, where the tour kick started with a song-writing masterclass with Leeds College of Music students. Their first performance together in Goole was supported by Molly, Beth and Friends and compered by Music4U's 2010

PowerTour band Rhodes and it went down a storm with the audience.

In Morecambe the bands were given access to wisdom from music industry professionals, including singer/songwriter Karima Francis, Goldblade's John Robb, representatives from Tambourine Management and venue owner Kev Baxter; through a panel discussion and Q&A session.

The final day of the tour saw the groups arriving at The Sage Gateshead. The afternoon was spent with The Sage Gateshead's Community Music trainees, who mixed up the groups and gave them a song-writing brief and asked to compose and perform new songs in new styles within less than two hours – something they achieved with great skill and creativity.

The Dead Hormones really enjoyed the experience: "We have been blessed with the awesome opportunity on The PowerTour and were excited to have had this chance to play in major venues and learn from playing in different parts of the country."

Emily Crossland, Project Co-ordinator for these projects said that the young people had really excelled themselves and had experienced very memorable music occasions. To read more about these projects visit the NCEM website www.ncem.co.uk/musicport2011 and www.ncem.co.uk/powertour2011

PARALLEL STORIES – FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

To mark the 400th anniversary of the publication of The King James Bible, the National Centre for Early Music invited children across the city of York to assist in the creation of a new book, Parallel Stories: Parables for our Time, a modern interpretation of one of the most popular works ever printed in this country.

Six York primary schools involving 180 young people took part in explorations of the Authorised Version, discovering its history, examining its impact and creating their own artworks designed to reinforce its continued relevance. Pupils from Archbishop of York's C.E. Junior, Westfield Primary Community, New Earswick Primary, Woodthorpe

Community Primary, Park Grove Primary and Dunnington C.E. Primary schools worked with student volunteers from the University of York to retell the Biblical parables using modern language and scenarios, creating new 'parables for our time'. These stories were then turned into visual designs and printed onto the pages within our Parallel Stories book, using techniques that emulate the woodcutting and engraving methods of the original King James Version.

The Parallel Stories: Parables for our Time project, was led by the National Centre for Early Music in association with the University of York Community and Volunteering Unit (Careers Service), also

provided volunteering and professional development opportunities for students from the University of York. The students also played a central role in the delivery of workshops in the schools, developing their own teaching and leadership skills, while supporting the children's learning.

Parallel Stories: Parables for our Time is part of the first York Festival of Ideas. The Festival is a partnership between the University of York, York Theatre Royal, York St John University, the National Centre for Early Music and York Museums Trust.

MINSTER MINSTRELS NOW RECRUITING



Calling all violinists and viola players – there is now the opportunity to join The Minster Minstrels, York's Youth Early Music Ensemble!

The Minster Minstrels are looking for new recruits, particularly violin and viola, players but also welcome all other instrumentalists. The Ensemble rehearses weekly at Canon Lee School in Clifton on Saturday mornings and regularly performs in the York Early Music Festivals. Their next performance 'Make we joy now in this fest' will be on Saturday 3 December at 1pm at the NCEM as part of the Christmas Festival. Work is also underway for an exciting new project with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and their 2012 Olympic project, 'Anthem for a Child'.

Led by Heather Moger and supported by the University of York music students Ian Hoggart and Tom Marlow, Heather explains that one of the real joys of the Minster Minstrels is the way it unites

players of a diverse range of instruments in the common purpose of enjoying the attractive and varied early music repertoire.

The Minster Minstrels also get the opportunity to hear other musicians. This term they heard virtuoso recorder player Piers Adams and Red Priest performing 'Nightmare in Venice'. They were thrilled to be able to meet the performers and discover more about how they practise, cope with nerves on stage and memorise their music.

If you play an instrument and are interested in joining, please contact Janet Cromartie at the NCEM on 01904 632220 or email education@ncem.co.uk



NEW PATRONS' SCHEME LAUNCHED

The National Centre for Early Music launched its new Patrons Scheme this summer giving an opportunity for music lovers to invest their support and become part of the NCEM's future. There are two different Patrons levels – Supporters (donating £500 pa) and Champions (donating £1000 pa). For more information go to www.ncem.co.uk/patrons or contact Dr Delma Tomlin, the NCEM's Director on 01904 632220.

YORK EARLY MUSIC CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL 2011

There is still time to get your tickets for this year's popular York Early Music Christmas Festival, which runs from 30 November to 10 December. This year the Festival features Christmas music from the Renaissance to the Baroque and some of the world's finest early music specialists including Sirinu's Sara Stowe and Matthew Spring's new collaboration with Swedish colleagues Ute Goedecke and Per Mattsson presenting music from a Scandinavian Christmas, Joglearesa led by Belinda Sykes with a programme entitled 'On Yoolis Night' and The Carnival Band looking at Christmas all over the world!

Tickets are available on-line at www.ncem.co.uk or by ringing the NCEM's Box Office on 01904 658338.

MUSICAL PLAY IN A WEEK 2012

An Air of Mystery is the 2012 Musical Play in a Week. Set during the reign of Elizabeth I, the workshop will take place from Monday 13 to Friday 17 August. 10am – 4pm daily. Young musicians, whose ambition is to perform at court, find themselves caught up in a network of espionage and secrets controlled by the queen's spymaster, Francis Walsingham. The cost is £100.00 and places can be booked either by ringing 01904 658338 or emailing boxoffice@ncem.co.uk

contact us

For further information about any of the activities, events or resources mentioned in this Newsletter please contact the NCEM on 01904 632220 or email education@ncem.co.uk

To book tickets for events, please contact the Box Office on 01904 658338 or visit www.ncem.co.uk

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The National Centre for Early Music

