

## **Viola players conquer Leeds University Union Music Society (LUUMS) Symphony Orchestra**

Traditionally, viola players are the butt of all jokes when it comes to... well anything really. No matter how experienced you are, I imagine you've all heard at least one. Classics include: 'How do you keep a violin from being stolen? Put it in a viola case', 'How do you get two violists to play in tune with one another? Ask one of them to leave', and 'What's the difference between a viola and a trampoline? You have to take your shoes off to jump on a trampoline'.

So the last thing you'd expect to happen is for an entire ensemble to vote for viola players as managers and a conductor, right? Well if you did, you'd be wrong! The LUUMS Symphony Orchestra recently appointed Emily Beswick and Audrey Bourdais Paull (both viola players) as managers, and myself as the new conductor for the next academic year. Needless to say I'm personally quite excited for the coming year and whilst this isn't exactly viola news, since we're all viola players I think it just about qualifies!

Written by Simon J.N. Rowland.