

Fever Pitch - and Soothing Sounds too

Music makes good medicine, and sinfonia ViVA's **Fever project involves its musicians in dispensing enjoyment directly to those most in need of it, as the Orchestra's Education Administrator **Sylvie Campen** explains...**

ViVA: Fever is an ongoing education project that provides creative music workshops in a variety of health settings for young people and their carers. It gives the participants the opportunity to access top quality music making and promote their self esteem and wellbeing. Spread over two days the Fever project visits four locations delivering an hour's workshop at each for the children, their carers and the staff.

The most recent Fever sessions were led by workshop leader Lucy Forde with Clare Bhabra (violin) and Matt Dunn (bass clarinet) from ViVA. The team first visited Nottingham Children's Centre followed by Royal Derby Hospital the same day. The following day there were workshops at Rainbows Children's Hospice in Loughborough and Leicester Royal Infirmary. Each group of Fever sessions is based around a theme, for example previous themes have been *The Animal Kingdom*, *Around the World in 60 Minutes* and *Smiles*.

This time the workshops were based around the theme of *Time Travel* and during the sessions the participants got to hear music from the past and present and they also got to create their own piece of music from the future.

An important factor of these sessions is the need for flexibility as the venues cannot predict how many people will be attending the session and also the individual needs and abilities of the participants. This means that each workshop has a different feel from the previous one and this is an exciting part of the project; you are never sure what you are going to get! In some cases the children are too ill to leave their rooms so the musicians go and give them their own little performance either before the sessions starts or just after - this way no one misses out.

During the workshops there was the opportunity for the children and their carers to join in with the musicians and perform alongside them using a variety of percussion instruments. The participants also learnt about each of the instruments and got to see and hear them close up as the musicians moved round the room to demonstrate their instrument individually. Many of the children enjoyed feeling the bass clarinet vibrate as it was played.

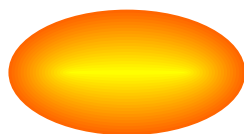
When creating their own piece of music from the future the participants were able to get creative suggesting what should be in the piece and what percussion instruments should be used. In performing their newly created piece some of the participants were able to conduct all the players counting them in, controlling the dynamic and showing everyone when to stop.

The Fever workshops are a great opportunity for the participants and their carers to enjoy music whether they just listen to the musicians or get creative joining in with them and making their own music. It is great to see the positive reaction from the participants throughout the sessions and how much enjoyment they gained from taking part along with the carers and the staff at each of the venues.

This project has been generously supported by Liz and Terry Bramall Charitable Trust, Leeds Building Society Charitable Foundation, The C Charitable Trust, The Thomas Farr Charity and Boots Charitable Trust.



Fever in Action: musicians Lucy Forde (leader and flute) Clare Bhabra (violin) and Matt Dunn (clarinet)



INSIDE ~ ViVA Board Member Helen Bishop discusses her role as a director... Reviews of both 'two-in-a-night' Nottingham concerts marking Anna Meredith's debut as **Composer in the House... PLUS full concert listings~**



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ENGLAND**



Saturday 8th May

Royal Concert Hall Foyer, Nottingham 11.00-12.00, 1.30-2.30pm and 3.00-4.00pm
 Tickets: Adults and Children £6.50 Box Office: 0115 989 5555

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-05-08-nottingham.shtml

▶▶ The Beanbag Proms - *Splash! Dive! Swim!*



The Royal Concert Hall Foyer is the place to go down to as **Beanie Bear's Gang** assembles for the latest instalment of the fun that is The Beanbag Proms: a chance for the very young and their carers to share terrific music together - and have some fun along the way! Musical maestro **Alasdair Malloy** leads this enchanting and entertaining hour which will excite and enthrall your child in a relaxed and comfortable setting.

Frequently sold-out long in advance of the performances, The Beanbag Proms are a chance to share terrific music together in an enchanting and entertaining hour which will excite and enthrall your child in a relaxed and comfortable setting.

Each concert includes:

Participation elements - including actions and playing instruments

- Dancing**
- Singalong**
- Stories**
- 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. 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 Whitaker Charitable Trust, Helen Jean Cope Trust, D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust and the JN Derbyshire Charitable Trust.

Tuesday 8th May

Royal & Derngate Theatre, Northampton at 7.00pm
 Tickets: £5.00 adult, £1.00 child Box Office: 01604 624811

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-05-25-northampton.shtml

▶▶ Connected to Music - Connection

A musical celebration with sinfonia VIVA and Daventry Schools

Creative Director: Tim Steiner
Conductor: Stuart Stratford
Soloist: Kim-Marie Woodhouse, Soprano

Connected to Music is one of five Music Partnership Projects from the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). The project is funded by DCSF and supported by DCMS and Arts Council England.

