

Philosophy



Following on the success of our String Orchestra Workshop in October 2007, we are now establishing a new “Youth String Orchestra” for the Ripon area.

There is no intention for the new **Ripon Youth String Orchestra** to replace or to compete with any existing musical activities or groups in local schools or at the County Music Centres. RYSO should definitely be seen as an additional, “enhanced” opportunity, rather than an alternative to any existing provision.

This is not an elitist concept, nor are we merely trying to produce the next generation of professional musicians (or even “Classical Stars”!). We recognise the immense educational value of all types of musical activity – but we also recognise that music is an art and, as such, is quintessentially about quality. The greatest educational value of any form of music-making derives from the pursuit of excellence. Most of the greatest music, in most forms, requires string players – and, if we do not have enough good string players, we cannot provide the proper opportunities for any of our young musicians, on any instruments (or singers), to play and perform most of the greatest music, written by most of the greatest composers, over the last 350 years!

There is also an important social element. Good string players are in great demand and in short supply everywhere. Wherever you go, orchestras and other ensembles are crying out for more good string players. Throughout your life, if you go to a new school, or to university, get a new job, or move to another town, one of the easiest and best ways to meet new friends is to join an orchestra. If you are a competent string player, you will always be welcomed with open arms! (As a matter of fact, you are probably more likely to get a scholarship, or gain a better offer for a place at university, or succeed in a job application or interview if you are a good string player!)

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this new orchestra, or if you require any more information, please telephone **01765 602856** or **07960 439594**.

Xenophon Kelsey