



Preserve Harmony

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MUSICIANS

ACCENT ON YOUTH

Musicians' £90,000 to fund the future of British jazz

The Worshipful Company of Musicians has pledged £30,000 a year over the next three years to support the work and further development of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Great Britain.

The programme – the Company's biggest-ever act of individual sponsorship – is

positioned as a key element within Funding A Future, the foundation launched to mark our 500th anniversary, and honours its express intention of providing financial aid to talented young musicians in the "wilderness years" between college and the successful establishment of professional careers.

The National Youth Jazz Orchestra was founded in 1965 by Bill Ashton, who remains its musical director. Its principal aim is to provide the opportunity for gifted young musicians, aged 15-25, to meet to perform big-band jazz to a standard of excellence.

Past members include trombonist Mark Nightingale, trumpeters Gerard Presencer, and Guy Barker, pianist



Tom Cawley, saxophonists Dave O'Higgins and Jamie Talbot, reed player Tim Garland and many other established and rising stars of the UK jazz scene.

Junior Warden Nigel Tully, chairman of the Musicians' Jazz Committee, says: "The NYJO is known throughout the world for the excellence of its work with young jazz musicians, and many of its alumni are internationally recognised as being among the finest musicians working in any field today.

"The Company is delighted to support the NYJO, and to help young British jazz musicians to realise their full potential."

Musicians' Company support for jazz was introduced some 10 years ago, with the first of the jazz medals. The substantial annual sum now guaranteed as support for the NYJO will be paid as bursaries to 15 of the orchestra's finest players.

The £90,000 sponsorship is described as a "significant change of direction for the Musicians' Company as it enters its second 500 years". It is, says Nigel Tully, a "clear signal" that the Company is "as relevant and influential on the contemporary music scene as at any time in its long and remarkable history".

● The Company's association with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra found early expression at a concert by the NYJO at London's Palace Theatre on Sunday 30 September – a showcase event of the 2001 Soho Jazz Festival.

Special guests included Dave O'Higgins and Jamie Talbot, as well as this year's recipient of the Musicians' Bronze Medal, guitarist Colin Oxley, and his trio.

● NYJO concert report, pages 12-13.

Joint venture's first concert dates

Liveryman Caroline Loeb writes The leaflet that accompanies this issue of *Preserve Harmony*, giving further information about the joint venture between the Musicians' Company and Making Music, is also being circulated among members of Making Music – formerly the National Federation of Music Societies.

Liverymen who belong to music societies might like to draw the venture, and their membership of the Company, to their society's attention.

It is hoped that the next *Preserve Harmony* will carry a full list of concerts to be given by prize-winners and recommended artists, but it is already known that, among the prize-winners, Ron Abramski will play the Greig Piano Concerto with the Sheffield Philharmonic on Saturday 1 December and, next year, Helena Wood will perform the Bruch Violin Concerto with Hillingdon Orchestra (Saturday 2 March) and Kathryn McGuckin and Julianne Young will sing in the St John

Passion with Hillingdon Choral Society (Saturday 16 March).

Among the recommended artists, Rebecca Watson has sung in a performance of Schubert's Mass in G and Douglas Coombes' *Lauda*; and Rodney Clarke will sing in the Fauré Requiem (Ditchling, Saturday 24 November).

The joint venture promises to make the Musicians' name better known throughout the UK and, it is hoped, will do much to encourage liverymen and many outside the Company to support Funding A Future through donations and legacies.