

COMMONWEALTH YOUTH ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR

“Using Music as a means of international dialogue, knowing no boundaries”

BIENNIAL REPORT

“Engage - Educate - Empower”

TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2013

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1. Biennial Report November 2011 – November 2013

“Engage - Educate - Empower”

Tuesday 12 November 2013

COMMONWEALTH YOUTH ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR

“Using Music as a means of international dialogue, knowing no boundaries”

In October 2009 the Commonwealth Heads of Government tasked the ten-member Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group to advise the Commonwealth on building a stronger, more resilient and progressive association.

In October 2011, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth, Australia, the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group submitted its report containing 106 recommendations on the reform of the Commonwealth.

In the first sentence of its letter of transmittal to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group wrote:

“Each of us came to this group as a supporter of the Commonwealth association; at the end of our work we are even more convinced of the Commonwealth’s potential as an influence for human advancement within its member states and in the wider global society.”

At CHOGM 2011, thirty of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group’s recommendations were agreed unanimously, and without reservation, by the Heads of Government.

One of these thirty recommendations, which were unanimously agreed, was Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group’s R47, which stated “Heads of Government should welcome the creation of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra....”

The Commonwealth Heads of Government have now agreed to 85% of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group’s recommendations. Over the last two years the Commonwealth Secretariat has focused on incorporating the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group’s reforms into its work programmes and its Strategic Plan 2013 - 2017 was approved by the Commonwealth Secretariat Board of Governors on 23 May 2013.

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir has been hugely honoured by such unique and unanimous Commonwealth Heads of Government support and now, on Tuesday 12 November 2013, in the week of CHOGM 2013 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir is pleased to present its Biennial Report 2011 – 2013 “Engage-Educate-Empower”.

2. INTRODUCTION



On 28 April 2009, in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth, the Diamond Jubilee of the establishment of the Modern Commonwealth was celebrated with a world-premiere performance of the “Commonwealth Cantata”, which was especially composed for the occasion by Paul Carroll, Artistic Director and Composer-in-Residence of The Commonwealth Orchestras.

The origins of the Commonwealth stretch back much further than 63 years, but 1949 marks the pivotal point at which the Commonwealth’s colonial legacy was positively transformed into a partnership based on equality, choice and consensus. To create a legacy for the Diamond Jubilee of the Commonwealth the concept of “Using music as a means of international dialogue, knowing no boundaries” was born and the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir was established. This was shortly followed by the establishment of the Commonwealth Orchestra for its alumni and young professionals. Then in 2012, the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra established the Commonwealth Children’s Orchestra & Choir for school-children.

Through its Pan-Commonwealth programmes and platforms, The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir, the Commonwealth Orchestra and the Commonwealth Children’s Orchestra and Choir, bring together musicians of all the Commonwealth nations, uniting them in the pursuit of musical excellence, whilst transcending all cultural, political, social and economic boundaries.

In 2012, the year of the Diamond Jubilee of the Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II most graciously became Diamond Jubilee Patron 2012 of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir. The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir was honoured to play a central role in the celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth.

The following list of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir’s selected performance highlights, from November 2011 – November 2013, shows just some of the great number of occasions when the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir performed in the formal Diamond Jubilee celebrations. It gave a numerous historic and remarkable performances as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012 and in so doing the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir always brought the Commonwealth theme to the fore. This was particularly in evidence by its renditions of the Commonwealth Anthem at numerous key moments.

One of the most notable of these historic performances was on Tuesday 5th June 2013 when the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Children’s Choir performed the Commonwealth Anthem at Mansion House for Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth. This performance was broadcast live across the globe and was watched by an estimated four billion viewers.

3. NOTABLE PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 2011 – NOVEMBER 2013

2011

- November Asia House
Asian Business Leaders Awards to honour Mr Ratan Tata
- November Institute of Directors Annual Dinner
Launch of CYO's third CD, supported by the Institute of Directors and the Commonwealth Secretariat's Youth Programme
- November Sri Lanka High Commission, London
Performance for the Vin d'Honneur marking the Installation of His Excellency Dr Chris Nonis, High Commissioner for the Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

2012

- March Westminster Abbey
Commonwealth Day
Commonwealth Observance in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth
- March Marlborough House
Commonwealth Day
Performance at Commonwealth Secretary General's Reception in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth
- March Lancaster House
'Celebration of Commonwealth Youth' presented by Commonwealth Secretary-General and the Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General.
Launch of CYO's Diamond Jubilee CD
- March Guildhall, City of London
Performance at the Commonwealth Lecture
- March Palace of Westminster
Performance for the Diamond Jubilee Address in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth
- April Merchant Taylors' Hall
Performance for the 1st Nexus Commonwealth Awards
- May Dartmouth House
Diamond Jubilee Concert presented by the English Speaking Union
- June Mansion House, City of London
Diamond Jubilee Reception hosted by The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of the City of London in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth
- June Lancaster House
Diamond Jubilee Lunch hosted by the British Foreign Secretary for visiting Foreign Heads of States and Commonwealth High Commissioners

