

## Converging Perspectives

Leicester gets ready to come alive with the rhythms of Latin America through the exciting new development of the **Perspectives** project...



**Perspectives** - a large scale collaborative composition project inspired by the rhythms of Latin America - is taking place in Leicester from January to March 2008 writes *VIVA's* Education Manager **Marianne Quintrell**.

The project, which is being led by renowned percussionists **Oliver Cox** and **Owen Gunnell** who together form the ensemble O DUO, involves 60 participants from two primary schools, Inglehurst Junior School and Buswells Lodge Junior School as well as approximately 40 strings and percussion students from Leicestershire and Leicester Arts in Education.

Perspectives, is a two phase project and seeks to inspire and encourage young people to take part in creative music making through working alongside top musicians from *VIVA* and O DUO. The young people will work closely with O DUO and a team from *VIVA* to create an original collaborative composition taking the starting point of Latin American rhythms. The junior school participants will use percussion as well as instruments they are already learning and the senior strings and senior percussion ensembles from Leicestershire and Leicester Arts in Education will also participate in the creative sessions.

This element will be a particular challenge for the Arts in Education students, as they are used to working together as ensembles to present performances, but they have little experience of creating together. It is hoped that this project will enable them to develop their confidence in this area. The young people will create an original piece which will be drawn together so that all the participants are able to perform the world premiere of the work created together at the Peepul Centre on Wednesday 19 March.

The Arts in Education strings and percussion groups will also perform Rodion Shchedrin's *Carmen Suite* for Percussion and Strings alongside musicians from *sinfonia VIVA*. The students will receive coaching sessions led by conductor **Benedict Holland** and O DUO during the process and the students will come together with *sinfonia VIVA* for full rehearsals in the days leading up to the final performance at the Peepul Centre, Leicester.

**Andrew Bound**, Head of Strings at Leicestershire and Leicester Arts in Education, who plays regularly with *sinfonia VIVA* commented: "This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to play alongside professional musicians on a one to one basis and learn valuable performance skills. They are also involved in composition workshops, giving them the opportunity to explore their own creativity. This is a wonderful start to our 60th anniversary year and we are all greatly looking forward to everyone coming together for an exciting performance."

**Jane Winter**, Music Coordinator at Inglehurst Junior school continued: "We have selected a group of pupils aged nine, ten and eleven who have already shown promise in music to help them develop their skills. The school already had a rich performing arts calendar and this takes it to another stage - working alongside professional musicians in a wonderful hands-on project. All the children are very excited to be involved."

And **Owen Gunnell**, one half of O DUO, concluded: "We are so impressed with the standard of talent and enthusiasm of the young people we have met through this project. We try and incorporate workshops at most of our 80 gigs a year so were delighted to have been invited to be involved in a project of this scale. Percussion is a brilliant way of introducing young people to classical music and we are really looking forward to performing alongside the young people at the Peepul Centre."

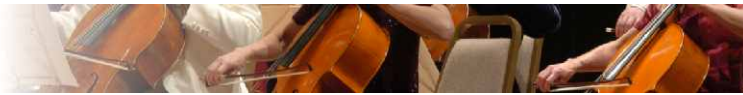
The final performances will take place at 1.30pm and 7.00pm on Wednesday 19 March at the Peepul Centre, Leicester. Contact the Peepul Centre box office on 0845 310 3344 for tickets.

The project has been generously supported by **East Midlands Airport, Rolls-Royce plc, Leicester City Council, Orchestras Live, Leicestershire and Leicester Arts in Education and *sinfonia VIVA***.



**Inside** - *VIVA's* **Glyn Foley** gives the lowdown on organising the Buxton Festival...

Chief Executive **Peter Helps** on how paintballing and bungee jumping could be about to give way to the rhythm of drums... **PLUS** details of *VIVA's* forthcoming concerts...



Wednesday 5th Mar

Assembly Rooms, Derby 7.00pm

Tickets: £6 full price, (£3.50 concessions, £10 family ticket) Box Office: 01332 255800 [www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-03-05-derby](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-03-05-derby)

## Creation



Creation - an exciting project taking place with five groups from across Derby, from January to March 2008 - reaches its pinnacle in this, the dramatic culmination concert on Wednesday 5 March. Centre stage is the world premiere of a new collaborative music and dance piece themed around Creation devised by participants from Gayton Community Junior School, Derby Moor Community Sports College, Derby College, University of Derby and Chaos Dance Company working with music workshop leader James Redwood, dance workshop leader Tom Dale and sinfonia ViVA musicians.

the two art forms. Then to the climax, as in the second half over 100 project participants perform alongside sinfonia ViVA in the sparkling premiere of the new music and dance work created during the project.

