

# Keynotes

The Newsletter of the North East of Scotland Music School  
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1975  
40  
2015

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MEMBER

## Forty and Flourishing!



Dorothy Hately and Lady Aberdeen founded NESMS in 1975. Since then we've come a long way and hope that they'd have been proud of what has been achieved.

We have expanded NESMS enormously but have always tried to be true to their vision of providing a warm and friendly environment where promising musicians can receive lessons in a broad range of musical disciplines from

tutors of the highest calibre. Since January of this very special anniversary year we have run:

- A Jazz Workshop
- A Piano Accompanist Course
- A Chamber Group
- A Strings Workshop
- A Singing and Stagecraft Workshop
- A public recital by scholarship students
- Regular Flute Choir sessions
- Regular Horn Ensemble sessions – and that's not to mention providing lessons for over 250 students with 19 tutors.

*Happy 40th Birthday NESMS – we've got a lot to celebrate!*

## Piano Festival: a musical celebration

Piano enthusiasts are in for a treat this September with a weekend of keyboard events, forming part of this year's 40th anniversary celebrations. The idea was suggested by NESMS Piano Tutor Nigel Clayton and will comprise two piano masterclasses along with recitals for piano and violin and piano duet as well as a question and answer session. Nigel will be joined by concert pianist and colleague from the Royal College of Music, Gordon Fergus-Thomson, and his regular partners on the concert platform, violinist Gina McCormack and pianist Francesca Leonardi.

Please mark your diary for **Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September** for what promises to be a superb weekend of music. All details will be publicised nearer the time.

## Free Lunch (The old adage is wrong!)

To celebrate 40 years of fabulous music making, all our students are invited to a celebratory lunch. Jenny Shirreffs, stalwart and generous supporter of NESMS (and, incidentally, legendary for her fabulous cooking) is hosting the lunch which will be held in the main studio at NESMS on Saturday 6th June at 12.30pm. As numbers are strictly limited, RSVP to Gráinne by Monday 1st June if you plan to attend.

NESMS is sponsored by



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## About NESMS

A centre of musical excellence for 40 years.

NESMS is a renowned centre of music tuition. Located in Aberdeen City Centre, it serves the whole of the North East of Scotland, including the Highlands and Islands. NESMS was founded in 1975 by Dorothy Hatley with the support and encouragement of Lady Aberdeen. From small beginnings in its original premises in Belmont Street, NESMS has grown and now has 19 tutors teaching over 250 students. Dorothy died in 1996 just prior to the opening of our Huntly Street premises.

### TUITION

NESMS is open to musically talented individuals of all ages. We endeavour to provide tuition for anyone who has reached a suitable level of attainment - whatever their circumstances or musical background.

NESMS brings internationally recognized tutors to Aberdeen on a regular basis so that our students do not have to travel in order to gain the highest calibre of musical education. NESMS offers

- One-to-one tuition
- Workshops
- Masterclasses
- Performance opportunities

### FEES & SCHOLARSHIPS

Students pay their own fees. These fees are subsidised by the funding streams outlined below (Finance). There is a generous programme of scholarships for which any student in full time education can apply. Students do not have to be previously enrolled at NESMS to be eligible. Auditions are held in November for funding in the following calendar year. In the past, we have also been able to make assistance available to students in financial hardship thanks to generous donations from the John Gordon Foundation.

### FINANCE

Finance is provided by trusts, commercial organisations and individuals as well as by the "Friends of NESMS" and the efforts of the NESMS Fundraising and Development Committee. This financial support is essential for the continuation of our high quality teaching programme.

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# NESMS celebration to mark the retirement of Lizzie Davis and Alison Waller

**It is with great regret that we must inform you of the retirement of both Lizzie Davis, our horn tutor and Alison Waller, our clarinet tutor. Both will be teaching their final lessons at NESMS in June.**

There will be a lunchtime celebration on **Sunday 21st June at 12.30pm** at NESMS to

thank Lizzie and Alison for all that they have contributed to NESMS over so many years. All students, past and present, of these two tutors are invited to come along and enjoy this event. Please let Gráinne know by **Monday 15th June** if you wish to attend.

