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Keynotes is produced for the North East of Scotland Music School

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An auction lunch first – it's human!



One of the auction lots this year is a hot air balloon flight with Virgin Balloons. The flight has been donated by Dales Engineering Services Ltd, Peterhead.

For the first time in the five year history of the Keynotes Auction Lunch one of the auction lots will be human.

"But we're not celebrating the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery by starting it up again," jests Nicky Bradford, the auction lunch organiser and chair of NESMS's Fund raising and Development Committee. "However, we are offering the opportunity to bid for an individual performance by one of the School's outstanding young vocal students."

The lot is for a personal performance by Colin Brockie, who has just started the second year of a BMus course at Aberdeen University. Twice a recipient of the Ellie Pirie Bach Choir Scholarship, Colin studies at NESMS with Ruth Black and Alan Watt and sings with the University's Chapel Choir. Colin will also provide the entertainment at the lunch. "Whoever bids the most for the 'lot' can use me for a performance at an event of their own choosing," says Colin. "That might be a wedding, a birthday party, in fact anything that takes their fancy. I'll work with the person to agree a suitable programme of songs for the event and hopefully do a sterling job for them on the day."

"I must say though that the idea of having people bid for you does seem a bit weird; hopefully I won't be embarrassed by no-one bidding at all on the day!"

Other key lots at the auction include a hot-air balloon trip for two people, an expenses paid visit to an exhibition of silver at Edinburgh that includes a trip around the Edinburgh Assay Office (donated by Michael Carry of Jamieson & Carry) and, for the rugged outdoor type, a bushcraft day at (and courtesy of) Bushcraft Ventures.

"As usual, we will have a wide variety of interesting and valuable lots," says Nicky. The auction lunch will take place on Sunday, 4 November at the Marcliffe of Pitfodels Hotel, with tickets costing £25.00 per person.

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The Newsletter

of the North East of Scotland Music School

Issue No 12 • September 2007

Three ex-NESMS students graduate from Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama



Pictured at their investiture are left to right, Chris Baxter, Alan John and Nick Scott.

Three ex-NESMS students have graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD) this year. Christopher Baxter, Alan John and Nick Scott all took and passed BMus degrees with 1st Class Honours, albeit in different disciplines; Chris is a pianist, Alan a violinist and Nick a composer.

Both Chris and Alan will be returning to RSAMD in the new academic year. Chris is

returning for post-graduate studies leading to an MMus degree while Alan has won a scholarship for post-graduate studies in performance. Nick, meanwhile, is taking a year out to work in the oil industry to save money to continue his studies.

Chris Baxter admits that he found the BMus degree 'quite a challenge'. "It was very demanding. RSAMD has some fantastic teachers but quite

A Summer Concert

Respected critic and classical music journalist, Alan Cooper, has agreed to review one of NESMS's concerts in each issue of Keynotes. His first review is of the Friends of NESMS Craigiebuckler Church Summer Concert on 20th June.

With the exception of family or fellow music students, few of us can begin to imagine the long often dispiriting hours of mental and physical toil that lead to the most inspiring musical performances. It is, of course, the efforts of the most gifted teachers like those at NESMS that help ease the way for our young performers.

Such was the performance enjoyed by a large audience in Craigiebuckler Church on

Wednesday 20th June. They came to hear three Whole Year Scholarship Students in *A Summer Concert*, presented by the Friends of the North East of Scotland Music School: cellist, Rachel Lind, pianist, Jeremy Coleman and baritone, Colin Brockie.

Outstanding contributions included Aulis Sallinen's *Elegia*, Sebastian Knight's unaccompanied cello in an

Orchestral playing is enjoyable though and I've already played as a freelance with the Scottish Opera Orchestra at their St. Andrews in the Square concert and at Dundee with the Dundee Choral Society. They were great experiences." Alan is

rightly, they push you all the way!" he says. During his time at the Academy he was fortunate to participate in masterclasses with many inspiring musicians, including Malcolm Martineau and Andrew Zolinsky and also gave several recitals, highlighting his end of fourth year recital at the Academy as particularly enjoyable. "I expect my post-graduate studies to be equally challenging," Chris says. "I'm particularly looking forward to continuing many collaborations with other students in all types of music."

determined to continue his studies after RSAMD, in either London or abroad.

Nick Scott also wants to study abroad. "I'm looking at where I might do a post-graduate diploma here in the UK," he says. "But after that I want to study for an MMus in the United States. I really like some of the music that is being written over there by people like John Adams and Nicolas Maw, so going to the USA to study would be a good way of moving my own composition in that direction. And I think it would also be a good way of getting my name better known."