The first half of the concert at the Assembly Rooms sees sinfonia ViVA conducted by Leader and Artistic Advisor Benedict Holland perform a selection of themed works including Milhaud's La Creation Du Monde, and features dancer Tom Dale joining the musicians for a specially-devised piece combining

The project has been generously supported by Rolls-Royce plc, Derby City Council, Orchestras Live, Assembly Rooms Derby, sinfonia ViVA and Derby Dance.

Saturday 8th Mar

Royal Concert Hall Foyer, Nottingham 11.00-12.00, 1.30-2.30pm and 3.00-4.00pm

Tickets: Adults and Children £5 Box Office: 0115 989 5555 [www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-03-08-nottingham](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-03-08-nottingham)

## The Beanbag Proms: *Howdy! G'day! Bonjour!*



Jump on board as we take you on a whistle-stop tour around the world. Stopping off at different places, don't forget to make Notes On A Postcard. Then get ready to party as we dance to the Jamaican Rumba. And get up off your beanbags to boogie along to Outback Daybreak with Kangaroos. These and many more world-related songs and stories will keep the children mesmerised during the whole of this exciting and stimulating performance. Musical maestro Alasdair Malloy leads this enchanting and entertaining hour which will excite and enthral your child in a relaxed and comfortable setting.

Each concert will include participation elements (including actions and playing instruments), dancing, singalong, stories and performances. At the end of the performance there will also be an opportunity for children to have a close look and touch (gently!) the instruments used during the performance. So join Beanie Bear's gang and enjoy a magical musical adventure that your children will be talking about for a long time to come. Please note: Parents must remain in the foyer area with their children throughout this performance. Video or audio recording of this performance is strictly forbidden. Photographs may be taken at the end of the performance. Please also note that the programme of music is subject to change and alteration. Places are limited for each performance and will be sold on a first come first served basis.

Supported by Arts Council England, Nottingham City Council, Orchestras Live and the Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham. ViVA would also like to acknowledge the generous support of John Lewis, Nottingham; The Jessie Spencer Trust, The Whitaker Charitable Trust and The Lady Hind Trust.

Wednesday 19th Mar

Peepul Centre, Leicester 7.00pm - plus schools' matinee performance at 1.30pm

Ticket details from the Box Office: 0845 310 3344 [www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-03-19-leicester](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-03-19-leicester)

## Perspectives



Perspectives is an inspiring project taking place with young people from across Leicestershire and Leicester from January to March 2008 which reaches its conclusion in this energy-charged culmination concert on Wednesday 19 March. The focal point of the performance will be a new Latin American inspired collaborative composition created by young people from two Leicester Primary Schools plus strings and percussion students from Leicestershire & Leicester Arts in Education working with percussion duo and music workshop leaders O DUO, (Oliver Cox and Owen Gunnell) and sinfonia ViVA musicians.

Strings and percussion students from Leicestershire & Leicester Arts in Education will also work closely with the full Orchestra to rehearse Rodion Shchedrin's Carmen Suite for Strings and Percussion. The students will perform the suite alongside sinfonia ViVA and O DUO during the final concert at the Peepul Centre. The performance will then reach its climax with the world premiere of the newly created collaborative music piece featuring all the young participants alongside O DUO and sinfonia ViVA conducted by Leader and Artistic Advisor Benedict Holland.

The project has been generously supported by East Midlands Airport, Rolls-Royce plc, Leicester City Council, Orchestras Live, Leicestershire & Leicester Arts in Education and sinfonia ViVA.

Saturday 22nd Mar

Darwin Suite, Assembly Rooms, Derby 8.00pm  
Tickets £5 Box Office: 01332 255800 [www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-03-22-derby](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-03-22-derby)

## Evolution: The James Warner Prophecies and sinfonia ViVA



Musicians from sinfonia ViVA are teaming up with Derby band The James Warner Prophecies for an exciting new venture and this concert marks their first performance together as a new ensemble. Rehearsals for JWP and sinfonia ViVA musicians will be taking place between January and March 2008 with the musicians working together, drawing on their different skills and experiences to create a totally new piece featuring them all.

“ We'll be working on a 20 mins original piece written between the band and ViVA to be premiered on the 22nd March. Kinda a dream come true... very exciting. ” - Sam Jordan, JWP

This project has been generously supported by Orchestras Live, Assembly Rooms, Derby and sinfonia ViVA.

