Eurythmy West Midlands
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EurythmyUK

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Dear Friends of Eurythmy,

Movement, activities and more
With some awe, we realise that 24 years have passed since Eurythmy West Midlands was invited to join the campus of Glasshouse College. Here we pursue regular practice and performing of eurythmy in the converted Glass-cutters studio, our eurythmy studio, the Hurlstone studio beside the drama room and on the big stage of the Furnace Theatre.
Many different productions have gone from here to the other Ruskin Mill Colleges, into the wider country, crossing the Chanel to Europe and further afield to the Middle-and Far East, as well as USA, and New Zealand. We are truly grateful for this base from where we can train students and develop the art of eurythmy further as a performance art.

With a stage group of six young dedicated performers we performed more then 85 times during the previous year.

Autumn & Winter '23:
The programme 'Earth Awake' was reworked and deepened. At the same time two new programmes were developed—'Shakespeare's Fool' and the folktale 'The Three Gifts of the North Wind', with actor & speaker Jan Martin, and musicians Bob Davey & Alan Stott.

Shakespeare's Fool poster

Rudolf Steiner's 'Foundation Stone Verse' was rehearsed and then performed at the Goetheanum at the Christmas Conference, and in April at a 'Conference on the Foundation Stone' in Merlin Theatre, Sheffield.

Christmas Conference at the Goetheanum
photo by Ariel Turner

2024

SPRING TOUR

In February, we took up the invitation of Chinese musician Zi-lan and performed to delighted audiences of primary school children and adults two short Chinese fairytales, 'The Story of Nian' and 'The Mouse's Bride', as part of the Chinese New Year celebrations at the music rooms of Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.
During March, a tour took place to Scotland and the North of England, performing at Findhorn Community, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Esk Valley Community, Botton Village.

Inverness, photo by Peiling Chao

Liverpool Philharmonic, photo by Zi-lin

Aberdeen, photo by Peiling Chao

Witten, photo by Ariel Turner

Summer

During May, Eurythmy West Midlands performed at 'Forum Eurythmy' in Witten, continuing with a German tour to schools in Dortmund, Hamburg, Benefeld, Hitzacker, and Magdeburg, stimulating the imagination of the younger children and engaging in interesting question-and-answer sessions with the upper-school pupils.

Touring continued in the UK to Steiner Academy Hereford, South Devon Steiner School, Elmfield School and Ruskin Mill Colleges in Stroud, Freeman College and Brandwood School Sheffield, Argent College Birmingham, Sunfield School Clent and Glasshouse College Stourbridge.
The summer events included a performance of 'Shakespeare's Fool' on 5th July at Marylebone Theatre London at the 'Intercultural Eurythmy Festival'.
In August the stage group came to perform 'The Three Gifts of the North Wind' at the International Festival of Glass in Stourbridge.

A fortnight of eurythmy summer school took place, the first week for 'beginners' and the second for trained eurythmists, combined with speech & acting sessions led by Sarah Kane and the eurythmy tutors. The participants all ask for further events of this kind.

The three gifts of the North Wind, Stourbridge

www.eurythmywestmidlands.co.uk

AUTUMN '24

We started with intensive rehearsals for 2 movements of Vivaldi's 'Autumn' from the 'Four Seasons'. On the Michaelmas weekend we joined performances of this work with a chamber orchestra in Stuttgart. For this occasion several eurythmy trainings and artists met to celebrate 'hundred years of Eurythmy Schools' in great style.
After this, preparations were running intensely towards our tour to Pakistan, Hong Kong, China and Taiwan.

KARACHI

After two more performances of 'Shakespeare's Fool' at Emerson College and 'The Wool Barn' in Nailsworth, on 20th October we flew to Karachi in Pakistan. There we were welcomed as guests of honour to perform at the 'World Culture Festival'.
After announcing on 'Breakfast Television'—that 'Shakespeare is not only for the highbrow audience but relevant and full of fun for all of us'—we performed to a full hall with warm applause and appreciation.

Pakistan Karachi, World Culture Festival

The two performances to packed audiences of lively Karachi school children were greeted with the most appreciative joyful laughter and applause. During the week in Karachi, we were fortunate besides giving workshops, to meet in discussions with various artists of at least six other nations. The whole Festival taking place over five weeks featured more than 40 nations. We felt truly privileged to be part of this huge event helped by the British Consulate who sponsored our flight tickets.

HONG KONG

Arriving in Hong Kong we felt dwarfed by the sheer heights of the skyscrapers—up to 100 floors! We were warmly received by two school communities where we gave 4 performances and spontaneous workshops to the children, as well as a discussion session on eurythmy to the parents.

Hong Kong, Forest House Waldorf School

CHINA

After a train journey and severe border controls we entered China.
Lights were set up by our expert Thomas, and costumes ironed with the help of local ladies. We enjoyed again a good-sized stage in one of the Steiner Schools in Guangzhou.
Three days of intensive workshops followed with a keen group of ladies; most of them expressed a real interest in finding ways to continue their eurythmy journey. This gave rise to setting up a part-time training for these people.
Another spontaneous performance was organised in a school in another part of the city, which also hosts a full-time eurythmy training.

Guangzhou, 天蘊 Waldorf School

TAIWAN

A short flight brought us to Taiwan. Four different venues were visited here. The Steiner school communities welcomed us most warmly, turning our visit into a true community event by preparing delicious food, hosting us with families and enthusiastically participating in all the eurythmy workshops.
Most heartwarming again was the spontaneous reaction of the children (and adults too!), who did not want to let us go.

photo by Chen On Lei

Looking back on this rewarding tour, so well organised by our two stage group members, Peiling from Taiwan and Ju from China, we all feel that performing is worthwhile and the work has to go on!

We look forward to the day when professional performers are acknowledged. Not only are good quality shows to be enjoyed by people, but ways must be found to earn one's living. Along with most artists today, we too have to fundraise.

Our funding appeal is to all friends of eurythmy. Please consider sponsoring the performers, starting from £10 per month with a standing Bank Order (much less than a cup of coffee per week). If enough of committed 'friends' are found, the committed work can continue with renewed impact. You can support us via the bank details below or contact us through our email.

With warm greeting and thanks for all support.
Best wishes for the new year.

Maren Stott

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