

# Keynotes

The Newsletter of  
the North East of Scotland Music School  
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## New Patron for NESMS

Acclaimed composer and University of Aberdeen Music Department Professor, Paul Mealor, has agreed to become a patron of NESMS, saying that he is looking forward to the role.

"I've known about the school since coming to Aberdeen in 2003 and I think it's a very exciting place with an important part to play in the musical education of the city," he told *Keynotes*.

Paul says that he hopes as patron and ambassador for the school to have a very active role and suggests that he can bring the school more into the public eye. He is also very conscious of his role in encouraging youngsters to compose as well as play. "I was very lucky as a child and as a young man being brought up in Wales to have been able to work with some superb composers such as William Mathias, John Pickard and Nicola LaFanu who were truly inspirational," he recalls.

Perhaps best known popularly as the composer of the song *Wherever You Are* and for his motet that was premiered at the royal wedding between Prince William and the now Duchess of Cambridge, he is more locally known for being

Professor of Composition at the University. He has also held visiting professorships in composition at institutions in Scandinavia and the United States.

*Wherever You Are* was based on letters to and from troops serving in Afghanistan, and was sung by The Military Wives Choir created by Gareth Malone. The single, released on 19 December 2011, became the 2011 Christmas number one in the UK Singles Chart and raised money for military charities.

In July 2011 Paul signed with Decca Records – one of only a handful of composers to have been taken on by a major record label – and also signed a publishing deal with Novello & Co. He is currently preparing his second album of choral music for Decca and has contributed new works to a number of other Decca albums, including his new song *In My Dreams* for X factor star, Jonjo Kerr and The Military Wives Choir which



Professor Paul Mealor entered the pop album charts at No 1.

Paul has recently completed a setting of *The Crucifixus* for The National Youth Choir & Orchestra of Scotland, and a setting of *Christopher Smart* for The Rodolfus Choir, as well as a number of works for HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

## Retirement beckons for Joan

NESMS administrator, Joan Thomas, will be retiring at the end of June after 13 years in the role.

"Joan has made an enormous contribution to the School," says NESMS chairman, Barbara McFarlane. "Her friendly attitude and her efficiency has made an enormous difference in an organisation where it was – and is – vital to make every penny count.

"She has shown a deeply caring approach to and an interest in everyone who comes to the School, whether student, tutor or friend, and this has been instrumental in creating the happy and welcoming environment which is such an essential part of NESMS."

*Keynotes* will be running a full-length feature on Joan's contribution in the next issue.

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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.

### 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.

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Scottish Charity No. SC 000197

## LUNCHBREAK CONCERT

# Derek Buchan Piano

THE COWDRAY HALL Thursday, 29 November 2012

The Lunchbreak Concert Series is invaluable in so many ways, writes **Alan Cooper**. As well as bringing young performers of international renown to Aberdeen through its association with BBC Radio 3, it provides a platform for some of our finest locally based professional performers.

Beyond that, however, it gives support to many very fine musicians representing local schools or the University as well as two of our specialist musical institutions, Aberdeen City Music School and the North East of Scotland Music School. This last establishment is different from the other local educational institutions in that it provides unique opportunities for pupils of all ages wishing to pursue musical studies at an advanced level.

We were privileged to hear a performance by one of its more mature students, pianist Derek Buchan. Derek is currently studying at NESMS with Nigel Clayton who, along with violinist Madeleine Mitchell, appeared to great acclaim at a Lunchbreak Concert on 1st November this year.

For his performance on Thursday, Derek chose just one piece, and a very testing one at that – Schubert's Piano Sonata in Bb Major D 960. Outside of the song repertoire, Schubert's music has not been much played at concerts in Aberdeen so Derek is to be congratulated on choosing a work which judging by his fine

performance deserves to be heard much more often.

It is a piece which is extraordinarily rich in thematic material and makes wonderfully imaginative use of key structure. In the opening movement, to quite an extent, melodic content lies mainly in the right hand while the left hand adds a fascinating element of dramatic colouring.

By giving both elements almost equal weight, Derek built up a splendid dramatic tension in his performance while still delivering the attractive singing melodies that make Schubert's music such a favourite with audiences.

The second movement, *Andante sostenuto*, was given a lovely fluid continuity in this performance and in the third movement, Derek paid due attention to the composer's request "con delicatezza" with a well judged lightness of touch.

In the final movement we can say that Derek "really went for it" and delivered all the energy and excitement in his playing, if perhaps not the lightness that Schubert wanted.

Once again, Derek is to be congratulated not just on his performance but on his choice of music by a composer who deserves a lot more attention from both performers and audiences today. Bravo!

## TUTOR PROFILE – ALAN WATT

With the retirement of Raimund Herinx as head of the NESMS vocal department it has fallen to baritone, Alan Watt, to take over the role.

