

## David's a winner



David Matthews' fan club? No, just some of the other competitors. Pictured left to right are David; Alison Muslek, 20, who is a third year music student at RSAMD and took first place as Highland Singer of the Year; Melissa Lunn, who took second place and is also a third year pupil at RSAMD; and third placed Sophie Reid, 18, from Aberdeen.

NESMS's bass-baritone pupil David Matthews has recently won the up-and-coming teenager category at the Highland Young Singer of the Year competition in Inverness, where the judges included Margaret Aronson, vocal tutor at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and the Scottish soprano, Rosalind Sutherland. This was the first time that eighteen-year-old David had tackled a singing competition.

The three pieces David chose for his competition performance were Sarastro's aria In diesen heil'gen from Die Zauberflöte, an example of German Lieder, Verborgenheit, and The Vagabond from Vaughan Williams' Songs of Travel.

The latter song met the competition criteria for having one piece sung in the original language and was something with which David was quite

familiar, having sung it at a Masterclass at the Ruthven Parish Festival in 2004, where he first met - and worked with - NESMS's longest serving tutor, Raimund Herinx.

"It was at Ruthven that I decided to concentrate on singing," recalls David. "Up to that point I had been studying the violin with Gillian Findlay at NESMS (he reached Grade 8) and had also played in the National Youth String Orchestra, but I felt I needed to focus on the one thing I enjoyed most." It had been only the previous year that David started formal singing training with Alison McDonald but, subsequent to the Ruthven Festival, he has also been taking lessons at NESMS with Raimund and, occasionally, with Donald Maxwell and Alan Watt. Last year he was a member of the National Youth Choir of Scotland and has again been

chosen for this year's choir. "Last year we backed Dougie McLean in front of 20,000 people at the Proms in the Park concert," he says. "That was a tremendous experience. This year we're going to the Royal Albert Hall with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and I think that will be very special as well as it's the 10th anniversary of the Choir."

It's perhaps no surprise that David has pursued the vocal option. Both his grandfather and grandmother are members of the Montrose Choral Society (the family live in the town), his late father was also a member while his mother used to be the Society's conductor and is still a member!

Although David was a member he says he prefers the combination of acting and singing that the operatic stage involves; he is a member of Tayside Opera and sang the role

of Dr. Grenvil in La Traviata last year. He is also a member of Montrose Amateur Operatic Society and sang the role of Ambrose Kemper in their production of Hello Dolly earlier this year.

Does all this portend a solo singing career? "That's what I'd really like to do," agrees David. "Obviously it depends whether I'm good enough; I was on the reserve list in 2004 to go to Trinity College of Music in Greenwich and I'm hopeful that I'll be offered a place this year." In the meantime, David continues to sing in concerts and shows as much as possible and to carry on his studies in Tae-kwon-do, the Korean martial art. And he's supporting himself with a part time job in shoe retail.

The North East of Scotland Music School is sponsored by:



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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

Dorothy Hately Music Centre  
21 Huntly Street  
Aberdeen AB10 1TJ  
Tel/Fax: 01224 649685  
email: nesms@sol.co.uk

**Chairman:** June, Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair

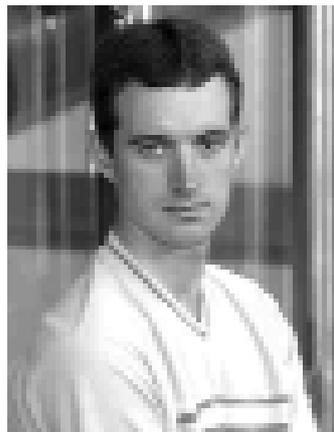
**President:** Dr Neil Mackie

**Administrator:** Joan Thomas

**Assistant Administrator:** Reg Pringle

# Pupil profile

## NESMS influence led to composing career



Oliver Searle

**The influence and encouragement of a NESMS tutor has led 28-year-old Oliver Searle into a career as a composer, with his works being performed in the Glasgow Proms and at festivals in Oxford, Edinburgh, Manchester, Aldeburgh, Berlin and Cluj-Napoca in Romania.**

Born in North Berwick, Oliver was studying for a musical Bachelor of Education degree at the old Northern College in Aberdeen when he started his lessons at NESMS with Nigel Clayton. Oliver went on to work as a supply teacher at, amongst other places, Kincorth Academy and had been offered a rare full time post

when he decided to take Nigel's advice and study composition.

