

NESMS Piano Festival Recitals

Review by Alan Cooper



The Piano Festival hosted by NESMS offered three major celebrity recitals over the weekend comprising Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September. I am delighted to report that all three were very well attended. The three concerts explored the role of the piano in several different guises. On Saturday Nigel Clayton was joined by violinist Gina McCormack in an exploration of the piano as a member of a chamber ensemble. On Sunday afternoon Joseph Long used the piano as a solo instrument in jazz while on Sunday evening, Nigel Clayton was back, this time as a piano duet partner with the magnificent Italian pianist Francesca Leonardi.



On Saturday evening, in the Sanctuary of Craigiebuckler Church, violinist Gina McCormack along with pianist Nigel Clayton, one of the most distinguished tutors at NESMS, gave a celebrity recital of truly mind blowing quality. The two virtuoso players have worked together over many years and their musical sympathy and reciprocity shone through in everything they played together.



Sunday afternoon's jazz piano recital was something of a new adventure for Joseph Long.

Having heard many of Joseph Long's classical performances I was well aware that he too was no slouch in the department of classical piano technique. Such abilities are certainly able to be transferred to the world

Top: Francesca Leonardi
Centre: Gina McCormack
Top: Nigel Clayton

of jazz. Indeed, it can be said that they are essential and in Joseph's final piece, his own arrangement for solo piano of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, we were to see and to hear a plethora of virtuoso piano techniques brought into the service of a truly marvellous piece of music. Joseph's version was full of the most fabulous technical fireworks from beginning to end.

The piano duet, in itself, is a valid art form with many fine works composed initially in that format although solo versions often followed. This was the repertoire that made up Nigel and Francesca's programme on Sunday. We must thank them for reminding us of the sheer enjoyment that these splendid "salon" pieces can give us today though I am not sure that in normal Victorian families the music sounded anything like as fantastic as it did on this occasion.

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Keynotes

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Keynotes Lunch: A fitting finale to a fabulous 40th year



Fiona Kennedy

Our Keynotes Auction Lunch is always a wonderfully sociable and convivial occasion. If you haven't ever experienced it, why not see for yourself?

This year we are planning an extra special event to mark our 40th anniversary. Fiona Kennedy, OBE and patron of NESMS, is lending us her enormous talents. She is devising a musical tableau reflecting NESMS' history and contribution to the cultural life of the North East. She will develop this with actor and director John Bett, musician Nils Elders and three students of NESMS. Don't miss the premiere of this piece!

Peter Mitchell is another stalwart patron of NESMS and he will be running our auction and raffle in his own inimitable and hilarious fashion! Come along and have a great afternoon while supporting your favourite cause - musical education for all. Phone or email NESMS to make your booking.

Sunday 15th November, Norwood Hall Hotel.

12.30 pm - Welcome Drink

1pm - Celebration of 40 years of NESMS with Fiona Kennedy, John Bett and musicians: Iona Fyfe, Kenneth Petrie, Ian Leahy, Nils Elders

1.30pm - 2 course lunch with coffee

2.45pm - Auction and Raffle draw with Peter Mitchell



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NESMS
www.nesms.org.uk

Baroque Flute Day

At The University of Aberdeen, MacRobert Building
Led by Liz Dooner and Catherine O'Rourke
Sunday 15th November 2015



10 am to 1 pm & 2.30 pm to 5 pm

Cost: £30

Flautists of all ages welcome

To register or for more information contact NESMS

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 17 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 AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Students pay their own fees. These 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.

NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND MUSIC SCHOOL

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Vice President: Dr Murray McLachlan.
Administrator: Gráinne Cullen.
Assistant Administrators:
Jessica Russell and Reg Pringle.

NESMS welcomes a wealth of talent

Sue Baxendale Horn Tutor

Sue Baxendale joined the Orchestra of Scottish Opera as Section Principal Horn in 1996, and is a graduate of the University of Birmingham and the Royal Northern College of Music. Alongside her position at Scottish Opera, Sue freelances extensively throughout the UK playing both horn and Wagner tuba. She plays as guest principal horn with ensembles including the Scottish Ensemble, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Opera North, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, the Northern Chamber Orchestra and Manchester Camerata amongst many others. She is a founder member of both the Antonine Trio and McOpera Brass. Recent solo performances have included concertos by Mozart and Strauss, and Benjamin Britten's *The Heart of the Matter*. Sue also produces and is the Education and Outreach Officer for Music Co-OPERative Scotland (McOpera) for whom she has devised and led numerous projects for schools, early years and community groups. Recent opera productions include the Scottish premiere of *Fleishmann/ Shostakovich's* opera *Rothschild's Violin*, and the world premiere of the original version of Erik Chisholm's haunting *Simoon* with dance film, as part of the *Cottier Chamber Project 2015*. Most recently, Sue has produced *Squirrel*, a pilot interactive opera for the early years (age 0-5). Sue is horn tutor at the Junior Conservatoire of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. We are honored to count Sue amongst our NESMS tutors.



