

friends of the **martyn donaldson** music trust

Newsletter 1 | July 2003

An Introduction from the Friends' Scheme co-ordinators, Steph and Jane...

Welcome to our very first 'Friends of The Martyn Donaldson Music Trust' newsletter! We hope you will find it interesting and informative. If you would like further information on anything in this newsletter, or would be interested in submitting an article for the next, please feel free to contact us!

As a Friend, you are entitled to a free ticket every year for an MDMT-promoted concert, plus discounted tickets for other events. We will contact you before each event to see if you would like to take up your free ticket or reserve discounted tickets. You can then collect the tickets at the door on the night. As you will appreciate, the Trust is still in its early days and we are continuing to work on plans for further Friends' benefits. We're pleased to report that the list of Friends continues to grow and we're looking forward to staying in touch with you all.

Thank you once again for supporting us all in our efforts to celebrate Martyn's life and fulfil some of his dreams.

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PS. If you've not already done so, please could you return your standing order form to us as soon as you can. Thank you to everyone whose forms we have already received. Your invaluable contribution gives the Trust stability and security for the future.

MOZART'S REQUIEM STARTS THE BALL ROLLING...



The MDMT's first official fund-raising event took place on Good Friday with a moving performance of Mozart's Requiem, last performed by the same group at Easter 2000 when Martyn sang with the basses. **Dr Gareth Hatch**, who shared a house with Martyn in Birmingham for some time and was a close friend, travelled all the way from the USA, where he now lives, to attend the event. He shares his thoughts about the evening...

As the first official event of the Trust's fundraising activities, Good Friday's Mozart's Requiem was a resounding success! This was the first live choral event that I'd seen in some time, and I was pleasantly reminded of just how powerful such an experience could be. Mr D led members of the Macclesfield Methodist Church Community Choir and the orchestra of the Occasional Players to produce a stirring performance of one of Mozart's most popular works. The four soloists, **Rachel Taylor, Carol Taylor, Glyn Taylor** and **Paul Connor** did a fine job too.

There was standing room only at the start of the concert, and the wonderful acoustics and close proximity of the performers to the audience really accentuated the atmosphere of the evening. A nice surprise was the inclusion of Mozart's *Ave verum corpus* to bring the evening to a satisfying conclusion.

The event raised over £1800 for the Trust, giving a great kick-start to the realisation of the aims of the Trust. It also had me humming Mozart for days after my arrival back in Chicago!

Gareth



MACCSTOCK KICKS IT INTO TOUCH!

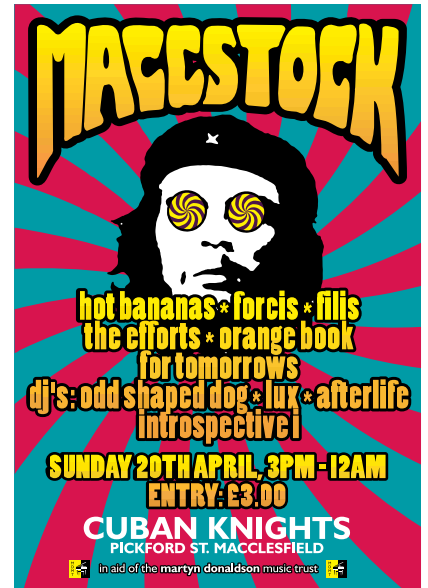
In complete contrast to the Requiem, the second official fund-raising event, Maccstock, was a nine-hour marathon gig featuring local bands! Maccstock was a huge success from beginning to end, as Dan Chaloner reports...

April 20th saw the staging of 'Maccstock', a day and night of live music and deejays. The capacity crowd at Cuban Knights bar were treated to a diverse array of musical styles, from the guitar rock of For Tomorrows to the inspired lunacy of The Hot Bananas. Lis Murphy and friends kept the afternoon crowd riveted to the spot with a sublime mixture of European folk songs and jazz standards.

As evening came around, the music shifted up a gear with rare performances by two cracking local bands: The Efforts and Orange Book. The former brought some wry lyrics and a wacky musical proposition, while the latter upbeat rhythms, catchy hooks and sheer volume!

The Hot Bananas rounded off the event in their own inimitable, slightly off-kilter style. Throughout the day a raffle was held as well as a collection by the door staff. This brought the total amount raised for the Trust to just over £1500. Well done everybody.

Dan



Our wonderful website!

