

ESO Concerts in Care Homes and Hospices



Following a suggestion by cellist **Corinne Frost**, in 2007 we established our **Concerts in Care Homes and Hospices** programme to bring live music to people who would not otherwise get the chance to hear it. An ESO string or wind quartet will perform for an hour and then join the residents for tea and a chat. These occasions are hugely appreciated by the staff and residents, and not least by the musicians.

The musicians will perform three such concerts in any one day, and as professionals need to be paid a fair fee for their time. The homes and hospices do not have such money freely available, so the ESO raises the funds itself to ensure that this programme can be developed.

*Hello Corinne, Happy New Year. A big thank you for coming to play with the String Quartet last year. The concerts you gave raised the feeling of well-being for residents & the home generally in the months to follow. In our end of year review the music you performed was top of the list for good memories for 2009. All the best for 2010, **Andrea Maclean***

The cost of putting on three concerts in a day is **£1,000**. This includes the musicians' fees, music and travel expenses plus administration.

As far as we are aware, we are the only orchestra engaged in such work and there is therefore a huge demand for it, in particular for return visits. We have had discussions with the University of Worcester to initiate research into the spiritual and physical benefits of live music on people otherwise unable to access it. Our ultimate aim is to raise sufficient funds to enable us to have one day a week devoted to these concerts.

In the meantime we want to keep the momentum of the project going. If you would like to make a donation to enable us to do so, we would be delighted to hear from you.

*"It is such a privilege to perform in the different Homes and Hospices and to bring such joy to those listening. On various occasions folk have got up and danced to the music. They often sing along to well known songs and enjoy reminiscing to us over a cup of tea after we've played. I have met such interesting people, including a black and white minstrel, a professional violinist and a pianist. Live music can reach and touch people's hearts even when they are not well enough to converse. I am told that the enjoyment lasts well beyond our visit and as we leave, we are often asked how soon we will be able to come back." **Corinne Frost, Cellist***



Appeal
2010-2011

ESO in the Community

The English Symphony Orchestra is a professional musical organisation based in Worcestershire. Our main business is live performance and we run a full series of concerts throughout the year, with many of them taking place in Worcestershire.

ESO wants to be seen as a vital member of the local community, and we aim to achieve that by making live music available to as wide a variety of people as possible, from pre-school children right up to people in Care Homes who can no longer get out and about for themselves. Live performance really can "engage and lift the spirit" of everyone who witnesses it, whether as audience member or participant.

Over the past decade the Arts in general have seen drastic reductions in public sector (Arts Council, Lottery, Local Authority) funding. At ESO we are proud of our history of non-reliance on any such funding; a factor which has put us in a strong position in our field. We believe that the most appropriate sources of funding for our community schemes are those individuals and organisations who share our community ideals.

The following pages give further information on ways which ESO serve the community. From our board members to our musicians themselves, there is a genuine desire to introduce live music at all levels with carefully prepared repertoire.

You will see that the costs for a day's activities for a group of musicians costs around £1,000. We realize that this sum will exceed the budgets of some companies and individuals, so we are starting a general appeal for our next financial year - 1st September 2010 to 31st August 2011, when we will be establishing a separate fund to enable us to expand our programme. Any amount that you, your company, colleagues or friends can donate will be directed to the Community Project Scheme. If you pay tax as an individual then please sign a "Gift Aid Declaration" so that we can claim back at least 22p in every pound you donate. If your company pays tax then there are also benefits in charitable giving.

If you or your organisation would like any further information on these schemes or ESO in general, then we would be delighted to hear from you!

Peter Sheeran **Chief Executive** Mobile: 07710 807921

ESO (2006) Ltd.

23 Stockwood Business Park, Stockwood, Nr. Redditch, Worcestershire B96 6SX Telephone: 01386 791044 Email: info@eso.co.uk Website: www.eso.co.uk

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Storytime -

ESO performing in pre-schools and nurseries



The English Symphony Orchestra is the only professional Symphony Orchestra in Hereford and Worcester. Our activities are divided into concert performances, education work and engagement with the local community.

Our aim is to bring the joys of live music to as wide an audience as possible. In discussion with Worcestershire Arts Education in 2009, it emerged that there was a huge gap to be filled in the provision of live music to children of pre-school age in the county and indeed beyond.

One of our musicians had been involved in a project in South London, where the London Mozart Players had for some years been performing "Storytime", a combination of songs, stories and audience participation. They agreed to create a version for ESO and also to come to Worcester to assist in a pilot performance.

Storytime is aimed at children from 2½ to 5 years old. The ESO ensemble is led by a conductor / narrator, and consists of a cello, French horn and clarinet. As well as having the instruments accompany well-known nursery tales such as *Billy Goat Gruff* and the *Bear Hunt*, the players will introduce them to the children and show volunteers from the audience how to play them. The show ends with a concert in which the children join the orchestra for their first ever performance under a baton! Storytime ESO was piloted at Crowle pre-school in September:

Everyone I spoke to was most impressed and loved the range of instruments on show. It was a big group and your team did a good job at maintaining their interest. They particularly liked the bits where the children were involved, although the story also received lots of praise. It was a good balance of different approaches to delivery of music. Please let us know if you are going ahead and the scale of charges as we would love to have you back if our funds allow. Sharon Brett

We are in the process of raising funds to establish *Storytime* as a viable option for pre-school music provision. To do so, we will need to purchase the selection of percussion instruments for the children to play and set up a further day of performances to which we can invite pre-school staff to see and hear for themselves. Our plan would then be to stage 3 *Storytime* concerts in a day, at a cost of £1,000 per day.



ESO Beginners and Intermediate Orchestra courses

For children who have just begun to learn an instrument, ESO runs Beginners Orchestra courses, which are run by members of the Orchestra. These usually give the children their first opportunity to play alongside other children and, indeed, professional orchestral musicians.



Once the students have attained grade 3, they are encouraged to join our Intermediate Orchestra courses, which caters for children up to grade 7.

ESO also works with County Youth Orchestras and Music Academies on projects involving young players at grade 8 and diploma levels. We often involve these players in our concerts, where they play alongside a professional orchestra for one part of the performance.

One or two members of the Youth Orchestra and Side-by-Side courses of the 1990s are now regulars with the Orchestra, a fact of which we are very proud. It is wonderful to watch a child's development from Beginner to Side-by-Side, and these courses are fundamental in persuading young players to persist with their musical studies when competing attractions present themselves.

So as to be as inclusive as possible, and not price the courses out of some families range, ESO itself raises funds to subsidise the Beginners and Intermediate Orchestra courses, which take place over the 6 half-term weekends of a school year. Each two day course requires a subsidy of **£1,000**.

ESO courses have for several years been held at The Downs, Malvern College Preparatory School in Colwall. We are delighted to be working in collaboration with Number 8 Community Theatre in Pershore to run two mid-week courses in August 2010. For further details of the courses please call or e-mail for a brochure.

ESO in the Community Appeal

I would like to make a donation of £ _____ which I would like to be used to support

Concerts in Care Homes / ESO Beginners & Intermediate Orchestras / "Storytime"

Gift Aid Declaration Please tick box.

I am a taxpayer and I would like the ESO to treat my donation as a Gift Aid donation. Gift aided donations can also be paid for by credit card over the telephone

I enclose a cheque payable to **ESO (2006) Limited** for

£

or please debit my:

Mastercard Visa Switch Delta Amex Card Number

Start date ___ / ___ / ___ Expiry date ___ / ___ / ___ Issue no. ___

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