Friday 28th Mar

Performing Arts Centre, Hinchingsbrooke House, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire 7.30pm  
Tickets £8.50, £6.50, under 18's £3 Box Office Huntingdon District Council 01480 388248 [www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-03-28-huntingdon](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-03-28-huntingdon)

## sinfonia ViVA ensemble



Weber Clarinet Quintet in Bb, Op 34  
Mahler Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen  
Beethoven Septet in Eb, Op 20

Accomplished mezzo-soprano Claire Bradshaw joins this sinfonia ViVA ensemble, directed by Benedict Holland, for a programme of intimate works of lyrical beauty.

Weber's 300-plus compositions include few which can be classed as 'chamber' pieces, of which the Clarinet Quintet in Bb, Op 34 has become the most popular. Written for his friend the Munich Orchestra clarinetist Heinrich Bartmann, Weber began the piece in 1811, adding to it in 1813 and completing it in 1815. It is a flowing work which fully showcases the virtuosic capabilities of the instrument. Mahler's Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen (generally translated as 'Songs of a Wayfarer') follow the traveller of the title

through four episodic movements. This is a tale of lost love, of altered perception of the world and of the final driven search for an answer to a lover's emotional turmoil. Beethoven's Septet in Eb, Op 20, had its first performance in the opening year of the nineteenth century. The six movement piece is scored for clarinet, horn, bassoon, contrabass, violin, viola and cello.

Supported by sinfonia ViVA and Arts Council England

April 2008

Wednesday 16th Apr

Assembly Rooms, Derby 7.30pm  
Tickets: £16 to £25 Box Office: 01332 255800 [www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-04-16-derby](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-04-16-derby)

## Sensuous Symphonies, Classic Concertos

Haydn Symphony No.83 The Hen  
Weir Piano Concerto  
Haydn Piano Concerto in D major  
Beethoven Symphony No.4



Photo credits: André de Ridder and Lauma Skride (Marco Borggreve)

Tonight's concert opens with Haydn's Symphony No.83 The Hen, written between 1875-6 as part of the group of six Paris Symphonies. The composition is reflective of Haydn's growing stature in Europe: this is a work with power, emotion, humour and wit. Judith Weir's Piano Concerto, written for the pianist William Howard, is something of a time-travelling composition: a return to the idea of composing a piano concerto with a minimalist approach where finesse of interaction between the players has the upper hand over raw power of performance. Haydn had emerged from the dramatic 'Sturm und Drang' (storm and stress) period when, between 1779 and 1780, he wrote the Piano Concerto in D major, and was also beginning a period of relative compositional freedom and innovation, since previously he had required his employer's consent before publishing works. Beethoven's 1806 Symphony No.4 was dedicated to Count Franz von Oppersdorff, who was related to Beethoven's patron, Prince Lichnowsky. It premiered in a private performance the following year. Coming between the incredibly successful No.3 'Eroica' and instantly recognisable No.5 does not detract from the invention of the composer: as Schumann famously remarked, Symphony No.4 stands in its own right as a "slender Greek maiden between two Norse gods".

Join sinfonia ViVA with Principal Conductor **André de Ridder** and, making a much-anticipated return to sinfonia ViVA, sensational pianist **Lauma Skride** for a dynamic concert-going experience.

Supported by Rolls-Royce plc, Arts Council England and Derby City Council

Wednesday 23rd Apr

Assembly Rooms, Derby 8.00pm

Tickets: £12, Concessions £10. Under 18's free when accompanied by a paying adult Box Office: 01332 255800  
www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-04-23-derby

## ▶▶ Nine Songs



Jazz meets Classical! **Don Weller** and **Bobby Wellins** are two of the best loved voices of the tenor saxophone. Tonight in the first concert of an ongoing collaboration between Derby Jazz and sinfonia VIVA, they join with string players from the Orchestra to perform their album *Nine Songs*.

The songs have been arranged by **Mark Edwards**, who also plays piano in the concert, in a special setting of strings and woodwind which brings out their unique talents in a new dimension. This project pushes their particular stance to make jazz accessible to a wider audience.

The concert also features **Andrew Cleyndert** on Double Bass, **Spike Wells** on Drums, **Matthew Forbes** on Cello, plus strings players from sinfonia VIVA.