The MDMT is now the proud owner of a comprehensive website, which can be found at www.mdm.org.uk. You can read about Martyn and view some photos, find out more about the aims of the Trust, check on forthcoming events, read Martyn's first-hand account of life in Africa, email the Trustees and even leave your own messages on any subject connected with Martyn's Trust in the Forum area!



To access the Forum, click on the button on the Home page. Register your name and email address and then choose the Forum area which relates best to your message. Write your message, adding a smiley face of your choice (!). Your message will be read and approved by a moderator and will then appear for the whole world to see! The latest development is a Chat Room, so you can have real time on-line conversations with other Friends!

Please do explore the website and the Forums - you can even let us know of any improvements we could make by leaving a message in the appropriate Forum area!

MDMT to present Jazz Award

On **Friday 11th July**, a number of Trustees will travel to London to attend the National Festival of Music for Youth, at the South Bank Centre. The Festival is Europe's largest youth music event, taking over the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room for a week-long jamboree displaying the very best in youth music.

On several occasions Martyn acted as stage manager for this event, alongside Steph who was a full-time member of staff at Music for Youth. The Festival is very much a celebration of music, rather than a competition, a philosophy which Martyn whole-heartedly endorsed. Awards are given for performances on the day and Martyn's Trust is sponsoring the Outstanding Performance Award in the Jazz (schools) category. A Trust representative will present the award to the chosen school band.

We'll tell you more about the winners of the very first MDMT Outstanding Performance Award in the next newsletter.



Music for Youth

The MDMT Logo

You will no doubt have noticed our eye-catching Trust logo. We are delighted that this has been designed by one of Martyn's school friends, James Bainbridge, a graphic designer. He is also responsible for producing our Trust information leaflets, the 'groovy' (a Mr D word) Maccstock publicity (see above) and the Bollington Brass Band concert posters. The fantastic Mozart Requiem poster (see front page) was painted by another of Martyn's pals, Dan Chaloner, and designed by James.

The Trustees would like to thank James and Dan for their invaluable contribution.





FOCUS ON: Starehe Boys Centre & School, Nairobi, Kenya

'Natulenge Juu' - 'Aim High' - is the motto of Starehe Boys Centre, the only school in Kenya to provide free secondary education and residential care for three quarters of its pupils.



Director Geoffrey Griffin founded the school in 1959 to give education and food to orphans of the Mau Mau uprising. The school has since grown from two tin huts to a 48-acre campus, accommodating 1011 boys. In the year 2001 to 2002, 706 boys came from severely disadvantaged backgrounds - boys who, despite grim poverty and hardship, have had the endurance to complete their primary education in schools all over Kenya.

As their families are unable to pay fees, this is likely to have involved acting as servants to the teachers, carrying firewood or water for them. They will have had to borrow textbooks from friends and completed their homework by the light of a fire, being too poor to afford a lamp. Having overcome all the odds and achieved a promising performance in the national primary-leaving exam, the boys have no hope whatsoever of being able to afford the fees necessary to attend an ordinary secondary school.

Starehe's report for the year ending April 2002 describes some of that year's intake:

"The father of Julius is dead and his mother struggles to feed herself and five children on her earnings as a casual labourer - two children older than Julius have already dropped from school for lack

of fees. Peter's parents are alive but in ill-health, barely subsisting with eight children on a tiny plot in the tribal area. Nicholas, 14, has no father. His mother, with three children, is housed by a sympathiser and earns food through casual labour. David's parents are poor peasants, both in ill-health. The state of the family is pathetic - three of the older children having already died, while others have fallen out of school.



Anthony, 15, his mother and eight brothers and sisters depend upon subsistence crops grown upon a half-acre plot (the father is dead). Joseph's father, a peasant growing subsistence food, has been forced to sell part of his small-holding to meet hospital fees for his wife who is mentally ill - in consequence an older child has dropped out of school. Okinyi comes from a peasant family - his mother is dead, his father is blind and suffers from palsy and his elder brother fell from school for lack of fees. The list could be extended across many pages. Altogether, Starehe gave free places to 145 helpless boys in January 2002."

In a report in The Times in 1998, whilst Martyn was still teaching at Starehe, 13 year old Jonah Aiyabei recalled, "Try to imagine life at primary school. Up every morning at 4am, collect firewood, light a fire... Then off barefooted, running 2km to school, sometimes in torrential rain. I suffered but I never stopped working hard and praying that things would change. That is why my heart was illuminated when I received the letter calling me to Starehe." In the same article, Enock Odhiambo, 14, says, "There was a lot of happiness when I gained a Starehe place, not just in my family but in the whole village, because people knew that one day I would save my family from poverty."

