

keynotes N

The Newsletter

of the North East of Scotland Music School

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School pupils star in studio recording

Several of the School's pupils have led the way in recording some recently revived settings by Haydn of traditional Scottish airs for a CD that will accompany a new book on the songstress tradition of Scotland. The recordings took place at the School during August.

The book is being written by former NESMS pupil and mezzo-soprano, Dr. Sally Garden, and will be published by Mons Graupius in Spring 2004. Sally was joined in the recording by recitalist and retired music advisor, Donald Hawksworth (piano) and four current NESMS students, Alan John and Erin Smith (violins) and Caroline Davidson and Eddie Sneddon (cellos). Together they recorded four of Haydn's Scots songs – The Blue Bell of Scotland, Ye Braes of Touch, Auld Robin Gray and Are Ye Sure the News Is True?

"The settings have an interesting background," explains Sally. "In 1799, George Thomson, Edinburgh publisher and Clerk to the Board of Trustees for the Encouragement of Art and Manufactures in Scotland, wrote to an ageing



Recording the Scottish songs set by Haydn are (l-r) Alan John, Donald Hawksworth, Sally Garden and Caroline Davidson.

Haydn, to propose that the composer arrange a number of fine traditional Scottish airs for one or two voices by composing Symphonies and Accompaniments for violin, cello and piano."

Haydn agreed, and between 1800 and 1805 the two kept up a correspondence: Thomson sending batches of airs to Haydn in Austria, Haydn returning completed arrangements to Thomson in Scotland.

Sally continues: "In those pre-postal service days, communication was reliant on intermediaries in the diplomatic service in London and Vienna and the work was often

interrupted through the illness of the composer, bad weather on the Continent, misunderstandings of a financial nature and, not least, unfortunate social gaffes – Thomson believing Haydn to be dead when he was alive, and Haydn's wife to be alive when she was in fact dead!

"But despite these difficulties, Thomson's grand project was a success. The final result was the publication, in Edinburgh, of a highly popular collection of over 200 Scots songs, beautifully and sensitively arranged by one of the most important European composers of the day."

However, over time, the

published songs and manuscripts of Thomson's project became dispersed and confused. But a University of Glasgow research team led by Dr Marjorie Rycroft sought to gather the collection as they had originally been intended for publication, including a small group of songs never before

published. The outcome was the publication, in 2001, of the first of two volumes of the Haydn-Thomson Scots songs and it is from this volume that scores for the recording were taken.

"We are breaking new ground by performing the songs as they were originally intended for both amateurs and professionals," claims Sally.

The book with its CD will be available early next year from the School as well as direct from Mons Graupius (info@monsgraupius.org).

Keynotes auction lunch

A repeat of last year's very successful auction lunch will take place at the Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, on Sunday 2nd November.

Donations of some splendid lots have been received, including a charming solid gold treble cleft brooch from Michael Carry of Jamieson & Carry, the Aberdeen jewellers (see picture); a silver bangle from the bespoke jewellery



designer, Malcolm Appleby; a painting by well-known local artist, Alison Ewan; and a piece of antique furniture from the Tower Workshops.

Nicky Bradford, Chairman of the Fund Raising and Development Committee, says

that the auction will raise funds for the production of the School's newsletter. "Keynotes is an important means for us to communicate with our various supporters and to help us lobby with our financial and political supporters. Last year's auction in fact more than covered this year's costs and contributed to the running of the School as well."

The auctioneer will again be Peter Mitchell. Tickets for the lunch cost £13.00 and are available from the School.

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Recent events

GOURMET NIGHT

The annual Friends' Gourmet Night took place in March at Aberdeen College. As ever, this was a splendid evening, enjoyed by all who attended. A total of over £800 was raised for the School funds.

