

MUSIC ADJUDICATORS

Choirs – VALERIE HOPPE

Valerie Hoppé trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, specialising in Choral Conducting, Singing and Piano. She is widely known as a Choral Director, teacher and adjudicator, and is particularly in demand for her work with the development of young voices, both in solo and choral work. She has been responsible for the organisation, training and direction of many community performances of major choral works, including Handel's 'Messiah', Mendelssohn's 'Elijah', Haydn's 'Creation', and the Requiems of Mozart and Fauré. On many occasions she has organised and directed massed children's choirs in performances of various cantatas. Valerie has performed with many well-known artists including the opera singer Benjamin Luxon, the percussionist Evelyn Glennie and the cellist Julian Lloyd-Webber, as well as the major Military bands in Britain, such as the band of the Welsh Guards and the Band of the Irish Guards. She is currently director of five choirs. In addition to her work with choirs, she has a large number of singing students, ranging from beginners and many young singers to highly experienced performers. In 2003 she was awarded the M.B.E. for her services to music.

Guitar – PAUL GREGORY

Paul Gregory started playing guitar at the age of 10. Later he also studied cello and composition in London. He gave his London Wigmore Hall debut when 19. Three years later he won the Andres Segovia International Competition in Spain. As well as a number of solo recordings for Opus 1, Meridian and Claudio Records, he has made BBC Radio 3 programmes including live concert broadcasts from Broadcasting House and the Wigmore Hall. Paul Gregory has been invited to most parts of the world including the Americas and Hong-Kong. He has been a visiting professor to the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin and a Chief External Examiner for the Royal Scottish Academy in Glasgow. He has also given masterclasses at the Royal College of Music and Trinity College of Music in London, the Nantes Conservatoire, the College of Music in Dublin as well as in Boston and New York U.S.A. In 2003 Paul started a small import business Maestoso Music providing UK shops with classical guitars.

Harp – HELEN ARNOLD

Helen Arnold is well known in the South East as a freelance harpist, teacher, examiner and adjudicator. As a harp teacher she is greatly sought after with students coming from all over the UK and internationally and has recently published her own tutor for the harp 'The Albertine Harp Method'. Helen enjoys playing recitals, in orchestral concerts and for functions. She adjudicates all over the UK and is delighted to be returning to Beckenham this year.

Piano – NANCY LITTEN

Nancy won an Arts Council award to study with Julius Isserlis in London at thirteen, and an open piano scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music at sixteen, winning prizes during her studies there. She performs as a pianist in solo, orchestral and chamber music, and as a piano accompanist, being well known in Kent. She is an all-round musician, also having been a freelance orchestral violinist and leader of a string quartet. Alfred UK have published many of her books, including keyboard tutors *Keyed Up*, violin tutors *Playing with Colour*, and *Choral and Vocal Warm-Ups for Pianists*. Her original keyboard pieces and piano arrangements can be

found in Trinity and ABRSM grade books, and other publications such as *Piano Mix* and *Piano Star*. Nancy is aware of the importance of posture and a relaxed hand position at the piano, having studied the application of the Alexander Technique to pianism with Nellie Ben-Or in London. Tutoring has formed a large part of her life, from beginners through to diploma level; she has taught privately and in many different types of school; and on piano courses and masterclasses. Nancy has been an Associated Board examiner since 1998, entailing much travel in the UK and abroad; she has adjudicated for the British and International Federation of Festivals since 2014. She is on the management committee of EPTA UK (European Piano Teachers' Association) and chairs EPTA Kent.

Singing – JANE WILKINSON

Jane trained as a soprano at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and then as a post graduate at the Royal College of Music where she won many competitions and awards. She performs solo recitals across the country and has toured South Africa, Europe and America. She is Head of Singing at Chelsea Academy and singing tutor at Imperial College, London. Jane has premiered many contemporary operas and frequently works alongside composers on new works for the stage and for recordings. She has performed oratorios and concerts at Edinburgh Festival, Royal Albert Hall, Bridgewater Hall and many other venues. She has performed a vast catalogue of operatic roles specialising in Handel operas. She is founder of the 'Sing For a Day' vocal workshops and regularly holds masterclasses in universities and conservatoires nationwide. Jane trained in young voices with The Voices Foundation and has a passion for teaching developing voices. She is a member of the Association of the Teachers of Singing. She has taught extensively in schools across London and formed choirs from scratch. Jane is an official adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals.

