

RPO resound

Spring/Summer 2008

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Round Up!

What we've been up to over the last few months

Where to start?! May, June and July have been as busy as ever for **RPO resound**, beginning with our exciting *About Me* project in Westminster which got May off to a flying start with a life affirming performance. **RPO resound** put on another of its successful *Noisy Kids* concerts, this time performing to a packed house at The Hawth in Crawley. We also ran an exciting project in Essex, and the first of our three *Young RPO* community projects taking place in Northampton, both of which are featured inside this issue.

June heralded the start of our new *Hans-Harmony* project, with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and charity Sixty Plus, which brought together teenagers and elderly adults to make music that they felt represented their local community. Our music and



About Me participant playing a soundbeam

dance project *Alchemy II* continued to gather momentum and we also managed to fit in a training session for some of our members delivered by CHASE Children's Hospice in preparation for a project taking place later in the year (more info on that in the next issue). We also began an exciting project in Newham working with the Newham Recycled Orchestra and Gallions Primary School. Combining string instruments with instruments made from reclaimed 'junk' items, the participants raised the roof at the Royal Festival Hall with a fantastically original and funky performance.

June also saw **RPO resound** at the 2008 Charity Awards where the annual project we undertake with CHASE Children's Hospice was nominated for an award. Unfortunately we did not win but we were very proud to have been shortlisted to the final three.

July began with an Early Years project at Clyde Early Childhood Centre in Deptford. This is **RPO resound's** third project with this centre and was an opportunity to integrate creative music with numeracy and language development. July also took the Orchestra to Cardiff where they performed at the Welsh Proms; **RPO**



Hans-Harmony string group with RPO musicians

resound supported these concerts with a youth project for a Communities First group and an open house jam for 'rusty' musicians. We also found time to deliver the last *Young RPO* community projects in Corby and Wellingborough.

Finally, August sees the departure of Community and Education Coordinator Claire Lewis, who is taking a six month sabbatical. We wish Claire all the best and look forward to her return in the New Year.

In the past 3 months
RPO resound has:

- Travelled over 12,000 miles
- Run over 160 hours of workshops
- Worked with more than 1,600 participants

Tilbury and Chadwell St. Mary's Excellence Cluster

Thurrock takes on Elgar



The string section working with RPO musicians

During the May half term, twenty-five hand picked students were given the opportunity to hone their musical skills over four days and come up with a creative composition to rival Elgar's 'Enigma' Variations. This group of aspiring musicians from eight local schools included a talented mix of singers, guitarists, percussionists and violinists, making it possible to create our own unique Variations-inspired piece. The age range of the participants varied greatly too with the youngest participant (a violinist) being only 5 years old and the oldest (a guitarist) being 14.

The young people were supported throughout the creative process by a team of five musicians from RPO resound, directed by workshop leader Jason Rowland. For many of the participants this was their first project with the RPO, but for a lucky handful this is the third year in a row that they have taken part in the Gifted and Talented Scheme.

The workshops were not only a huge success but at the end of the creative process, the group was able to showcase five original ensemble pieces to an enthusiastic audience of friends and family.

The project, which took place at Hassenbrook School, Stanford le Hope, was supported by a wonderful group of learning mentors who not only kept all the participants in check, but also did a good job of making sure the RPO resound team didn't get up to any mischief either!

Off the back of this, participants, parents

and learning mentors were all invited to an RPO concert at the Royal Albert Hall on the 29th June so they could see how their pieces fared against Elgar's own 'Enigma' Variations – an occasion they all really enjoyed.

The partnership between RPO resound and the Tilbury and Chadwell St. Mary's Excellence Cluster has been running for the past three years and is going from strength to strength. We hope to be reporting on plans for a fourth project over the coming months.



Guitarists working with RPO cellist Roberto

Young RPO in Northamptonshire

A countywide musical adventure



Girls from circus skills group, Northampton

The RPO resound team has once again been pounding the M1 to deliver another project in Northamptonshire, Young RPO. We have been working with three community groups from three towns in the county; Northampton, Corby and Wellingborough. Each group's project was unique, but all of them engaged young people with live music and provided an aspirational out-of-school activity for them to take part in.

The group in Northampton embraced circus skills and incorporated them into a live rhythm-based performance. In Wellingborough we explored ethnic drumming rhythms on a theme of celebration and created a celebratory piece of our own, and in Corby the musical focus was on celebrating the local community and its rich diversity.

RPO resound joins forces with Summer Uni 4U

Music-making in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

As part of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's Summer Uni 4U (a series of free week-long courses across London for 8 to 18 year-olds), RPO resound is running an exciting creative music-making course in August at Cadogan Hall, the RPO's resident concert hall in London. The course is open to anyone aged 8 to 18, who lives or goes to school in RBKC, and

is interested in making music. No previous experience required and any style of music explored! If you know anyone who may be interested in taking part, or simply want to find out more, go to www.summerunilondon.org, email summeruni@rbkc.gov.uk or phone 020 7938 8054.



A winning partnership!

RPO resound Instrumental Summer School

Musical fun in the sun

RPO resound is undertaking a bit of a departure from its usual programme of work this summer. As a result of several enquiries from parents of children wanting to be involved in projects that were not connected to a specific charity, group, school or scheme, we've decided to run our first ever summer school this August. It is taking place from the 21st to the 23rd August at St. Paul's School in Barnes.

Over three days the young people will create their own pieces and work on exciting material from the orchestral repertoire, with the assistance of a team of musicians from RPO resound. After working on both sets of pieces, they will show off their achievements to friends

and family in a performance on the final day. New friendships will be forged, musical discoveries will be made and insights into a professional musicians' life will be given.

