

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **New Year celebrations kick-started with Russian themed concert**

Kent County Youth Orchestra, conducted by Michael Seal, celebrated New Year's Eve with their Russian-themed Winter concert at Mote Hall, Maidstone. The concert at 3pm on 31<sup>st</sup> December featured Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 2 with soloist Vincent Barrella, Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4, and Glinka's Overture to *Ruslan und Lyudmila*.

Orchestra Manager Hazel Bliss said of the event: *"It was a delight to have Michael Seal back to conduct KCYO in an exciting programme of Russian Music and to welcome Vincent Barrella as soloist. The concert reflected the high standard of the orchestra's playing, and their enjoyment and enthusiasm, and was a fitting end to a great winter course at Ashford School."*

Acclaimed piano soloist, Vincent Barrella commented: *"The orchestra members' patience, concentration and superb application in rehearsals and the concert gave me the freedom to express Rachmaninov's wonderful music – they really did a fabulous job."*

Vincent Barrella studied at the Royal Academy of Music, is currently Head of Keyboard at Highgate School and visiting teacher at Tonbridge. Vincent combines work as a recitalist and accompanist with a busy teaching schedule and as an examiner for the ABRSM. He also adjudicates for the National Federation of Music Festivals. Vincent has performed with many orchestras including the London Philharmonic, Surrey Youth, Tonbridge Philharmonic and Dartford Symphony Orchestra.

Michael Seal holds the position of Associate Conductor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) and has worked with many of the UK's finest orchestras. He is frequently invited as guest conductor with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Ulster orchestras.

Kent County Youth Orchestra was founded in 1963 to provide gifted young musicians in Kent the opportunity to develop their skills and gain performing experience. The orchestra meets regularly on courses and the young players work with professional tutors from leading national orchestras and conservatoires and leading professional conductors.

For more details visit [www.kent-music.com](http://www.kent-music.com) or call 01622 691212.

Photo below shows Kent County Youth Orchestra with Vincent Barrella and Michael Seal, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 (high resolution available)



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### Notes to Editors

**Kent Music**, founded in 1948, is a registered education charity and lead partner for the music education hub in Kent. It employs peripatetic teachers to deliver instrumental and vocal teaching across the county through individual lessons, small groups and through whole class teaching in schools. The charity runs county groups and local ensembles, and the Kent Music Summer School has been held at Benenden for nearly 70 years. Kent Music is a partner in music education with Kent County Council.

### Press Enquiries

**For more information, high resolution images and interviews, please contact:**

Suzi Williamson, Head of Communications: [swilliamson@kent-music.com](mailto:swilliamson@kent-music.com), 01622 358408

Amy Parr, Communications Assistant: [aparr2@kent-music.com](mailto:aparr2@kent-music.com), 01622 358437