

MUSIC ADJUDICATORS

Choirs – 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.

Guitar – AMANDA COOK

Dubbed "The 'guitar queen' with a silken touch" by The Independent, Amanda has appeared as a soloist in the USA, South America and throughout Europe. Venues in the UK include the South Bank, Wigmore Hall, St George's Bristol, King's Place & The Sage Gateshead. She has been broadcast on television and radio, both abroad and in the UK, including BBC Radio 3 on "In Tune" and "Late Junction", BBC Radio 4 on "Woman's Hour," and Classic FM. Amanda won a scholarship to study at the Royal College of Music, where she studied with Charles Ramirez, Gary Ryan & Jakob Lindberg. Whilst there she won several prizes for her performances, before continuing her studies with Benjamin Verdery in New York. Several composers have dedicated works to Amanda, including Nato Lima, Paul Gregory, Cristiano Porqueddu, William Lovelady and Peter Stewart. In addition to solo work, Amanda is a member of the critically acclaimed Vida Guitar Quartet who regularly tour the USA and Europe. Amanda was course director at the International Guitar Festival for five years. She regularly adjudicates music festivals and has sat on the jury for several International Competitions including the GFA 2015, Oklahoma. Amanda is a patron of the Federation of Guitar Societies.

Harp – KAREN VAUGHAN

Karen Vaughan studied with Maria Korchinska after graduating from the Royal Academy of Music. Her early career took her to Scotland, where she was a founder member of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and later principal harp of the Scottish National Orchestra. On her return to London in 1984 she was appointed co-principal harpist of the London Symphony Orchestra, whose schedule took her from international tours with Boulez and Gergiev to recording the soundtracks for "Star Wars" and "Harry Potter". After thirty years in the LSO she retired in January 2015. From 1999 to 2008 she was Professor of Pedal Harp at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama and she has also taught at The Purcell School for musically gifted children. She served on the jury for the 7th USA International Harp Competition in Bloomington in 2007 and for the first European Lyon & Healy Awards, held in Cardiff in 2013. She was President of the jury for the Slovenian Harp Competition held in Belgrade in 2016 and the

Chamber Music with Harp Competition in Poland in 2017. A dedicated teacher, she has given masterclasses in the UK, China, Japan and Portugal and is in demand as an examiner and adjudicator. She co-founded the HarpMasters Summer Academy FUTURES in Switzerland and the Hong Kong Harpy Summer Academy. A participant in the World Harp Congresses in Geneva, Dublin, Amsterdam, Vancouver, Sydney and Hong Kong, Karen serves on the Corporation and Board of Directors of the WHC and is its Associate Artistic Director.

Piano – RICHARD DEERING

Richard Deering studied piano and trumpet at Trinity College of Music. He has given piano recitals and broadcasts in over 90 countries worldwide, and has also made several commercial recordings – including an arrangement of the Beatles music as a piano concerto with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra. In 1981 he was elected a member of the Royal Philharmonic Society for “distinguished services to British music”. As an accompanist he has worked with Robert Tear, Brian Rayner Cook, James Blades and others – including popular singers such as Martine McCutcheon – while for many years he worked as a cabaret performer on cruise liners and as Musical Director for television programmes. He is a founder member of the unique performing and recording group of 4 pianists known as Piano40. His interest in contemporary music – especially by British composers – has led to many commissioned magazine articles and a series of albums of new music for young musicians. Until 2002 he was the Vice-Chairman of the British and International Federation of Festivals’ Adjudicator’s Council as well as being a Federation Trustee and in 2012 he was honoured by being elected a Fellow of the Federation. As a teacher Richard has held positions at the London College of Music and Middlesex University as well as visiting positions at Trinity College of Music, Trinity College Dublin, Christ’s College Cambridge University, Hong Kong’s Academy of Performing Arts, Auckland University and the State University of New York. He is also involved with the setting, and examining, of the higher levels of the TCL piano syllabus and examines for Rockschoool. In his spare time he is busy as a cricket umpire both in England and overseas.

Singing – EILEEN FIELD

Eileen Field studied singing and piano at the Royal Academy of Music and was appointed an Associate in February 1998. She has extensive experience as a soprano soloist, accompanist, choral conductor and teacher of piano and singing from beginners to post-graduate level. She very much enjoys giving masterclasses for solo singers and choirs, and has worked with among others, the Highcliffe Junior Choir, former winner of the Sainsbury Choir of the Year Competition, and students at the Söngskólinn í Reykjavík (The Reykjavík Academy of Singing and Vocal Arts) in Iceland. Eileen is a grade and diploma examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, also moderating examiners and helping to train new examiners. In 2007 she was appointed Consultant Moderator. She is the Lead Consultant in the selection of repertoire for the ABRSM Singing Syllabus and for the new ABRSM Songbooks Plus. Eileen has examined and presented seminars for teachers in the UK, Southern Africa, Hong Kong, Macau, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Bermuda, the USA and Canada, and throughout Europe, including the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greece, Turkey and Poland. Eileen is a long-established adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals.

Strings, Music Versatility – SUSAN COLLIER

Susan has a lifelong passion for communication through music. Inspired, at the age of three, by her first public performance as a violinist at the Royal College of Music, she has since dedicated herself to expertise in performance and directing. She has put into practice skills of artistic interpretation, reading and playing to audiences, timing and sensitivity. She has a keen sense of how to convey musical expression, whether as a soloist, conductor, teacher, director, or as part of an orchestra or chamber group. She devotes much time to organising and performing in fundraising events, and is an accredited adjudicator for The British and International Federation of Festivals. She teaches the violin to university students and pupils at the Royal Academy of Music Junior Department, where she also coaches chamber music. As Director of Performance at Mill Hill County High School, Susan conducts the Chamber Orchestra and directs the Barbershop. She freelances with various London-based ensembles and performs with the Silvestre Trio, as well as her son Jacob Collier. She has broadcast on Radio 3 and 4, and Classic FM. Having studied at the Royal Academy of Music as a violin scholar, Susan became the youngest violin professor in their Junior Department and has since been awarded an ARAM for outstanding services to the violin profession.

Woodwind and Brass, Recorders, Small Ensembles – KAREN JONES

Karen Jones studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Peter Lloyd and subsequently won a Fulbright Scholarship and Harkness Fellowship to study in Vienna with Wolfgang Schulz and in New York with Thomas Nyfenger. Her early successes include winning the woodwind section of the BBC TV Young Musician of the Year competition and the Gold Medal in the Shell/London Symphony Orchestra Scholarship. Whilst completing her studies in the USA she was appointed Principal Flute of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, a position she held for 5 years before returning to London. She is in great demand as guest principal flute with all the major London orchestras and ensembles including the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia and London Sinfonietta. In addition, Karen is principal flute of both the London Chamber Orchestra and the City of London Sinfonia and in 2014 was invited to play with the World Orchestra for Peace. She combines this with regular solo engagements, chamber music projects and commercial studio work including the film scores to Harry Potter, Sweeney Todd and Bridget Jones. Previously having held teaching posts at the Royal Northern College of Music and Trinity College of Music, London, Karen has a busy schedule as one of the UK's leading flute teachers giving masterclasses across the country, as well as coaching for orchestras such as the National Youth Orchestra and Kent Youth Orchestra. In 2004 Karen became a professor at the Royal Academy of Music.

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.