## Mary Wetherick bids us goodbye after 40 years at NESMS

Mary Wetherick was a friend of Dorothy Hatley and has been involved in NESMS since its very earliest days. Mary is both a cellist and pianist and was at one time a member of the University of Aberdeen Orchestra. She has accompanied for both Raimund Herinx and Alan Watt. During her many years at the school, she has been respected as a pianist who could play anything! She would never know from one lesson to the next what was going to be put in front of her and she relished every new musical challenge. When she and her husband Norman retired to Edinburgh she continued to travel monthly to Aberdeen to accompany Raimund and Alan. In 2003 Mary was awarded an Honorary Fellowship in recognition of her long-standing service to NESMS. Alan comments, "Mary and I have worked together at the North East of Scotland Music School for many years. She has always been very encouraging, enthusiastic and supportive of the students. As well as being a very accomplished accompanist, she has greatly contributed to the lessons in the way of interpretation of the pieces and shown a real knowledge of the various languages sung. Mary will be sorely missed."

## Alison Waller



**In 1994 Alison Waller travelled from Edinburgh to Aberdeen to teach at a summer school run as part of the Aberdeen International Youth Festival.** It was here that she met Dorothy Hatley. As anyone who had the pleasure of knowing Dorothy will tell you, she wasn't one to let a wonderful musician slip through her hands. She wrote to Alison on 14th January 1995 and Alison was teaching at NESMS eleven days later! The rest, as they say, is history - 20 years of wonderful teaching history at NESMS.

Alison was born and brought up in Hertfordshire. She studied at the Royal College of Music in London and then spent several years free-lancing in the London area. In 1979 she moved to live in Edinburgh. She was already familiar with the orchestral scene in Scotland having previously played for the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the orchestra of Scottish Ballet. While in Edinburgh, Alison played with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Opera, and the SCO. Alison taught for 35 years at Edinburgh Napier and has

been teaching for the last 25 years at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Alison examines for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and has tutored the clarinet sections for the National Youth Orchestras of Scotland. In 2013, Alison moved to Herefordshire and has shown an enormous level of dedication to her students at NESMS in putting in place complex travel arrangements to ensure that she could see them each month and provide them with the continuity of lessons that has meant so much to them in their musical development.

Several of her NESMS students have pursued musical careers and keep Alison up to date with their activities. Some maintain their Aberdeen links: Ian Wilson returns as recorder teacher at NESMS and Yla Garvie teaches Aberdeen University students. Gemma Carlin, having studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, is now their Music Ensembles Manager within the Artistic Planning Department. Tom Lessels enjoys a flourishing career in London as a member of both the Academy of St Martins in the Fields and Aurora orchestras.

Alison's pupils, past and present, would like to extend a huge thank you to her for her many years of outstanding clarinet tuition at NESMS. We are delighted to announce that Tom Lessels and Ian Wilson have been appointed as NESMS' new clarinet instructors. Alison's students will shortly be receiving more information about their new tutors.

# New Date Set for 40th Celebration Dinner

We are delighted to announce that the black tie event – An Evening with Paul Mealor and Friends – celebrating NESMS' 40th anniversary will be held in the Town and County Hall on Friday 9th October at 7 pm. The dinner will be addressed by Paul Mealor and there will be musical entertainment. Tickets are £65. Please phone Jenny Shirreffs for further information on: 01224 321998.

## Lizzie Davis

Lizzie Davis took up the horn at age 13 and by the age of 16 she had passed 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. Lizzie grew up in Cardiff and attended 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.

Lizzie moved to Manchester in 1976 as Principal Horn of the Manchester Camerata and has also played with the Lancashire Sinfonietta.

As well as teaching privately, she is horn and chamber music tutor at Chetham's School of Music. Her pupils have gained scholarships to all the major music colleges.