- June Marlborough House
Performance for Commonwealth Secretary-General's Diamond Jubilee Luncheon attended by Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth and Commonwealth Heads of State
- June Mansion House, City of London
Performance for Diamond Jubilee Reception hosted by The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of the City of London and the Commonwealth Business Council
- July Palace of Westminster
Diamond Jubilee Commonwealth Carnival concert presented by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
- July Windsor Castle
Diamond Jubilee Performance for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, in the presence of The Duke of Edinburgh and The Earl of Wessex
- July Guildhall, City of London
Reception for visiting Heads of Government prior to Opening Ceremony of Olympics
- August Guildhall, City of London
Reception for visiting Heads of Government prior to Opening Ceremony of Paralympics
- September Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth Foundation
Performance for Diplomatic Induction Event
- September Performance at Fressingfield International Music Festival
- October Buckingham Palace
Performance at Diamond Jubilee Reception hosted by Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth
- November Royal Commonwealth Society
Presentation of Jubilee Time Capsule to Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth
- November Lancaster House
Performance hosted by the Commonwealth Business Council
- December Cambridge University Performance
- December Royal Commonwealth Society Carol Service

2013

- March Royal Commonwealth Society
High Commissioners' Commonwealth Day Banquet
- March Lancaster House
Launch Commonwealth Youth Orchestra's
"Commonwealth Business & Arts in the Community"

March	Marlborough House Performance for 1 st Commonwealth Youth Awards Ceremony
March	Royal Commonwealth Society Performance at the Launch of the “Environment Investment Initiative”
June	Merchant Taylors’ Hall Performance for the “2 nd Nexus Commonwealth Awards”
July	Sri Lanka High Commission, London Performance for Launch of the Commonwealth Business Forum, Sri Lanka 2013
September	Sri Lanka High Commission, London Performance for the Pan Asian Women’s Association hosted by His Excellency Dr Chris Nonis, High Commissioner for Sri Lanka
September	Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth Foundation Performance for Diplomatic Induction Event
September	Performance at Fressingfield International Music Festival
October	Marlborough House Performance for Commonwealth Secretary-General’s event for the UN International Organisation’s CSO Focal Points meeting
October	Marlborough House Performance for the Commonwealth Games Federation Launch of the Queen’s Baton Relay for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games
October	Marlborough House Performance at the Launch of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra’s Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2014 Project: “Music for Peace & Development”
October	Marlborough House Performance at 2 nd Commonwealth Youth Awards
October	Marlborough House Performance for Commonwealth Secretary-General event for The Commonwealth Committee of the Whole
October	Oval Cricket Ground Centenary Banquet for the Association of Commonwealth Universities
October	Buckingham Palace A Performance for a “Celebration of Youth, Education and the Commonwealth” hosted by Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth
November	Marlborough House Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Commonwealth Secretariat’s Youth Division event for the announcement, via live video link to Commonwealth Youth Forum 2013 in Sri Lanka, of the election results of the 1 st Commonwealth Youth Council and the launch of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir’s Biennial Report “Engage-Educate-Empower”, ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, CHOGM 2013, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

4. Commonwealth Music Partnership

A crucial part of the Mission of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir is to create tangible opportunities for nationals of Commonwealth countries, both within their country of origin and also when they travel abroad to take up new national citizenship in a different Commonwealth country.

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir is committed to working very closely with the Commonwealth Diaspora in all 6 regions of the Commonwealth to support integration of Commonwealth nationals in a new country, whilst maintaining strong links with the country of Commonwealth Heritage.

To support this Pan-Commonwealth Mission, in May 2012, as part of its contribution to the Diamond Jubilee Legacy of the Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir launched its Commonwealth Music Partnership. This unique and vast partnership is linking up every orchestra, choir and music school in all 6 regions and in all 53 countries of the Commonwealth.

A great number of music institutions have already become Commonwealth Music Partners and opportunities for educational exchanges and performances are being created for musicians all over the Commonwealth.

A selection of Partners in the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra's Commonwealth Music Partnership

Australia	Gold Coast Youth Orchestra
Bahamas	National Youth Choir of The Bahamas
Bahamas	Music Conservatory
Botswana	Sedibeng Choir
Canada	National Youth Orchestra of Canada
Cyprus	Allegro Music School
Cyprus	Epilogi Choirs
Cyprus	National Youth Orchestra of Cyprus
Ghana	Windy Voices Choir
Grenada	Seales School of Music
Guyana	Caribbean - Commonwealth Youth Programme
India	Asia - Commonwealth Youth Programme
India. Goa	Child's Play
India, Calcutta	Mathieson Music School
India, Mumbai	Mehli Mehta Music Foundation
India, New Delhi	National Youth Orchestra of India

Kenya	Conservatoire of Music
Kenya	National Youth Orchestra of Kenya
Malaysia	Philharmonic Youth Orchestra of Malaysia
Malta	National Youth Orchestra of Malta
Namibia	Mascato Youth Choir
New Zealand	Choirs Aotearoa
New Zealand	National Youth Orchestra of New Zealand
Nigeria	Musical Society of Nigeria
Papua New Guinea	Geelong Youth Choir
Seychelles	National Choir of The Seychelles
Sierra Leone	Ballanta Academy
Singapore	School of Arts
South Africa	Buskaid Music School
South Africa	National Youth Orchestra of South Africa
Sri Lanka	Music Matters Music School
Sri Lanka	National Youth Orchestra of Sri Lanka
Sri Lanka	Soul Sounds Choir
Sri Lanka	Revelations Choir
St Lucia	School of Music
St Lucia	Marchand Youth Orchestra
Tanzania	Umoja Music School
Trinidad & Tobago	Classical Music Development Foundation
Trinidad & Tobago	Marionettes Chorale
Uganda	Kampala Music School
UK	Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts
UK	Sistema Scotland Children's Orchestras
Zambia	Africa Commonwealth Youth Programme
Zambia	Ngoma Dolce Music Academy

5. Commonwealth Business & Arts in the Community

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir's

“Opportunity Through Enterprise” Initiative

In 2013 the Commonwealth Theme is “Opportunity Through Enterprise – unlocking potential with innovation and excellence”.