KINCARDINE CONCERT

International concert pianist and NESMS tutor, Nigel Clayton, and his concert violist wife, Miho Hakamata, gave a superb concert at Kincardine House on Saturday 26th April to raise over £1,200 for the School funds. This was Miho's first visit to Scotland and she enchanted the audience not just with her dazzling playing but by insisting on photographing them at the end of the concert!

Donors

The North East of Scotland Music School gratefully acknowledges the valuable financial contributions made by the following over the last 12 months:

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School pupil is Young Musician of the Year

NESMS cello pupil, seventeen-year-old Rachel Lind, beat off a host of talented opposition to take the title 'Aberdeen City Young Musician of the Year' recently. Rachel has been a pupil at the school for several years, studying with tutor James Halsey.

Rachel says that she was delighted with winning the accolade, which also netted her a prize of £1,000. "I hoped to get into the final and once I had, I thought I might have a fairly good chance of winning," she told Keynotes. "But I still had the challenge of playing better than I've ever managed before. I'm thankful that it was good enough!"

Rachel played a series of pieces during the final, including Faure's Elegie, Saint-Seans' Allegro Appassionato and WH Squire's Humoresque. The judges were chaired by Graeme Humphrey, professor of piano at the Royal Academy of Music and included Donald Hawksworth the former music adviser to Aberdeen City Council, John Stodter, Corporate Director of Leisure and Learning, Aberdeen City Council and Malcolm MacNeil, managing partner of the competition's sponsors, ISHOKA.



NESMS pupil Rachel Lind pictured outside Aberdeen's Cowdray Hall after winning the Aberdeen City Young Musician of the Year.

A member of the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland and Aberdeen Music Centre, Rachel will also be playing as a member of the Aberdeen Chamber Orchestra from this September onwards.

"Although I have another year at school, I'm applying to four of the Scottish medical schools," Rachel says, "but I'm hoping to be offered a place at Aberdeen because I'm so heavily involved in the musical scene here. I've recently formed a string quintet with some like-minded friends. We've called it Quintessence and, as well as playing for pleasure, we're also looking for commercial bookings for parties, weddings

and other occasions."

Rachel will be continuing her lessons at NESMS. "The School has had a strong influence on me. My playing has improved tremendously under the guidance of James Halsey and I wouldn't want to stop that. It's another good reason for staying in Aberdeen."

Two for the price of one

continued from page 3

occasional master of ceremonies, computer consultant and furniture mover! "It's inevitable that with Jean so closely involved with the School I get asked to do all sorts of odd jobs," Peter explains. "But I enjoy being involved although I do prefer it when I get an opportunity to sing!"

Jean says that their own performances are now concentrated around their trio, Vocal Liaisons. "We're doing less with the local choral societies these days – they are keener on attracting younger singers now," says Jean. "But for me, teaching has always played a big part in my life. And for that I must blame – and thank – Dorothy Hatley. It was really due to Dorothy that I moved from being a pupil to being a tutor at the School and I don't think I'm alone in saying that she's a big miss, is Dorothy."

Friends events

Following the successful opening concert in this year's Ferryhill series (Marionne Fordyce with piano tutor, Joseph Long), the next event will be on Thursday 9th October. NESMS horn tutor Professor Ifor James will be joined by his former pupil, Christopher Lund, and NESMS singing tutors, Ruth Black and Alison McDonald with their pupils, for an evening of music by Arnold Cooke, Brahms, Havelock Nelson, Berlioz and Ifor himself. Harry Williamson will accompany.

Tickets costing £8.50 are available from the School beforehand or at the door (of Ferryhill Church) on the night.

The third concert in this year's series will be on Thursday 20th November with pianist Donald Hawksworth and mezzo-soprano Sally Garden, giving a recital entitled 'Mondschein auf Loch Lomond'. This will be an evening of music inspired by the northern muse. Ticket details as above.

Slotted in between the two concerts will be the annual Friends' Coffee Morning at the School on Saturday, 25th October, from 10 am until 12 noon. There will be all the usual stalls and any donations will be most welcome. Musical entertainment will be provided by School pupils. Tickets from the School in advance or at the door.