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 2004 Lizzie was appointed horn tutor at the Royal Northern College of Music. She has coached the horn section of the Lancashire Students Symphony Orchestra and the horns of the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain. She has published numerous Horn music books.

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.

Lizzie says "My students have all shown me great loyalty, many of them travelling hours to get to Aberdeen. I shall miss their company greatly and hope that they all continue to make fine progress under their new tutor.

I should also like to mention the contribution of my hosts who have offered me lifts to and from the airport, fed me and become great friends, in particular Jenny and Murdoch Shirreffs whose support of NESMS tutors has become the stuff of legend!"

Lizzie has been a tremendously dedicated and loyal NESMS tutor over the years. She has often had to battle north through dreadful weather conditions to ensure that her students got their monthly lessons. We are so sorry that Lizzie will be retiring from NESMS at the end of June of this year. Her inspirational teaching will be greatly missed by all her students as will the camaraderie that they shared with her and each other during the monthly get-togethers of the horn ensemble.

## NESMS and Aberdeen International Youth Festival

Working harmoniously to bring great music to Aberdeen

Did you know that every summer NESMS students perform in the Aberdeen International Youth Festival? They participate in the recital series entitled "Up Close and Musical."

This year NESMS has two recital dates featuring six performers. On Monday 27th July we will be showcasing a mixed programme of musicians: Carly McCready, horn, Ella Clapperton, voice, and Finn Stevenson-Robb, piano. Their accompanist will be Drew Tulloch. On Friday 31st July there will be a programme designed to inspire piano enthusiasts. Adam Auchie, Ngoni Masiyakurima and Lisa Abraham will wow you with the virtuosity of their playing.

NESMS co-operates with AIYF in other ways too. As part of a recent fund-raising event, AIYF auctioned a series of singing lessons with Lisa Milne. NESMS is providing the venue. Our own Adam Auchie recently played at a dinner party event which was also won at the AIYF auction.

## Thanks to John Ritchie, fundraiser extraordinaire

John Ritchie is standing down from the Fundraising and Development Committee next month after more than a decade of loyal service to NESMS. He was originally part of the team that helped to organise the annual Keynotes Auction Lunch and switched to the Fundraising Committee when the two groups amalgamated some years ago. John's contacts in the business world have been especially helpful in our fundraising efforts. On behalf of NESMS, John undertook a sponsored cycle ride from the Linn of Dee to the Duthie Park in summer 2011 and raised nearly £1,000. Hope you are still pedalling for fun, John, and thanks from everyone at NESMS.

The fundraising team is urgently looking for assistance so if you think you could help, please contact Gráinne at NESMS. Don't worry about prior experience: enthusiasm and a willingness to get involved are more important.

## Tutors at NESMS

as at May 2015

<b>STRINGS</b>	
Violin	Gillian Findlay
Viola	Michael Beeston
Cello	James Halsey
Double Bass	David Inglis

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

<b>BRASS</b>	
Trumpet	John Gracie Brian McGinley
Horn	Lizzie Davis

<b>PIANO</b>	
Nigel Clayton	Joseph Long

<b>SINGING</b>	
Alan Watt	Alison McDonald
Jean Webster	Peter Webster

<b>STAGECRAFT &amp; PERFORMANCE</b>	
Donald Maxwell	

## Forthcoming events

**ANNUAL CONCERT IN SKATERAW**  
Friday 19th June, 7.30 pm. Skateraw Hall.  
"Music from the Movies" showcased by some of our scholarship students.

**JAZZ WORKSHOP: WALKING INTO THE WIDE BLUE YONDER**  
Saturday 20th June, 10 am - 4 pm at NESMS.  
Led by Joseph Long and Ian Milne.

**ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP CONCERT**  
Friday 26th June, 7.30 pm. Craigeibuckler Church. Featuring performances from some of our scholarship pupils.

