



YMC IN AND OUT OF THE SUBURB

For over 25 years now the Youth Music Centre's Christmas concert has given pleasure to hundreds of Suburb residents. However, few can remember a more successful or enjoyable concert than that which took place at the Institute Hall on December 6th.

A packed audience saw the programme open with the Beginners Orchestra playing tunes specially composed for this group by Joyce Riddell, one of YMC's Directors. The Beginners Orchestra is designed to give the under-nines their very first orchestral experience, and as such is virtually unique in London. Other orchestras from YMC — the Suburb's Saturday morning music club based at Henrietta Barnett School included the newly reformed Training String Orchestra and the Junior Orchestra. The Symphony Orchestra's interpretation of the first movement from Beethoven's First Symphony brought prolonged applause, and there were two further highlights of the evening.

First, YMC's String Orchestra, under the baton of Christopher Bunting, one of Britain's best-known cellists, delighted the audience with Warlock's Capriol Suite. Entry to the String Orchestra is by audition only, and the high standards set in the past are clearly being maintained. The YMC Senior Orchestra brought the evening to a close with YMC's theme tune, 'The Dambusters'. In keeping with tradition the orchestra and the audience stood during the recapitulation of the theme, and certain enthusiastic spectators were even seen to salute!

The concert officially brought YMC's Christmas Term to an end. But, the following Saturday more than 100 YMC students took part in a YMC Special Event. They delighted Christmas shoppers at Covent

Garden with YMC's second annual busk in aid of MAFFRIA — the Musicians' Appeal for Famine Relief in Africa. The busk attracted widespread publicity, including a live feature on LBC Radio, and £711 was raised as a mixture of Christmas carols and classical music rang out across the Piazza.

The Youth Music Centre will officially reopen for the Spring Term on Saturday January 24th at its regular headquarters: Henrietta Barnett School, Bigwood House, Bigwood Road, London NW11. All of YMC's regular features will be maintained — 7 orchestras for children of varying ages and standards, instrumental classes for wind and string players, orchestral percussion, theory classes, Nursery Rhyme and Beginners' Percussion groups for the very very young. Spring Term Special Events include two FREE jazz sessions open to members and non-members on Saturday February 7th and Saturday March 14th from 10.45am onwards. These informal basic sessions will consider the rhythms and syncopations that lie at the heart of jazz music, and no previous experience will be assumed. Players of all ages and abilities are welcome to join in the workshops. The Spring Term will end with a concert on April 4th at 3.00pm in the Institute Hall — who knows, perhaps 'The Dambusters' will be on YMC's musical menu once again! Full details on all YMC's activities can be obtained from the Acting Secretary, Suzanne Birnie, on 455 8663.



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