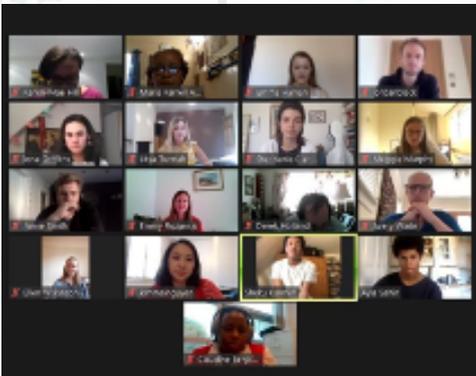


ABYSO Launches Its Website

The ABYSO has set up its official website. Visit us at www.abysso.org to get updates on ABYSO, news and upcoming events

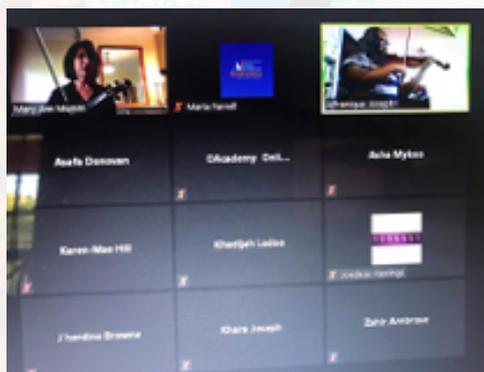


ABYSO Sets Up Virtual Academy

COVID-19 has placed face-to-face rehearsals on hold. This does not mean however that music making has to stop. Therefore, ABYSO joined with its partners, the Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL), The Commonwealth Resounds, MusAid, The Orchestra of the Americas, The Global Leaders Program, and the Kanneh-Masons to develop a structured programme of weekly online mentoring. Musicians in the ABYSO and the ABYSO Junior Programme benefit from first-class teaching from our team of professional musicians. The massive success of this programme led our Board to agree that the ABYSO Virtual Academy will remain a feature of the Orchestra. We say a big thank you to all our facilitators for their dedication, enthusiasm and flexibility.

String and Wind Instruments Donation

The Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (ABYSO) received a donation of new musical instruments for the use of students who are enrolled in its ongoing programme. The symbolic handover ceremony was held at Government House, and was facilitated by H.E. Lady Sandra Williams, President of the Halo Foundation. The donation included 3 violas, 3 trombones, 3 French horns, 3 trumpets, 2 oboes and 2 bassoons. This is the third occasion on which the Halo Foundation has arranged instruments for donation to ABYSO.

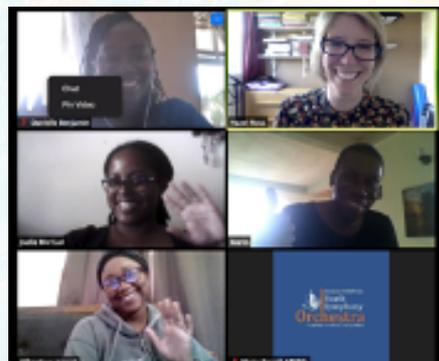


Mary-Ann Mumm Master Classes

ABYSO's Alfranique Joseph received a scholarship to participate in the Orchestra of the Americas (OA) summer residency in Panama from June to July 2020. The scholarship facilitated her inclusion as a member of The Orchestra alongside top musicians from 25+ countries with access to training by international faculty and performing with world-class conductors and soloists. Travel restrictions led to the cancellation of this year's residency; however, the OA generously supported a 4 week-long masterclass session for Alfranique with Mary Ann Mumm, Professor of Violin and violinist with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. The classes covered many pieces including Mozart's Concerto in G major and Strauss' Don Juan, Op. 20. Special thanks to Vanda Gaidamovic, Director of Touring of the OA for making this possible.

Investing in the Future: String Teacher Training Workshops

Four ABYSO string players completed the first phase of an intensive 10 week-long teacher training programme with music educator Hazel Ross. The course, organised and sponsored by the Global Leaders Program, a strategic partner of the ABYSO, covered a wide range of theoretical and practical approaches to effectively teach string instruments and mentor string players. Delivered entirely online because of the constraints on travel related to the coronavirus, the primary aim was to identify key objectives of the Orchestra and explore how to deliver them sustainably and effectively, through creative, pupil-centred teaching. The ABYSO extends thanks to Raul Vergara, Co-Founder and International Programs Director for making this workshop possible. The trainees were: Alfranque Joseph, Joelle Michael, Mario Hill, and Danielle Benjamin.



Music Advocacy with Duke Ellington School of the Arts

Anthony McGill, the Principal Clarinetist of the New York Philharmonic put out a call for musicians to 'take two knees' for the struggle for decency and justice. ABYSO accepted an invitation from Heather Haughn, Head of Strings at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C. to stand together in taking two knees and record the hymn from Sibelius's Finlandia. In addition to being Finland's national anthem, there are two hymns set to this beautiful melody. One of the lines reads "[w]e go not forth alone against the foe". Leonard Bernstein said, "[t]his will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before." ABYSO was honoured to join hearts and voices with the Duke Ellington School of the Arts, The Northwest School, and the Annapolis Symphony Academy. [Click here](#) to watch..



Events

Wednesday, 22 July 2020

Online discussion with ABYSO Chair, H.E. Karen-Mae Hill; COO Claudine Benjamin; and Geoff Parkin, Artistic Director of ROSL. [Click here](#) to watch.

Friday, 28 August 2020

MusAid virtual brass maintenance workshop with Andy Frobig

Friday, 4 September 2020

MusAid virtual string maintenance workshop with Jacob Mitas

Sunday, 13 September 2020

MusAid virtual woodwind maintenance workshop with Dana Rivecco

Sunday, 4 October 2020

The ABYSO and Friends Virtual Recital at 5:00pm AST

Support Us

The continued generosity of our supporters and partners allow us to maintain a viable Orchestra which makes our programmes accessible to a diverse spectrum of talented young musicians. Your donations help us to meet operational costs and also enables students to be part of our programmes regardless of socio-economic background. So, if you are interested in financially supporting our Annual Scholarship Programme, Virtual Academy, or any other programme of the Orchestra, feel free to contact us directly.

Contact Us:

Interested in learning more about the ABYSO? Inspired to donate to the ABYSO? Please contact us.

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