

Drents Jeugorkest

The Drentish Youth Orchestra

The Drentish Youth Orchestra comprises about sixty youthful and enthusiastic musicians. The orchestra was founded in 1989 and all of its members come from the Dutch province called Drenthe. They all play with a local concert band.

All of the musicians are between the age of 14 and 30 years and they all had to do audition before they were accepted to the Drentish Youth Orchestra.

The Orchestra rehearses once per month. The 2nd Saturday of the month is almost always the permanent rehearsal day. If it happens to be that a concert will take place on that day, the orchestra will rehearse hard on the pieces for the concert. If no concert will take place that day they will be working on new and challenging pieces. There is, of course, also time to socialize and to have lunch with each other. The members of the Drentish Youth Orchestra are close with each other.

The orchestra exists out of the following instruments: piccolo, flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto, tenor and baritone saxophone, trumpet, horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, cello, bass and drums.



The Drentish Youth Orchestra during the European music festival in Neerpelt, Belgium 2009



The Drentish Youth Orchestra during the tour in Madrid 2008



Goal of the orchestra

The goal of the Drentish Youth Orchestra is to let the young musicians make music on an intensive and attractive way. This is not only a way to lead to the advancement of music in general, but will also lead to quality improvement of wind music in Drenthe.

The Drentish Youth Orchestra gives a concert in Sterzing/Vipiteno, Italy 2010

The Repertoire

The pieces the orchestra plays are being carefully picked. Most of all the pieces must be challenging but the taste of the public is not forgotten. That is why the Drentish Youth Orchestra is an orchestra for every kind of music and for every level. The repertoire is very varied. From Bach to the Beatles and from Tina Turner to Tchaikowsky. The result is that the music is nice to hear but most of all fun to play. This is what the orchestra likes to convey to the public.

Tours

The Orchestra goes on tour once per year. They will participate in an international festival or they will give various concerts in the concerned country.

The Drentish Youth Orchestra is thus international versatile. They participated so far in festivals in Germany, Denmark, Luxemburg and Belgium.

Concert tours were also made to England, Poland, Germany, Luxemburg and of course the Netherlands.

During the twenty years the orchestra exists many great tours came and went, but the highlight of them all was the tour to Israel. In the context of the sixtieth year of the liberation the Orchestra made a tour to Israel in 2006. There they played a piece that was specifically composed for them: Boulevard des misères.

In 2008 the tour went to Madrid. It was a tour with lots of 'fun' concerts. In 2009 the orchestra took part in the European Youth Music Festival at Neerpelt. There they won the first prize cum laude. Austria was next in 2010. The Orchestra slept in a hotel in Axams en concerts were given among others in Axams, Innsbruck Vipiteno/Sterzing (Italy).



The Drentish Youth Orchestra gives a concert at 1900 meters altitude on the Seegrube in Innsbruck, Oostenrijk, 2010



The Drentish Youth Orchestra during their tour at Israel, 2006



Conductor Nico Sieffers

He studied school music, Choir and Orchestra direction at the conservatory at Zwolle. He also has skills on the conducting and schooling of concert bands.

During his study he began to experiment with the course wind music, given on the elementary school. To motivate young people in making music is his incentive. He knows how to bring young people to great deeds as a conductor and a pedagogue.

Nico Sieffers was a principal of the music school Fryslan Sud-West in Bolsward from 1990 to 2007. On this music were 2300 students.

In 1989 he founded the Drentish Youth Orchestra together with Kenk Schepers (then business manager of the Drentish Youth Orchestra). Ever since the foundation Nico Sieffers has been the Conductor.