Tom Lessels Clarinet Tutor

Originally from Aberdeen, Tom Lessels studied clarinet at the Birmingham Conservatoire with Michael Harris and at the Royal Academy of Music with Angela Malsbury, Timothy Lines and Nicholas Rodwell, winning the coveted Buffet-Crampon clarinet competition in 2006. Since 2013 he has been a member of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, in addition to playing regularly with leading orchestras including the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Aurora Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. He is a founder member and principal clarinet of the *Ossian Ensemble*, a new music group working with composers including Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Thomas Ades, Jonathan Harvey, Anna Meredith and numerous others. He currently teaches the clarinet at Eton College and Westminster Abbey Choir School. We are delighted that Tom is tutoring at NESMS and extend him a warm welcome.



Lisa Milne Singing Tutor

We are delighted to welcome Lisa Milne, a former NESMS student, back into the fold as a singing tutor. Lisa Milne first attended NESMS as a 14 year old. She worked on singing technique with Jean Webster and on interpretation with Neil Mackie. She went on to study at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama with Pat McMahon. Lisa has played leading roles for English National Opera, Metropolitan Opera, New York and Scottish Opera, and has toured to Japan with Sir Simon Rattle. Our students look forward to benefitting from her wealth of performance experience.

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Raise fund for NESMS every time you shop online – no catches or hidden charges

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for North East of Scotland Music School? There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to North East of Scotland Music School to say thank you for shopping with them.

It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything.

Exciting New Initiative led by Rosalind Coleman

We are delighted to announce that Rosalind Coleman's Beginners' Recorder and Musicianship classes have got off to a fine start. Rosalind is taking students from ages 6 to 9. Her philosophy is to teach her pupils the following:

Educational Skills

Listen
Concentrate
Follow instructions
Multi-task
Understand that effort leads to achievement

Music Skills

Rhythm
Note reading
Improvisation
Creativity



Rosalind has a strong interest in Kodaly and Dalcroze musicianship and is passionate about the importance of music education in the early years of a child's development – particularly through singing and recorder. It is hoped that with Rosalind's encouragement these talented youngsters will progress to

become accomplished recorder players or, indeed, players of other wind instruments such as clarinet. A huge thank you to Rosalind for the time and talent she has put into getting these classes underway.

Michael Beeston adds more strings to his bow!

Not one but two new string groups have been ensembled (!) by Michael Beeston. Our students now have a wonderful opportunity to experience playing chamber music together with the encouragement and direction of one of its finest champions. Michael says that his passionate commitment to chamber music was fostered by Alexandre Moskovsky (of the Hungarian Quartet) and Cecil Cohen. The next meeting of the chamber groups is at NESMS on Sunday 8th November.



Launch of NESMS' brand new website

Warmest congratulations and thanks to Reg Pringle for the countless hours he has spent in the complete update and redesign of our NESMS website. We are sure you will agree that the new site is fresh, contemporary, informative and very use friendly. Make yourself a cuppa and take the time to browse at www.nesms.org.uk. The tutors' photos contain some real surprises!

Tutors at NESMS

as at October 2015

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

WOODWIND
Flute Catherine O'Rourke
Oboe Joe Houghton
Clarinet Tom Lessels/Ian Wilson
Bassoon Lesley Wilson
Recorder Ian Wilson

BRASS
Trumpet John Gracie
Brian McGinley
Sue Baxendale

PIANO
Nigel Clayton Joseph Long

SINGING
Alan Watt
Alison McDonald
Jean Webster
Peter Webster

SINGING & PERFORMANCE
Lisa Milne

STAGECRAFT Donald Maxwell

All you have to do is:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nesms>
2. Sign up for free
3. Get shopping - your donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to North East of Scotland Music School. It couldn't be easier!

There are no catches or hidden charges and North East of Scotland Music School will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 18th November.

NESMS Scholarship Auditions.

Anyone in full time education (i.e. school, college or university) is eligible to apply for an audition which could see them getting up to a full year of free tuition! Applicants don't need to have had lessons at NESMS before so, please, spread the word! Contact NESMS for an application and make sure it is in before Wednesday 28th October to ensure your audition place.

Sunday 8th November

NESMS String Ensembles

Chamber rehearsal from 2-4pm, £10. Get together and play string quartets with Michael Beeston! Any string players above grade 5 welcome, please get in touch with NESMS to enquire.

Sunday 15th November

Keynotes Auction Lunch

Norwood Hall Hotel, 12.30pm for 1pm. £35. Special 40th Anniversary celebration featuring a musical performance by Fiona Kennedy with Nils Elders and NESMS students.

Sunday 15th November

NESMS Baroque Flute Workshop

MacRobert Building, University of Aberdeen. Led by Lis Dooner and Catherine O'Rourke. 10am-1pm and 2.30pm-5pm. Flautists of all ages welcome, £30.

Thursday 19th November

Citadel, Lunchbreak Concert Series

Young Musicians from NESMS. 12.45pm. Tickets available at the door. Arrive early – this concert is usually a sell out! Concert is free but donations are welcome; the donations go directly towards ensuring the continuation of the Lunchbreak programme. Featuring Alex Brown (piano), Benedict Stammeijer (recorder) and Rachel Groves (flute) with accompanist Drew Tulloch.