

ABERYSTWYTH

Robotic orchestra

A 'ROBOTIC orchestra' built by staff at Aberystwyth University's department of computer science has been invited to take part in this year's *Royal Institution Christmas Lectures*.

The orchestra will feature in the finale of this year's *Christmas Lectures* which will be shown on BBC Four on New Year's Eve at 8pm.

It currently has three instruments — a pipe organ which includes scrap components from a vacuum cleaner and various plumbing components; a child's glockenspiel modified to be played automatically and an electronic keyboard.

The pipe organ and the glockenspiel joined a host of other robotic instruments and four human musicians but the precise details of what the performance entailed have yet to be revealed.

Dave Price, teaching fellow and computer officer, spent three days at the Royal Institution working on the production and coaxing the best from his robotic creation.

Dave said: "Our robotic instruments worked beautifully and didn't miss a beat during the rehearsals.

"It has been a real pleasure to take part in the production of the *Christmas Lectures* and to work for a few days at the Royal Institution which is steeped in scientific history; this should be a real highlight of the festive season."

The lectures will be broadcast on BBC Four at 8pm on 29, 30 and 31 December.



Ian Izett (left) and Dave Price from the Department of Computer Science, creators of the Aberystwyth robotic orchestra — see report.