



ARne Richards and

The Oxford Concert Party Sponsorship Pack



*“A decidedly unstuffy bunch of superb musicians...
Look out for them whenever your spirits need a lift.”*
The Daily Telegraph





How important is music to you?

An elderly gentleman rose to his feet at the end of the concert and gave an eloquent speech of thanks. Nurses later commented that this was remarkable because he had not spoken for five years. Music had unlocked his hitherto imprisoned faculties and given him the power of expression once more.

Whitehaven Hospital, Cumbria – a concert for Alzheimer’s sufferers

Music is a source of great pleasure and also a powerful tool, enabling memories and moods to be evoked. How many times have you put on a piece of music to cheer yourself up after a hectic day? Or played a song to remind you of a special occasion in your life?

We are lucky that on the whole we can participate in live music whenever we want. There are, however, people who do not have that luxury. They could be living in remote villages, prisons, hospices, residential homes or locked inside their own minds.

We would like to invite you to help these isolated people experience the freedom and joy of music which most of us take for granted through sponsoring the work of the Oxford Concert Party.

As a sponsor, you will have tangible benefits such as publicity and ticket offers.

You will also have the satisfaction of providing wonderful opportunities for people who never have the chance to hear and participate in high quality music experiences from a group of musicians who play in leading orchestras (such as BBC Symphony, Welsh National Opera, Orchestra of St John Smith’s Square, London Mozart Players), for West End musicals and with pop groups such as Suede, Coldplay, Spandau Ballet.

We hope that you will feel able to support the Oxford Concert Party and its’ valuable work, which has brought so much happiness to people throughout the country.



Benefits for Sponsors

In exchange for your donation, we would promote your business through our publicity. This includes:

- Oxford Concert Party newsletters
- through our website
- on our Facebook page
- press releases
- print (posters, tickets, concert programmes)
- annual reports
- in background information for funding applications

Where possible, your donation will be included on listings websites.

If you sponsor a concert, for each £500 you donate, you will receive 4 free tickets for the event.

For any project sponsorship, we will offer a discount (dependent on level of sponsorship) on a wonderful in-house concert for your clients/friends/staff at a concert location of your choice.

We are currently developing a professional development workshop for businesses and when this is launched, we will offer a discount to sponsors for delivering this at your organisation.

This will be an opportunity for you to associate yourself with a group which not only has an excellent reputation for the contribution it makes to peoples' wellbeing, but also for quality, enjoyment and fun. Depending on which project(s) you support, you will be associated with education; supporting older people; welfare and rehabilitation of offenders; the arts.

You will be promoting yourself to our audiences who cover a large demographic, as well as our funders/ potential funders.

"You were all quite magnificent. The power that you communicate via the music was superb, inspiring and spiritual." **Codsall Village Hall (Staffordshire)**

"The schools concerts were greatly appreciated by children and staff and the evening was a great success. The band are refreshingly different and brought something very special to the over all festival programme."

Beccles Festival



Community Work

Education Work

A workshop project for primary schools, led by two musicians, consists of an introductory concert, followed by five workshop sessions with a final 'performance', and covers aspects of music such as the four elements of sound: rhythm, pitch, duration and timbre, using rhythm games, movement, singing, dancing, simple composition and improvisation.

Our most popular projects include:

- **A Dustbin Full of Songs** - based on environmental issues.
- **Where's my Home?** - addressing issues surrounding immigration, refugees and asylum seekers.
- **Go With The Flow** - a music and drama project based on the history of the Thames, which also addresses environmental and global issues surrounding water.
- **Five a Day** - a singing project for reception classes on the theme of healthy eating.

"It gave them all a sense of worth and pride in what they could achieve and improved confidence in a few of the quieter children." Teacher, St Andrew's C of E Primary School, Headington, Oxford

"The project developed the children's teamwork and co-operative skills, as well as their confidence in their abilities to perform." Teacher, Bayards Hill School

A 5 day project with a full concert at 2 schools run concurrently costs £4,000

Music for Elderly Groups and People with Special Needs

Music is a powerful tool when working with elderly people and those suffering with dementia or Alzheimer's and can have extraordinarily profound effects: people whose communication has been limited or who often appear confused can suddenly regain clarity of mind through the stimulation of memory through music. People who may not remember what they had for lunch half an hour ago can be transported to childhood holidays through the sound of an ocean drum and before you know it they can recall in vivid detail their annual trips to the seaside years ago.

Since its inception the Oxford Concert Party has made a special commitment to a programme of concerts for the elderly, people with dementia and adults with learning difficulties. This stems from the belief of the Artistic Director of OCP, ARne Richards, in the healing and humanising power of music. As well as his skills as a professional performer and composer, ARne is a highly trained and experienced music therapist.

