

**CULTURAL COMMISSION**

**DEVELOPING TALENT**

**SUBMISSION BY**

**THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRAS OF SCOTLAND**

- 1. The provision of Music Education in Scotland.**
- 2. Property needs of NYOS, partner companies, music ensembles and projects in Scotland.**
- 3. Recommendations.**

## **1. The provision of Music Education in Scotland**

The National Youth Orchestras of Scotland is a truly national company. As a consequence of its work throughout Scotland, it gains an exceptional insight into the standards of performance and quality of music teaching in different parts of the country.

NYOS holds three sets of annual auditions, for the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland in January (aged 12 - 21), the National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland in January (aged 12 - 21) and the National Children's Orchestra of Scotland in November (aged 8 - 14). The personnel of Camerata Scotland and NYOS Futures (contemporary chamber group) are invited to attend, having previously performed with NYOS.

Auditions are held in the Western Isles, Shetland, Orkney, Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester and London.

NYOS staff and invited professional musicians attend all auditions to assess applicants. Demand for NYOS ensembles is greater in 2005 than in any previous year. The audition process enables NYOS staff to have regular contact with instrumental teachers, students, parents and local authority councillors and officers throughout Scotland.

NYOS is in contact with all 32 local authorities through the Chief Executive and Director of Education departments. Financial aid to NYOS students is given by all local authorities.

There are many instrumental teachers who are achieving a high level of attainment in student performance. However there are few opportunities in Scotland for instrumental teachers to develop their teaching skills through career development programmes. Some instrumental teachers have undertaken training outwith Scotland, especially in England where presently appropriate opportunities exist. There is therefore a clear need for sufficient financial support to enable instrumental teachers to develop their teaching skills.

The number of state school applicants being taught by private teachers is increasing year by year and the number of high standard instrumental teachers working outwith the school day is also increasing. This is not a trend that NYOS welcomes. Rather, instrumental teachers of the highest calibre should be employed by local authorities in Scotland, teaching during the school day. The NCOS teaching statistics are summarised in the attached appendices. Further statistics for 2005 will be available once the NYOS and NYJOS auditions have been completed in January. It should be emphasised that there are many teachers of high standards teaching instrumental music in state schools in Scotland.

An opportunity to coordinate music education in Scotland

There is a priority need in Scotland to develop closer links with all sectors of music education. This can best be achieved by the creation of a department within the Scottish Executive Education Department, or a separate organisation, to fund and monitor the detailed strategy for all music education. One effect of such an overseeing organisation would be to achieve savings on double expenditure incurred through both the formal and informal sectors. This development will also create national collaborative programmes of work within both the formal and informal sectors, thereby breaking down some widening divisions between both sectors. The proposed department or organisation could be responsible for only music, or for all art forms. Regional music education Directors (with appropriate training and experience in music) covering clusters of local authorities, should be employed to monitor the constructive and rational spend of funds, to alleviate double expenditure caused by differing funding streams.

There are many successful musicians/anamateurs working successfully in Scotland but without a nationally co-ordinated programme. There is often wastage of public funds through duplication, or lack of a co-ordinated programme or strategy in a particular area. Therefore, the NYOS proposal is to create an overseeing body charged with developing and co-ordinating all resources of artistic and administrative functions in education in all areas, to provide the best possible music advice and instruction in Scotland.

The importance of music to all children and young people in Scotland

Music should be a daily and stimulating practice in all pre-school, primary and secondary schools. Such a programme would develop strong personalities and high academic qualities in children in Scotland, leading to confident leaders in society. This is confirmed by many past NYOS students, the majority of whom are now working outwith the music profession in successful careers throughout the world.

Developing music further as an important element in school life will also lead to clearer understanding of all forms of music, created by musicians from all backgrounds and interests. It will educate children in such a manner that music becomes an essential pillar in the preparation of the adult population of Scotland. Musicians taking part in NYOS projects aim for perfection and excellence through strict, sensitive discipline, resulting in sympathy and inter-dependence between all participants. Projects also include informal discussions in formulating confident and strong personalities.

A co-ordinated national policy in music education in and out of Scotland's schools will lead to a sense of national self-esteem with a resultant high degree of personal, social, family and community values.

**2. Property needs of NYOS, partner companies, music ensembles and projects in Scotland.**

For some years, the National Youth Orchestras of Scotland has been developing a national debate on the significant need for a national residential centre, identified as a flagship facility for all children in Scotland. The need for NYOS has now become so serious that appropriate accommodation venues are only available for the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland and the National Children's Orchestra of Scotland in England and Orkney! This should be a priority consideration by the Scottish Executive, although discussion in recent years has not given NYOS confidence that the Executive is understanding of the need, nor of the substantial significant advantages to Scotland should such a centre be built and available to all.

The need, for NYOS alone, is for 18 rehearsal rooms, 150 beds and allied facilities for catering and administration. Discussions with Queen Victoria School, Dunblane are continuing, to build an auditorium of appropriate size. This is only one of eighteen rehearsal rooms required. The facility will also only be available during QVS school holiday periods and not for all NYOS projects in the future. QVS is being highly supportive of the needs of NYOS and partner organisations.

