

Forthcoming events

Friends Gourmet Evening

Thursday 23rd March, at 6.30 p.m. at Aberdeen College's William Dyce Brasserie. The cost is £26 each and you should telephone Jenny Shirreffs to reserve your seat on 01224 321998. This year we are fortunate to have two watercolours by Ken Frewin to auction. Numbers are limited so book now.

Don't miss this popular event.

Diversimode

We hope to have a concert from the Baroque ensemble, Diversimode, sometime in early May.

NESMS Tutors at Woodend Barn

NESMS tutors, Nigel Clayton, piano, and James Halsey, cello, will give a concert at Woodend Barn on Sunday 4th June.

This will be your first opportunity to hear the newly formed NESMS Cello Trio. This is certain to be a very popular evening, so make sure of your ticket by phoning the office (01224 649685) or Jenny Shirreffs (01224 321998).

Keynotes is produced for the North East of Scotland Music School

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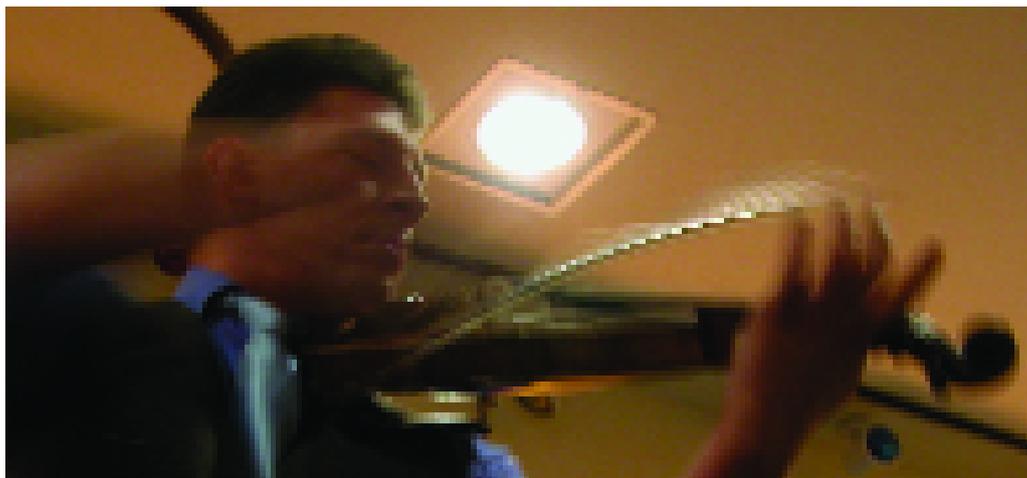
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Biggest ever auction lunch total



Paul Anderson in action at the auction lunch, playing his auction composition.

A massive £19,000 was raised at last November's Keynotes auction lunch with a single largest bid of over £5,000 for a printer's proof copy of a painting of Ben Avon by HRH The Prince of Wales.

Several other lots fetched sums into four figures including a lot comprising the opportunity to name a composition by the School's newest tutor, Scottish Fiddle player, Paul Anderson, and to

receive a signed copy of the original manuscript.

Fundraising and Development Committee chair, Nicky Bradford, expressed her delight at the auction result. "Every year the auction does better and better but last year was particularly outstanding, exceeding our expectations by a considerable degree, not just in the numbers of people attending – we had 240 – but in the sum raised.

"Nominally, the auction pays for the Keynotes newsletter, which is a key element in the way we communicate with our pupils, supporters and donors, but most years we raise more than the cost of Keynotes, with the extra going into the general fund for running the School. This time, however, we raised a lot more than the bi-annual issues of Keynotes will cost us so it really helps with the work of the School."

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get into it!

Aberdeen Selections Property Centre
40 Chapel Street ABERDEEN & 01224 632949

Hard nosed commercialism, not patronage.

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The difficulty is deciding which sponsorship to do from the many opportunities we are offered."

Musical sponsorship is personally popular with John. "I'm a failed pianist. In fact both my wife and I used to play – very badly. I may enjoy music but I'm definitely no musician! But if it were up to me we might well support more musical organisations but not necessarily for the right reasons!

"But part of the professionalism of our sponsorship selection is that I can't influence selection through my own inclinations. We have a sponsorship committee that includes managers and members of staff to ensure that we select on the basis of which offerings will be best for AMEC as well as good for the recipient. It's strictly a commercial decision.

keynotes

The Newsletter

of the North East of Scotland Music School

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New ensemble honours ex-tutor

A new ensemble has been formed from French horn pupils at the School and has been named the **Ifor James Horn Ensemble** in honour of the School's first horn tutor, **Ifor James**, who died last year.