"Nigel was a profound influence," Oliver recalls. "I had an aspiration - perhaps I should call it a delusion! - of being a concert pianist but it was obvious that I wasn't good enough. But I had composed a few things and showed Nigel one of my first pieces and it was him that helped convince me that I should take the plunge and study composition. I just knew that if I didn't I'd regret it."

Oliver therefore turned down the teaching post and moved to Glasgow in 2000 to take a Masters degree in composition at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama with John Maxwell Geddes, gaining a Distinction in 2002. He has recently completed a PhD there, again in composition, under the supervision of Gordon McPherson.

He has written works for the Paragon Ensemble, the National Youth Choir of Scotland, the Britten-Pears Orchestra, the Hebrides Ensemble, Psappa, the John Currie singers, Cambridgeshire Youth Wind Orchestra, the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, the New Music Players and the RSNO

and is currently working on a 20 minute piece for the inauguration of a new choir called Merchant Voices, which will be based at Glasgow City Hall. That will be performed for the first time in February next year.

In addition he has his own contemporary music group which he conducts and they will be visiting Aberdeen to perform in the Sounds festival later this year.

Oliver's other main interest is fly-fishing. "Actually, I'm a fanatic," he cheerfully admits. "When I'm writing music there are times when I look outside and wish I could head off with my rods - and, if I'm honest, I sometimes do!"

Musically Oliver says that he's still trying to work out what he most enjoys. "I take my inspiration from all sorts of things, like graffiti or a bad science fiction novel. A piece I wrote for the Paragon Ensemble took childhood nostalgia as a theme. I would like to tackle an opera at some point although the thought of something so large and complex is quite frightening! But, whichever musical direction I go, I'll always be grateful to NESMS and Nigel Clayton for pointing me down this path."

# Raimund hits 30!

**Raimund Herincx will this year be celebrating 30 years teaching at NESMS. The School's celebrated - and, dare we say, most senior vocal coach - was persuaded into joining NESMS in September 1976 by Lady Aberdeen, despite the fact that, at the time, he was singing for the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York.**

"She was very persuasive," recalls Raimund. "In those days the flights were much longer but she simply told me, 'Just arrange the two things' as though it was the simplest thing in the world!

"Originally, I used to stay at Haddo but I was teaching 30 plus students in three and a half days and the travelling and the 12 hour days were simply too much, so it was suggested that I should stay with Dorothy Hately.

"Dorothy also specialised in helping people who could not hear and others who could not speak. The many conversations we had on the latter subject led me into studying more deeply the function of resonators and how they are used to help people to speak who have lost that function through accident or

illness. Dorothy got me involved in helping them and that in turn helped me to evolve the theory that notes are most accurately produced if the mouth is formed into certain shapes depending on pitch, something that over the years I've also applied to my teaching in London, Cardiff and in the United States and in my lecturing at various universities."

Raimund says that to teach at all there has to be a conviction. "I have such fond memories of Dorothy and the enthusiasm and encouragement she had for the way I teach singing, that it's

# New patron for School



Peter Mitchell

**Peter Mitchell has accepted an invitation to become a patron of the School, joining Claire Bruce, Eileen Croxford, Evelyn Glennie, Maurice C Hatley, Fiona Kennedy and Charles Skene. Peter has been the auctioneer at all the Keynotes Auction Lunches since their inception in 2001.**

It's a debateable point as to whether Peter is best known as editor of the social column in the Press & Journal newspaper or as a charity auctioneer but he says he's very happy to help with the Keynotes Auction Lunches as his daughter, Fiona, received tuition at the school in the 1980's.