Taking this theme as the inspirational starting point, the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir has created a Business and Arts led charitable scheme called Commonwealth Business & Arts in the Community (CBAC).

This unique initiative will transform communities throughout all 53 countries of the Commonwealth by tackling key social and environmental issues where Business, in partnership with the Arts, can make a real difference.

This powerful Pan-Commonwealth partnership of business and arts will drive this major international enterprise forward.

Recognising the fact that all businesses need a corporate soul in order to flourish, CBAC adheres to a philosophical mantra of sustainable and ethical enterprise.

Through this philosophy CBAC promotes a sense of aspiration, achievement and development in communities across the Commonwealth.

The positive impact that CBAC will generate throughout the Commonwealth will be one of mutual respect and social cohesion.

CBAC is involving all sizes of corporate entities and it is working to enhance communities by combining Business & Arts expertise in a Pan-Commonwealth context, resulting in a powerful and positive transformative effect.

As well as the sustainable, ethical enterprise philosophy, CBAC is encouraging education as a further means of unlocking and nurturing talent to create new opportunities for enterprise.

CBAC is rolling out a plan for major engagement in the communities throughout all 6 regions of the Commonwealth: Africa, Americas, Asia, Caribbean, Europe and Pacific.

This unique Pan-Commonwealth network of community-based Arts projects is being co-ordinated by the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra's Commonwealth Music Partnership which is creating a vital partnership with all the music schools, orchestras and choirs in the 53 countries of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra has created an independent website for CBAC which is at: www.cbacpartnership.org

6. Commonwealth Children's Orchestra and Choir

A major part of the mission of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir is to engage with the school-children in all 53 countries of the Commonwealth. Music education workshops are taken into schools to inspire children and to create aspiration by showing what can be achieved by working together with discipline and social cohesion. This youth to youth engagement through music provides opportunities which benefits individual youth development and education in the broadest sense.

In September 2012 the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra launched a major new project in the London Borough of Newham, which is one of the most deprived and socially-challenged boroughs in the UK.

In Newham there are an exceptional number of families from over 40 Commonwealth countries. This diverse racial and international population presents complex social problems and the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra aims to create social cohesion through its establishment of the Commonwealth Children's Orchestra and Choir.

The engagement of the members of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and the school-children is an extremely powerful interaction and the members of the orchestra become aspirational figures to their juniors.

7. Commonwealth Orchestra

Another major part of the mission of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra & Choir is to create opportunities for young professional musicians, in all 53 countries of the Commonwealth, at the start of their career.

In 2011 the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra launched a major new project called the Commonwealth Orchestra. At the very core of this new orchestra is the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra's motto of "Using music as an international language, knowing no boundaries".

The Commonwealth Orchestra has been created to provide professional performance platforms and recording opportunities for the alumni of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and other young professional musicians from across the Commonwealth.

Ten "Chairs" have been created for ten key members and section leaders of the Commonwealth Orchestra. The ten "Chairs" are awarded to members of the Commonwealth Orchestra by the selection of the CYO Executive and on an annual basis, which can be renewable. In addition to playing in the Commonwealth Orchestra, the musicians who hold "Chair" positions lead, in a mentoring capacity, in the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra. This greatly benefits the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra because the musicians holding the "Chair" positions become aspirational figures, whilst giving musical cohesiveness to both Commonwealth Orchestras.

The musicians holding the "Chair" positions are also actively involved in the very many education programmes of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir. A musician who is a beneficiary of the "Chair Scheme" is greatly helped at the start of their career by having a stable financial position in the early days of being a young professional.

8. Artists in Residence at Cambridge University

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir is hugely honoured to be Artists in Residence at Cambridge University.

As part of this residency the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir has been holding a series of workshops and presenting performances in collaboration with the Commonwealth students at Cambridge University.

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra is creating a “Commonwealth Cambridge Hub” by linking up the various Commonwealth focused organisations based in Cambridge e.g.

- *The Centre for Commonwealth Education within the Faculty of Education*
- *Cambridge Commonwealth Trust*
- *The International Strategy Office*
- *The Centre for India and Global Business at the Cambridge Judge Business School,*
- *The Centre of South Asian Studies*
- *The Centre of African Studies*
- *The Cambridge Overseas Trust*

Also non-Cambridge based organisations will be involved e.g.

- The Commonwealth Scholarships
- The Rhodes Scholarships
- The Association of Commonwealth Universities

The Mission of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir is “*Using music as a means of international dialogue, knowing no boundaries*” and it has an unique opportunity, as Artists in Residence at Cambridge University, to take the spirit of this message into the highest echelons of academia.

9. Artists in Residence at Goodenough College

Since 2011, the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir have been Artists in Residence at Goodenough College in London.

