

NESMS at Forefront of Recorder Resurgence

A resurgence of interest in recorder playing is being helped by a forthcoming NESMS masterclass by one of the country's leading recorder players and teachers.

The masterclass will take place in June and be led by Ian Wilson, a London-based professor of music at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama. Ian was born and brought up in Aberdeen and is an ex-NESMS student with family still in the city. It is hoped that Ian will become a regular NESMS tutor.

"I was extremely fortunate as a youngster to be taught by the late and much lamented Douglas Haston," recalls Ian. "After Douglas passed away recorder playing kind of withered on the vine but there are some excellent teachers now who are helping to revive it. It would be fantastic to bring it back on board at NESMS."

Ian says he loves the masterclass format. "It means that a wider audience rather than just the student can hear what a versatile and beautiful instrument the recorder is," he suggests.

After studying with Douglas, Ian went on to study both recorder and clarinet at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, where he won the woodwind prize twice (once on each instrument) and gained the Principal's Prize on graduation.

Other prizes include the Skene Award, a LASMO Staffa Music Award and the Van Wassenaer Competition's Musica Antica Prize for best individual musician.

Ian plays as a member of the Flautadors (www.theflautadors.org) and the Burney Players and regularly performs with the Adderbury Ensemble with whom he has recorded several concertos. He has performed as a soloist with many of Europe's period instrument orchestras including the Helsinki Baroque Orchestra, The Irish Baroque Orchestra and the English Concert and has performed, recorded and broadcast with the Early Opera Company, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and contemporary music specialists Kokoro.

Ian has worked as an adjudicator and examiner in the UK, France, Ireland and Hong Kong. He is the Head of Woodwind at Eton College, the principal recorder professor at the Guildhall and teaches contemporary recorder repertoire at Trinity College of Music.



Ian Wilson, London-based professor of music at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Outside classical music, Ian can be heard on the latest albums by the band Paris Motel and his performance with folk icon, Vashti Bunyan, was selected as one of the best live performances on the BBC's Jools Holland show, featuring on the show's anniversary DVD.

His frequent and wide travels have led to a keen interest in languages, particularly those of northern Europe. "As a result, I have a deep passion and renewed appreciation of our own local tongue, Doric, and its place as a language of Germanic origin," Ian says. "And my passion for furthering the wider appreciation of Scottish culture and heritage was the driving force behind researching the Flautadors' forthcoming CD of music from the time of Mary, Queen of Scots."

The North East of Scotland Music School is sponsored by:

Aberdeenshire COUNCIL 

Deloitte 



THE SKENE GROUP



ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

amec 

MESTON REID & Co
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

In this issue

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Lunchbreak concert | |
| Joseph Long | 2 |
| New CD for Emma | 2/3 |
| Tutor profile | |
| Ruth Black | 3 |
| Balmoral Golf | 4 |

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

Dorothy Hately Music Centre
21 Huntly Street
Aberdeen AB10 1TJ
Tel/Fax: 01224 649685
email: nesms@dsl.pipex.com
www.nesms.org.uk

President: Dr Neil Mackie

Vice President: Murray McLachlan

Administrator: Joan Thomas

Assistant Administrators:
Reg Pringle
Richard Bailey

Scottish Charity No. SC 000197

LUNCHBREAK CONCERT Joseph Long *piano*

COWDRAY HALL Thursday, 21 January 2010

It was in January 2009 that Joseph Long treated a full-house *Lunchbreak* audience to a stunning performance of Chopin's Opus 10, the composer's first set of Etudes for piano.

A year later the Cowdray Hall was once again packed as Joseph brought to life the second set of Etudes, Opus 25. Both these works stand out as milestones in piano literature because, within them, artistic and emotional charge is valued every bit as highly as technical or virtuoso content.

This was revealed especially powerfully in Joseph Long's non-stop performance of the entire Opus as he brought out the overall shaping of the series. It opened with tenderly refined delicacy in which technical wizardry remains almost concealed within its gently floating melody and melting harmonies before moving on in extensive development of musical thought in numbers five and seven before concluding in dazzlingly overt displays of crackling virtuosity in the last three studies.

As a supreme technician of the piano, Joseph cannot be faulted. Consider his firm control over the capricious rhythmic content which threatens to run away with itself in the third study in F Major or the delicate right hand work of number six in G Sharp Minor, or again the to and fro movement of number nine, Butterfly.

Whether pouring out lightness of touch and nuance of colour with such freedom or later on delivering the muscular power and motive force needed for the two final studies, Joseph had the technical requirements quite literally in his hands.



More importantly however, his deep understanding of the artistic and emotional impact of this music caused the audience to be drawn with him into the very heart of Chopin's inspiration revealing unsuspected layers of feeling and of colour.

There are pianists who imprint their own personalities more firmly on a performance than Joseph (to put it more bluntly, show-offs who Chopin seems to draw like flies to his music) but there are not so many pianists who like Joseph leave you feeling that you have met the composer face-to-face during their performance. As long as Joseph keeps doing that, he will continue playing to capacity audiences.

