



Young People's Multinational Celebration of Christmas

17th - 24th December 2001



This event, in the form of a festival for music and dance, took place in Oxford. It brought together, in a common project, young artists from different countries, who worked and performed for almost five days. The highpoint of this 'extravaganza' was the staging of the Perm Ballet, accompanied by the young musicians of Oxford and its twin-towns Leiden, Bonn and Grenoble. In the end the result was beyond even the highest of expectations, it was performances of the utmost professional quality. And the key to the success: each group of young people worked in their respective countries before gathering in Oxford a little before Christmas for some few collective sessions of rehearsal.

Indeed, these young people were deeply committed to the project and it was their continued interaction that made it turn out so well. On this point, the person responsible for the Leiden-group said to the press: "It was a magnificent event. Our children have worked hard and have been wonderful ambassadors for Leiden."

Amongst the many participants in the event who plan to make a career in music or dance, this project has confirmed them in their conviction. During the course of preparation for this festival, they have forcefully developed their personal potentials and in particular acquired an open mind with regards to multinational collaboration in a professional context.

Planned programmes for the coming years:

August 2002: The group of Oxford youngster will participate in a seminar on art in Perm.

August 2003: The choirs of Bonn, Leiden and Oxford will perform together at a summerfestival in Bonn.

Summer 2003: The members of the Youth City Council of Oxford will take part in an exchange project with Perm.

Summer 2004: The youth orchestras of Leiden and Oxford will play together at the Perm Youth Ballet.

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