Goodenough College is the principal residential centre for international postgraduate students in London. The College is a distinctive academic community of some 700 members from around 90 countries world-wide and has a highly distinguished Commonwealth alumnus.

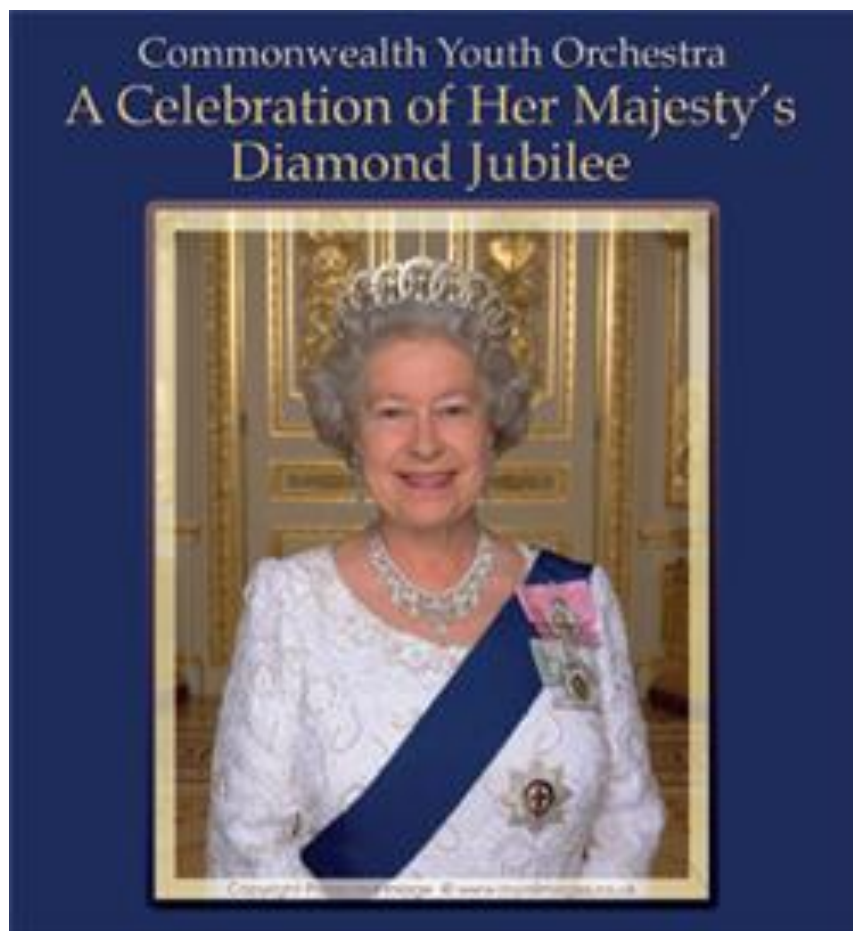
The majority of Goodenough College students are studying for Masters Degrees or Doctorates in a wide range of disciplines at most of London's academic institutions. The College has a very strong musical tradition and has on average 50 musicians per year who are studying within its boundaries.

The unique dynamic of Goodenough College provides an ideal environment for creative collaborations with the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir and both organisations enjoy a close and very productive working relationship.

10. Diamond Jubilee CD

In Commonwealth Week 2012,
and in the presence of
Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma
and
Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba
The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra & Choir
launched its fourth CD
"A Celebration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee"

All the funds raised through the distribution of this CD are directed into
education initiatives throughout the Commonwealth,
as a contribution to the Diamond Jubilee Legacy of
Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth.



11. Music For Peace and Development

Commonwealth Youth Orchestra & Choir's

Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2014 - Queen's Baton Relay Project

On 9th October 2013 at Buckingham Palace, Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth launched the Queen's Baton Relay which is travelling throughout the Commonwealth, over 9 months, to arrive in Glasgow in time for the start of the Commonwealth Games in July 2014.

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir, which was honoured to perform at the Launch event, has created a tour to coincide with the Queen's Baton Relay which will engage with hundreds of the orchestras, choirs and music schools in the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra's Commonwealth Music Partnership.

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra's Mission of *"Using music as a means of international dialogue, knowing no boundaries"* is at the core of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra's Commonwealth Games Project, which will be engaging with communities across the Commonwealth through education workshops and performances and promoting the project's theme: "Music for Peace and Development". The culmination of this unique and historic Pan-Commonwealth project will be a Commonwealth Gala Concert in Glasgow one month before the Opening Ceremony of the Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2014.

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir, the Commonwealth Orchestra and the Commonwealth Children's Orchestra and Choir will be joined by musicians from orchestras and choirs from all 53 Commonwealth countries, The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Sistema Scotland, Massed Choirs from Scottish Universities and 1,000 children from Glasgow primary schools.

The Commonwealth Gala Concert in Glasgow will be live-streamed across the Commonwealth and will provide an opportunity to broadcast to the world that music is a powerful tool to deliver peace and development and it will give visibility to all the tremendous work that is being done across the Commonwealth where music is used as a way of bringing quality into all people's lives, even if they might have very little material wealth.