Connection will involve around 250 children and young people from seven Daventry Schools and Daventry Music Centre performing alongside one of the country's leading professional orchestras, sinfonia VIVA, at a very special concert at Royal & Derngate, Northampton. Schools taking part include: Ashby Fields Primary School, The Abbey VC Junior School, Danetre School, Falconer's Hill Junior School, Southbrook Junior School, The Grange School and William Parker School plus students from the Daventry Music Centre. The young people, directed by **Tim Steiner**, will perform music created during the Connected to Music project alongside sinfonia VIVA and musicians from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Service and their teachers.



Photo: Bob Fielding

sinfonia VIVA and conductor **Stuart Stratford** will be joined by soprano **Kim-Marie Woodhouse**, who attended Danetre School in Daventry before becoming a professional singer, in a performance of Manuel de Falla's *El Amor Brujo*, which features the well known Ritual Fire Dance. The Orchestra will also perform Charles Ives *Tone Roads No 1* and *Tone Roads No 3*.

The **Connection** performance promises to be a real spectacular – book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Please note that a FREE coach will be leaving Falconers Hill Primary School for parents and families at 6.00pm and returning to Daventry after the concert. To book your place, please contact the school on 01327 703132 and ask for Mrs Foster or Mrs Allera.

Partners in the project: Orchestras Live, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, sinfonia VIVA, Northamptonshire County Council, Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Service, Northamptonshire Learning Achievement & School Improvement Services; Royal & Derngate, Northampton

Sunday 13th June

Main Ballroom, Pontins, Pakefield Nr. Lowestoft
 Ticket details from the Pontins booking line on 0870 604 5602

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-06-13-pakefield.shtml

▶ Last Night of the Pakefield Proms

Glinka: Ruslan and Ludmilla Overture
 Dvorak: Slavonic Dance No.2
 Mozart: Deh Vieni (Marriage of Figaro)
 Offenbach: Barcarolle
 Tchaikovsky: Waltz of the Flowers
 Puccini: Quando m'en vo (La Boheme)
 Smetana: Dance of the Comedians
 Anderson: Buglers' Holiday
 Lai: (Where Do I Begin?) Love Story
 Gilbert & Sullivan: HMS Pinafore Overture
 Gilbert & Sullivan: Poor Wandering One
 arr. Hall: I Do Like to be Beside the Seaside
PLUS traditional 'Last Night of the Proms' items!



sinfonia ViVA returns to Pontins at Pakefield, Nr Lowestoft for the fifth triumphant year! Conductor **Anthony Kraus** brings an effervescent Last Night programme of favourite classics with the Orchestra joined by accomplished Soprano **Jeni Bern** - and if previous concerts are anything to go by, one that as the evening unfolds will have the audience out of its seats and calling for more!

The hugely popular Pakefield Proms weekend culminates in this marvellously traditional concert - an exciting occasion in which energy, fun and finesse intermingle in what is sure to be an enjoyable atmosphere.

If you enjoy popular classics and the idea of a bit of flag-waving, foot-tapping audience participation is something you'd look forward to, then sinfonia ViVA's concert at Pakefield this year needs to be on your calendar!

Supported by Arts Council England

Tuesday 22nd Jun

Assembly Rooms, Derby. Schools' Performance at 1.00pm. Public Concert at 7.00pm.
 Tickets for the 1.00pm Schools' Performance - £1.50 per child (accompanying adults free of charge) from sinfonia ViVA on 01332 207602
 Tickets for the 7.00pm Public Concert - £3.00 from the Box Office: Assembly Rooms 01332 255800
www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-06-22-derby.shtml

▶ Floratorio



Floratorio celebrates the life of Florence Nightingale in the 100th anniversary year of her death.

Nationally acclaimed composer **James Redwood** leads a team of sinfonia ViVA musicians in four local schools to create a series of new songs inspired by the life of the famous 'Lady with the Lamp'. 180 young people will perform this major new oratorio incorporating their own compositions.

Peter Roberts and **James Redwood** have been commissioned to write **Floratorio** following great success with **More Glass Than Wall**. The work will be premiered by the massed choir, vocal soloists and sinfonia ViVA in the culmination performance.

Floratorio has been generously supported Rolls-Royce plc, Derby City Council, Derby LIVE, Heritage Lottery Fund, Orchestras Live, sinfonia ViVA and Arts Council England. **Floratorio** is in association with the Florence Nightingale Derbyshire Association and is part of the Illuminate Festival.



Photo right: credit Robert Day

Weds 21st July

St John's Church, Buxton 3.00pm

Tickets: Tickets: £18 (children £9) from the Buxton Festival Box Office: 0845 1272 190

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-07-21-buxton.shtml

||| sinfonia ViVA ensemble at Buxton Festival

Mozart: Divertimento K136
R. Strauss: Metamorphosen
R. Strauss: String Sextet from Capriccio, Op 85
Verdi: String Quartet (version for String Orchestra) arr. Yuli Torovsky

A terrific ViVA ensemble conducted by **Nicholas Kok** entertains this afternoon as part of the Buxton Festival.