However, Alan is far from being new to NESMS. Raimund invited Alan to join the team at NESMS in 2002, commenting at the time that he felt Alan and he had a similar approach to singing in production of the voice and in the communication of the different operatic roles.

Alan was born in Aberdeen and studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland). He has sung principal roles in many of the major opera houses throughout Britain and Europe and his extensive work abroad includes his Italian debut

at La Fenice in Venice singing Guglielmo in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* together with opera and concert work in Vienna, Basle, Brussels, Seville, Strasbourg, Bruges, Berlin and Tel Aviv. It was here that he sang Papageno to great critical



Alan Watt singing the role of Major General Stanley in a performance of 'The Pirates of Penzance' with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company.

acclaim in a new production by Jonathan Miller of *The Magic Flute* conducted by Zubin Mehta.

Closer to home, concert appearances in Scotland have included performances with the Paragon Ensemble and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies at the St Magnus Festival in Orkney and with the Hebrides Ensemble.

It is little surprise, perhaps, that Alan was attracted to singing as a career. His mother had a fine light soprano voice and sang regularly as an amateur in operetta performances in Aberdeen. "My brother, Gordon, has also had a fulfilling and very successful international career," says Alan. "We are both baritones and in fact we've sung together more than a few times, including *The Marriage of Figaro* (my

Figaro to his Count) and with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company in *HMS Pinafore* and *Iolanthe*."

Alan continues to sing professionally as well as teaching at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and at NESMS.



# Unique Resources

It is often said that people are the key resource in an organisation, and this is certainly true of NESMS's students and staff, writes **Stuart Hannabuss**. However, our library is another key resource. Built up from donations in the 1960s, since 2005 with web-enabled access to its catalogue, the NESMS library is unique. Its idiosyncrasies make it so. It is eclectic, rich in unexpected ephemera, a snapshot of earlier fashions and editorial practices, an insight into domestic music-making over the period 1860 to the 1950s, and, above all, a musicologist's delight.

Where else could you find music for the National Federation of Music Societies' Festival of Britain 1951 'Choral Concert', with Parry's 'Blest Pair of Sirens', John Ireland's 'These Things Shall Be', and 'Songs of the Fleet' by Stanford? Such things vanish away with time and are rarely in academic libraries. Or a *Lieder Album* of German songs (in English) for medium voice and pianoforte accompaniment, leather bound and gilt-edge and dating from 1885, with music by Curschmann, Gumbert and Lassen?

The original Angus Collection was added to by later donations – popular from the late Bill Jolly and classical (and Alpine songs!) from the late Donald Hawksworth. This makes the library eclectic, even eccentric, bibliographically. You can search the catalogue online (by composer and arranger, work and instrument, voice type and title), looking at music scores and recordings. Chance and fortune have made it, serendipity is there for the visitor – strong on Gounod and Schumann and Wagner, of its



Dr Stuart Hannabuss is a piano accompanist at NESMS

time (tape-deck favourites like Karajan and Randy Crawford), and as likely to offer John Curwen's sol-fa version of Handel's 'Messiah' as Verdi and Satie.

Much was published for *domestic use*. Songs stand out: parlour songs for the family, larger pieces for small amateur choirs. Many are Scottish, like 'How Can Ye Gang, Lassie?' by Malcolm Lawson. Composers/arrangers like Hermann Löhr and Wilfrid Sanderson are forgotten by all but experts. Who now sings 'The Apple Tree Fairy' by Montague Phillips (1885–1969)? Then there are *studies, études and lessons* – by Concone for the voice, by Cramer and Czerny and Pauer for the piano, and Sevcik for the violin, many with annotations by performers.

*Arrangements and adaptations* are popular too: Clutsam's piano solo of Tchaikovsky's 'Symphonie Pathétique Op. 74', Litolf's piano version of 'Cosi fan Tutte', George Catherine's violin/piano rendering of Lully. For anyone interested in editorial historiography, we find Czerny's Bach's 48, Niedzielski's Chopin's Nocturnes, and Michael Diack's Bach's cantatas for small choirs. We have, then, **a collection that reflects history and musical fashion**: anyone searching for Coleridge-Taylor or Geehl, Léhar or Scriabin or Paderewski is in luck! Operetta is good too.

Today's performers are likely to use today's editions. Yet anyone interested in musical and cultural history cannot ignore the treasures here. As an accompanist, called up to play virtually anything at the drop of a hat, like a piece from 'The Gypsy Baron' or 'Princess Ida', Haydn Wood's 'God is Guiding Me' or 'Ae Fond Kiss', it's a simply amazing collection. *Eclectic, domestic, idiosyncratic – unique.*

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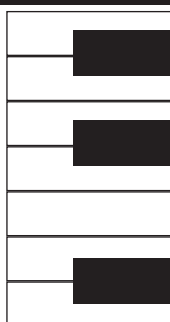
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## Library Gems

In order to entice you into the NESMS library, here are three little gems to whet your appetite.

