

### Welcome to our newsletter for Winter 2014



Season's greetings from all of us on the Committee! We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

This is the first of our seasonal Newsletters and it will be a good means of communication in future with our supporters and the general public. Our sixtieth Anniversary celebrations began in September when we held a Gala Dinner at the Chichester Park Hotel when four previous candidates of our Festival entertained us, all of whom cut their musical teeth as young entrants and have since gone on to pursue professional careers.

At the dinner we particularly remembered Joyce Foote MBE our previous President and Chairman who died last year, and we are pleased to award a trophy in her memory. This is a handsome Award which will be passed to the best singer of the Festival each year from this year onwards. A fitting tribute was given to Ron Williams our retiring Chairman and he and his wife, Margaret, have served us so well over the years. They also ran the John Warner Singing Competition every other year which attracts mature students from all over the UK and beyond. It is hoped to resurrect this competition once again in 2016. Ron has now been elevated to be our President so he is still very much involved with the Festival. Rosemary Edbury, who did a sterling job, has now stood down as Honorary Secretary and has handed over to Mary Smith and her husband Harry who are a strong team who have seen through the changeover to online entries which is becoming the usual system for festivals like ours.

Having taken over as Chairman from Ron Williams in May 2013, I have spent time getting to understand all the many sections of the Festival. It has been an interesting experience and quite incredible that all our adjudicators seem to be looking for the same criteria which is for each candidate to be able to communicate the intentions of the composers, dramatists, poets, choreographers and lyricists in their performances. It is certainly a privilege for me to take on the mantle of Chairman and to steer the Festival into the twenty-first century.

My background is teaching and examining Speech & Drama. My work has taken me to Asia a great deal with the most recent trips being to Sri Lanka, Calcutta and Hong Kong. It seems a long while back when I took my Licentiate examination with the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and little did I realise that this qualification would enable me to see so much of the world as an Examiner. I too took part in the Brighton Festival as a child where in those days classes took place in the music room of the Royal Pavilion and The Dome.

2015 looks to be a good year for Chichester Festival. We would like to forge closer links with the Federation of Music Festivals. As an international body they have a lot to offer us and we are aiming to raise our profile with them as well as West Sussex Music.

Since the anniversary dinner it has been a privilege to welcome John Rank as a Patron and we are most grateful for his generosity and support. We look forward to another successful Festival of Music, Dance & Speech in 2015 and the dates of all classes appear in this Newsletter. Of course we are always in need of helpers at the various venues so please think about contacting Mary, our Secretary, to let her know when you would be available to give us a hand to keep the Festival running smoothly. More hands the better! Not only that, it is a wonderful opportunity to see what the Festival is all about and to be involved in a practical way. It all finishes with the Festival Concert which highlights a variety of performances

**Jenifer Pressdee** LGSM, ANEA

Chairman, Chichester Festival for Music, Dance and Speech



### In this issue .....

#### Welcome from our Chairman

*Jenifer Pressdee LGSM, ANES*

#### Introducing our Recitals Programme

*New for 2015*

#### On-line Entry

*We'd like your views*

#### Festival Concert

*22<sup>nd</sup> March 2015*

#### Introducing our Sections

*Meet the people behind the Festival*



British Federation of  
Festivals for Music, Dance  
and Speech

Registered Charity Number 1040782

Website [WWW.CFMDS.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CFMDS.ORG.UK)

## Our Recitals Programme

We are planning a series of recitals, featuring professional artists who are either former participants in the Festival or who have other strong links with us, perhaps as adjudicators, accompanists or mentors.

The recitals will be held in a variety of venues, and admission will normally include a glass of wine.

Tickets may be obtained from :- Mary Smith  
6 Poyntz Close  
Chichester  
PO19 8SY

*Please make cheques payable to CFMDS. If you would like your tickets to be sent to your home address, please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope with your cheque. Otherwise, your tickets will be reserved for collection at the door on the night.*

We are delighted that our first recital features Yasmin Rowe at The Regis School of Music, 46 Sudley Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 1ER

### **Yasmin Rowe 7:30 pm Saturday 17 January 2015 Ticket price £10**

Yasmin most recently was awarded Artist for the City Music Foundation in London 2014.