**TURRIFF ROTARY CLUB CONCERT**  
Tuesday 30th June.  
Open to members of Turriff Rotary Club.

**ABERDEEN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL "UP CLOSE AND MUSICAL" RECITAL** Monday 27th July, 11 am.  
Ferryhill Church. Carly Cready, Horn, Isabella Clapperton, Voice and Finn Stevenson-Robb, Piano. Accompanied by Drew Tulloch.

**ABERDEEN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL "UP CLOSE AND MUSICAL" RECITAL** Friday 31st July, 3 pm. Queens Cross Church. Piano music from Adam Auchie, Lisa Abraham and Ngoni Masiyakurima.

**PIANO FESTIVAL WEEKEND WITH NIGEL CLAYTON** Saturday 19th - Sunday 20th September at NESMS and Queen's Cross Sanctuary. Weekend filled with workshops, masterclasses, concerts and open lessons.

**BLACK TIE 40TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER WITH PAUL MEALOR AND FRIENDS** Friday 9th October, 7 for 7.30 pm. Town and County Hall, Aberdeen. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jenny Shirreffs on 01224 321998.

**JOSEPH LONG** Thursday 15th October. Citadel, Aberdeen. Programme of Grieg to celebrate NESMS' and Joseph's 40th birthdays.

**KEYNOTES AUCTION LUNCH** Sunday 15th November, 12.30 pm. Norwood House Hotel. Musical entertainment, glass of fizz, two course lunch with coffee, and auction and raffle compered by the inimitable Peter Mitchell.

# Grampian Youth Orchestra: Summer Concert



Following the success of their 2014 season, including a critically acclaimed performance at the opening ceremony of the Aberdeen International Youth Festival, Grampian Youth Orchestra is returning to the Music Hall with its most ambitious programme yet!

GYO is delighted to be performing once again at the Music Hall on Sunday 21 June 2015 at 7.30pm. Conducted by Chris Swaffer, the orchestra will begin with the exciting Crown Imperial by Walton. Former player, Lauren Steel will join the orchestra to perform the famous Elgar Cello Concerto before the concert ends with the mighty New World Symphony by Dvorak. Tickets are £11 standard

and £8.80 concession (including booking fee). For the first time anyone under the age of 16 is free!

GYO has been going from strength to strength, increasing its player numbers and gaining the support of new patrons such as composer John McLeod and Dame Evelyn Glennie to name a few. This summer concert is not to be missed and will kick start Grampian Youth Orchestra's 10th Anniversary which will culminate in a summer tour in 2016.

NESMS is proud to provide administrative support and audition and rehearsal space to GYO. Our own assistant administrator, Jessica Russell, is secretary to the GYO. Long may this positive synergy continue.

## New venue for Keynotes Auction Lunch

For numerous years the Marcliffe Hotel has hosted our annual fundraising lunch – a major event in the NESMS social calendar. At the time we needed to book the 2015 lunch, the Marcliffe was not available for functions, and so this year we are having our lunch in the Norwood House Hotel on Sunday 15th November. The lunch is always a great occasion. Students, along with their friends and families, and

NESMS supporters of all stripes socialize for a great cause. With a complimentary drink on arrival and fabulous performances by NESMS students the event gets off to a flying start. The delicious meal fortifies all for the competitive bidding of the auction. In the expert hands of Peter Mitchell who could possibly begrudge being parted from their money?! Please do your utmost to support this event as the money it raises makes an important contribution to the £25,000 that NESMS has to fundraise each year in order to break even.

### Fancy Running this Event?

We are looking for a volunteer to take over the organization of the annual Keynotes Auction Lunch.

Are you a good communicator and organizer? If so, you may enjoy the challenge of making sure that all aspects of the lunch are arranged prior to the event. There is no need to sit on a committee. You can simply liaise with Gráinne who will assist you in getting everything organised. If you are interested, please get in touch with Gráinne. No detailed knowledge of music is required.

## Donors

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- The Skene Group
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- Thomas Primrose Trust
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*Sincere thanks to all these donors and to the many private individuals who so generously fund our work.*

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