Alan Cooper

New CD for NESMS Alumna

A former NESMS flute student, Emma Wilkins, has just brought out her debut CD, playing with harpist, Helen MacLeod, in the duo, Hoot. Their album, titled *The Garden of Adonis*, was launched at the Edinburgh International Harp Festival.

Emma grew up in Aberdeenshire and began studying the flute whilst attending Ellon Primary School and Ellon Academy. During this time she studied flute with David Nicholson at NESMS and was later awarded a place at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama where she studied flute with John Grant and Richard Blake.

Whilst at the RSAMD she was awarded the John McGregor flute prize for outstanding achievement and graduated with both a BMus (Hons) and an MMus in music performance.

Emma now enjoys a successful freelance career having recently performed with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Orchestra of Scottish Opera, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Northern Sinfonia.



She has a keen interest in chamber music and not only performs regularly with Helen Macleod but also appears in concert with Scott Mitchell, and with the chamber groups the Keelie Ensemble, Amici Winds, and Ecoute.

Emma was a student at NESMS for a number of years and has fond memories of her time there. "David Nicolson was a huge influence on me," she says. "There's not the opportunities in the north east of Scotland as there are, say, in the

TUTOR PROFILE

You might suppose that for someone as modest and publicity shy as Ruth Black, singing in public would be the last way she would choose to earn a living.

But, aside from an obvious love of singing, there might also have been a degree of sibling rivalry. She has two sisters and a brother, all of whom became professional musicians in one form or another.

“Not a bad result for a mother and father neither of whom was particularly musical,” suggests Ruth. “I studied piano from the age of seven and then went to the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama to study piano and singing. After I had completed my studies I joined Clifford Hughes in Castalian Singers – a quartet that specialised in early music and named after the Castalian Band, musicians in the court of James VI – and toured pretty much all over the country.

“What I didn’t fancy very much was opera. Not that I mind singing opera but what I really didn’t enjoy was the acting part of it. If I had then perhaps my singing career would have followed a different route.”

As well as recording and touring Ruth recalls that one

of the best paid jobs the quartet did was providing backing for some of Scottish Television’s music programmes. “It was very demanding as we had really no rehearsal time. We’d turn up in the morning and they’d give us the music! We provided backing for people like Moira Anderson and Roger Whittaker. I remember that Roger was very particular about what we did for him and extremely knowledgeable musically. But he was a gentleman as well!”

Ruth comes from deepest Angus and was born and brought up on the family farm near Friockheim. Whilst Ruth was singing with the quartet her father retired and sold the farm to a Mr. Black – who promptly married Ruth and so allowed her to continue living at her family home! The subsequent arrival of tiny Blacks inevitably curtailed her performances with the quartet and she ‘retired’ to raise her family, the initial couple of children being followed later by a further pair.

It was some little time later that Ruth was persuaded to audition at NESMS for the



School’s principal singing tutor, Raimund Herinx. “I recall turning up nervously for the audition complete with pram and young son,” says Ruth. “That was 30 years ago.”

Encouraged by her lessons with Raimund she started to perform again and for many years sang with Alison McDonald, another NESMS singing tutor. “We kept it in the family,” quips Ruth. “Alison is married to one of my cousins! However, I’ve finally retired now from singing. I think I’d been doing it long enough!”

It was at the instigation of Dorothy Hatley that Ruth became a tutor. “I’ve been here now for nearly two decades and I do enjoy it, helping the students improve.”

Central Belt, so being able at a young age to be taught by one of the country’s leading flautists was fantastic. Without David’s help and support I doubt I would have gone on to a professional career.

“I’m very excited to be bringing out this debut CD with Helen. It was a long project that was eye-opening hard work! But we hope to go on to make more CDs together in the future.”

Emma goes on to explain that the title of the CD was inspired by one of the album’s musical works. “The main work on the album is ‘The Garden of Adonis’ by the American composer Alan Hovhaness,” Emma says. “It’s based on a canto from ‘The Faerie Queenie’ by Edmund Spenser (1552–1599) which describes a garden of rebirth or reincarnation where souls appear as flowers. Hovhaness’s music has a strong



mystic/religious element overlaid with Eastern influence in this piece of seven short but diverse movements depicting a different flower in the Garden of Adonis.

We think it really shows off the full potential of the harp and flute.”

The album also includes a broad range of flute and harp repertoire including works ranging from Eddie McGuire’s haunting ‘Folk Memories in Autumn’ to the feisty ‘Bordel 1900’ from Astor Piazzolla’s ‘Histoire du Tango’.

Emma and Helen formed Hoot in 2006 and made their debut performance at the Edinburgh Festival 2006 with Mozart’s ‘Concerto for Flute and Harp’. They are winners of the prestigious Tunnell Trust Award for Young Musicians 2009/2010.

The album can be ordered from Emma’s parents on 01358 721838 or brian.wilkins@btinternet.com.