Supported by sinfonia VIVA and Derby Jazz

Our Waltz (David Rose) - We'll Be Together Again (Carl Fischer, Frankie Laine) - My Man's Gone Now (George Gershwin) - Killing Me Softly (Charles Fox) - Cabin In The Sky (Harold Arlen) - Chelsea Bridge (Billy Strayhorn) - Soul Eyes (Mal Waldron) - Di's Waltz (Don Weller) - Nocturne No.15 (Frederic Chopin)

*"Half-a-dozen notes from either of these great tenor saxophonists are all it takes to identify them - Don Weller with his rolling phrases and Bobby Wellins with his meltingly beautiful sound and a vibrato like drifting smoke. The essence of each has never been caught and conveyed better than in this set of restrained ballad performances... The arrangements by pianist Mark Edwards are perfectly judged and the whole production is a work of art."*

DAVE GELLY The Observer

For more information on the album, visit [www.triorecords.toucansurf.com/Bobby\\_Wellins\\_CD.html](http://www.triorecords.toucansurf.com/Bobby_Wellins_CD.html)



Don Weller



Bobby Wellins

Saturday 27th Apr

Civic Theatre, Chelmsford 4.30pm

Tickets: £7 Box Office: 01245 606505 www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-04-27-chelmsford

## ▶▶ Pirate Adventures!

Leroy Anderson (arr. Malloy)  
George Frederic Handel (arr. Malloy)  
Xavier Atencio & George Bruns (arr. Malloy)  
Johann Strauss II (arr. Malloy)  
Juventino Rosas  
Malcolm Arnold  
Various  
Arthur Benjamin  
Klaus Badelt (arr. Malloy)  
John Lennon & Paul McCartney  
Traditional arr. Henry Wood  
Traditional arr. Henry Wood

The Pirate March  
Hornpipe (Water Music)  
A Pirate's Life for Me  
Tritsch-Tratsch Polka  
Over the Waves  
The Padstow Lifeboat  
Alasdair's Seafaring Specials  
Jamaican Rumba  
Pirates of the Caribbean  
Yellow Submarine  
Tom Bowling  
Sailor's Hornpipe



Photo credit: Geraint Lewis

Following the success of the Magic & Mystery concert, sinfonia VIVA returns to the Civic Theatre, Chelmsford with percussionist **Alasdair Malloy** to present a family-friendly, pirate-themed concert.

Alasdair will take the audience on a voyage of discovery as they set sail on their very own pirate ship. The concert will feature a mixture of music focusing on the rough and tumble of sea travel such as *The Pirate March* and the *Sailor's Hornpipe* as well as calm sea faring tunes with *Over the Waves* and *Yellow Submarine*. The concert, which will be most suitable for children aged 7-11 and their families, will also include music from the *Pirates of the Caribbean* films.

The *Pirate Adventures!* performance will be linked to a series of pirate-themed creative music workshops led by Jo Wills in schools and other community venues around Essex between Wednesday 23 and Friday 25 April.

So, avast there! All hands on deck as we chart a fun-filled musical adventure for young (and older!) pirates everywhere to enjoy. With familiar seafaring tunes and shanties from around the world, there's no need for a treasure map to help you navigate - just set sail for the Civic Theatre Box Office and book your seats now!

Supported by M&G Investments, Orchestras Live, Essex County Council, Arts Council England and Chelmsford Borough Council

Sunday 18th May

The Castle, Wellingborough 7.30pm

Ticket details from the Box Office: 01933 270 007 [www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-05-18-wellingborough](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-05-18-wellingborough)

## In Classical Style

Haydn                      Symphony No.83 'The Hen'  
 Beethoven                Piano Concerto No.2  
 Mozart                    Symphony No.39



Two past winners of Leeds competitions join sinfonia ViVA for this evening's concert. Critically-acclaimed conductor **Alexander Shelley** (Leeds Conducting Competition winner in 2005) makes a welcome return, and one of Britain's most distinguished pianists **Michael Roll** (who triumphed at the first Leeds International Piano Competition in 1963) is the soloist.

The programme opens with Haydn's Symphony No.83 The Hen, written between 1775-6 as part of the group of six Paris Symphonies. The composition is reflective of Haydn's growing stature in Europe at the time: this is a work with power, emotion, humour and wit. Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.2 was one of - if not the - first compositions publicly performed by the composer as a pianist. Strongly influenced by Mozart in its interaction between soloist and orchestra, the composer revised the work several times before its publication, including a 1798 replacement of the original finale to give the structure which is nowadays performed. Mozart's Symphony No.39 was written along with two others in a period of just six

weeks in the summer of 1788 - the three together comprising the composer's last symphonic works. Produced during a time of personal challenge caused by a decline in his popularity and consequent financial stringency, this is a complex and enigmatic piece of shifting moods, its ending memorably dramatic.

