

keynotes

The Newsletter

of the North East of Scotland Music School

Issue No 8 • October 2005

NESMS pupils in NYOS

Nine current or immediate past NESMS pupils were selected for this year's tour by the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland. In alphabetical order they were sisters Lucy Cruickshank (clarinet); Sarah Cruickshank (oboe) - ex pupil, now studying in Glasgow; and another pair of sisters, Yla Garvie (clarinet) - ex pupil, now RSAMD and Iona Garvie (bassoon) - ex pupil, now also in Glasgow; Alan John (violin) - ex pupil, now at RSAMD; Julia Maxwell (viola); Mary Noden (oboe); Samantha Pearce (flute); Hannah Trotman (double bass). Here Julia Maxwell reports on the tour.

After a week of intensive rehearsing in sections, ensembles and as a full orchestra, under the baton of Takuo Yuasa, we played our first concert to an enthusiastic home audience at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. The repertoire was Glinka's Ruslan and Ludmilla Overture, Elgar's Cello Concerto Op 85 and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10

in E minor, with Quirine Viersen as soloist.

Moving onto the Birmingham Symphony Hall the very next night we quickly discovered that a NYOS tour was no holiday. The Symphony Hall was magnificent and the audience was the largest that had attended the summer series so far. They were also very appreciative - a big encouragement as we set off for the Continent.

Two days later we were back on stage playing at the world famous Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. It was a fantastic concert to a full house with a standing ovation at the interval as well as at the end of the concert. As we walked back to our tour bus audience members congratulated us and waved to us.

After a long bus journey to Berlin and a rare morning off to go sightseeing, we played our final concert to another full house in the Berlin Konzerthaus. We also added the world premier of Anna Meredith's Wound Up to our



Julia Maxwell

programme at this venue.

After the concert we were invited to the British Embassy where the Ambassador hosted a reception for us. We mingled with German VIPs and then set up a ceilidh band featuring ex-NESMS, now RSAMD, pupil Alan John. We danced and chatted into the small hours!

The next morning we set off early on the long journey home. It gave us a chance to reflect together on a tour which had

given us all an opportunity to play fantastic music, meet fellow young Scottish musicians and perform in some of the world's best concert halls.

Linking colours and sounds

Joseph Long, one of the School's piano tutors, recently gave a paper to the first International Conference on Synaesthesia and Art in Europe held at Cuevas del Almanzora (near Almeria) in Spain on the Synaesthetic Experiences of a Practising Musician. The conference was

organised by the University of Almeria and the arts organisation Artecitta.

Joseph explained in his paper that synaesthesia, a phenomenon in which the senses develop strong associations between each other, has been a part of his life since he was very young.

"My earliest memories are not of a glorious fusion of sound and colour; they are of a precise colour-coded learning method whose apparent purpose, at least initially, was to help me think about specific piano-playing concepts in a direct and unambiguous way," Joseph told

Continued on page 4

The North East of Scotland Music School is sponsored by:

Aberdeenshire COUNCIL



amec

In this issue

Donald Gillan	2
Tutor Profile	3
Play-a-Thon	3
Auction Lunch	4
Linking colour with sounds	4
<i>Continued from front page</i>	

Donald Gillan

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



Donald Gillan

A childhood ambition to be a professional musician has translated itself into an established career as a freelance cellist for ex-NESMS pupil, Donald Gillan. Donald was first exposed to classical music as a young boy – his mother being an enthusiastic listener and singer – and he had his first cello lesson on his sixth birthday.

"I remember being thrilled by concerts at the Aberdeen Music Hall from a very early age" Donald recalls, "and somehow I was particularly inspired by the cello. I think it just seemed to me to be the most impressive instrument - and I don't think I was wrong!"

Aberdeen born and bred, he studied the instrument at school with Irene Wood, coming to NESMS at the age of 10 to study with Eileen Croxford, a pupil/tutor relationship that lasted eight years at the School. "I clearly remember my early lessons with Eileen, listening to her playing and just being blown away by this incredibly direct sound," says Donald. "That was my first close encounter with a performing musician of that calibre and I felt very privileged. Eileen's deep attention to detail has

become, I hope, very much a part of the way I approach the cello and can be applied to many other aspects of life. These lessons were amazingly inspirational and they definitely fed my growing aspiration to be a musician."

After leaving school, Donald went to Aberdeen University for a year, studying with Raymond Dodd, before winning an Associated Board Scholarship to the Royal College of Music where he continued to study with Eileen for a further four years. During this time he won all the major RCM cello prizes, a Constant and Kit Lambert Prize and was a string finalist in the Royal Overseas League Competition.

After graduating with an honours diploma from the RCM, Donald won another scholarship for post-graduate studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. "In a way I felt quite relieved when I left London," Donald says. "Although I love visiting London and it seems to many to be the obvious destination for a career in music, I was always apprehensive of becoming professionally 'trapped' in London. Manchester was the next chapter."