Keynotes is produced for the North East of Scotland Music School

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Two for the price of one

Whilst many of the School tutors are well known international stars in their own right, not all travel the world entertaining and teaching. Some, like singing tutor Jean Webster, are content to keep their horizons closer to home. Jean – and her husband Peter – are ‘well kent’ faces on the North East of Scotland classical scene, singing in local choral societies and in their own trio with accompanist Ian Gillis.



Peter and Jean Webster

Both Jean and Peter were brought up in Dundee and it was from that city's Harris Academy that Jean went to the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama to take a three-year teaching and performing diploma. It was in her third year that Jean married her childhood sweetheart, Peter, and having successfully completed her diploma Jean and Peter moved to Aberdeen.

Jean takes up the story: “Having suffered a number of

miscarriages I was banned from singing whilst I added to our family with two boys, Christopher (now 24) and Andrew (now 20)! But afterwards, having successfully auditioned with the School I started three years of lessons with Raimund Herinx and was then invited to become very much the junior singing teacher at the School. I've been here twenty years now and, if they'll

have me, I hope to stay for a good while yet!”

Peter had also had voice training, initially with John Carol-Case, then with Elizabeth Izatt, and finally for ten years with Raimund Herinx at the School. “Elizabeth was a great technician,” Peter recalls, “and really set me on the right track in that respect.” Certainly Jean and Peter have been a big hit at the many joint concerts they have participated in, both for the School and elsewhere.

“The most memorable was the Purcell Dido and Aeneas we did for the School a few years ago with Peter as Aeneas and myself as Dido. That was a real highlight,” says Jean. Another highlight was last year's inaugural Friends of NESMS concert at Ferryhill Church, with Raimund Herinx. This included the Scottish premiere of *The Burning House*, a short Hadyn opera.

Asked who her most memorable pupils have been, Jean concedes that Lisa Milne has had the most spectacular career. “Eileen Hunter is another pupil in the same mould; she has a burgeoning career as a jazz vocalist and has studied with Cleo Laine. Currently I'm also teaching Elaine Henderson, an oboe player turned singer, and she is just superb with real potential to go the whole way.

“But not all the pupils want to sing professionally. I really enjoy it when any one of my pupils is making progress. That's very rewarding.”

Meanwhile Peter fulfils a useful role for the School as
continued on back page

Tutors at the School

as at September 2003

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 Ifor James

PIANO

Nigel Clayton
Joseph Long
Tom Johnston

GUITAR

Gilbert Biberian

SINGING

Raimund Herinx
Alan Watt
Ruth Black
Alison McDonald
Jean Webster

STAGECRAFT & PERFORMANCE

Donald Maxwell

Forthcoming events

**Saturday 4th October
7.15 pm**

Handel's 'Messiah' at St. Andrews Cathedral, King Street. Kathryn Gallacher (soprano), Katherine Smith (mezzo), Marion Fordyce (alto), Andrew Locke Nicholson (tenor), Alan Watt (bass). Conductor Roger Williams. See story back page for ticket information.

**Thursday 9th October
7.30 pm**

Ifor James & Friends at Ferryhill Church. Ifor James and Christopher Lund (horns) Ruth Black and Alison McDonald (sopranos). Tickets £8.50 from School or on door.

**Thursday 20th November
7.30 pm**

Mondschein auf Loch Lomond at Ferryhill Church. Sally Garden (mezzo-soprano) with Donald Hawksworth (piano). Tickets £8.50 from School or on door.

**Sunday 23rd November
7.45 pm**

Russian Concert at Mitchell Hall, Marischal College. Vera Kralichkina and Natalia Inglis-Kopylova (sopranos). See story back page for ticket information.

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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 and Europe.