The North East of Scotland Music School is sponsored by:



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About the School

Providing the highest standards of advanced tuition for promising musicians

The School provides a centre where young people of outstanding musical promise can obtain tuition which is not available within their existing framework of study.

Any musically talented child, student, teacher or lay person living in Scotland may apply for an audition to the School.

TUITION

Internationally acclaimed professors and teachers are brought to Aberdeen on a regular basis from all over the British Isles.

COURSES

The School offers one-to-one teaching together with occasional workshops and masterclasses.

There is a close relationship with the University of Aberdeen, through the Director of Music, and also with Aberdeen City Music School in Dyce.

FINANCE

Finance is generously provided by trusts, commercial organisations and individuals. Continued support is essential in order to maintain the high quality of the teaching programme. The Administrator will be pleased to assist with all enquiries about donations, sponsorship or scholarships.

FEES & SCHOLARSHIPS

Students pay their own fees, although scholarships are available and are applied for annually. Any award is made on a balance of musical potential and financial need.

DOROTHY HATELY

Dorothy founded NESMS in 1975 with the support and encouragement of Lady Aberdeen. Thanks to Dorothy's dogged determination over the years, the School has greatly increased its teaching disciplines, tutors and pupils. Sadly, Dorothy died in 1996, before she could see the School in its own premises in Huntly Street. However, we strive to maintain the high standards she set and intend to take the School from strength to strength.

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND MUSIC SCHOOL

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Reg Pringle
Colin Brockie

Family Festival Success



Pictured left to right are Rosalind, Jessica, Jeremy, Timothy and Richard Coleman.

The Coleman family, all of whom have associations with NESMS, made a big impression at the recent Aberdeen and North East of Scotland Music Festival.

Father Richard won the Tenor Solo Open class as well as the Oratorio Solo Open, while 17-year-old Jeremy won the Piano Solo Open and, along with two other NESMS students, Rachel and Naomi Watson, won the Piano Trio Open and were awarded the Fortescue Silver Salver.

Then 13-year-old Jessica won two piano solo classes and the Unaccompanied Bach class on violin and brother Timothy (16) also played two instruments, the cello and recorder, and along with Alyson Boyd and Deborah Scott (yet more NESMS students!) won a Recorder Trio class.

They were also joined

by Jessica and Jeremy for a performance of the first movement of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4, in which they gained an 'outstanding' and were awarded the Douglas Haston trophy.

Mother Rosalind is a music instructor in Aberdeen and says she is very proud of her family.

Richard has sung in church choirs since childhood and has had lessons at NESMS with Alan Watt for the past two years. He also plays piano and double bass with a particular penchant for jazz.

Jeremy has been learning piano with Nigel Clayton at NESMS and has recently sat an Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) Diploma. He has also been studying theory with NESMS tutor, Joseph Long. In addition he plays trumpet and percussion and has been studying

composition at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music Youthworks for the past year.

"This has involved going down to Glasgow on the 6.30 am train every Saturday morning!" Jeremy says. "But it's well worth the early start." Jeremy has just left Aberdeen Grammar School and is going on to study music at Cambridge University in September.

Jessica has been learning the violin with Gillian Findlay at NESMS for a few years and is at present working towards an ABRSM Diploma. She is a pupil at St. Margaret's School, plays piano and sings with Aberdeen Youth Music Theatre.

Timothy is a pupil at Aberdeen Grammar School and is increasingly interested in composition. He also sings with Aberdeen Youth Music Theatre.

A Summer Concert

Continued from page 1

intriguing performance by Rachel Lind, an alluring introduction to a composer and a work that were new to me. Then, there was Jeremy Coleman's electrifying playing of two of George Gershwin's own song transcriptions. More measured, but just as impressive, Colin Brockie's delivery of the aria Lord God of Abraham from Mendelssohn's Elijah had both warmth and nobility.

Colin Brockie's voice has real depth of tone while his top notes are beautifully natural and well controlled. He was as much at home in music that needs a lightness of touch like Handel's But Who May Abide from Messiah or Schubert's An Die Musik as in Handel's more forceful Arm, Arm Ye Brave or the vocal extravagances of Bellini's Vi Ravviso from La Sonnambula.

Jeremy Coleman's repertoire was just as extensive. The steadiness of his rhythm in Bach's Prelude and Fugue No 12 in F minor was faultless while the power of the Rhapsodie, Op79, No2. by

Brahms contrasted nicely with the transparency and delicate colouring of Debussy's Prelude No 4 from Book One.

What a wonderfully mature and confident artist is Rachel Lind. Her playing of the Sonata in G minor by Eccles was exemplary and with her polished performance of W. H. Squire's Tarantella, she demonstrated what a stylish showpiece it is.

