



Welcome to our newsletter for Spring 2015

Hello to all our friends and supporters! Happy Easter and a happy spring time! We have much to look forward to and have many happy memories to reflect on after our very successful 60th Anniversary Festival of Music, Dance & Speech culminating in our annual Festival Concert which highlighted the best of performances across the different sections chosen by our adjudicators. I think you will agree that this is the jewel in our crown each year and long may it continue.

As I said on the evening there are so many people to thank for "getting the show on the road" – all the backstage helpers, front of house helpers, lighting and sound experts, and more. However, it is Helen Phillips who co-ordinates the whole event and should be given full credit for her enormous efforts in making it all so professional and smooth-running. Many of our guests have written letters of thanks for such a wonderful evening not realising beforehand that there was so much talent in Chichester!

It seems only yesterday that I put pen to paper for our first edition of the Newsletter and so much has happened since. We have enjoyed the first Recital of the Anniversary year when Yasmin Rowe, a concert pianist, entertained us so professionally at the Regis School of Music with her exciting and dynamic programme. She is due to perform in the Wigmore Hall in London in the near future and I hope a number of us will be there. In the meantime I wish her well with her ongoing career.

As you will read further on we welcome Cellist, Ella Rundle, to our next Anniversary Recital on Sunday 26th April at 3 pm at the Regis School of Music. This will again be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a professional performance from one of our former Chichester Festival candidates and it will be most exciting to see her back on home territory. We are most grateful to both Sasha and Nina Levrov for allowing us to use the facilities of the Regis School of Music and the wonderful new piano which has now been installed.

Following Ella will be Sam Brown who will be performing in Sennicotts Church by kind permission of our Patron, Mr John Rank, on Friday, 17th July at 7 pm. The setting is quite beautiful and will lend itself to the classical guitar playing that Sam does so well.

We have had so many supporters of the Festival over the years but one lady in particular was very keen to set up and run a "Friends" list for many years. Her name was Mrs Noreen Ayling who sadly died in February. Many of the Committee attended her funeral at St Paul's Church in Chichester which was a good opportunity to meet up with her husband, George, and family members. Ironically an article on the history of the Festival appeared in the local "Chichester Observer" that very day which included a photograph of Noreen – a fitting tribute to her I thought.

Without volunteers the Festival would flounder and we are always looking out for helpers during the Festival itself. Please let us know if you would be willing to become involved by contacting our Secretary, Mrs Mary Smith, on our website www.cfmds.org.uk. Planning for our next Festival begins in May!

I look forward to seeing you all at our Recitals and also at our Annual General Meeting which will be held on Wednesday, 6th May at the Chichester Park Hotel, Westhampnett at 8 pm.

Very best wishes

Jenifer Pressdee LGSM, ANEA

Chairman, Chichester Festival for Music, Dance and Speech

Registered Charity Number 1040782

Website www.cfmds.org.uk



In this issue

Welcome from our Chairman

Jenifer Pressdee LGSM, ANES

Our Recital Series

Continues on Sunday 26 April 2015

Introducing our Sections

Meet the people behind the Festival

New Trophies

We have magnificent new trophies in our 60th year

Concert Photos

See the photo gallery on our website



British Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech

Our Recitals Programme

Our Recital Series began with a resounding success on 17th January, when Yasmin Rowe gave a memorable performance at the Regis School of Music. Yasmin's technical mastery of the piano, superb musicianship and engaging personality were greatly appreciated by all present.

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

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.



Yasmin Rowe

The next Recital in our series takes place on Sunday 26th April 2015, when Ella Rundle will play at the Regis School of Music, 46 Sudley Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 1ER. Full details are given below.

Ella Rundle 3.00 pm Sunday 26 April 2015 Regis School of Music Ticket price £10



Cellist Ella Rundle performs as a soloist and chamber musician through out the UK and Europe.

She studied at the Yehudi Menuhin School and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Louise Hopkins and completed her Masters degree at the Universität der Künste, Berlin, with Konstantin Heidrich.

Ella has won prizes in several competitions including the Israeli International Music Competition (2012), and the concerto competition at the ISA festival, Vienna (2009). She is grateful to hold scholarships from the Countess of Munster, DAAD, Martin Musical Scholarship Fund, Drapers' Company and the Worshipful Company of Musicians and the English Speaking Union to attend the IMS Prussia Cove masterclasses with Ralph Kirschbaum. Most recently she was chosen for the Tillett Trust Young Artist Scheme (2013/2014) and gave her Wigmore Hall recital debut in November 2013 to critical acclaim.

Ella has performed in venues such as the Barbican, Fairfield Halls, Purcell Room, Snape Maltings and Wigmore Hall. She has also toured extensively throughout Europe including France, Denmark and Istanbul and played on BBC Radio 3's In Tune, Portuguese radio RTP and on SWR Germany. As a concerto soloist Ella has appeared with orchestras such as the New English Concert Orchestra, the Spirit of Europe Orchestra and the Corelli Ensemble.

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

Sam Brown (Guitar) - 7 pm Friday 17th July 2015



Sam Brown will be playing at St Mary's Anglican Chapel, part of the Parish of Funtington with Sennicotts. This is located down Chapel Lane between Chichester and East Ashling.

This event is in aid of the John Warner Competition for aspiring professional singers.

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Website www.cfmds.org.uk

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.