Music workshop projects for older will typically run for six weeks. Every week two musicians work for an hour with the group using music, songs and poetry to stimulate memory and entertain clients. Using a starting point such as school, the weather or food, we aim to generate memories from the group out of which grow stories,



poems and songs. We take a number of instruments from all over the world such as African drums, a digeridoo, a Balinese gong, rainsticks, an ocean drum, a Tibetan bowl, a Vietnamese fish and hen, many other percussion instruments, a violin and an accordion, and explore different sounds and rhythms, sing songs and improvise.

The OCP has had some wonderful responses over the years from people with special needs, Alzheimer sufferers and the elderly.

Ann, a resident at the Calder Day Centre in Banbury suffering from dementia, had been born and brought up in Ireland. On hearing a piece of Irish music she transformed from being extremely angry and uncommunicative as she began laughing and talking and even translating the Gaelic title of the tune. Her carers were amazed.

Edward had been refused access to all lunch clubs because of his sometimes unpredictable and aggressive behaviour: he was given a chance at Steeple Claydon lunch club and after Arne had established a connection with him through his love of jazz he became happy, responsive and communicative and has remained so ever since.

A 6 day project with full concert at 2 centres run concurrently costs £4,500

Prison Projects

The OCP started its prison work in 1992 and since then has worked with prisons across the country. The response of prisoners to these projects has been such that we are developing this work, in the belief that music can play a key role in the rehabilitation process. This belief is underwritten by the former Home Secretary Jack Straw, who expressed a personal interest in the projects.

A prison project lasts between 3 to 5 days, dependent on the needs of the prison. After an initial concert by the OCP, workshops are held using sound and rhythm games, creative ideas and improvisation. OCP will bring a wide variety of percussion instruments from around the world which inmates will have the opportunity of playing. 15 – 20 inmates participate in the project and will be encouraged to bring forward ideas for individual performance and work towards a final performance for inmates, staff and visitors consisting of inmates' music and poems, some OCP repertoire and a large scale improvised work to be played by everyone.

We were very touched to recently receive a letter from one of the participants from our last workshop at HMP Dartmoor in September, part of which is quoted below, which we feel encapsulates why this work is so important:



“Without doubt, the atmosphere you enable to be created, resonates throughout the wing long after we have returned to our cells. It is clear that individuals are clearly lifted from their otherwise troubled existence, worries, concerns and doubts, momentarily lifted from their shoulders. An air of hope and near normality, an all too often alien experience within these walls, clearly lingers.” Inmate, HMP Dartmoor

“Dear Lovely People, I have heard and seen you twice. I love you and think we should all get married. There is not much culture in my life so you were a great breath of fresh air to me.” Grendon Underwood Prison

“Chaplains of a Christian tradition should be used to miracles in three days, but OCP were extraordinary. Out of your patience and commitment came the most remarkable music. Several of those who took part had never had the opportunity nor the courage to perform before. Rejecting no-one and encouraging everyone; from somewhere emerged sweet music! You will have made a permanent difference to the lives of those who were there.” Rev Bill Cave, Chaplain HMP The Verne

A 5 day project costs £10,000

Summary

Education Work:

A 5 day project with a full concert at 2 schools run concurrently costs £4,000

Music for Elderly Groups and People with Special Needs:

A 6 day project with full concert at 2 centres run concurrently costs £4,500

Prison Projects:

A 5 day project costs £10,000



Baroque



Klezmer



French



Celtic



Finnish



Tango



Public Concerts

We play public concerts in order to take music to communities which have little or no opportunity to hear first class music played live. They also serve to raise our profile and for fundraising purposes. At the concerts, we include a donation form in our programme and also sell our CDs.

For a public concert we budget £3,000 to cover all costs.

This includes fees, travel and venue hire. Funding for public concerts is not generally available from trusts and foundations. Therefore we are seeking businesses which would be willing to contribute to our expenditure for the evening.

With fundraising concerts, all money raised is unrestricted funding and goes towards funding future public concerts and our core costs (such as research and development, writing funding applications, marketing, administration, etc.), work which we cannot get funded elsewhere.

“The depth and quality of the playing were remarkable, without in any way compromising or being compromised by your ability to make it all enormous fun. There are plenty of ensembles who give people the aesthetic pleasure that one expects from good music; I don’t know another group of players who make their audience so happy.” **Aston Cantlow Village Hall**

“Thank you for coming to Wisbech and giving us such a treat. I have been treasurer of the Wisbech Music Society for 18 years and have attended all the concerts which must run into several hundred. I can honestly say that I have never heard such a varied and exciting programme on one evening.” **Wisbech Music Society**

“Concerts of Baroque music, tango, and Scottish and Irish tunes are not two a penny at Festival or any other time... the concert never loses its sense of fun there is no sense of a self-conscious blowing of boundaries as the Oxford Concert Party just play and give entertainment.” **** **The Scotsman**

“It’s totally different, crazy and triumphant with a peculiar vitality.” **BBC Radio**

“One of the most entertaining, mould- breaking groups around.” **Oxford Times**

“One of the major qualities that sets this Orchestra apart from any other ensemble is not only virtuosity but also their wit and rare entertainment value, which immediately puts everyone at ease and produces instant audience participation.” **The London Arts and Fringe Directory**