Strings, Music Versatility – KAY TUCKER

Kay Tucker was born in Sheffield, Yorkshire and began studies on the cello at the age of 12, continuing at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Her portfolio career has combined teaching and adjudicating with performing as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral player. Since 1998, Kay has been in popular demand as an Adjudicator throughout the UK, having worked at well over 200 festivals including the National Festival of Music for Youth. 'Encouragement' is a key word in all aspects of Kay's work and she has great joy in working alongside musicians of all ages, particularly the very young. Kay's passion for teaching led her to develop an early years strings and general musicianship system known as 'Stringbabies'. Since its inception in 2004, Stringbabies has become well established and accepted as a leading approach in strings teaching (surprisingly to all ages!) and is being delivered throughout the UK and abroad. In 2016 Musicbabies for Recorder was published, being the first adaptation of Stringbabies for a non-stringed instrument. Kay is currently working in partnership with Victoria College Examinations to develop a bespoke Stringbabies Award for beginner string players. Over recent years, Kay worked as a consultant to Trinity Guildhall, selecting and co-selecting repertoire for graded exams and diplomas. Kay is a Trustee and member of the Executive council of the European String Teacher's Association (ESTA) as well as chairman of Horsham Performers Platform. Kay became an Adjudicator Member of the British and International Federation of Festivals in 1997 and undertook the Post-graduate Certificate in Adjudication in 1999/2000.

Woodwind and Brass, Recorders, Small Ensembles – LOIS GELDARD

Lois Geldard started flute and piano lessons at a young age. Whilst still at school, she performed on Blue Peter, BBC School Proms, Ronnie Scott's and the Royal Variety Show with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra at the London Palladium in the presence of HM The Queen Mother. She went on to study at the Royal College of Music where she was later awarded a Countess of Muster scholarship and won the RCM Concerto competition an unprecedented three times. She has performed many major flute concertos, notably Bach's Brandenburg Concerto no.5 for Flute, Violin and Harpsichord - with violinist Rodney Friend, leader of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, in the presence of HRH Princess Alexandra. Lois has worked with leading orchestras, ballet and opera companies notably the English Chamber Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Glyndebourne, English National Opera, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, City of London Sinfonia, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Bolshoi, Canadian ballet, Australian ballet, BBC Concert Orchestra, Les Misérables and Phantom. She has worked with stars of stage and screen, Duran Duran, Chris de Burgh, Cliff Richard, James Galway, Plácido Domingo, Thomas Allen, Yehudi Menuhin, Maxim Vengarov, Neville Mariner, Darcey Bussell, Roger Allum, Alan Armstrong, Simon Callow, Colm Wilkinson and others. Lois has played in front of and met Prince Charles, Princess Diana, Margaret Thatcher, John Major and the Archbishop of Canterbury. She played for and was presented to the Emperor and Empress of Japan in Tokyo. Additionally, Lois has coached young musicians ranging from Norway to India and she enjoys performing chamber music, adjudicating, flute teaching and coaching youth orchestras.

The Beckenham Festival, founded in 1922, is one of the largest amateur competitive performing arts festivals in the south-east of England, and offers classes in Music, Dancing and Speech & Drama, with specialist adjudicators in all sections. As well as certificates and medals there are over 200 trophies to be won, and many cash prizes and bursaries are awarded to successful competitors. The Beckenham Festival is a registered charity and is affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals and the Bromley Arts Council.

Beckenham Festival 2017 Musician of the Year

Top performers from each of the Music sections will be invited to play before an adjudicating panel of distinguished local musicians.
The winner will receive a special trophy and a cash award.
All taking part receive a special certificate and medal.

Sunday 26th November, 2pm at Marian Vian School – admission free