Brenda Bailey (Woodwind, Orchestras and Bands)



Brenda tells us :-

"I am responsible for the woodwind section of the festival. My aim is to make it enjoyable, light hearted and fun for the children. I run the Orchestra and Band sections together with Jean Graham-Jones.

I am a specialist woodwind teacher specializing in the clarinet and bassoon. I have taught at the Prebendal School Chichester for over 20 years. I have also taught in many other schools and colleges as well as privately. I also conduct several bands and orchestras at Prebendal School, which I really enjoy.

My musical life started with the clarinet. I was taught originally by John Topping who was the most inspirational teacher you could ever wish for. Then by his father Randall Topping (principal clarinet in the Halle orchestra). When I was 17 I joined the Women's Royal Army Corps Staff Band. It was here that I was given the opportunity to study the bassoon and was taught by Prof. Frank Rendell at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall.

I have performed with the WRAC Staff Band widely throughout the world. I am currently playing bassoon with the Worthing Philharmonic Orchestra and the Southdowns Concert Band.

So as you can see from my past life, I really do enjoy making music with other people it is far more fun than just playing by yourself. This is the area that I like to specialize in, encouraging young people to do the same and play with other people. Both my children loved going on tour with their choirs, orchestras and bands. And I would like to encourage as many people as possible to do the same."

Graham Paul (Brass)

"I started playing the cornet at the age of eleven in 1969 when I was in Clare Secondary School in Suffolk. I am a twin and I started with my brother Chris and we had lessons together which was lots of fun. I was taught by a visiting brass teacher called William Newton, but everyone called him Bill. Then everything went comprehensive in 1972 so I moved to Castle Manor Upper School in Haverhill in Suffolk. There I was taught by a number of different brass teachers until my Father paid for me to have private lessons with my first teacher Bill Newton. It was here that my music teacher Allan Charlwood encouraged me to seek a career in music. From there I went to study to be a music teacher at Weymouth College of Education where I qualified to be a teacher in 1980. I started teaching part time for Suffolk County Council as a brass teacher and I also tried my hand at class teaching, but I did not enjoy it.

I stayed with the brass teaching and I also got some work with Cambridge. For the rest of the time I taught privately. Wandering round the houses on my motorcycle as I could not afford a car at the time. I also did lots of playing for local Amateur and Dramatic groups and Choral Societies.

After eight years of being a private teacher I got a full time brass teaching post with West Sussex County Council in Chichester in 1988. In those days the lessons were 100% government funded, so free for parents. I wanted to reach the children whose parents could not afford private lessons, and for seven years it was wonderful. Then came Government cuts and it gradually life changed and so the fee charging came in. In 1990 I married my wife Alisa and a year later our son Isaac was born. This was a very happy and busy time for me which, unfortunately, came to an end when Alisa became ill and died in 2007.

By the time this happened I had stopped teaching and no longer played the trumpet and I was the main carer for Alisa. Later, when the dust settled, my line manager offered me my job back and, encouraged by my son Isaac, I went back into teaching. Soon afterwards I started playing the trumpet again and now I play the second trumpet part for the Chichester Symphony Orchestra and the first trumpet part for the Worthing Philharmonic. I also wanted to get more involved in my community and so I now help out with the Salvation Army band in Bognor Regis and, soon afterwards became the brass rep for the Chichester Music Festival. Although opportunities are rare I still love playing in choral music and so I really enjoy playing for the St. Richards Singers in Chichester when I am needed."

New Trophies for 2015

We are delighted to have some new trophies to award in our 60th year.

The Willams Family Cup

This magnificent new trophy has been kindly donated by Margaret and Ron Williams, both of whom have worked tirelessly to support the Festival for many years. Ron is our current President.

The Williams Family Cup was presented by Ron Williams to Gemma Sangster for the best musical theatre performance of the Festival.



The Joyce Foote MBE Memorial Trophy

This beautiful new trophy is in memory of our former President, Joyce Foote MBE.

This year, the Joyce Foote MBE Memorial Trophy was presented to Hilary Platts by Joyce's daughter, Mrs Vanessa Crocker.

Rotary Clubs Centenary Trophy and new trophy for Best Junior performance at Festival Concert

The Rotary Centenary Trophy for the most entertaining senior performance was presented to Dance Industry Character Group for their most moving performance of "As We Wave Our Goodbyes And Carry On With Our Lives, We Will Remember Them".

The new Rotary Plate for the best junior performance was presented to 8 year old Reuben Natale for his demi-character solo dance, "The Case of the Missing Lunch" from Inspector Cluseau.



Both Rotary trophies were presented by the three Presidents of the Chichester Rotary Clubs, Clifford Hughes, John Watkins and Bob Reynolds.

The Festival Concert 2015 photo gallery

We are delighted to report that our Festival concert featured some truly remarkable performances from both the young and some of more mature years. It is astonishing that such assured, polished performances could be given by relatively inexperienced artists given the added pressure of a formal concert setting.

A visual record of the concert was made by our official photographer for the evening, Liz Cruttenden. Unfortunately, space constraints prevent our including any of these images in this newsletter. However, we will be presenting a gallery of the photographs on the Festival website at www.cfmds.org.uk very soon.



Please visit our website regularly to ensure you keep up with the very latest news and developments about the Festival.

Content for the Summer 2015 Newsletter

Our next newsletter will be published in Summer 2015.

If you have something you'd like us to include, 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, or thoughts on how you'd like to see the Festival developing for the future.

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