"I'm delighted to say that she still plays piano and clarinet and sings in choirs and her training at NESMS had an influence on that," says Peter. "It has been a privilege - and a lot of fun - to act

as auctioneer at the lunches and it was an unexpected honour to be made a patron."

Peter himself has had a long interest in a variety of different musical forms. He grew up in Scottish manses listening to his father, the Rev. Robin Mitchell, play all sorts of tunes on the piano, from classical to the pop of the day. Inevitably, he had piano lessons in Haddington which continued into adolescence at Leven in Fife and he and his father had a party piece playing a duet for organ by Handel.

"I would love to have been a conductor and, even now, often wield an imaginary baton while listening to some of my favourite pieces, such as Fingal's Cave or a stirring Beethoven symphony," he admits.

Jazz became a big interest at Edinburgh University so when

he went to teach English and American history at a private school near New York in 1964, he was able to see many of his heroes, such as Duke Ellington and Thelonius Monk, in the Big Apple.

Returning from his travels in 1966 - and after a spell attempting to be an actor in London - he went into journalism in Inverness in January 1968, moving to Thurso in the spring of 1970 to become editor of the Caithness Courier. While there, he took a great interest in the Dounreay Folk Club and helped launch the Thurso Folk Festival.

"Moving the auction from the Caledonian Hotel to the Marcliffe was a spectacular success," he suggests. "The Caledonian gave us terrific support but the shape of the room was a bit awkward and the numbers limited. And, of course, last year's royal connection with one of the lots didn't do us any harm either. I'm looking forward to this year's auction which given it's on the 5th November - and knowing Nicky Bradford's sense of humour - opens up all sorts of possibilities!"

## Fireworks expected at auction lunch

**This year's Keynotes Auction Lunch, which will take place on Sunday, 5th November, will have a fireworks theme, reports Nicky Bradford, chair of NESMS's Fund Raising and Development Committee. The event will take place at the Marcliffe at Pitfodels Hotel.**

"It was too good an opportunity to miss," suggests Nicky. "In fact, just the thought of having the lunch on that date immediately made me think of all the old clichés! So we're expecting the day to go with a real bang, with bids rocketing skywards, some people keeping their powder dry until the more expensive items .....

been very easy to continue the good work that she started up here in Aberdeen."

Given that his international operatic career as one of the foremost basses of his generation took him all over the world, the School and its pupils are lucky indeed that Raimund should have such a strong attachment to the area.

Raimund received his early training in Belgium and Italy and then created over 40 roles for Sadlers Wells Opera, (now English National Opera) before making his debut at Covent Garden in *The Midsummer*

*Marriage*, the first opera by Sir Michael Tippett.

In the early 1970's, Raimund went on to sing Wotan in Wagner's *Der Ring des Niebelungen*, a role for which he became celebrated. He became a regular at the Metropolitan Opera and was also closely associated with the North West Pacific Festival, Seattle and San Francisco opera companies, with an international career not just in opera, but in the major works of the choral / orchestral field with the world's leading conductors.

## 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 Herinx  
Alan Watt  
Ruth Black  
Alison McDonald  
Jean Webster

### STAGECRAFT & PERFORMANCE

Donald Maxwell

## Forthcoming events

### Friends of NESMS Coffee Morning

Saturday 28th October,  
10 – 12 noon, at the School

Donations welcome

### Keynotes Auction Lunch

Sunday 5th November, at the  
Marcliffe at Pitfodels Hotel

### SPECTRUM

A Concert of Piano Music with  
Donald Hawksworth

Sunday 26th November at  
2.30 p.m. at the School

Numbers are limited  
so book soon!



