

### North East of Scotland Music School Newsletter

The summer holidays are fast approaching and the end of term gives us an opportunity to look back over another busy year at NESMS. It has been all change in the office with Louise Forbes leaving us in March with family commitments and having myself start as the new Manager. I've been made me to feel very welcome during this time, making the transition so much easier.

### Previously at NESMS

#### James and Nigel's 40th year

Our cello tutor James Halsey and piano tutor Nigel Clayton each celebrated 40 years of NESMS teaching this year. During the winter months, and after a full days teaching, each had an individual party with current students and invited guests to mark this grand occasion.

#### Andiamo Fagotto! (*Let's go Bassoon!*)

The 23<sup>rd</sup> of March saw a very successful bassoon workshop led by Lesley Wilson and Lucy Webster. Seven participants, including two brand new to bassoon, who took part in the afternoon of ensemble playing. Here's hoping that those who had never tried a bassoon before will continue learning this fantastic instrument, aided by the further group workshops already in the pipeline for next term. Further details will be announced before the start of term for anyone wanting to join in and possibly take up bassoon as a second instrument!

#### A visit from Dorothy's family

On 15<sup>th</sup> May, NESMS was visited by Penny Hastings-Jones, NESMS Founder Dorothy Hatley's niece. Penny and her sister-in-law, Evie, were touched to see Dorothy's legacy in person and after a tour of the building regaled stories and family memories of Dorothy and the early beginnings of NESMS over a cup of tea. They were gratified to see that the school had grown from strength to strength since those early days in the front room of Kenfield Place.

#### New Singing tutors

A singing Masterclass on the 18<sup>th</sup> May welcomed new singing tutors Judith Howarth and Gordon Wilson. It was great to have them here at NESMS throughout June to offer students an initial lesson before the new term starts. Anyone interested in signing up for lessons who hasn't already should get in touch with the office before the new term.

#### Jean and Peter Webster retire from NESMS

A special concert was given at Craigiebuckler Church on June 7<sup>th</sup> by retiring NESMS singing tutors Jean and Peter Webster., accompanied by Blair Cargill. The audience, consisting of past and present singing students all agreed what a treat it was to hear Jean and Peter perform some well-loved songs and to see them be deservedly awarded Fellowships of NESMS for their 35 years of contribution to the school.

#### Jazz workshops

Workshops in November, March and June, led by Joseph Long and Ian Milne continue to be a successful and interesting series at NESMS, where people can learn and hear the intricacies of smooth jazz. The next workshop is already scheduled for the 10<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Congratulations to all the NESMS students who have had exam, competition and audition success over the year**

### **Trinity and ABRSM exams**

- Jennifer Bailey, Distinction, Advanced Performance Certificate 'Cello, Trinity
- Elias Stammeijer, Distinction, Grade 8 Voice, Trinity
- Robert Kennedy, Distinction, Grade 8 Piano, ABRSM
- Sophia Stylianides, Pass, Grade 8 Piano, ABRSM
- Lynette Thomas, Pass, Grade 8 Piano, ABRSM
- Katy Wemyss, Distinction, Grade 8 'Cello, ABRSM
- Scarlet Grasham, Distinction, Grade 7 Flute, Trinity
- Ross Greig, Merit, Grade 7 Clarinet, ABRSM
- Finlay McGill, Merit, Grade 5 Clarinet, ABRSM
- Natalie Bateman, Pass, Grade 5 Piano, ABRSM
- Peter Collins, Pass, Grade 5 Jazz Piano, ABRSM
- Ishbel Burn, Distinction, Grade 4 Recorder, ABRSM
- Olive Beston, Distinction, Grade 1 Recorder, ABRSM
- Catriona Bonsor, Distinction, Grade 1 Recorder, ABRSM
- Vincent Sesar, Merit, Grade 1 Recorder, ABRSM

### **The Aberdeen & N. E of Scotland Music Festival 2019**

- Olive Beston, Descant Solo Level 3 12 & U, Class Winner
- Eilidh Bisset, Operetta Solo Secondary, Outstanding & Class Winner
- Eilidh Bisset, Gilbert & Sullivan Solo Secondary, Outstanding
- Catriona Bonsor, Descant Solo Level 5 12 & U, Class Winner
- Ishbel Burn, Recorder Solo Grade 3-5, Class Winner
- Erik Esson, Operatic & Oratorio Open classes: 18 & Over, Nora Atkins Trophy
- Robert Kennedy, Recorder Solo Grade 6-7, Class Winner
- Elizabeth McCall, Open Solo, Top Note Trophy
- Isla Miller, Descant Solo Level 3, 12 & U, Outstanding
- Kara Taylor, String Solo, Class Winner
- Ruariadh Wishart, Recorder open, Edmund Greig Arion Trophy
- NESMS 'Cello Quartet, Chamber Music Open, Highly Commended

## **Young Musicians 2019**

Charlotte Davidson (voice) at Mearns Academy, Robert Kennedy (piano) at Robert Gordons College and Ruairadh Williams (cello) at Albyn School have won their respective schools Young Musician of the Year 2019 competition.