Join us for three engaging works by the giants of the Classical Period.

Supported by Orchestras Live; The Castle, Wellingborough; Arts Council England and Wellingborough Borough Council

Wednesday 21st May

The Tithe Barn, Wellingborough 1.00pm

Tickets: £3 (£2.50 concessions) on the door from 12.15pm [www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-05-21-wellingborough](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2008-05-21-wellingborough)

## sinfonia ViVA: brass duo

Another unique combination of ViVA talent comes to Wellingborough in the form of brass players **Anthony Thompson** (trumpet) and **Mike Johnson** (tuba) from the Orchestra who today team up to bring this exciting lunchtime musical experience to the Tithe Barn. The programme specially selected by the players includes Arnold's Fantasies, Sharnberg's Waltz for Maya, Khachaturian's Sabre Dance and other great pieces sure to please. Each item will be introduced by the players - always a real bonus, as one previous attendee of a sinfonia ViVA chamber group commented: "I thought it was really good having the musicians introducing each of the items as it helped people to put the music that they probably didn't know in to context."



Come and find out who's making those amazing sounds! Let this dazzling duo set your feet tapping and enjoy a concert with a difference!

Supported by Wellingborough Borough Council

## Coming up in June ...

- Wednesday 11th ... More Glass Than Wall - Assembly Rooms, Derby
- Thursday 12th ... More Glass Than Wall - Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire
- Sunday 15th ... 'Proms' in Pakefield - Pontins, Pakefield, Lowestoft
- Thursday 26th ... Northern Aldborough Festival



... Full details on the ViVA website at [www.vivaorch.co.uk](http://www.vivaorch.co.uk)

# the backstage page

Glyn Foley

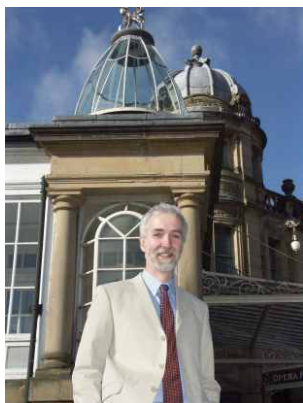


ViVA's Principal Bassoonist tell of his other life - as organiser of the world-famous Buxton Festival...



## The Buxton Effect

Glyn Foley is Principal Bassoon with sinfonia ViVA. He began playing the bassoon aged 11 when an old instrument became available at school in Sheffield. As his biography says, it is not recorded if it was given to him as he was the only one tall enough to hold the beast, or because no-one else would take it...



**How did your personal association with the Buxton Festival begin, and how has it developed?**

**GF** - My first Festival here was in 1999, although I had played in the orchestra pit many years ago in one of the earliest Festivals with Lesley Garrett above my head! I'd been working for one of the Regional Arts Boards (now part of the Arts Council) advising others about how to access funds and assessing applications - an enjoyable job - but I fancied getting my hands 'dirty' again.

**How do you combine life as a professional musician with your role as Chief Executive of a major festival?**

**GF** - There are four of us full time here and it requires a lot of flexibility clearly very demanding during the Festival, but also needing a lot of travelling to keep up with artists and opera productions. My roles revolve around finance (the budget for the 2008 Festival tops the £1m mark for the first time) and opera production (we form a company to produce our own operas, of unusual repertoire), but necessarily involve everything we do at the Festival - marketing, education and community work, relations with sponsors and public funders and the like.

I like to include sinfonia ViVA concerts in my work - performing is a useful antidote to too much administration and keeps me in touch with the needs of musicians and audiences. I make an occasional appearance as bassoonist in the Festival, notably when A Good Reed?, a quartet of friends, pokes fun at ourselves and others, but most of my playing is with sinfonia ViVA. I've been involved with the orchestra almost from the very start and I've made many good friends through it. [Pictured right - Glyn posing with a ViVA Octet]

**The first Buxton Festival was back in 1979 when the restoration of Buxton Opera House was completed. How has the composition of the Festival changed over time?**

**GF** - After early artistic success the Festival has had its share of financial difficulties, but we've managed to treble our audience since 1999, expand from 10 to 19 days, mount an increasing number of our own opera productions and incorporate exciting music and literary series in the programme. This growth has given us a measure of financial stability which is enabling us to take more artistic risks.

