

## CITATION IN SUPPORT OF PENZANCE YOUTH STRING ORCHESTRA FOR THE BOURNEMOUTH CORNISH ASSOCIATION CUP

During the 2012 Cornwall Music Festival I happened to be in the Church while Penzance Youth String Orchestra were giving a performance of Shostakovich's eighth String Quartet (not a work I knew), re-scored for string orchestra by their Director, Tim Boulton. Written in 1960 and dedicated to "the memory of victims of fascism and war", the music is dissonant and challenging. Few groups of children would learn the notes, let alone communicate the work with such maturity. I was transfixed, and struck by a sense that this difficult music meant everything to these children. Their passion for what they were doing was palpable. It would not have been obvious that this was a children's performance.

Founded just six years ago, PYSO consists of some 20 string players aged between 11 and 18, all of whom live in Penwith. The group's inspirational director, Tim Boulton, was for 17 years a Professor at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama teaching viola and chamber music, before moving to Cornwall in 2003.

Under Tim's leadership the players learn the discipline of listening intently to their own and one another's playing, resulting in confident tuning and responsive, communicative performances. They learn to take responsibility, to be adaptable and flexible, and they develop excellent organisational skills. Moreover, they gain an eclectic understanding and appreciation of music from all periods and genres.

The group has performed twice at Birmingham Symphony Hall as part of the National Festival of Music For Youth, as well as in St. Martin-in-the-Fields and in the Albert Hall. They have taken part in a number of Cornish festivals including the County Festival in Truro, where they have been awarded the Youth Orchestra trophy for six consecutive years, also winning awards for the highest mark for an ensemble, and for the most inspiring director.

*"I saw the Penzance Youth String Orchestra perform Vivaldi's 'Summer' at the School's Proms, [in the Royal Albert Hall] which I thought was absolutely fantastic. In fact I am not sure I will ever be able to listen to the Four Seasons without remembering it with a smile on my face! The members of the Penzance Youth String Orchestra should be incredibly proud of their performance. Bravo!"*

*Jeremy Hunt, Secretary of State for Culture, November 2010.*

*Barbara Shaw*