Some of the benefits arising from these music education programmes are:

- Creates sense of self-worth and belonging
- Develops communication skills and social interaction
- Helps grow self-discipline, patience and perseverance
- Improves organisational skills
- Generates better concentration and focus
- Creates a sense of achievement
- Helps improve memory and coordination
- Develops a sense of responsibility
- Helps with academic studies
- Builds social cohesion

The Commonwealth Gala Concert in Glasgow in June 2014 will provide the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir with an opportunity to use the extra visibility created from the build-up to the Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2014 to showcase its programmes of music education and engagement in communities across the 53 countries of the Commonwealth by *"Using music as a means of international dialogue knowing no boundaries"*.

The Commonwealth Diaspora in the Olympic London Borough of Newham is going to be a focal point of Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir's engagement with the Queen's Baton Relay as it travels through the Commonwealth regions.

The programme of events from October 2013 to July 2014 will follow the itinerary of the Queen's Baton Relay. There are families from every corner of the Commonwealth living in Newham, which is the second most deprived borough in the UK, and the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir will use music to engage the children of these families with children living in their countries of Commonwealth heritage through the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra's Commonwealth Music Partners. The results will be a vibrant exchange of youth engagement through music across all 6 regions of the Commonwealth. The timetable for these events is:

October	Newham 1	India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka
	Newham 2	Maldives, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei
November	Newham 3	Australia, Papua New Guinea
	Newham 4	Solomon Islands, Nauru, Tuvalu, Samoa, Kiribati
December	Newham 5	New Zealand
	Newham 6	Tonga, Vanuatu
2014		
January	Newham 7	Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon
	Newham 8	Kenya, Uganda Rwanda, Tanzania, Seychelles
February	Newham 9	Malawi, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, Mauritius
	Newham 11	South Africa
March	Newham 12	Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Grenada, Barbados
	Newham 13	St Vincent & The Grenadines, St Lucia, Dominica, Antigua & Barbuda
April	Newham 14	St Kitts & Nevis, Jamaica, The Bahamas
	Newham 15	Belize, Bermuda, Canada
May	Newham 16	Cyprus, Malta
	Newham 17	(UK) Gibraltar, Jersey, Guernsey
	Newham 18	(UK) Isle of Man, Northern Ireland
June	Commonwealth Gala Concert Glasgow	
July	Newham 19	(UK) Scotland
	Newham 20	(UK) Scotland

12. Commonwealth Organisations

For many years the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir has enjoyed highly productive and close working relationships with all the accredited Commonwealth Organisations. Many exciting collaborations have resulted from these partnerships and the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir has worked especially closely with:

- Commonwealth Broadcasting Association
- Commonwealth Business Council
- Commonwealth Foundation
- Commonwealth Games Federation
- Commonwealth of Learning
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
- English Speaking Union
- Royal Commonwealth Society
- Royal Over-Seas League
- Victoria League

13. Commonwealth Secretariat

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir works closely with all the Divisions of the Commonwealth Secretariat and it is hugely appreciative of the generous support from Secretary-General Kamallesh Sharma and Deputy Secretary-General Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba.

There is a natural synergy with the Commonwealth Youth Division and there have been numerous exciting and dynamic joint collaborations. The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir greatly welcomes the establishment of the Commonwealth Youth Council and it was honoured to have been part of the consultative process in its formation. On 12 November 2013 the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir created additional visibility to the first ever Commonwealth Youth Council by holding an event at Marlborough House which live-streamed the announcement of the election results directly from the Commonwealth Youth Forum in Sri Lanka to a gathering of young people from all countries of the Commonwealth.

The international visibility of all its achievements is paramount to The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir. From the outset it has worked very closely with the Commonwealth Secretariat's Communications and Public Affairs Division (CPAD). On Wednesday 9th October 2013 CPAD hosted an event at Marlborough House to launch the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir's Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2014 Project: "Music for Peace and Development".

14. "Commonwealth Connects" and IT

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir is very fortunate to have access to the Commonwealth Secretariat's internet tool "Commonwealth Connects" which allows secure on-line access with its partners across the Commonwealth. "Commonwealth Connects" helps to manage projects, share knowledge and coordinate events. As technology radically changes the way in which individuals and organisations work and interact, the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir will be increasingly taking advantage of the technological advances to facilitate all its networks and partnerships.

15. Governance

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 19th October 2011 and registered on 20th December 2011 as a charity under the Charities Act 2006. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Trustees, who are also directors of the company, are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association and shall be persons who through residence, occupation, employment or otherwise, have special knowledge of the area of benefit or who are otherwise, able by virtue of their personal or professional qualifications to make a contribution to the pursuit of the objects of the Charity.

The management, supervision and strategic plans of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir are expedited by The Executive.

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra is honoured to have a broad support of eminent Patrons, Presidents and Vice-Presidents – the full list can be found on pages 21-22 of this Biennial Report.

In November 2012 the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir was accredited by the Board of Governors to the Commonwealth, in the category of ‘Civil Society Organisations’.

16. Funding

To date the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir has not benefitted from central funding and it has had to generate its own income from a variety of different sources. It has been extremely fortunate to have received considerable support from a number of very generous individual philanthropists who understood from the outset the historical significance of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir and that its “engage-educate-empower” initiative as a whole, adds value to the lives of the people across the entire Commonwealth.

Since achieving charitable status in December 2011 the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir has become eligible for grant-funding from educational charities. The fund-raising is organised into various different projects to create relevant income-streams.