As well as a distinguished playing career (he was appointed principal horn with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra at the age of 22 and was much in demand as a soloist), Ifor had a long career as a teacher. He was a Professor of Music at the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal Northern College of Music as well as Professor of Horn and Brass Chamber Music at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Freiburg. He was a tutor at NESMS for 22 years and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by The Robert Gordon University in 2004.

Well over 100 of his pupils – including several from NESMS – have become professional musicians, with 31 of them currently principal horn players with orchestras not only in England but in Germany, Switzerland, Scandinavia, the U.S.A., Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Nine are now professors at music colleges around the world, two are the principals of German music



Proof that the members of the School's new Ifor James Horn Ensemble can play the fool as well as the horn! Pictured left to right are Joe Boyd, Fiona Wilkinson, Peter Watt and William Jamieson.

colleges and a further six have solo careers.

"In deciding a name for the ensemble, it was entirely appropriate to remember the massive amount of good work that Ifor did, not just for NESMS, but for classical music in general," says the School's current horn tutor, Lizzie Davis. "I'm certain that Ifor's reputation as both a musician and as a teacher will have as large an influence on the ensemble's abilities as will my tuition!"

The ensemble, comprising Hannah Cheyne, Joe Boyd, William Jamieson, Olivia Rafferty, Peter Watt and Fiona Wilkinson, was formed in autumn 2005 and will be hoping to perform on stage before the end of the year. "It takes time to work up a group like this to a standard where they can perform publicly, particularly if they're not used to ensemble playing," explains Lizzie. "Even if they were rehearsing together every week it would be challenging, but only meeting

up once or twice a month makes things even harder for them. But I'm very encouraged by their passion and enthusiasm."

Another royal supporter for the school

Following the Prince of Wales's donation of an auction lot for the Keynotes lunch, the list of people and organisations that support the School has been added to by no less than Her Majesty the Queen, who

gave a personal donation at Christmas time.

"I am not exactly sure how the donation came about," said Fundraising and Development Committee chair, Nicky Bradford, "but I think that Her Majesty was made aware

of the School's 30th Birthday celebrations and decided to help us. Usually we have to work hard to find funds, so when a cheque arrives unexpectedly, and a Royal one at that, it is a marvellous bonus."

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 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 Hately 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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Assistant Administrator: Reg Pringle

Tom Johnston - a huge contribution to music



Tom Johnston - 1929-2006

We have learned with great sadness of the death of our friend and colleague, Tom Johnston. Not since the deaths of Dorothy and Ifor have we, at NESMS, felt such an acute sense of loss.

We are all aware of Tom's huge contribution to music in and around Aberdeen. The variety of ways in which he enriched the music scene as a conductor, pianist, recorder player, teacher, composer and arranger, adviser and mentor to young teachers is endless and we will always be grateful for the amount of time and energy he gave to us.

In the years of Dorothy's failing health, Tom, as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, gave her his constant support. During the preparations for the move to Huntly Street and when we were left without her at the helm, he played a very large part in smoothing the transition to a new administration without her.

Although he retired from the

Board a few years ago, he continued to teach piano until very recently and took responsibility every year for the awarding of the annual scholarships. His enthusiasm for the tremendously high standards achieved by our many NESMS students was always evident.

Tom always aimed for the highest possible standards in every aspect of music in which he was involved and many of us will forever feel that we owe him a great debt.

His musical legacy, however, is only part of what we admire and remember. His humble, self-effacing, gentle approach to all he did, coupled with a great sense of humour and respect for his fellow man made him a special person, whom we shall all miss. Jean Ward.

Hard nosed commercialism, not patronage.



John Pearson, director of AMEC Oil & Gas's Europe and West Africa division.

It would be easy to assume that sponsorship of arts organisations like NESMS is usually more patronage than hard nosed commercial decisions. But, as we found out in an interview with John Pearson, director of AMEC Oil & Gas's Europe and West Africa division, that's far from the case.

For a company offering global engineering solutions to a wide range of clients and turning over \$1 billion per

annum, the payment of sponsorship money that appears by comparison to be small change wouldn't, you might think, take a great deal of thought.

"Not so," says John Pearson. "We chose NESMS as we choose all our sponsorship opportunities for professional reasons. There are three main reasons we're involved in sponsorship at all. Firstly, we like to be a decent part of the communities in which we operate and so we support local organisations that we believe are of merit. That's as important in Aberdeen as it is in, for example, Lagos.