Starehe is a school that truly makes the difference between life or death for many of its pupils.

Next Newsletter: Starehe's inspiring academic results - how is such excellence achieved? Plus some of Martyn's unique thoughts on his time in Africa, expressed in his own inimitable manner...!



STOP PRESS! FORTHCOMING EVENTS

We are delighted to announce plans for several events taking place during the Autumn.

Martyn's Music

Saturday 13th September is a date you MUST put in your diary! The Trust will be presenting 'Martyn's Music' at Macclesfield Methodist Church. The evening will encompass all the music that Martyn enjoyed and was involved with - no mean feat considering that his tastes took in almost every sort of music you can imagine! Martyn's family and friends will be performing choral music, instrumental pieces, jazz and excerpts from musicals and we even hope to include some of Martyn's original compositions.



Central Methodist Church Concert, Dudley

If you've ever fancied a trip to Dudley (as no doubt you all have at some time...), your opportunity has arrived! On Saturday 20th September, members of the congregation of Central Methodist Church, Dudley, will be presenting and performing in a concert to raise money for Martyn's Trust. A smattering of Macclesfield performers will also take part (those not worn out from the previous weekend!). This will be a fun-packed evening of varied (and I mean varied!) entertainment. And we can even recommend a good Chinese to eat in before the show... Contact Steph for more details about this event.

St Leonard's School Concert Band

On Saturday 8th November, we will be welcoming St Leonard's School Concert Band, all the way from St Andrew's, Scotland! The Band will give a concert at Macc Methodist Church in aid of the Trust, led by their teacher, ex-All Hallows student and all-round good egg, Matthew Brown! Matt is renowned for returning from the far-reaches of the world to sing with the Macc Community Choir (he arrived, on time, for the final rehearsal of the Mozart Requiem having flown directly from New Zealand via Japan!!). He is also a top-notch trumpeter, pianist and composer - his piece 'Gloria' was performed during the recent Macclesfield-Bad Bergzabern music exchange. Please support Matt and his pupils in November.

Paul Connor

A Macclesfield legend, Mr Paul Connor, returns to present a one-man show on Sat 13th December! Paul, who sang the bass solo in the Requiem, will perform 'A Christmas Carol' at the Methodist Church. Anyone who has seen Paul's many stage performances at All Hallows and beyond, will know what a treat is in store. Book your tickets early!

We are also hoping to stage another event featuring local bands and performers over August Bank Holiday - plans are still in the formative stage but we will contact you to let you know more and will also add the details to the website.

Your Friendly Trustees

Chairman: Andy Donaldson

Martyn's Dad. Groovy ex-music teacher with a natural sense of rhythm. Marathon runner and silver surfer. Quote most likely to hear: "this WRETCHED computer".

Vice-Chairman and Friends Co-ordinator: Stephanie Corfield

Martyn's sister. Shares Lord of the Rings obsession with Jane Maric. Most Important Role: Ruben Maric's unofficial godmother (or elf).

Secretary: Linda Donaldson

Martyn's Mum. Salsa-dancing Capper's tapper. Hobby: buying matching clothes with her partner-in-crime, Mrs Mary Berry.

Treasurer: Matthew Berry

Stalwart Bass and integral member of Bollington Brass Band. A force to be reckoned with in the Brass Band World.

Publicity: Chris Brown (Cow)

Martyn's oldest friend, pals from primary school. Known as Cow to virtually everyone. The story of how he became Cow is most amusing but he really does milk it - sometimes it's beyond the pail. Put it out to pasture.

Fund-raiser: Katie Muncaster

Dancer and choreographer extraordinaire, who took part in many shows alongside Mart. Has some most amusing anecdotes about her attempts to teach Martyn to tap-dance.

Fund-raiser: Lis Murphy

Singer extraordinaire who shared many magical musical moments with Martyn, plus the ability to play bass guitar in the most unlikely of pieces. Lovingly nicknamed 'Fat Les' by Martyn.

MDMT Trustee: Colin North

Stalwart Bass and even more Stalwart Friend. Very much in demand for his ability to speak fluent German. Has very lovely wife.

Friends Co-ordinator: Jane Maric

Astoundingly beautiful house parent at Chetham's School of Music. Habitual visitor to Selfridges and mother of bi-lingual 4-year old space hobbit.