There are currently ten Commonwealth Orchestra Funds with the following headings:

1. Commissions Fund - for new music to be composed for the Commonwealth Orchestras and Choirs and the educational projects
2. Instruments Fund to provide music instruments
3. International Student Pan Commonwealth Exchange Fund
4. Musical Chairs 12 month renewable bursaries
5. Music Workshop Fund
6. Music Library Fund
7. Core-Funding Fund
8. Recording Fund
9. Tour Fund
10. Capital Purchase Fund

17. Testimonials

Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma

“I am writing to send the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra & Choir my good wishes and support for this excellent Commonwealth Youth Education initiative. This innovative project is something around which the 53 countries of the Commonwealth can unite and of which they can all be truly proud.

I commend your hard work in creating a superb showcase for the talent of young people and wish you all the best.

Your achievement in bringing the orchestra and choir together is admirable and I am pleased to hear of your success.”

Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba

“Let me also take the opportunity to warmly congratulate you on your continuing work with the orchestra, and the heights to which you continue to take it.”

Richard Uku, Commonwealth Spokesman

Director of Commonwealth Communications & Public Affairs

“Engaging and empowering young people as agents of change is an area in which the Commonwealth places a particularly high premium. The power of young people, the Commonwealth’s largest demographic, gives it considerable influence and soft power.

Through its engagement and education initiatives, and its Music for Peace and Development Project, the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and its Commonwealth Music Partners is inspiring aspiration and empowerment across the Commonwealth.”

Paul Double, LVO - The City Remembrancer

“Congratulations to you and everyone in the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Children’s Choir for the great performance for Her Majesty The Queen at Mansion House on the 5th June 2012.

It was living history and will remain live in many people’s memory for a long time”

18. Photographs



*Commonwealth Day 2012, Marlborough House
Artistic Director and Composer-in-Residence, Maestro Paul Carroll, presents
Her Majesty The Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, with a framed manuscript of
The Commonwealth Anthem*



*Commonwealth Day 2012: The Commonwealth Observance
Members of The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra.*

*Four of the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir's
Commonwealth Music Partners from across the Commonwealth regions.*



St Lucia School of Music



National Youth Orchestra of Kenya



National Youth Orchestra of India



Mathieson Music School, Calcutta

19. Commonwealth Secretariat News Release - October 2013



The Commonwealth



Youth, Education and the Commonwealth celebrated at Buckingham Palace

The soft power of the Commonwealth was very much in evidence in October 2013 when the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Children's Choir delivered a sterling performance at Buckingham Palace before HM Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth. The performance was part of the celebration of the Centenary of the Association of Commonwealth Universities. It also marked 40 years of the Commonwealth Secretariat's Youth Programme.

Engaging and empowering young people as agents of change is an area in which the Commonwealth places a particularly high premium. The power of young people, the Commonwealth's largest demographic, gives it considerable influence and soft power.

Representing all 53 countries of the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Children's Choir engaged the captivated guests with their stirring performance. Under the direction of Artistic Director and Composer-in-Residence, Maestro Paul Carroll, they fittingly opened the performance with the Commonwealth Anthem.

The Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir, through its Commonwealth Music Partnership, links music schools, orchestras and choirs across the Commonwealth. Its Director-General, Sally Shebe, said: "Our mission is to use music as a means of international dialogue, knowing no boundaries."

Guests at the occasion included celebrated professors from universities across the Commonwealth, who were in London for the two-day conference marking the Centenary of the Association of Commonwealth Universities. Established in 1913, the association is the world's first and oldest international university network.

20. Patrons

Commonwealth Youth Orchestra and Choir

DIAMOND JUBILEE PATRON 2012

Her Majesty The Queen
Head of the Commonwealth

MUSIC PATRON
Maestro Zubin Mehta

PATRONS

Sir Shridath Ramphal, GCMG, ONZ, QC - *Commonwealth Secretary-General 1975 - 1990*
Chief Emeka Anyaoku, GCVO, CON - *Commonwealth Secretary-General 1990 - 2000*
The Rt. Hon. Sir Don McKinnon, GCVO, ONZ - *Commonwealth Secretary-General 2000 - 2008*
His Excellency Dr Carl BW Roberts, CMG - *Chair, Board of Governors*

EMERITUS PRESIDENT

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Luce, KG, GCVO, DL

EMERITUS VICE-PRESIDENT

Joy Bryer - Secretary General, EUYO

PRESIDENT

The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Prashar, CBE

VICE – PRESIDENT

Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, ONZ, DBE, AC

HONORARY MUSIC VICE – PRESIDENTS

Leon Bosch - *South Africa*
Rohan de Saram - *Sri Lanka*
Wayne Marshall - *United Kingdom*
Amanda Forsyth – *Canada*
Anup Kumar Biswas - *India*