Finally, what could have been a finer ending to this superb recital than the bringing together of the three young performers for an old favourite, Cesar Franck's Panis Angelicus.

NYOS Tour 2007



The Orpheus Concert Hall at Apeldoorn, one of the venues where NYOS played on this year's tour.

This year's National Youth Orchestra of Scotland tour headed for The Netherlands and Germany by way of Edinburgh, Glasgow and (briefly) Newcastle. NESMS student Seonaid Dey kept a diary on behalf of Keynotes.

29th July to 4th August - Rehearsal week at Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh

We all assembled at Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh, where we were going to stay and rehearse. Aberdeen was well represented in the 2007 Orchestra with NESMS students playing in all sections. Our conductor for the tour was the violinist Christoph Mueller, with viola player, Paul Silverthorne, as soloist. Paul holds principal positions in the London Symphony Orchestra and the London Sinfonietta as well as appearing regularly as a soloist with other major orchestras around the world.

Our repertoire for the tour was Maxwell Geddes's Gemini - which was a NYOS commission for the tour - Walton's Viola Concerto, and Elgar's Enigma Variations. We were also going to rehearse Malcolm Arnold's Scottish Dances numbers 3 and 4 in the hope that we would need an encore!

On the Saturday we took the coach to the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall for a full rehearsal

before our first concert that evening. The concert, recorded by the BBC, was a success despite our inability to stop our chairs squeaking or to turn our music silently!

5th to 6th August - Apeldoorn, The Netherlands

The next morning we headed off on the coach for Newcastle to catch the overnight ferry to IJmuiden, near Amsterdam. There was no shortage of entertainment on the ferry with restaurants, bars and even a cinema! After the dubious food of Merchiston School the buffet dinner on board was like a feast. On Sunday we had a full rehearsal at the Orpheus Centre, Apeldoorn where, as part of the International Music Summer Gelderland Festival, we performed to a small but appreciative audience. The concert was followed by a reception where we had the chance to meet with members of the National Youth Orchestra of The Netherlands. This formal evening developed into a ceilidh, really enjoyed by everyone and especially by our new Dutch friends.

6th to 10th August - Berlin Germany

On the coach to Berlin - a long trip that took most of the day and well into the evening. We

stayed in the Hotel Kolombus on the sixth and ninth floors. The good news was that there was a lift. The bad news was that there was no air conditioning and a temperature of nearly 30°C.

Later that evening everyone gathered for the end of course review, a chance to unwind and enjoy various acts put on by orchestra members. Particularly memorable were a Mozart string quartet with a Scottish twist and a hilarious play acted out to the Enigma Variations.

The following day we had some rare free time in the morning to explore Berlin before another full rehearsal and concert. This concert was part of the Young Euro Classics Festival featuring top national and international youth orchestras from around the world. We were lucky enough to be playing in the Berlin Konzerthaus, a magnificent hall combining both beautiful design and fantastic acoustics. The concert itself was sold out and also recorded by RBB Kultradio Deutschland for future broadcast.

Overall it had been a successful, though challenging, trip; after a total of 53 hours 25 minutes in rehearsals we can look forward to Elgar's 200th anniversary in 2057!

Tutors at the School

as at January 2005

STRINGS

Violin	Gillian Findlay
Viola	Michael Beeston
Cello	James Halsey
Double Bass	David Inglis

WOODWIND

Flute	David Nicholson
Flute	Catherine O'Rourke
Oboe	Anne Rankin
Clarinet	Alison Waller
Bassoon	Lesley Wilson

BRASS

Trumpet	John Gracie
Horn	Lizzie Davis

PIANO

Nigel Clayton
Joseph Long

SCOTTISH FIDDLE

Paul Anderson

SINGING

Raimund Herincx
Alan Watt
Ruth Black
Alison McDonald
Jean Webster

STAGECRAFT & PERFORMANCE

Donald Maxwell

Forthcoming events

Cowdray Hall Lunchbreak Concert

Thursday, 4th October, at 12.45 p.m.

This concert will feature three NESMS students:-
Jessica Coleman - violin
Colin Brockie - baritone
Colin Sinclair - piano
with Drew Tulloch - accompanist

Please come along to support NESMS students at this free concert.

Friends Coffee Morning

Saturday, 27th October, 10.00 a.m. - 12 noon in the School. There will be all the usual stalls plus musical entertainment.

Keynotes Auction Lunch

Sunday, 4th November, 12.30 p.m. at the Marcliffe Hotel and Spa. Colin Brockie, baritone, accompanied by Robert Howie, will provide the pre-lunch entertainment.

Sound Contemporary Music Festival

What about this, Mr. Clementi? Donald Hawksworth plays 20th century music interspersed with a little Bach. Afternoon tea provided. Please book early as seating is limited.