Mozart's Divertimento K136 is one of a collection of three divertimenti he wrote in Spring 1772. Its warmly resonant themes have a youthful nature, and the piece displays a lively energy.

Metamorphosen was composed at the conclusion of WW2 and epitomises the despair Strauss felt both at the physical destruction of Germany – embodied particularly in the ruined architecture of many famous music venues beloved to him – and also the shattering of the German artistic and cultural society. Whatever Strauss's personal feelings towards the regime that had led Germany to this point, the music is a powerful lament which grows in intensity and tells its own story.

The Strauss opera Capriccio was begun in 1940 and completed the following year. It was to be his final operatic composition, and one that he professed he could never better. The opera opened with a prelude in the form of a string sextet, heard offstage, the musicians rehearsing a piece. Today we get to hear that String Sextet music played centre stage!

Verdi wrote his one and only chamber work in spring 1873 during an enforced break in the production of a revival of Aida in Naples when a soprano fell ill. Its low-key April premiere to friends in the hotel where he was staying was reinforced by Verdi's own comments at the time, suggesting he attributed little importance to it beyond being an academic study. However, over time, the significance to history of both it and the chamber orchestra version has grown.

Visit the Buxton Festival website <http://www.buxtonfestival.co.uk/> for more details of the Festival.

Supported by Rolls-Royce plc, Orchestras Live and Arts Council England



Photo: Marco Borggreve

Tuesday 20th July

St John's Church, Buxton 5.00pm

Tickets: Tickets: £10 (children £5) from the Buxton Festival Box Office: 0845 1272 190

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-07-20-buxton.shtml

||| Floratorio at Buxton Festival

sinfonia ViVA

Conductor: David Lawrence



Floratorio celebrates the life of Florence Nightingale in the 100th anniversary year of her death. Nationally acclaimed composer **James Redwood** leads a team of sinfonia ViVA musicians in four local schools to create a series of new songs inspired by the life of the famous 'Lady with the Lamp'. 120 young people will perform this major new oratorio incorporating their own compositions.

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Floratorio has been generously supported by Buxton Festival, sinfonia ViVA and Arts Council England



floratorio

Celebrating the life
of Florence Nightingale
in Music

the backstage page

Our occasional series profiling the members of ViVA's Board of Directors continues as **Helen Bishop** explains how she knows what she likes...



I first came across sinfonia ViVA (then called the East of England Orchestra) when I moved into my new role as Head of Community Relations with Rolls-Royce 10 years ago. Rolls-Royce had already been involved with the Orchestra on a variety of small projects working within the local

community - so I went along to the offices to find out more from Peter Helps. Having never really before thought about how an orchestra worked or how the organisation might be structured, it was very interesting to hear how it had evolved into a very flexible structure - not only enabling it to tackle a whole variety of music but also to work in a range of very different environments in many different shapes and sizes.

Since then I have basically viewed ViVA as a musical resource for the community at large and at Rolls-Royce we have worked with them ever since in a wide range of projects and formats i.e. from small scale performance groups at some of our larger corporate calendar events (e.g. at our annual global Learning and Development Awards through to our Senior Management Conference last year) through to supporting classical concert giving (including the spectacular annual Darley Park concerts), educational and community residencies and even fully integrating ViVA's activities into some of our training programmes (award-winning at national level).

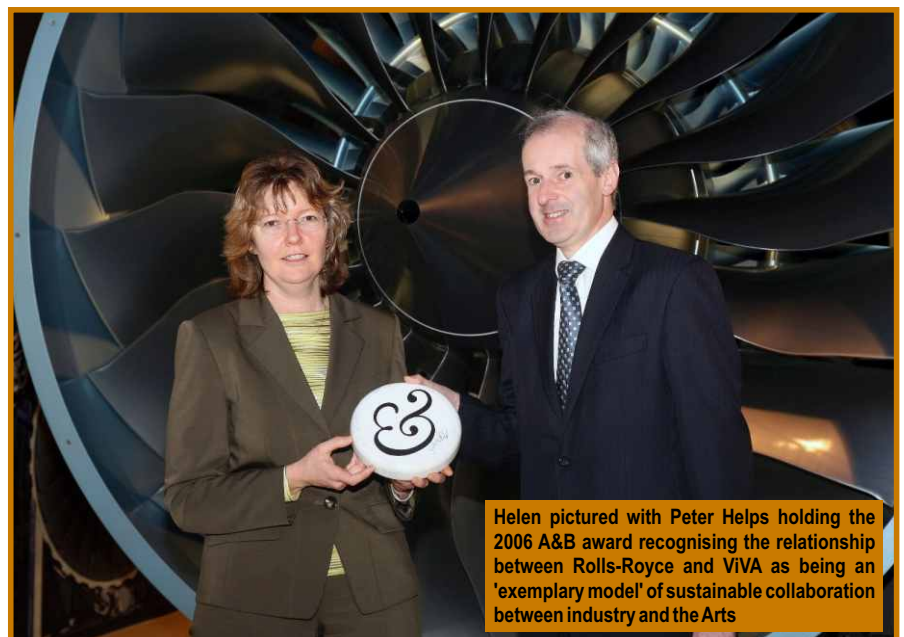
It's been quite a journey and we are always looking for new ways to work together. This long-standing relationship (now over 13 years old) is one of the longest of any

