

# Dumbarton and Vale of Leven Reporter



23rd March

## A group of young musicians putting on free musical evening on Loch Lomondside



Youngsters from the Jonas Foundation



### A GROUP of young people are putting on a free musical evening on Loch Lomondside.

Youngsters from the Jonas Foundation will be rehearsing and performing for a public audience in **Gartocharn** next month.

The foundation combats the social exclusion amongst youths by making it possible for them to learn and engage in the universal language of music.

It traces its roots to the nineties, when a group of children, under the tutelage of founder Christine Sigwart, started singing at the French Protestant Church in London, accompanying services and celebrations.



They became known as “Les Rossignols de Soho” and they took their lively songs and musicals to places such as Germany, Switzerland and Sweden.

As years passed and the number of children grew, instrumental music was also introduced. What had started as a youth club joining children from expatriate families with inner city children grew into the ‘Swiss Church Music School’, with great support of the Swiss Church in London.

About 40 youngsters learned to play an instrument, with singing and performing musicals still at the heart of the school.

In the process of acquiring a solid musical education, learning to work together towards a goal (concerts and tours) and gaining self-esteem was an important aspect.

The music school moved to Elephant and Castle, south of the Thames, in 2002 and in 2003 a formal **charity**, the Jonas Foundation, was created in Switzerland, by Christine, opening opportunities to more children globally.

In 2012, she launched the UK registered charity Jonas Foundation UK, making it possible for many children, in the UK and beyond, to benefit from music.

The young people will now perform at the Ardoch estate in Gartocharn.

Youngsters from **Dumbarton**’s St Patrick’s Youth Club are among the 4,000 people who have made repeated visits to Ardoch.

The performance of ‘Baba Yaga’ is on at 7pm on April 6 at Ardoch, G83 8ND. Call 01389 710401 to reserve a seat at the event. The ticket price includes a complimentary buffet meal. Ample parking is available.



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