- Aberbrothock Charitable Trust
- Aberdeen Bach Choir
- Aberdeen City Council
- Aberdeen Rotary Club St. Machar
- Aberdeenshire Council
- AMEC, Oil and Gas
- Armistead Trust
- Binks Trust
- D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
- David Gordon Memorial Trust
- Dutch Society Aberdeen
- Enterprise Engineering Services
- Friends of NESMS
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- George Cadbury Trust
- Golsoncott Foundation
- Hobart Trust
- Hugh Fraser Foundation
- Innes Trust
- Jamieson and Carry
- Jennie S. Gordon Memorial Foundation
- Lynn Foundation
- Marcliffe at Pitfodels Hotel
- Martin Connell Charitable Trust
- McGlashan Charitable Trust
- Mearns and Gill
- Privy Purse
- Queen's Cross Church
- Radcliffe Trust
- Shell Exploration and Production
- Skene Group
- Tay Charitable Trust
- Thomas Primrose Trust
- William Wilson & Co.

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#### EDITOR

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

#### DESIGNER

Catriona Duncan  
Graphic Designer  
Tel: 07984 233 866  
email: info@catduncan.co.uk

#### PRINTER

Prontaprint  
Tel: 01224 582258

## Teachers learn new instruments for charity



*Fiona Kennedy is one of the celebrities supporting the Grade-1-athon.*

**A new concept in fund raising in the North East of Scotland will be tried later this year for both NESMS and Children 1st, one of Scotland's leading child welfare charities. The Grade-1-athon challenges any musician - but particularly music teachers - who have an Associated Board Grade VII certificate on one instrument to start playing a new instrument and qualify for their Grade I in only ten weeks.**

The idea came from Nicky Bradford, chair of NESMS's Fund Raising and Development Committee, who heard about

the concept in a chance conversation with a friend and fellow music teacher who lives in Cambridge. "It struck me as a lot of fun but also a great way to publicise music teaching," Nicky says. "It also seemed to me that as well as raising money for two local causes, it will be quite useful for music teachers to have to go back to basics and remember the frustration and awkwardness of learning a new instrument. It will be good for their souls!"

The Grade-1-athon starts with a group lesson on Saturday, 9th September, following which people will practice alone until examination day on Sunday, 19th November. The exams are 'real' with Associated Board examiners and proper Board Grade I certificates will be issued to those who pass.

As well as a £20 registration fee - which includes refreshments at the group lesson and exam days - participants will be expected to obtain sponsorship, using both traditional sponsorship forms and the Internet based justgiving.com website.

"The idea of teachers putting

themselves in their students' shoes for once is an unusual way of raising funds, to say the least," suggests Nicky. "But music teachers are nothing if not resourceful and I have no doubt they will easily rise to the challenge of doing a Grade I in only ten weeks with one lesson on a brand new instrument. I only hope everyone's practice rooms have good sound proofing to hide those embarrassing early attempts!"

Funds raised will be split equally between NESMS and Children 1st. The latter charity has been working for over 120 years to give children in Scotland a safe and secure childhood. It supports families under stress, protects children from harm and neglect, helps children and young people recover from abuse and promotes children's rights and interests.

## Sounds fun!

**A number of NESMS tutors, pupils and ex-pupils will be involved in sound, North East Scotland's Contemporary Music Festival, which will take place in Aberdeen between the 4th and 26th November.**

As well as composer Oliver Searle (see Pupil Profile feature on page two), who will be conducting his own contemporary music group and playing some of his own pieces, there will be a recital at NESMS by Donald Hawthorn, titled Spectrum.

Donald will introduce and play Schumann's *Scenes from Childhood* interspersed with contemporary short pieces from the innovative and exciting SPECTRUM publications of the Associated Board. "I think this informal recital will be of interest to all music lovers but, given the SPECTRUM content, particularly to piano teachers," Donald suggests.

The Edinburgh Quartet - which includes NESMS's viola tutor, Michael Beeston - will also be playing whilst NESMS's piano tutor, Joseph Long, is performing a concert with the local flautist Margaret Preston. Joseph and Margaret have recently released a new CD together called Beltane.

aspc.co.uk

get into it!

Aberdeen Selections Property Centre  
40 Chapel Street ABERDEEN G 01224 632949