

Concert Review - Summer 2009

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The NYRO Summer Course concert, which took place at the West Road Concert Hall in Cambridge on August 1st 2009, was a very enjoyable experience and flowed seamlessly, due to excellent organisation throughout. The music that the students performed was of a very high standard and showed off the great versatility of the recorder.

Two world premieres took place during the concert. The first was *Coronation of the Ice King* by Nicholas Wynne, which combined solo marimba, played beautifully by Joley Cragg, with 27 members of NYRO. The second was a new arrangement of *Rigs, Jigs and Reels* by David Moses. This piece contained a lovely solo for descant recorder from Ben Cracknell.

NYTRO the National Youth Training Recorder Orchestra – conducted by Eileen Silcocks, played a varied range of pieces, some of which included harder techniques such as glissandi. NYRO itself, conducted by Colin Touchin, maintained a very high standard throughout the entire concert and there was a good use of dynamics and expression in all the pieces played, bringing out the different character of each piece.

The contribution from BlockWork, a smaller group of the most advanced students within NYRO, conducted by Ross Winters, was the highlight of the concert. There was great attention to detail, the students staying in perfect time with each other and employing very effective phrasing.

Throughout the entire concert, great use was made of the larger basses. Every piece involved a great bass, as well as a contra bass, which added a depth to the harmonies that was very effective and provided another layer of character to the performances. After one week's intensive tutoring, a truly enjoyable concert was the outcome and I look forward to next summer's performance.

By Kate Harris