corporate support for the arts in the country.

I've been a member of the Board of ViVA for a number of years now and enjoy the challenge of keeping the whole show on the road (both literally and metaphorically) whilst maintaining our innovative edge and creativity - for which I believe the Orchestra is rightly known and respected by many different organisations.

My own classical music 'upbringing' was mainly through my paternal grandmother who bought me 7-inch singles (goodness, that must make me sound ancient!) of the Sabre Dance, Mozart's Symphony No.40 and the theme to *The Onedin Line* as Christmas presents. I also took piano lessons through my teenage years which now, of course, I wish I had maintained into adulthood... how I envy the ViVA musicians who can turn their talents so easily to a range of different musical styles!

My own musical taste remains fairly 'traditionally classical' and perhaps not as musically adventurous as it should be... but I definitely know what I like and what I don't!



Helen pictured with Peter Helps holding the 2006 A&B award recognising the relationship between Rolls-Royce and ViVA as being an 'exemplary model' of sustainable collaboration between industry and the Arts

In Review X 2

sinfonia VIVA with Freddy Kempf
Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham, 16th March 2010
reviewed by William Ruff
After:HOURS concert 9.45-10.30pm with Thomas Gould
reviewed by Peter Palmer

...One venue
...One night
...TWO concerts

Pianist Freddy Kempf

has been a star for a long time. A former BBC Young Musician of the Year, he started playing when he was four and was already giving concerto performances by the time he was eight. Although still only 33, his wealth of musical experience is almost making him a grand old man of the keyboard.

Precision and Transparency William Ruff



Photo: Monique Deul

And certainly more than a match for the demands of Schumann's Piano Concerto, a work of such lyrical grace that it needs an unusually poetic sensibility to do it full justice. Yes, there was plenty of virtuosity, but it was always at the service of the music, eliciting its tenderness and slightly restrained passion. The close rapport between soloist, conductor André de Ridder and members of *sinfonia VIVA* gave this large-scale orchestral work the intimate feeling of chamber music.

Beethoven's 2nd Symphony is one of the composer's wittiest works, full of sudden changes of mood and rhythmic surprises. It only ever works properly if played with razor-sharp ensemble – which made it ideal for *sinfonia VIVA* who have become famous for precision and transparency. The first movement was played with great panache, whilst the scherzo and finale were buoyant and boisterous.

The orchestra's talent for subtle colouring could be heard in Ravel's evocative tribute to his musical heritage *Le Tombeau de Couperin* and in a new work, *Fringeflower* by new Composer in the House Anna Meredith, which exquisitely and with great economy of means, conjured up the Chinese flower of the title.

...then, following the main concert... time for After:HOURS...

Peter Palmer **Engagement and Flair**

There were links between Tuesday's late-night event and two previous concerts in a remarkable new Nottingham Classics venture.

American composer Nico Muhly supplied the main work this time round. Muhly has collaborated with leading minimalist Philip Glass, who was featured last autumn. And Muhly's piece *Seeing is Believing* was inspired by the stars as much as the final work heard last month. The title evokes Renaissance star-gazers and the matching of scientific observations to religious beliefs. Muhly cites all sorts of creative influences – an old English diagram of the universe, an engraving from a treatise on sun-spots, an anthem by William Harris ('Fair is the Heaven'). Mozart also came into the equation, partly through a historic star-studded design for his opera *The Magic Flute*.

And the result? A one-movement concerto for Thomas Gould's customised electric violin and chamber orchestra, building its mysterious mission on a 3-note phrase and a long-drawn series of chords.

This was a journey into the unknown, but driving towards order and harmony. The fiercest passage was a free-for-all between soloist and woodwinds, the gentlest an exchange with the celesta. The nonchalant ending provided another Mozartian touch.

Under André de Ridder's direction, members of *VIVA* supported the phenomenal Gould with their usual engagement and flair. The violinist kicked off with an agreeably vigorous and virtuosic solo piece by Anna Meredith – of whom the region can expect to hear more.



Photo: Simon Weir

VIVA receives funding from Derby City Council and Arts Council England

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sinfonia

Principal Conductor
André de Ridder