Tutors at the School

as at September 2009

STRINGS

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

WOODWIND

| | |
|----------|--------------------|
| Flute | David Nicholson |
| Flute | Catherine O’Rourke |
| Oboe | Joe Houghton |
| Clarinet | Alison Waller |
| Bassoon | Lesley Wilson |

BRASS

| | |
|---------|--------------|
| Trumpet | John Gracie |
| Horn | Lizzie Davis |

PIANO

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Nigel Clayton | Joseph Long |
|---------------|-------------|

SCOTTISH FIDDLE

Paul Anderson

SINGING

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Raimund Herinx | Alan Watt |
| Ruth Black | Alison McDonald |
| | Jean Webster |

STAGECRAFT & PERFORMANCE

Donald Maxwell

ORGAN

Dr Roger B. Williams
Donald Hawksworth

Forthcoming events

THE FRIENDS SCHOLARSHIP CONCERT

Friday 18th June at Craigiebuckler Church, 7.30 pm.
Kay Ritchie, flute
Chris Baxter, piano
Andrew Greer, voice
Harry Williamson, accompanist

Tickets at £5 each will be available at the door on the night and refreshments will be served at the interval.

ABERDEEN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL

Once more students from NESMS will be taking part in the chamber series “Up Close and Musical”. Do please try to come along and support these young performers. More details will appear in the AIYF programme.

COWDRAY HALL LUNCHEBREAK SERIES

We are delighted that NESMS students will provide the Lunch-break Concert on Thursday 7th October, 12.45pm – 1.30pm. This is a very popular series, so come along early to be sure of a seat.

PLAY-A-THON

Yes, it’s play-a-thon time again! We will hold this sponsored event in the autumn so there is no excuse for not having your party piece prepared. This is always a fun day, so please try to take part. Details will be sent out nearer the time.

Balmoral Golf

The *Keynotes* Auction Lunch lot of a full day's exclusive use of the Balmoral Estate golf course has been taken up by the Aberdeen based accountancy firm, Anderson Anderson & Brown LLP.

The firm already uses corporate golf days as part of their marketing strategy and were quick to see the opportunity to use the nine-hole course which is part of the Queen's Balmoral Estate and is only very rarely available for corporate events.

AAB partner, John Black, explains that it wasn't possible for anyone from the company to attend the *Keynotes* Lunch. "It was brilliant that the lot hadn't reached its reserve so when we learnt from Ian McArthur of the Skene Group that the



opportunity still existed we jumped at it," he says.

"We already have two regular golf days a year so we had a good idea of what this very special opportunity was worth and we were able to come



for sale
for lease
for you

When it comes to property, there's only one name you need to know – **aspc**.

You'll find it all • **in our Centre in Chapel Street**
• **in our Property Register**
• **on-line at aspc.co.uk**

your property essential **40 CHAPEL STREET ABERDEEN**
aspc 01224 632949
aspc.co.uk

to a mutually satisfactory agreement, neither too much nor too little from both our point of view and that of the School.

As well as the golf days AAB runs a number of other events for their 2,000 or so clients and potential clients, including a day at Perth Races each September, they are one of the sponsors of the *Touch of Tartan Ball* and, as a curtain sponsor, entertain clients at His Majesty's Theatre.

With 12 partners and 150 staff AAB won the *Small Firm of the Year* and *Fastest Growing Firm of the Year* at last year's Scottish Accountancy Awards. They provide a full range of accountancy, business advisory, auditing, corporate finance and taxation services as well as finance and accounting outsourcing. The firm was established in 1990.

"This opportunity to add a very special corporate client day to our existing marketing activity at a price that both we and NESMS think is fair was not to be missed," says John Black.

Donors

Aberdeen Bach Choir
Aberdeen City Council
Aberdeen Rotary Club St. Machar
Aberdeenshire Council
AMEC, Oil and Gas
Angus Allnatt Charitable Trust
Astor of Hever Trust
Binks Trust
Caithness, Orkney and Shetland
Association of Aberdeen
David Gordon Memorial Trust
Deloitte Foundation
E H Tutty Trust
Enterprise Engineering Services
Fraserburgh Rotary Club
Friends of NESMS
Hugh Fraser Foundation
Inchrye Trust
Innes Trust
Jennie S. Gordon
Memorial Foundation
JTH Charitable Trust
John Gordon Charitable Trust
MacRobert Trust
Marcliffe at Pitfodels Hotel
Martin Connell Charitable Trust
Mearns and Gill
Meston Reid & Co
N. Smith Charitable Settlement
Privy Purse
Rae Brown and Co
Skene Group
Tay Charitable Trust
The Aberdeen Antiques Centre
Thomas Primrose Trust
Tower Workshops
Turriff Rotary Club

 Scottish Arts Council
LOTTERY FUNDED

Keynotes is produced for the North East of Scotland Music School

EDITOR

Neil Jones
Cairnstone Limited
Tel: 07050 259859
neil.jones@cairnstone.co.uk
www.cairnstone.co.uk

ARTWORK

John Brown
Design for Business
Telephone 01224 875080
jb@design-for-business.com

PRINTER

Halcon
01569 762250