HONORARY VICE – PRESIDENTS

HE Dr Carl BW Roberts, CMG - *High Commissioner for Antigua & Barbuda*
HE Mr Paul Farquharson, QPM - *High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of the Bahamas*
HE Mr Hugh Anthony Arthur, OBE - *High Commissioner for Barbados*
HE Ms Kamela Palma - *High Commissioner for Belize*
HE Mr Aziyan Abdullah - *High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam*
HE Mr Alexandros Zenon - *High Commissioner for Cyprus*
HE Mrs Elizabeth Ya Eli Harding - *High Commissioner for The Gambia*
Mr Ramses Cleland – *High Commission for the Republic of Ghana*
HE Mrs Ruth Rouse - *High Commissioner for Grenada*
HE Mr Laleshwar Singh, CCH - *High Commissioner for Guyana*
HE Aloun Ndombet-Assamba - *High Commissioner for Jamaica*
Mr Michael Walsh - *Honorary Consul for the Republic of Kiribati*
HE Mr Bernard Sande - *High Commissioner for Malawi*
HE Dr Farah Faizal - *High Commissioner for the Republic of the Maldives*
HE Mr J. Zammit Tabona - *High Commissioner for Malta*
HE Mr Abhimanu Kundasamy - *High Commissioner for Mauritius*
HE Mr Carlos Dos Santos - *High Commissioner for Mozambique*
Mr Martin Weston - *Honorary Consul for the Republic of Nauru*

HE Dr Dalhatu Sarki Tafida, OFR - *High Commissioner for Nigeria*
 HE Ms Winnie A Kiap - *High Commissioner for Papua New Guinea*
 HE Mr Ernest Rwamucyo - *High Commissioner for Rwanda*
 HE Mr Kevin Monroe Isaac - *High Commissioner of St Christopher & Nevis*
 HE Dr Ernest Hilaire - *High Commissioner for Saint Lucia*
 HE Mrs Marie-Pierre Lloyd - *High Commissioner for the Republic of Seychelles*
 HE Mr T Jasudasen - *High Commissioner for the Republic of Singapore*
 HE Dr Zola Skweyiya - *High Commissioner for the Republic of South Africa*
 HE Dr Chris Nonis - *High Commissioner, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka*
 HE Mrs Dumsile T. Sukati - *High Commissioner for the Kingdom of Swaziland*
 HE Dr Sione Ngongo Kioa - *High Commissioner for Tonga*
 HE Mr Garvin Edward Timothy Nicholas - *High Commissioner for Trinidad & Tobago*
 HE Mr Paul Madden, CMG - *British High Commissioner to Australia*
 HE Mr Robert Gibson, CMG - *British High Commissioner to Bangladesh*
 HE Mr Paul Brummell - *British High Commissioner to Barbados & the Eastern Caribbean*
 HE Mr Pat Ashworth - *British High Commissioner to Belize*
 HE Mr Nick Pyle, OBE, MBE - *British High Commissioner to Botswana*
 HE Mr Rob Fenn - *British High Commissioner to Brunei*
 HE Mr Bharat Joshi - *British High Commissioner to Cameroon*
 HE Mr Peter Jones - *British High Commissioner to Ghana*
 HE Mr Simon Bond - *British High Commissioner to Guyana*
 HE Mr David Fitton CMG - *British High Commissioner to Jamaica & Bahamas*
 HE Dr Christian Turner, CMG - *British High Commissioner to Kenya*
 HE Mr Martin Fidler - *British High Commissioner Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu*
 HE Mr Simon Featherstone, CMG - *British High Commissioner to Malaysia*
 HE Mr John Rankin - *British High Commissioner to the Maldives & Sri Lanka*
 HE Mr Rob Luke - *British High Commissioner to Malta*
 HE Mr Nick Leake - *British High Commissioner to Mauritius*
 HE Mr Shaun Cleary - *British High Commissioner to Mozambique*
 HE Ms Marianne Young - *British High Commissioner to Namibia*
 HE Ms Vicki Treadell, CMG, MVO - *British High Commissioner to New Zealand & Samoa*
 HE Dr Andrew Pocock, CMG - *British High Commissioner to Nigeria*
 HE Mr Adam Thomson, CMG - *British High Commissioner to Pakistan*
 HE Ms Jackie Barson, MBE - *British High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea*
 Dr Stephen Rogers - *British Honorary Consul to Samoa*
 HE Ms Lindsay Skoll - *British High Commissioner to the Seychelles*
 HE Mr Antony Phillipson - *British High Commissioner to Singapore*
 HE Mr Timothy Smart - *British High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands & Vanuatu*
 HE Dame Nicola Brewer - *British High Commissioner for South Africa, Lesotho & Swaziland*
 HE Ms Dianna Melrose - *British High Commissioner to Tanzania*
 HE Mr Arthur Snell - *British High Commissioner to Trinidad & Tobago*
 HE Ms Alison Blackburne - *British High Commissioner to Uganda*
 HE Mr James Thornton - *British High Commissioner to Zambia*
 The Rt. Hon. Baroness Amos - *Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, UN*
 Lord Bilimoria CBE, DL - *President, UK-India Business Council*
 The Rt. Hon. the Lord Patten of Barnes, CH - *Chancellor, University of Oxford*
 Alderman Fiona Woolf, CBE The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of London - *City of London*
 Gregory Belton, CVO, KHS - *Chairman, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award*
 Professor John Wood, OBE - *Secretary General, Association of Commonwealth Universities*
 Peter Callaghan - *Director-General, Commonwealth Business Council*
 Vijay Krishnarayan - *Director, Commonwealth Foundation*
 Sir John Daniel - *Past President & CEO, Commonwealth of Learning*
 The Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst, MP - *Chair, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association*
 Andrew Tuggey, DL - *Secretary, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, UK*
 Professor Tim Unwin - *Chair, Commonwealth Scholarship Commission*
 Alan Evans - *Executive Chair, Council for Education in the Commonwealth*
 The Rt. Hon. Lord Howell of Guildford - *Chairman, Council of Commonwealth Societies*
 Dame Mary Richardson - *Chairman, English Speaking Union*
 Major General Roddy Porter, MBE - *Director-General, Royal Over-Seas League*
 Kevin McGrath - *Trustee, Victoria League*