As a British pianist, Yasmin began her studies on the piano with her mother at the age of four and won her first major prize at the age of ten, where she was presented with the title of Arun Young Musician of the Year. Yasmin performs regularly around the UK at venues such as the Wigmore Hall, St John Smith Square,

Bridgewater Hall, Chichester Cathedral, St Martin in the fields and St James Piccadilly. She also tours extensively within Europe, Australasia, North and South Americas.

Yasmin is the winner and laureate of many national and international competitions such as the EPTA UK competition, Moray International Piano Competition and the Sevenoaks Young Musician of the Year Competition. Yasmin

is also the recipient of numerous awards ranging from the Worshipful Company of Musicians to the Peter Donohoe piano award and most recently second prize winner of the RNCM recital prize 2013.

Upon completing her BMus with first class honours studying with Murray McLachlan she went on to complete her MMus with Distinction studying with Stephen Savage. Yasmin was offered a place in RNCM's prestigious International Artist

Diploma, which she has graciously accepted for 2014.



Further dates for your diary. More will be announced in future newsletters :-

Ella Rundle (Cello)

- April 2015

Sam Brown (Guitar)

- July 2015

## On-Line Entry

This year, our first using the system, hundreds of entries have been successfully processed on-line with very few problems. However, no system is perfect and we will do all we can to adjust and improve it for the future. We would very much appreciate your feedback about the system, its strengths and weaknesses, and how you would like to see it improved or enhanced.

Do please let us have your comments by email via the 'Contact' page on our website at [www.cfmnds.org.uk](http://www.cfmnds.org.uk).

## Our Concert

The 2015 Festival concert will be held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. We are again very fortunate to have access to the superb auditorium in the Millennium Hall at Westbourne House School.

We will be presenting performances from some of the most outstanding entrants to this year's Festival.



Over the years we've enjoyed some truly memorable performances in our concerts, the standard and quality of entrants to the Festival remains consistently high. Do please keep the evening of Sunday 22 March 2015 free to ensure you don't miss the opportunity to see and hear some of our very best performers.

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## Introducing our Sections

The people organising and driving each of the sections of the Festival put in an enormous amount of work, and we thought you might like to know a little more about them. We'll spotlight two or three of our section leaders in each of our newsletters.

### Sophie Middleditch (Recorders)

Sophie Middleditch has taken over from James Phillips. James succeeded Helen Hooker who is Sophie's professional playing partner in the Parnassian Ensemble.



Sophie is pleased to have first time entries from The Regis School of Music and Great Ballard School.

Her association with the Festival goes back many years to when she played the flute in the Chichester Youth Orchestra and Youth Band along with recorder in the Chichester High School for Girls Recorder Ensemble.

After graduating from Lancaster University in 1995, Sophie went on to study recorder, modern and baroque flute at Trinity College of Music

with Rebecca Miles, Ann Cherry and Stephen Preston. Other teachers have included Pamela Thorby and Rachel Brown.

Sophie has performed widely as a soloist and chamber musician, appearing at many festivals throughout the country including Chichester, Brighton, Suffolk, Kingston Upon Thames and Edinburgh and has also been a member of the Essex Baroque Orchestra and the Britten Pears Baroque Orchestra.

As a solo recitalist Sophie has performed at venues including the Handel House Museum; the Victoria and Albert Museum; Farnham Castle, Surrey and at the Fairfield Hall, Croydon. She is also in great demand as a teacher and has been recorder tutor at Chichester University since 1996. Sophie formed her own baroque period chamber group, The Parnassian Ensemble, in 1998. Since then it has gained a reputation for its virtuosic performances and innovative programming. The group has appeared at prestigious venues throughout the British Isles such as The Purcell Room; St John's, Smith Square; St David's Hall, Cardiff and The Fairfield Hall, Croydon. The ensemble also performs for festivals, music societies and museums as well as schools and universities. The group's concert schedule has included appearances at the Victoria and Albert Museum; the National Portrait Gallery; the Cobbe Collection of historical keyboard instruments, Hatchlands, Surrey; the Newbury Spring Festival; the Djanogly Recital Hall, Nottingham; the Firth Hall, University of Sheffield and the Totnes Early Music Society, Devon. An unusual feature of its recitals is the introduction to audiences of fine, original, early eighteenth-century English recorder music which would otherwise remain virtually unknown. It was this enthusiasm that led to the recording of their critically acclaimed first disc, *A Noble Entertainment – Music from Queen Anne's London 1702-1714 (AV2094)* released on the Avie Records label and which is now regularly broadcast on BBC Radio 3, Classic FM and world-wide. Sophie can also be heard on the New London Chamber Ensemble's recent recording of Carl Nielsen's *Music for Wind and Piano* released by Meridian Records.