During the two years Donald

spent at the RNCM he won the Muriel Taylor Prize, the Waddell String Prize and the soloist competitions of the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra, Edinburgh Youth Orchestra and the A40 Orchestra. He also won awards from the Ian Fleming Charitable Trust, Martin Musical Scholarship Fund, Sir James Caird Scholarship Trust and the Countess of Munster Trust.

Since leaving Manchester, Donald has built a successful freelance career based in Glasgow, working in a variety of genres. He plays frequently with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, touring with them to Germany, Spain, Belgium and Japan. He also plays with the orchestra of Scottish Opera, notably in their acclaimed production of Wagner's Ring Cycle in 2003, and has played with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra including several of the BBC Promenade concerts.

He has played with the Scottish, Paragon and Hebrides Ensembles, the Edinburgh Quartet and has toured to Malta with Classic Trio.

He also plays the music of David Paul Jones with the DPJ Ensemble including appearing on the album *Something There*. Other recording work has been done with a variety of pop groups and singers including Justin Currie and Trash Can Sinatras and Donald has recorded cello solos on soundtracks for the films *Young Adam* and *Blinded* and a recent *Sherlock Holmes* BBC drama.

To add to the variety he has toured with Theatre Cryptic to Montreal and has worked with other theatre groups including *Grid Iron* and *Rain Dog*. And a recent additional string to his bow is that he is now teaching at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

"I am very glad to be able to make a living playing music," says Donald. "It's a fortunate position to be in. It's also fortunate to be able to fulfill a childhood ambition."

Tutor profile - James Halsey



NESMS's cello tutor,
James Halsey

Our tutor profile in this issue is, like our pupil profile, a cellist of international renown. James Halsey has taught at NESMS for over eight years, taking over from his former teacher, Eileen Croxford.

“My association with NESMS is very simple and straightforward,” says James. “When Eileen wanted to retire she put my name forward so here I am! I must say that I

thoroughly enjoy my monthly visits although they're normally pretty hectic and don't leave much time for seeing the city. I know Union Street pretty well from my lunchtime breaks but the rest is still something of a mystery.”

James feels he was lucky enough to have had two years of lessons with Tom Igloi before his tragically early death in 1976. James then went on to complete a BSc in Management Sciences at Warwick University before going on to the Royal College of Music where he studied with Eileen.

As cellist in the Auriol and, currently, the Bingham Quartets, James has played all over the British Isles, in most European countries, on tour in three Middle East countries and also in Australia. He has recently performed unaccompanied Bach and Beethoven sonatas in Japan and Australia and has broadcast frequently on BBC Radio, Channel 4 television and for the Australian broadcasting

Company. His recordings are also many and varied.

James has performed concerti from Haydn through to Shostakovich with orchestras all around the country and regularly joins the violinist Frances Mason in the Brahms Double. James has also played over many years with another NESMS tutor, the pianist, Nigel Clayton; their first performance together was in 1971 when they were both music scholars at Trinity School, Croydon.

He plays in the Tagore String Trio and has recently completed cycles of the six solo Bach Suites both in London and on the Isle of Wight, where he lives with his wife, Helen and their four children.

As well as his playing commitments, James teaches in the Royal College of Music Junior Department and coaches on ten residential chamber music courses every year.

Outside of music his interests include squash, gardening and sea swimming.

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
Dunard Fund
Friends of NESMS
David Gordon Memorial Trust
Jennie S Gordon Memorial Foundation
Hugh Fraser Foundation
Innes Trust
Jamieson & Carry
Marcliffe at Pitfodels Hotel
McGlashan Charitable Trust
MacGregor Energy Services Ltd
MacRobert Trust
Thomas Primrose Trust
The Radcliffe Trust
Skene Group
Shell Exploration and Production
E. H Tutty Charitable Trust
Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson's Trust
Wood Group
Zonta Club (Aberdeen)

Friends' Play-a-Thon raises £1,200

The first Friends of NESMS event of this autumn took place in the School on 10th September with the sponsored Play-a-thon. Pupils played and sang throughout the day and apart from entertaining an enthusiastic audience, raised over £1,200.

This is one of a variety of fund raising events arranged by the organisation which exists to help fund the School and its work. At the moment the annual subscription rate is £7, but this is sure to rise by the end of the year, so the message is clear – join now!

The Friends organisation has been a constant source of help and support for the School over the past 30 years. Not only do they fundraise throughout the year, but they also help with many practical tasks that ease the running of the School.

“Thanks to the Friends our tutors are hosted and taxied on their visits to Aberdeen and without this invaluable assistance the School simply could not function,” says School administrator, Joan Thomas. “Over the years strong friendships have been established between hosts and their particular tutor, and staying with their ‘Scottish family’ guarantees a comfortable visit for a tutor.”