### 3. Recommendations

1. Create a funding mechanism to support music instrumental teachers' training within the United Kingdom. To include training programmes presently not available in Scotland.
2. Fund a department of the Scottish Executive, or organisation, to oversee and monitor all sectors of music education (formal and informal) in Scotland and formulate good practice and best financial value in all fields of music education throughout Scotland.
3. Build a national centre to enable all music, and other artform organisations in Scotland, to develop the skills and performance standards of young people from all areas of the country.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA OF SCOTLAND

Council Report - 2005

	Applicants	*	String Training Course Invitees	*	NCOS Invitees	*	Unsuccessful Applicants
Aberdeenshire	13	2	2	-	8	2	3
Angus	6	-	-	-	2	-	4
Argyll & Bute	14	7	5	3	8	4	1
City of Aberdeen	34	-	5	-	20	-	9
City of Dundee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
City of Edinburgh	51	15	14	5	28	7	10
City of Glasgow	14	3	4	2	8	-	1
Clackmannanshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dumfries & Galloway	5	1	-	-	2	1	1
East Ayrshire	3	-	1	-	-	-	2
East Dunbartonshire	12	2	2	1	4	1	4
East Lothian	3	1	1	-	1	1	1
East Renfrewshire	14	5	1	1	9	2	5
Falkirk	3	2	1	1	1	-	1
Fife	3	1	-	-	2	-	1
Highland	24	6	11	2	11	3	1
Inverclyde	6	6	1	1	4	4	1
Midlothian	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moray	6	1	1	-	3	1	2
North Ayrshire	3	-	1	-	2	-	-
North Lanarkshire	2	1	-	-	-	-	2
Orkney Islands	6	3	1	-	3	2	1
Perth & Kinross	9	-	2	-	3	-	3
Renfrewshire	3	1	-	-	2	1	1
Scottish Borders	1	1	-	-	1	1	-
Shetland Islands	11	2	5	1	3	1	4
South Ayrshire	11	6	1	-	9	6	1
South Lanarkshire	9	3	1	1	5	1	3
Stirlingshire	4	1	1	-	2	1	2
West Dunbartonshire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West Lothian	3	-	-	-	2	-	1
Western Isles	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>66</b>

\* = State educated, instrument privately taught

(Some applicants could not attend auditions, and others are invited to both NCOS and the String Training Course.)

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA OF SCOTLAND

Auditions – 2005

	State School				Private School	Specialist School			
	Primary	*	Secondary	*		Douglas Academy	City of Edinburgh Music School	Aberdeen City Music School	St Mary's Music School
Violin	12	8	61	26	33	-	2	3	2
Viola	-	-	9	5	6	1	-	-	-
Cello	3	1	24	11	8	-	-	-	2
Double Bass	2	-	5	1	3	-	-	-	-
Flute	2	1	19	9	11	1	-	-	-
Oboe	-	-	2	1	3	3	-	-	-
Clarinet	-	-	9	2	6	2	1	-	-
Bassoon	1	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-
Horn	-	-	5	2	5	-	-	-	1
Trumpet	1	-	3	2	4	-	-	1	1
Trombone	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-
B. Trombone	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuba	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percussion	-	-	1	-	3	1	-	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>

\* = State educated, instrument privately taught

	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Primary	8%	11%	10%	8%	4%	8%	12%
Secondary	53%	43%	37%	43%	56%	55%	46%
Private	31%	30%	39%	42%	35%	32%	31%
Specialist	8%	16%	14%	7%	5%	5%	11%

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA OF SCOTLAND

Symphony Orchestra Invitees – 2005

	State School				Private School	Specialist School			
	Primary	*	Secondary	*		Douglas Academy	City of Edinburgh Music School	Aberdeen City Music School	St Mary's Music School
Violin	7	4	24	16	15	-	2	3	1
Viola	-	-	8	3	5	1	-	-	-
Cello	-	-	14	8	6	-	-	-	1
Double Bass	2	-	5	1	2	-	-	-	-
Flute	-	-	4	3	2	1	-	-	-
Oboe	-	-	2	1	2	1	-	-	-
Clarinet	-	-	2	0	1	1	-	-	-
Bassoon	1	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-
Horn	-	-	5	2	3	-	-	-	-
Trumpet	-	-	2	1	2	-	-	1	1
Trombone	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
B. Trombone	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuba	-	-	3	0	-	-	-	-	-
Harp	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percussion	-	-	1	0	3	1	-	-	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>

\* = State educated, instrument privately taught

	2005
Primary	7%
Secondary	52%
Private	31%
Specialist	10%

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA OF SCOTLAND

String Training Course Invitees – 2005

	State School				Private School	Specialist School			
	Primary	*	Secondary	*		Douglas Academy	City of Edinburgh Music School	Aberdeen City Music School	St Mary's Music School
<b>Violin</b>	5	4	21	8	11	-	-	-	-
<b>Viola</b>	-	-	6	3	2	-	-	-	-
<b>Cello</b>	2	-	6	2	1	-	-	-	1
<b>Double Bass</b>	1	-	2	1	3	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

\* = State educated, instrument privately taught

	2005
Primary	13%
Secondary	57%
Private	28%
Specialist	2%