"Secondly, we like opportunities where we can entertain clients or potential clients. Those opportunities in a sense speak to those clients on our behalf - who we choose to support tells people about us and organisations like NESMS, which are about the development of children, give the right sort of message. We've found that people are becoming much more discerning - football, for example, no longer does it for us or our clients!

Finally, we are in a competitive labour situation. Here in the Oil & Gas division we are in a mature market where the rate of retirement is in danger of exceeding recruitment and where the people coming in don't have the experience of those leaving. And, like our clients, employees and potential employees are more discerning and want to be proud of the company they work for. They like to read about AMEC in a variety of ways and be part of a company that does the right things in their community."

A good example is AMEC's involvement with Hazlehead Academy through the Determined to Succeed initiative. The company use some of their graduates and a manager to help pupils with non-academic activities that will help the development of their life skills, such as writing cv's and interviewing techniques. "They're useful things that don't take a lot of money," points out John.

"Sponsorship in one way is an easy decision - we get good value from what we do.

Continued on back page

Tutor profile - Lizzie Davis



As well as being a professional player and tutor, Lizzie Davis has been a prolific writer of Horn music books.

An 80 year old, battered French horn that had seen better days was the instrument that set Lizzie Davis on the path to a career as a professional musician.

Lizzie had begun to learn the piano as a ten year old but, at the age of 13, she was given the horn and says that: "I felt like I was coming home, musically speaking. I just clicked with the instrument."

By the age of sixteen she had achieved Associated Board grade eight. "I was given the option by my parents of either practising or washing up and playing the horn won every time!" Lizzie recalls. As she was living in Cardiff she was able to take up the place she was offered at the Cardiff College of Music and Drama, where she studied with William Davis. Subsequently, she won the Corporation of London Brass Scholarship to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama to

study with Francis Bradley, where she was awarded the John Clifford Pettican Prize. At the same time she studied privately with Ifor James.

After four years at the Guildhall Lizzie began a professional playing career together with teaching.

Lizzie moved to Manchester in 1976 as Principal Horn of the Manchester Camerata and has also played with the Lancashire Sinfonietta. She continues to live in the city with her partner, also a professional musician. "I'm a thoroughly converted and convinced Mancunian now," Lizzie claims.

She has been teaching privately for over 30 years and has been horn and chamber music tutor at Chetham's School of Music for the last 16 years. Her pupils have gained scholarships to all the major music colleges. Past and present pupils include Tim Jackson (Covent Garden Opera

Orchestra until 2004), Christopher Parkes (UK finalist Paxman Competition 1998, Brass finalist BBC Young Musician 2000, appointed 3rd horn London Philharmonic Orchestra 2004), Angela Barnes (Brass Finalist BBC Young Musician 2000, Liverpool Young Musician 2002 and BBC Young Musician Concerto Finalist 2002, appointed 2nd Horn London Symphony Orchestra 2005 – the first woman brass player to be appointed by the orchestra), Liz Chell (Brass finalist BBC Young Musician 2004) and Alexander Edmundson (Brass Finalist BBC Young Musician 2006). Three of her current pupils are members of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

Lizzie became an examiner to the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in 1990 and was appointed to their panel of trainers in 2001. In September 2004 Lizzie was appointed horn tutor at the Royal Northern College of Music. Lizzie coached the horn section of the Lancashire Students Symphony Orchestra for 21 years and has recently been coaching the horns of the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain, with a further two courses to come in 2006.

Polished Brass, her first book of studies for brass was published by Brasswind Publications in 2003 and there are now plans to publish a book of horn and piano pieces within the next year. She has written a further 14 books which she has self-published.

Her association with the North East of Scotland Music School began in 2004 when she was asked by Ifor James to take over from him as he was retiring through ill health. "I've known Ifor for very many years as he was one of my teachers. I was very pleased to be asked by him to take over as horn tutor and was immensely sad when he died last year. It is to honour his memory that we've chosen to name the School's new horn ensemble after him."

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

Donors

Aberdeen Bach Choir
Aberdeen City Council
Aberdeen Endowments Trust
Aberdeen Rotary Club St. Machar
Aberdeenshire Council
AMEC, Oil and Gas
Enterprise Engineering Services
Central Investment Services (Aberdeen) Ltd
Martin Connell Charitable Trust
ConocoPhillips (UK) Ltd
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Hugh Fraser Foundation
Innes Trust
Jamieson & Carry
Marcliffe at Pitfodels Hotel
McGlashan Charitable Trust
MacGregor Energy Services Ltd
MacRobert Trust
Thomas Primrose Trust
The Binks Trust
The George Cadbury Fund
The Inches Carr Trust
The Lynn Foundation
The Radcliffe Trust
The Tay Charitable Trust
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