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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President: Dr Neil Mackie

Administrator: Joan Thomas

Accompanists

An important role within the School is that of the accompanists – those highly skilled but (pardon the pun) unsung heroes of the piano keyboard who provide the musical backing for both singing and, less frequently, instrumental lessons.

The School is fortunate to be able to call on the services of several of these essential individuals, including Jean Ward, Harry Williamson, Andrew Bruce, Anne Buchan and, lastly, the two longest serving – Mary Wetherick and Bob Howie.



Bob Howie

Mary, who this year became only the second Honorary Fellow of the School, has been playing at the School for over twenty years, usually once a month for Raimund Herincx's classes, and says that the most interesting part of the job is listening to the tutor.

"It's not just the technicalities of singing that are so fascinating but the interpretation of the individual piece as well," explains Mary. "And it's as important for me to listen to what the tutor is saying as it is for the singer – and for

me to then try and support the singer while they do what the tutor suggests."

Mary started playing the piano at the age of eight, took lessons until she was 18 and then gave up until she was in her thirties. "It was the encouragement of my husband that made me start again," she recalls. "It wasn't until the late 1970's that I started to be involved at the School, in the beginning just with instrumentalists and then for Raimund in his singing lessons. I've been his accompanist now for longer than he or I cares to think about!"

Mary says that the most challenging part of the job is sight-reading difficult pieces. "Quite often pupils will turn up with something completely new and unexpected and if it's complicated then it can be quite a test of skill. It certainly keeps us on our toes."

For Bob Howie though the biggest challenge is unexpected changes of speed by the singer. "You just have to go with the singer although if they miss a bit it can be quite alarming. I remember one singer – albeit in a concert rather than a lesson – who was singing a big aria from Carmen and somehow managed to skip three pages!"

"I do enjoy the reaction between the voice and the piano, though. That for me is perhaps the best part of the job."

Like Mary, Bob began learning the piano as a child and in fact by the time he was twelve was already starting to accompany singers and playing in the YMCA orchestra that performed at old peoples homes. He took a music degree at Aberdeen University, qualified

as a schoolteacher and then became a music lecturer at the main Aberdeen teachers' training college, the Northern College of Education. He still now teaches part time at the University and says that throughout his career 'piano playing was always an integral part of the job.' Like Mary he started at the School in the 1970's and has worked with several tutors, including Thea King, David Nicholson, William Bennet and Ifor James, all of whom he accompanied at concerts as well as in their lessons.

Certainly those public performances have taken Bob far and wide – most notably accompanying percussion star



Mary Wetherick

Evelyn Glennie on her tours of Australia and the USA.

But both Bob and Mary have fond memories of some of the fabulous voices they have helped. For Mary the voice that most thrilled her is Ruth Black whilst for Bob it is Lisa Milne. But as Mary says: "Many of the pupils have a talent but no desire to pursue it as a career. But that doesn't make their lessons any less important. You have to endeavour to provide each and every one of them with the same high standard of support."

School pupils in concert

School pupils will feature strongly in two forthcoming concerts. On Saturday 4th October, Kathryn Gallacher, Katherine Smith and Marion Fordyce, supported by NESMS tutor, Alan Watt, will sing in Handel's 'Messiah' at 7.15 pm at St. Andrews Cathedral, King Street. The concert will raise funds for the new Roxburghe House and will be conducted by

Dr Roger Williams, a NESMS council member and chairman of the School's Music Committee.

Tickets are £5 and are available at the door. If you wish to join the chorus, the rehearsal is at 3.00 pm in the cathedral on 4th October and application forms are available from Ms O.I. Fraser, telephone 01224 681818 or visit www.voicesforhospices.org.

Another concert later this year is being organised by the University of Aberdeen's Music Department in conjunction with the School. The 'Russian' concert will take place in the Mitchell Hall at Marischal College on Sunday, 23rd November, at 7.45 pm and will feature an evening of Russian music – as well as solos from the School's two Russian pupils, Vera Kralichkina and Natalie Inglis-Kopylova.