## **Moving on to BMus**

At this time of year many of our students are leaving school and headed off to Universities and Conservatoires. Two of the NESMS Cello quartet, Kara Taylor & Clara Daley, are off to Manchester to study at the Royal Northern College of Music. Elizabeth McCall (recorder) is headed to London to study at Guildhall. We wish them well as they begin the next stage of their music training.

## **NESMS office 1<sup>st</sup> Class Hons**

Congratulations are also to be given to those NESMS students graduating from their various degrees, including NESMS Assistant Manager Sophie Lewis. She is celebrating her Bmus First Class Honours from Aberdeen University by taking a well-deserved break this summer touring across America, coast to coast, California – New York!

## **New Scholars announced**

This year's scholarship auditions, having moved from November to early May, were of a very high standard. The Audition Panel has awarded the following students scholarships for the next Academic year:

Alina Artikova, Iona Baillie, Laura Carter, Bethany Clarke, Isla Cartney, Eleanor Cozens, Olivia Douglas, Emily Gow, Scarlet Grasham, Esther Hayes, Robert Kennedy, Aiden Lee, Carolina Lopez Del-Nero, Aaron Magill, Hannah Magill, Elspeth MacPherson, Rory McIver, Caitlin McGladrigan, Janani Mohan, Beth Nicholson, Mark Simpson, Anna Skindzier, Laura Smith, Finn Stevenson-Robb, Olwenn Stewart, Sophia Styliandes, Lynette Thomas, Rochelle Van Niekerk, Stephanie Walker.

## **Special mention goes to the following students:**

Eilidh Bisset—Ellie Pirie Bach Choir Award

Hagar Libman—Dorothy Hatley Award

Alexandra Riddell—Tom Johnston Award

Ruariadh Williamson—Joan Dickson Award

**A quick reminder to those scholars still to write their thankyou letters to their sponsors, please send them in as soon as possible!**

**We like to hear and share all your achievements so please let us know any future exam/audition success.**

## Summer Music Hall concerts

There are two fantastic Saturday afternoon concerts being given by NESMS students coming up over the summer, both held in the revamped Music Hall; Big Sky Studio. Tickets £8 are available from Aberdeen Box office.

### **NESMS Grand Tour** - July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1:30pm

Alexandra Riddell (Piano & Clarinet), Laura Smith (Clarinet), Kara Taylor (Cello) and Colin Sinclair (Piano) perform a varied programme of exciting music by Weber, Bartok, Debussy, Ravel and Mendelssohn.

### **NESMS Clarinet Trio** – August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1:30pm

Laura Smith (Clarinet), Kara Taylor (Cello) and Colin Sinclair (Piano) present a programme of Fantasy and Fairy tale inspired music by Rota, Schumann and Frühling; The perfect escape for a summer's afternoon.

## Summer Singing School

This summer see's the first ever Summer Singing School taking place at NESMS during the last week of July. Tutors Gillian Jack, Graeme Lauren and Joseph Long are preparing a tailor-made week of performance skills workshops in solo and ensemble singing for our enthusiastic young singers.

## Aboyne Cello festival concert

The annual Aboyne Cello Festival, run by NESMS own Cello tutor James Halsey, returns with some wonderful concerts throughout the week of 28<sup>th</sup> July – 4<sup>th</sup> August, culminating in a the popular Cello Orchestra, at MacRobert Memorial Hall, Tarland, 7:30pm with tickets £7 on the door. For more information about all the concerts please visit [www.aboynecellos.co.uk](http://www.aboynecellos.co.uk)

## A NESMS wedding

I'm delighted to announce that two past NESMS scholars are getting married this summer on July 20<sup>th</sup>; Cheryl Bell (oboe) and previous assistant administrator and NESMS accompanist Richard Bailey (piano). We wish them all the best (and good weather) for the big day!

## Keynotes Lunch

Save the date for this year's Keynotes Lunch to be held at the Marcliffe Hotel on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November. With fantastic live music, a delicious meal and exciting raffle prizes to be won, this is an unmissable highlight of the NESMS calendar.

## Instagram

It's never been easier to keep up-to-date with NESMS news with our website, Facebook page and now introducing the new Instagram account NESMS\_abdn launching this summer.

I hope the sunshine lasts and everyone has a great summer break.  
Remember to send a postcard from all your exotic holiday destinations!  
Colin Brockie, Manager