**Being a summer event, are you currently enjoying a respite from all the organising? What does a year in the life of the Festival involve?**

**GF** - It's not quite like that I'm afraid! One of our biggest deadlines falls at the end of January when our brochure goes to print, so that requires a huge amount of work, finalising all the opera and concert details (there are over 130 events to organise) and writing the copy for our best 'selling tool'. It's hugely satisfying to see large numbers of booking forms returned in March (we sell half of our seats to our 2,600 Friends that month). Then our singers start rehearsing in London, joined by the chorus. The next hurdle is our 'get-in' to Buxton Opera House - 12 long days of rehearsal, scene changes and technical preparation. With three productions to prepare this year this will even more demanding.

Then first night arrives and we are busy from 9am-11pm most days - a good way to lose weight! One of the best things about working in a small town is the contact with the audiences and artists - we work hard to make it a friendly festival. After it's all over August is a good time to relax - this year by mountain walking in Italy. Now that we are better established we are working to a two year cycle - and we are currently planning the 2009 opera programme.

**The Sunday Times has said: "Buxton has a charm quite unlike any other British Festival." If you could bottle the essence, what is it do you think that people find makes Buxton distinctive?**

**GF** - In a nutshell: 'a small town where you can see unusual opera performed by international artists in a beautiful theatre'.

**Where do you see the Festival going in the future - any new directions on the horizon?**

**GF** - The programme has been expanding for a few years now - our operas still include Donizetti, Mozart and Handel, but also Piazzolla, Purcell, Lortzing and Jonathan Dove. 2008 includes two more days and a chance to include a third opera production - an English triple bill of operas by Holst and Vaughan Williams - not exactly standard fare! There's plenty of adventure in the concert programme too and our ever-growing literary series provides the perfect foil to all that music

I hope to see you there in July.





## The Chief Points



**Peter Helps** gives his view on how a change in the law could contribute to a trend for companies to look to the Arts for their motivational activities

**Company** team building events have traditionally involved such physically demanding activities such as paint balling in the depths of a forest or white water rafting on a freezing river. These however look set to be a thing of the past in light of the new Corporate Manslaughter Act due to come into force this April.

My understanding of the new Act is that companies could effectively be at risk of facing manslaughter charges should, say, one of their staff break their neck at such an activity. Resulting court action means the employer could face a range of penalties including unlimited fines. No doubt the new legislation will send shivers through those responsible for organising the office day out but may be welcomed by



employees who can think of nothing worse than a weekend of bungee jumping with the boss! Commentators have signalled that the new legislation opens the door for more sedate pursuits to meet the corporate team building requirements - and this is certainly our experience.

The Arts have, for many years, been identified as an effective means of harnessing creativity amongst a workforce. Whilst exercises from role play acting to creating original percussion rhythms in harmony with colleagues undoubtedly take people out of their comfort zone, they are an engaging way of encouraging people to work better as a team and put their trust in each other to create the desired outcome. Whether it is because of the pending legislation or the fact that more companies now want 'something different' an increasing number of businesses large and small are turning to organisations such as our Orchestra to bring together professional musicians with their own staff in a fascinating merger of cultures.

These have included Finesse Hotels who are a major success story in the East Midlands. We devised a session that required staff to work creatively and constructively both as individuals and as members of a cohesive team. We started by dividing the group into small teams who matched their names with gestures that reflected

something about them. These were then put together rhythmically and performed to the whole group. They then progressed onto working in groups to compose and perform their own original piece of music to see if they could match tasks to people's individual skills and gently but firmly encouraging people to push themselves to explore and achieve things they had never tackled before.

Unusual as it may sound, this is an ideal way to increase people's communication, cooperation, problem solving and support skills as a group as well as their own individual self-confidence and creativity.

So, my request to those with responsibility for deciding such matters is this: next time you are charged with considering activities that will bond a team or boost individuals' performance, please think outside the 'box' and, rather than asking everyone to risk life and limb, look to the Arts as the recognised hub of creativity that can very easily be transferred into the workplace.

**Peter Helps**

**Pictured left:** sinfonia ViVA was approached by Mike Saunderson, Business Improvement Specialist, Rolls-Royce Marine regarding a team in need of re-energising. A project day was developed in partnership between Rolls-Royce, workshop leader Andrew Williams and sinfonia ViVA to address the needs of the Business Improvement Team and the result was Project Ocean. Pictured is a Rolls-Royce team member at the project day.

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André de Ridder