**Sheet Music:** *Do you need music for an unusual combination of instruments?* Here is one example of what you can find in the library: Farkas' Sonata a due per viola e violoncello.

**Recording:** *Did Beethoven get it right?* For the real thing try the birdsong recordings in Les oiseaux chanteurs de Laeken.

**Book:** *Can't see what there is to opera?* You are not alone! Try How to be tremendously tuned in to opera ed. E. O. Parrott.

## Tutors at the School

as at April 2013

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

WOODWIND	
Flute	Catherine O'Rourke
Oboe	Joe Houghton
Clarinet	Alison Waller
Bassoon	Lesley Wilson
Recorder	Ian Wilson

BRASS	
Trumpet	John Gracie
Horn	Lizzie Davis

PIANO	
Nigel Clayton	Joseph Long

SCOTTISH FIDDLE	
Paul Anderson	

SINGING	
Alan Watt	Raimund Herincx
Alison McDonald	Jean Webster
Peter Webster	

STAGECRAFT & PERFORMANCE	
Donald Maxwell	

ORGAN	
Dr Roger B. Williams	

## Forthcoming events

### FRIENDS' SCHOLARSHIP CONCERT

**Friday 28th June, 7.30pm**  
at Craigiebuckler Church

The top four NESMS scholarship winners will entertain, accompanied by Drew Tulloch. You will hear Lisa Abraham on piano, flautist Cara Garton, baritone David Ferguson and Iain Hall on recorder. Tickets, available at the door on the night, cost £5 each and include interval refreshments. This is always a delightful evening, so don't miss it.

### GRAMPIAN YOUTH ORCHESTRA SUMMER CONCERT

**Sunday 16th June, 7.30pm**  
in the Music Hall

Come along and hear many of our young students play a challenging programme under the baton of exciting young conductor, Oliver Rundell. They will play pieces by Dvorak and Tachikovsky, and former NESMS student Jessica Coleman will be the soloist in Bruch's Violin Concerto. Tickets at £8 (£5 concs) are available from the Box Office (tel: 01224 641122). This concert will be the culmination of the annual GYO course and this is sure to be a really splendid night. Book now!

### FRIENDS' COFFEE MORNING

**Saturday 26th October, 10am**  
in NESMS

Just stick this date in your diary. There will be further information in K24.

### KEYNOTES AUCTION LUNCH

**Sunday 3rd November in the Marcliffe at Pitfodles**

Put this down in your diary as well. Your application form will be included in K24.

# New Packages should attract Donors

Two new packages designed to attract a larger number of individual donors have been introduced by NESMS. The packages have been constructed to provide donors with a wide range of benefits in return for what Derek Buchan, chair of the School's Fundraising and Development Committee, describes as a 'moderate' donation.

"We have seen a marked reduction in income from local government and from our traditional source of funding in trusts," he reports. "The packages come in at different levels and have been constructed to provide donors with what Derek describes as a wide range of attractive benefits.

The two packages have been named after the NESMS founder, Dorothy Hateley and her husband, Maurice. "Annual membership of The Dorothy Hateley Circle and The Maurice Hateley Circle will qualify for a range of benefits, the most interesting of which," suggests Derek, "is tickets to an exclusive Dorothy Hateley memorial recital each year."

Full details of the Circles and an application form are available from the NESMS administrator on 01224 649685.

## The Dorothy Hateley Circle (£1,000)

- Exclusive DH memorial recital party every year
- Two free tickets for all NESMS concerts
- Two free tickets for the auction lunch
- Two free masterclass tickets
- Two packs of Christmas cards
- Two free tickets for other sundry events
- Scholarship in your own name
- Listed in all NESMS Programmes and in *Keynotes* (optional)

## The Maurice Hateley Circle (£600)

- Exclusive DH memorial recital party every year
- Two free tickets for all NESMS concerts
- Two free tickets for the auction lunch
- Two free masterclass tickets
- Two packs of Christmas cards
- Two free tickets for other sundry events
- Listed in all NESMS Programmes and in *Keynotes* (optional)



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\*The average number of searches per day in September and October 2012

## Join the Friends!

- Are you a Friend of NESMS?
- If not, why not?

Join the Friends to support the school and to keep abreast of special school events.

Membership costs only £10 a year and an application form is enclosed.

Further information is available from  
Derek Buchan  
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23 Inchcolm Drive  
Broughty Ferry  
Dundee, DD5 2LF

Tel: 01382 736268

E [derekbuchan@btinternet.com](mailto:derekbuchan@btinternet.com)

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