The course will be led by Paul Griffiths, one of the UK's leading music educationalists. Paul trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama studying on their postgraduate Performance and Communication Skills course, before going on to develop his own method of workshop leading over the past twenty years.

There are no auditions required to take part in the Summer School – participants simply have to be between 14 and 18



Wathan Hall, St. Paul's School

and above grade 4 on an orchestral instrument. The course costs £250 and includes lunches and refreshments on all three days. For more information or to reserve a place, please contact Rebecca Willows on 020 7608 8829 or email education@rpo.co.uk.

Under the Stars Youth Project

Beautiful music in Newham under a star-lit sky

For the third year running RPO resound is working with the London Borough of Newham on an exciting youth project, bringing together some of the best new musical talent from the Borough. Working with musicians from RPO resound, young musicians will be given the opportunity to compose a new piece

of music to eventually be performed alongside the full Orchestra as the opening number to the *Under the Stars* concert in Central Park, East Ham.

This year we will be working with young musicians from Newham Academy of Music on a concerto for chamber

ensemble. We will also be working with a talented young vocalist and a local poet on a setting of a poem about Newham life, which will be performed as part of the *Under the Stars* classical concert. See dates for your diary for the August performance.

Symphonic Cycle

A mammoth ride from Land's End to John O'Groats!



RPO musicians get on their bikes!

We are delighted to announce that six members of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (including Principal Trumpet and RPO resound team member Brian Thomson) will be donning their most dazzling fluorescent jackets and sturdy cycle helmets to partake in *Symphonic Cycle*, a one-thousand mile cycle ride from Land's End to John O'Groats taking place this August. They are undertaking

this mammoth ride to help fund music therapy sessions and creative workshops for disabled people in the UK (in association with Leonard Cheshire Disability).

The RPO and Leonard Cheshire Disability have worked together for the last three years, raising funds to offer disabled people the chance for communication and self-expression through creative music workshops. They promote inclusion and enjoyment, and with dramatic results – our collaborations so far have proved to be harmonious and heart-warming experiences!

As a cyclist, a member of the orchestra and the RPO resound team, Brian couldn't resist the opportunity to combine these passions, along with his

Symphonic Cycle colleagues, into one concerted effort, to help raise funds for Leonard Cheshire Disability. Everyone in *Symphonic Cycle* is proud to be giving up their time to support this fantastic organisation and its musical activities. Please give whatever you can to help us raise money for Leonard Cheshire Disability.

To sponsor the team, please visit: www.justgiving.com/symphoniccycle



Leonard Cheshire and RPO project

Player Profile: Rosie Campton

RPO First Violin and a member of the RPO resound team

When did you start working in the field of education and what inspired you to start?

I started working with RPO resound about a year ago. Before that I had done some violin teaching, coaching of amateur orchestras and also some schools concerts.

I wanted to become involved in RPO education work because I was interested in using my skills as a musician in a different way, and to broaden my experience of how people can react to music. During the past year I've met lots of people I would have never had the chance to work with in my usual orchestral life.

How have you found the experience of working in this field? Has it brought any benefits to your playing?

Each of the projects I have been involved in has been very different, with a range of participants and workshop leaders. It

has been a great opportunity for me to learn a lot from other more experienced members of each group. I feel that being involved in the education workshops has improved my one to one teaching, as I've learned new ways of communicating ideas to people. Also I am getting less nervous of improvising and talking in front of people.

Taking that into consideration, what advice would you give to any musicians interested in taking part in education work?

Expect the unexpected! You have to throw yourself into it. Don't be afraid of looking silly. And it's definitely worth doing as it's so rewarding; I've enjoyed it more than I thought I would.

Is there a particular project you have done with RPO resound or a memory that you would like to share?

I really remember my first RPO resound project which brought together lots of



Rosie working on an RPO resound project

groups of different people, *Picture This*. We worked on creating music inspired by pictures and the whole project culminated with a big concert with the full Orchestra. It was really great seeing how people opened up over the course of the project and how much they enjoyed playing the pieces to an audience. Also, another memory – dressing up as Wonder Woman in the Royal Albert Hall for our special superhero themed *Noisy Kids!*

Dates for your Diary

To find out more about the RPO's concerts and events, join our free mailing list online at www.rpo.co.uk.

Instrumental Summer School

St. Paul's School, Barnes
Thursday 21st to Saturday 23rd August

Three day non-residential instrumental summer school for students aged 14 to 18. Cost £250. To book your place email education@rpo.co.uk or phone 020 7608 8829

Summer Uni 4U course

Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace
Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th August

A creative course for 8 to 18 year-olds from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. For more information, email at summeruni@rbkc.gov.uk or phone 020 7938 8054.

Under the Stars

Central Park, East Ham
Sunday 31st August, 7.30pm

A free 'last night of the proms' concert featuring the première of an original composition by local young musicians.

Last Words!

Something light-hearted to end the newsletter

How do you know when a trombone player is at your door? The doorbell drags.

What's the difference between trumpet players and government bonds? Government bonds eventually mature.

If you think you can do any better, please email your submissions to education@rpo.co.uk.

Useful Information

RPO resound
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
16 Clerkenwell Green
London EC1R 0QT
Tel.: 020 7608 8800

Website: www.rpo.co.uk
Email: education@rpo.co.uk
James Hutchinson
Head of Community and Education
hutchinsonj@rpo.co.uk

Rebecca Willows
Community and Education Assistant
willowsr@rpo.co.uk
RPO resound Original Design:
White Label Productions

In the next issue...

CHASE Children's Hospice | Alchemy II | Beijing | And much more...!