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DONATION APPEAL

Since its foundation in 1965 by Bill Ashton, MBE, the National Youth Jazz Orchestra (NYJO) has gained both a National and International reputation for excellence, and next year will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary. NYJO is one of this country's world class assets.

I am writing to ask for your financial support towards the running costs of our coach, which is used to transport the Orchestra to workshops in schools and colleges and concerts in public venues. The coach is essential to provide safety and security during a long and demanding day, which usually ends at about 10 pm followed by an average two hour return journey. As you will see from the picture on the enclosed magazine cover, the Orchestra will comprise boys and girls, some as young as 14 or 15.

In 1995 we received a National Lottery capital grant and the following year purchased a second hand coach, which was subsequently converted for wheelchair access so that it could also be used by other Charitable organisations as well as NYJO. Annual running costs for the coach this year were in excess of £20,000, with a further £5000 spent on the accompanying vehicle which carries the orchestra's heavy equipment. These costs cover all expenditure including storage, maintenance, testing, licensing, insurance, fuel and driver's salary, etc. Safety and security for the young musicians are essential and without the coach we could not function as a touring orchestra.

Income from concerts, CDs and our magazine has never been sufficient to cover the total cost of providing the support and experience given to the young musicians. The Arts Council and more recently The Foundation for Youth and Music have provided some of our annual funding, whilst the bulk of funds since 1976 have come from commercial sponsorship, whose support ended prematurely last year due to the economic downturn following 9/11. For the same reason most large commercial companies have reduced or stopped their sponsorship, and many Arts organisations, as well as NYJO now have very low cash reserves or have already been forced to close down.

Musical Director
WMA Ashton MBE BA Dip Ed (Oxon) FCLCM
 Honorary Vice Presidents
John Dankworth Humphrey Lyttelton Alan Plater
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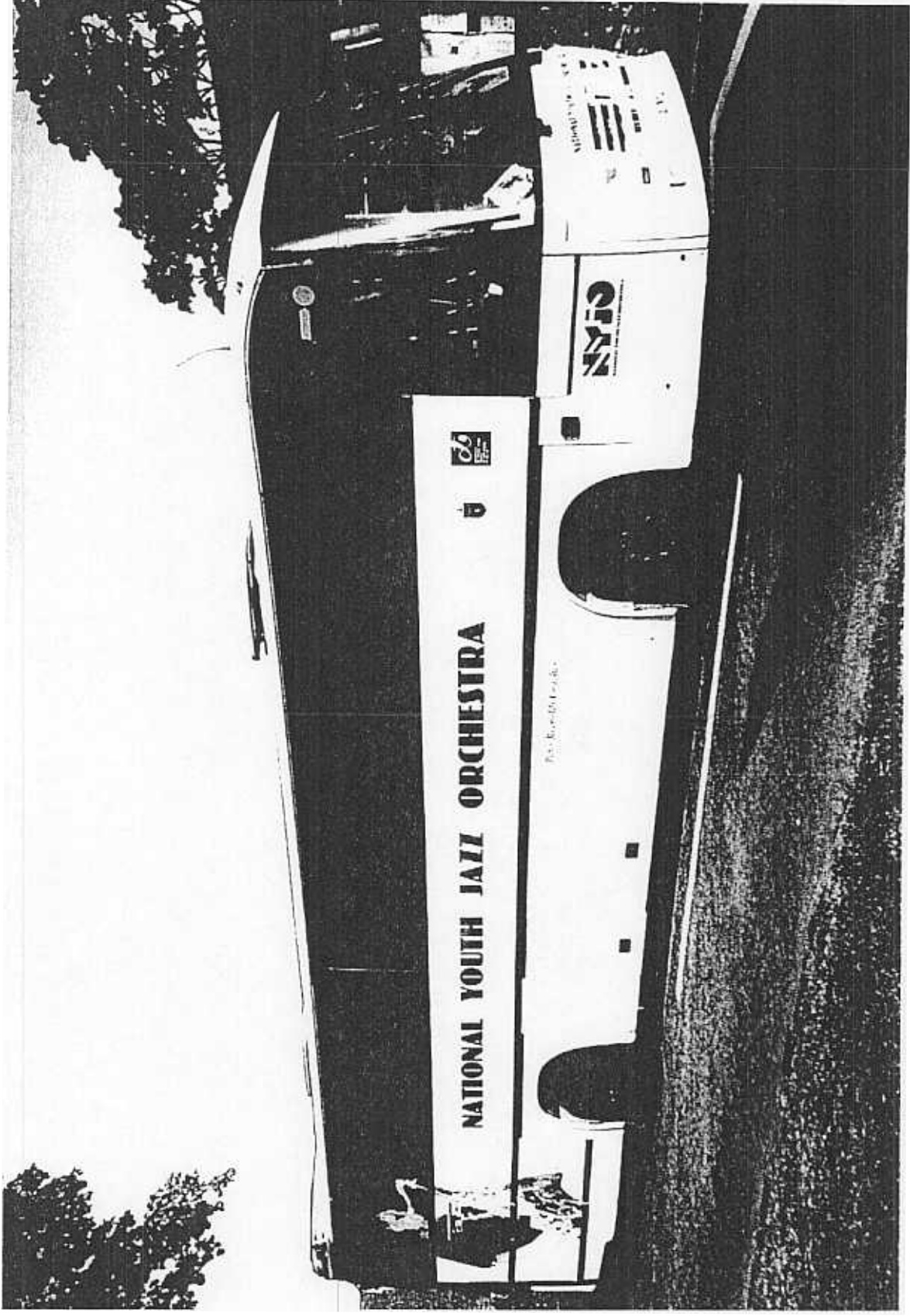
NYJO is almost alone in nurturing gifted young musicians to the peak of their individual and collective powers in a real commercial environment, which for most of them leads to a full time career as a musician or work in the music industry. The UK music industry is the second largest in the world.

I enclose a picture of the coach, and a copy of our quarterly house magazine 'NEWS FROM NYJO'. We would be delighted to accompany you to a concert and introduce you to some of our young musicians who describe the influence NYJO has had on their development in pages 16 to 21 of the magazine.

We would welcome any contribution you are able to make, either a single donation, or one phased over two or three years, and will acknowledge your generosity in our magazine. You will be supporting Youth and their Safety and Security and musical excellence. If there is any further information you require please contact me at the above address.

On behalf of Bill Ashton and all members of the Board we thank you for your help.

Michael Fawdry
Director



NYJO ON THE MOVE

Photo: Bill Ashton