ARne Richards and

The Oxford Concert Party



ARne Richards (Artistic Director - harpsichord/accordion) made his highly acclaimed debut at the Wigmore Hall in London, and has since developed a colourful and varied performing profile in many parts of the world. Well known for his exciting and stylish playing, he has recorded regularly for BBC Radio and Television, Channel 4 Television, and has appeared on Italian, German, Mexican, Australian and US networks. An authority on music for healing, his work as a consultant music therapist has taken him to Scandinavia, the Far East and Australia. He is also a qualified hypnoanalyst. ARne's unique compositions and arrangements for the Oxford Concert Party reflect his great love of world music, particularly Celtic music and the tango.

Isabel Knowland (violin) studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Frederick Grinke. During her varied professional career she has played in West End shows, recorded with groups such as Procol Harem, played in many major London orchestras and recorded several trio recitals for the BBC. From OCP's formation in 1992 to 2008 she managed the group, and has played a major role in developing projects in prisons, schools and residential homes. Brought up in Ireland, her playing reflects her love of its passionate music and energetic dance.

Gregory Warren Wilson (violin) is a jack of all trades, known nowadays as a post-modernist renaissance man. He trained at the Royal Ballet School and danced at Covent Garden before studying at the Royal College of Music. He was a member of the Razumovsky Quartet for three years and the London Mozart Players for ten. He now enjoys a wide variety of work, performing and recording classical, contemporary and pop music. Passionate about tango, he teaches at The Tango Club in London. He has also published four books of poetry, most recently 'The Mercury Fountain' (Enitharmon Press, 2008).

Lisanne Melchior (viola) won violin and viola scholarships to the Royal Northern College of Music and later to study in Chicago. Lisanne enjoys different forms of music playing in symphony orchestras, opera orchestras including Glyndebourne and Welsh National, and jazz ensembles. She has a particular love of chamber music and has performed concertos in both England and Germany. Lisanne lives on a smallholding with animals both feathered & woolly and also keeps free-range children.

Trevor Burley (cello) hails from Halesowen in the west midlands. At the age of eleven, having failed miserably with the trumpet, he fell in love with the cello and later studied at the Welsh College of Music in Cardiff and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London. Since then his busy freelance career has included playing in thirteen West End shows, performing chamber music at the Purcell Room and working with the rock group Suede. He now lives in Oxfordshire with his partner Shelley, with whom he plays 1920's Palm Court music. He also cooks with gusto, flirts with church organs and is a practising Craniosacral Therapist.

Lucy Hare (double bass) is in great demand as a freelance player in London and abroad. She has worked with many of London's major orchestras, chamber ensembles and recording companies. A traveller, gastronome and dancer at heart, Lucy's unique percussive playing brings together her wild energy and love of world rhythms and music. Obsessed by the tango she has formed her own tango quintet, Tango Volcano. She has recently acquired a new passion, gardening, and she and Isabel are known to spend many hours over their veg boxes, wine glass in hand, discussing slugs and compost.



Oxford Concert Party on BBC Radio 3 'In Tune' May 2012

Background to Oxford Concert Party

Oxford Concert Party has been working together for 20 years. The principal aims of the Oxford Concert Party (OCP) are the enrichment of community life and the advancement of education through music, achieving this in ways that enable wide access to music and overcome social exclusion.

Oxford Concert Party is an eclectic mix of two violins, viola, cello, double-bass and harpsichord/accordion, and our music an original blend of many genres, from Baroque and Latin American to Eastern European, Parisian, Scottish and Irish.

Oxford Concert Party tours nationally and internationally, aiming to make music accessible to all. For the last 20 years, we have delivered concerts and workshops in residential homes for the elderly or sufferers with Alzheimer's, in community centres to people with special needs, in isolated village halls and to many primary schools and prisons across the country. With passion, energy, humour and sensitivity, we take our listeners on a journey which transforms, heals and humanises, especially those imprisoned by isolation, illness or walls.

We are a registered charity (no: 1049340) and as we have no office, our overhead costs are very low and almost all funding goes into delivering the actual work. With no core funding, we rely on extensive fundraising to support our work and the generosity of individuals, private trusts and foundations. In addition, we hold occasional self promotional concerts to raise funds to allow us to continue our community work.

Mission Statement

Through community concerts and workshops the music of the Oxford Concert Party ignites emotions and facilitates access to an inner world of infinite creativity.

The Oxford Concert Party defies the sterile world of the concert hall and, with an original and kaleidoscopic repertoire, makes music accessible to all; and with passion and energy, humour and sensitivity, skill and experience, they take their listeners on a journey which transforms, heals and humanises.

The Oxford Concert Party is a registered charity: no. 1049340 and Company Limited by Guarantee: no. 02923444

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Visit our website at: www.oxfordconcertparty.org and hear our music!