



## welcome

to this, the first newsletter for sponsors and patrons of the orchestra. We would appreciate any feedback about its contents and suggestions as to the type of information that you would like to see appearing



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT: rehearsal is an enjoyable learning process for the orchestra

**Y**our committee has been working hard through the summer preparing for our autumn concert in the Easterbrook Hall on the 20th November. The success of our recent concerts has been a real spur to further raising of standards, an important aim for our conductor Geoff Keating.

We are very fortunate to have somebody of his calibre and experience to direct us. Rehearsals are not merely a "run-through" but are a learning process always enhanced by Geoff's vision of the music, his imagery, his encouragement, and of course the occasional subtle or gentle correction.

It is also heartening to see our group increasing with a spirited pool of musicians keen to play with the orchestra.

# Looking forward to our autumn concert

Although we are spread over a fairly large area, we are proud that we can turn out a full symphony orchestra for the Easterbrook Hall concerts. The mix of both amateur and trained musicians is invigorating and allows us the opportunity to learn from one another - an opportunity we might not otherwise have.

We are also fortunate that a number of our members are music teachers who actively promote the



learning, and awareness, of orchestral instruments. Other projects exist in the

area for encouraging young players, notably the Galloway Young Strings.

# Horns abroad



Solway Sinfonia members Martin Prowse, Pam Harris and son Jonathan Harris are also members of the horn group, Scottish Vienna Horns, founded in 1993. In September 2005, between appearances in Montrose and Glamis, Lanercost Priory and

Castle Douglas, Scottish Vienna Horns performed in Stadt Haag in Austria and played during the Sunday Mass in the Stiftskirche of St. Florian. By chance, this was the location that weekend for the biennial conference of the Anton Bruckner Institute of Linz and a

group of conference members expressed their appreciation at hearing the brass harmonies of Bruckner emanating from the gallery of the great "Bruckner Organ", and their surprise to learn they were produced by "lauter Hörner" (nothing but horns).

## and at home

A Concert by the Scottish Vienna Horns and The Balliol Consort, 7.30pm, Saturday 15th October in Castle Douglas Parish Church Admission Free

**G**ALLOWAY Young Strings was formed in October 2004 with the aim of giving young string players more opportunities to play together in a group. It is run by Roslyn Henry, Pauline Roe and Susan Smyth (all members of the Solway Sinfonia) and takes place in Gatehouse Community Centre every Monday.

The music played ranges from classical, through traditional Scottish, to popular music. It is arranged in several parts according to the players' standard, currently ranging from complete beginner to Grade 4, so that each

member plays music suited to his or her ability.

The group also play musical games that form part of the weekly sessions and are intended to help develop the players' musical awareness. The age range of the players is currently 6 to 12, all of these children being violin players, although the group is open to viola and cello

players too! The cello line is provided by another adult, Jonny Dowswell. So far GYS has given three concerts, which were well attended and enjoyed by both players and audience. New members are always welcome! Please contact Susan Smyth on 01557 814458 or pass these details on to anybody you feel may be interested.

## Young strings are a success

As part of Glasgow University's extra-mural programme, Geoff Keating will give a commentary on, and play extracts from our programme for the Autumn Concert - Tchaikovsky's Fantasy Overture Romeo and Juliet, Elgar's Sea Pictures and Dvorák's Symphony no.9 "From the New World". The lecture is at 2.00pm, Thurs 17th November in the Parish Church hall, Gatehouse of Fleet. Tickets £6 at the door.