### Peter Rice (Choirs and Singing)

Peter is a pre-war baby. In 1947, he went to the Choir School at Canterbury to begin what was to be the most intense and rewarding period of his life.

Peter says "We stayed at school for Christmas. It was magic, I have never enjoyed Christmas so much. At secondary school I was obliged to play 'Elsie' in 'The Yeomen of the Guard'. Having to kiss the male lead in front of five hundred fellow teenagers was a scarring experience for both of us!"

Peter studied at Goldsmiths' College and then trained as a teacher at Brighton. He went up to London to do supply teaching so that he could sing with the London Bach Society and the New Philharmonia Chorus.

"This was again a very special time as one was always performing with the very best professionals. However, my ambition as a teacher was pretty well non-existent, so I gave it up, met Jane, got married, retrained as a carpenter and moved down to work at West Dean College."

"We have lived at Chilgrove since 1971. All four of our children took part in the Music Festival for years. Pat Thorn helped me enormously to develop my own voice, and I have entered the Singing Section for some years now. Sheila Lacey, who played such a vital role in Chichester music asked me to take over the Choir Section about eight years ago, and this year I seem to be responsible for the Singing Section as well. Hopefully someone will take this over next year."

Peter gives us the following update on his sections :-

### Choirs

For the second year running we shall be at the Bourne Community College. Don Lloyd and his staff did everything to welcome us in 2014; that helps so much.

For 2015 we have a new class for Community Choirs which should be great fun. There is a new trophy, the Chilgrove Cup for this class. West Sussex Music's Emily Barden has entered two of her choirs. We hope this is just the beginning of closer links with WSM.

### Singing

Rebecca Cooke has stepped down from running this section. With her drive and enthusiasm she is a hard act to follow and there is no natural heir. We urgently need someone to take on this section and maintain the impetus that Rebecca gave it. One change this year is to the vocal solo open class 88. This becomes a semi-recital class with a time limit of ten minutes, a tester perhaps for a fuller recital class for 2016.

### Helen Phillips (Piano)



Having run our Piano Section for several years, Helen tells us :-

"Following in the formidable footsteps of my wonderful predecessor and festival president Joyce Foote MBE was a daunting prospect, but now in my seventh season, I am still loving the challenge.

After working for five years as a primary school teacher and then living in France over a period of four years whilst starting a family, I then passed professional performance exams on the piano and have worked as a piano teacher for past eight years. I also run the ABRSM exam centre in Bognor Regis and enjoy performing locally in concerts as accompanist, soloist and piano duo, as well as just making music with friends."

"Festivals are such a wonderful opportunity to meet and develop with people who have the same interest. Perhaps the greatest reward and privilege for me is seeing everyone returning from year to year and sharing in their musical development and enjoyment.

As well as a passion for music, I love to run, cycle and obsess about clothes, often managing to combine them all in one indulgent bundle!"

Our 2015 Festival Programme will be published in early January. Our website will give details when the programme is available. In the meantime, here's a reminder of each section's dates.

<b>Dates of classes for the 2015 Festival - please see our website for venues</b>			
Guitars	7, 8, 14, 15 February	Woodwind	28 February
Speech & Drama	7 & 8 February	Brass & Orchestra/Bands	7 March
Musical Theatre	8 February	Recorders	1 March
Dance	14 to 18 February	Adult Singing	21 February
Junior Singing	28 February & 1 March	Piano	7 & 8 March
Strings	28 February & 1 March	Choirs	14 March
<b>Festival Concert - Sunday 22 March 2015 at 6:30 pm</b>			

### Content for the Spring 2015 Newsletter

We plan to publish our newsletter quarterly, the next issue will be in Spring 2015.

If you have something you'd like us to include in a future issue, we'd very much like to hear from you. Perhaps you have a special memory of a past Festival, news of a former Festival entrant who has gone on to a career in the arts, or a brief biography of someone associated with the Festival.

Do please send in your ideas to our secretary, Mary Smith, using the email contact page on our website.