On Saturday 29th October, the annual Friends' Coffee Morning will be held in the School from 10 am to midday, with the usual stalls and a new Christmas card, designed once more by our own Colin Brockie. Piano student Anthony Johnston will play while you sip and buy.

Don't miss Robert Martin's recital of Schubert's Die schöne

Müllerin, on Wednesday 9th November at the School. His accompanist, Dr. Roger Williams will give a pre-concert talk, and tickets will be available from the School.

One of the highlights of the autumn season will be the Friends' concert in Craigiebuckler Church on Wednesday 16th November, featuring our newest tutor, Paul Anderson, the renowned Scottish fiddle player. Paul will be accompanied by Nicholas Cowling and this concert will form part of the new Sound Festival of Contemporary Music.

Friends' chairman, Jenny Shirreffs says: “By becoming a Friend you not only enjoy concerts and fun events, but also contribute to and support the School, a cause which is close to all our hearts. What are you waiting for?”

THE SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL
National Lottery Fund

Glen Tanar concert success

In June the School held a concert to celebrate its 30th birthday in the magnificent setting of the Glen Tanar Ballroom. A capacity audience of 150 was captivated by a performance of the Mozart Oboe Quartet with Mary Noden (oboe), Jessica Coleman (violin), Samantha Copeland (viola) and Alice Allen (cello) as well as a dazzling display of pianistic virtuosity from Joseph Long.

A new and exciting part of the evening was the exhibition and sale of 'Art in a CD Case', and the School is most grateful to all the artists who so generously contributed work to make such a spectacular display. A sum in excess of £4,000 was raised from the evening and part of this will be used to support ensemble playing at NESMS.



One of the hand painted CD covers auctioned at the Glen Tanar concert. This one was painted by Ian Bashford and titled 'Harbour Glow, Stonehaven'.

Keynotes is produced for the North East of Scotland Music School

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: cat.duncan@tiscali.co.uk

PRINTER

Prontaprint

Tel: 01224 582258

Bonny Prince Charlie painting for auction lunch



Rosie Long's painting 'Muchalls Cliffs' is one of the auction items.

A valuable and rare artist's proof of a painting by HRH the Prince of Wales will be the main sale item at the Keynotes Auction Lunch on Sunday, 6th November at the Marcliffe at Pitfodels Hotel in Aberdeen.

Fund Raising and Development Committee chairman, Nicky Bradford, who is organising the auction, is delighted to have such a prestigious donation. "We wanted to make this year's Keynotes Lunch Auction an extra special one to celebrate the School's 30th Birthday, but I never dreamed that our quest

for auction items would be so successful. All of our supporters have been incredibly kind, but to have a beautiful painting of Ben Avon given by the Prince of Wales really is the icing on the cake."

As well as the painting there will be a host of other valuable auction items including a weekend for two in Vienna, including accommodation and return flights from Aberdeen; a unique piece of fine jewellery (a flawless diamond set in white gold) designed and hand crafted by Jamieson & Carry; a silver brooch in the form of a squirrel, designed, hand crafted and generously donated by Malcolm Appleby, a weekend break for two in Bruges including return ferry passage for one car and two adults from Rosyth, a one week stay for four guests in one of the splendid holiday cottages on the Glen Tanar Estate, Aboyne; two weeks in a holiday home in Royan; an original painting in entitled 'Muchalls Cliffs' by

Joseph Long's mother, Rosy; a day's fishing for two rods on the River Dee on the legendary Morven beat, on the left bank of the river opposite Birkhall; executive hospitality for four at Pittodrie Football Stadium and a case of wine, generously donated by the Marcliffe.

In addition to the auction, the School's newest tutor, Paul Anderson, will play a thirty minute mini-concert of Scottish traditional music during which he will perform an unnamed composition of his own. A special auction item is the opportunity to name Paul's piece and to own the manuscript, signed by Paul and dedicated to the successful bidder or someone of their choice.

Tickets for the lunch cost £20 and application forms are available from the School.

Linking colours and sounds

Continued from front page

the audience of distinguished academic researchers, writers, artists and others interested in the field: "Whereas most people might use names to label keys on a piano keyboard, I used colours. Apart from the unusual nature of my labels, there was no logical distinction between this system and any more conventional learning approach. "My colours contributed vividly to an awareness of the tonal construction of pieces. Beethoven's Fifth Symphony was, and is, a mass of rich, deep blues overlaid with the warm yellows, greens and other colours of its secondary material. As I listened to it and other works, I began to understand that pieces of music could tell stories that were based on key contrast, and it was not long before I was applying this understanding to my own interpretations."

The full text of Joseph's paper can be found at either www.nesms.org.uk or www.josephlong.co.uk.

Aberdeen School of Property Centre
aspc
 40 Chapel Street
 ABERDEEN
 ☎ 01 224 632949
aspc.co.uk