Appendix One

Decisions by Heads of Government regarding the Proposals of the Eminent Persons Group

Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

Perth, Australia, 28-30 October 2011

‘A COMMONWEALTH OF THE PEOPLE: TIME FOR URGENT REFORM’

AGREEMENT BY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE EMINENT PERSONS GROUP (EPG) PROPOSALS

In welcoming the report of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG), and thanking its members for their outstanding work, Heads of Government:

- Agreed that there should be a “Charter of the Commonwealth”, as proposed by the EPG, embodying the principles contained in previous declarations, drawn together in a single, consolidated document that is not legally binding;
- Tasked the Secretary-General and CMAG to further evaluate relevant options relating to the EPG’s proposal for the Commissioner for Democracy, the Rule of Law and Human Rights and to report back to Foreign Ministers at their September 2012 meeting in New York;
- Noted that the EPG’s recommendations relating to the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) were consistent with the CMAG reforms adopted at this Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting;
- Adopted without reservation a further 30 recommendations;
- Adopted, subject to consideration of financial implications, 12 further recommendations;
- Asked a Task Force of Ministers to provide more detailed advice on 43 other recommendations to Foreign Ministers at their September 2012 meeting in New York, as a basis for further decision by Heads; and
- Deemed, for a variety of reasons, 11 of the recommendations inappropriate for adoption.

Appendix Two

The Commonwealth Charter

The Charter brings together the values and aspirations which unite the Commonwealth - democracy, human rights and the rule of law - in a single, accessible document.

The Charter expresses the commitment of member states to the development of free and democratic societies and the promotion of peace and prosperity to improve the lives of all peoples of the Commonwealth.

The Charter also acknowledges the role of civil society in supporting the goals and values of the Commonwealth.

We the people of the Commonwealth

Recognising that in an era of changing economic circumstances and uncertainty, new trade and economic patterns, unprecedented threats to peace and security, and a surge in popular demands for democracy, human rights and broadened economic opportunities, the potential of and need for the Commonwealth – as a compelling force for good and as an effective network for co-operation and for promoting development – has never been greater,

Recalling that the Commonwealth is a voluntary association of independent and equal sovereign states, each responsible for its own policies, consulting and co-operating in the common interests of our peoples and in the promotion of international understanding and world peace, and influencing international society to the benefit of all through the pursuit of common principles and values,

Affirming that the special strength of the Commonwealth lies in the combination of our diversity and our shared inheritance in language, culture and the rule of law; and bound together by shared history and tradition; by respect for all states and peoples; by shared values and principles and by concern for the vulnerable,

Affirming that the Commonwealth way is to seek consensus through consultation and the sharing of experience, especially through practical co-operation, and further affirming that the Commonwealth is uniquely placed to serve as a model and as a catalyst for new forms of friendship and co-operation in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations,

Affirming the role of the Commonwealth as a recognised intergovernmental champion of small states, advocating for their special needs; providing policy advice on political, economic and social development issues; and delivering technical assistance,

Welcoming the valuable contribution of the network of the many intergovernmental, parliamentary, professional and civil society bodies which support the Commonwealth and which subscribe and adhere to its values and principles,

Affirming the validity of and our commitment to the values and principles of the Commonwealth as defined and strengthened over the years including: the Singapore Declaration of Commonwealth Principles, the Harare Commonwealth Declaration, the Langkawi Declaration on the Environment, the Millbrook Action Programme, the Latimer House Principles, the Aberdeen Agenda, the Trinidad and Tobago Affirmation of Commonwealth Values and Principles, the Munyonyo Statement on Respect and Understanding, the Lake Victoria Commonwealth Climate Change Action Plan, the Perth Declaration on Food Security Principles, and the Commonwealth Declaration on Investing in Young People,

Affirming our core Commonwealth principles of consensus and common action, mutual respect, inclusiveness, transparency, accountability, legitimacy, and responsiveness,

Reaffirming the core values and principles of the Commonwealth as declared by this Charter:

- 1. Democracy
- 2. Human rights
- 3. International peace and security
- 4. Tolerance, respect and understanding
- 5. Freedom of Expression
- 6. Separation of Powers
- 7. Rule of Law
- 8. Good Governance
- 9. Sustainable Development
- 10. Protecting the Environment
- 11. Access to Health, Education, Food and Shelter
- 12. Gender Equality
- 13. Importance of Young People in the Commonwealth
- 14. Recognition of the Needs of Small States
- 15. Recognition of the Needs of Vulnerable States
- 16. The Role of Civil Society

We are committed to ensuring that the Commonwealth is an effective association, responsive to members' needs, and capable of addressing the significant global challenges of the future.

We aspire to a Commonwealth that is a strong and respected voice in the world, speaking out on major issues; that strengthens and enlarges its networks; that has a global relevance and profile; and that is devoted to improving the lives of all peoples of the Commonwealth.