

MUSIC ADJUDICATORS

Choirs – NEIL JENKINS

Neil Jenkins has been singing all his life, joining his first choir at the age of 6. He was a Chorister at Westminster Abbey, and then a Choral Scholar at King's College Cambridge. He has now been singing professionally for more than 50 years, having made his London debut in 1967. He is an internationally renowned tenor, conductor and music editor and has recorded over 60 discs of opera, oratorio and song with many of the world's leading conductors and musicians, including Britten, Bernstein, Alfred Deller, Riccardo Chailly, Sir Charles Mackerras, Sir Andrew Davies, Sir Roger Norrington, Sir Neville Marriner, Richard Hickox, Andrew Parrott, Kent Nagano and Hans Werner Henze. Having been a principal Tenor with Kent Opera for twenty years Neil subsequently worked with Glyndebourne, WNO, ENO, Opera North and Scottish Opera, as well as with major opera houses in Europe. His roles have included Herod (Salome), Valzacchi (Rosenkavalier), Goro (Madame Butterfly), Nadir (Pearlfishers), Oberon (Oberon), Count (Count Ory), Count (Count of Luxembourg) and other roles in Falstaff, The Queen of Spades, The Makropoulos Case, Peter Grimes, Lulu, Owen Wingrave, L'Enfant et les Sortilèges and The Consul. In the 1970s he was appointed as an RCM singing professor by Sir David Willcocks, for whom he became a regular soloist with the London Bach Choir, especially as the Evangelist in the Bach Passions, performed annually at the Royal Festival Hall. Neil has carved out a unique career, being equally at home as an Operatic, Oratorio and Recital singer, combining this with an important role as a musicologist. He has translated and edited Bach's major choral works (including St Matthew and St John Passions) for the Novello Choral Edition, and has produced other editions for OUP, Kevin Mayhew and Barn End Press. For 12 years he ran his own international summer school for singers, and is now a well-known Music Festival adjudicator. He has written the biography of the great Handelian singer and first great English tenor, John Beard, and recently curated an exhibition about him at the Handel House Museum in London.

Guitar – GARY RYAN

The British guitarist Gary Ryan is one of the world's leading exponents of the instrument and has pursued a highly varied international career as an acclaimed solo performer, composer and teacher. In 2013 he became the first guitarist since John Williams in 1983 to be awarded a Fellowship of the Royal College of Music in recognition of his contribution to the instrument and recent invitations to perform include solo appearances in Australia, China, Denmark, Germany, India, New Zealand, Portugal and Spain. Ryan studied guitar and piano from the age of 8 as a junior exhibitioner at the Guildhall School of Music, where he won the Director's Prize, later winning a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music to study with Timothy Walker in 1987. In 1991 he graduated with first class honours and many awards, including the Julian Bream Prize, the John Mundy String Prize and the Dorothy Grinstead Prize for an outstanding all-round musician. He then continued his post-graduate studies with an award from the Fleming Trust, becoming an Associate of the RAM in 1997. Ryan made his London solo recital debut for the Park Lane Group at the Purcell Room in 1994 to exceptional critical acclaim and was subsequently invited to perform a series of recitals for the Kirckman Concert Society at London's South Bank Centre. In 1996, at the age of 27, he was then appointed as a Professor of Guitar at the Royal College of Music in London and currently combines a busy freelance career with his role as the RCM's Assistant Head of Strings. Also well known as a composer, Gary Ryan's celebrated guitar compositions combine traditional classical techniques with more contemporary guitar styles and a rich variety of musical influences from around the world. These include his acclaimed solo concert work, Benga Beat, which was premièred in 2011 and features on YouTube, Scenes from The Wild West, Lough Caragh, Hot Club Français, Shamal, Rossbeigh Strand and Generator (for guitar duo). Other publications include Easy Piazzolla for Boosey and Hawkes and Guitar Star for the ABRSM. In 2015 Gary Ryan was invited by John Williams to form 6 Hands, a new collaborative guitar trio with the jazz guitarist John Etheridge which has since toured the UK extensively. The trio also have further performances scheduled later in 2019.

Harp – KAREN VAUGHAN

Karen Vaughan studied with the distinguished Russian harpist Maria Korchinska after graduating from the Royal Academy of Music in London. Her early career took her to Scotland, where she was a founder member of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and from 1978-1984 principal harp of the Scottish National Orchestra. On her return to London she was appointed co-principal harp 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 she has retired from the LSO and now concentrates on her passion for teaching. Karen taught at The Purcell School for musically gifted children and was Professor of Pedal Harp at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama, Glasgow, from 1999 to 2008. She has coached the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, the National Youth Orchestra of Wales, the Pacific Youth Orchestra and the National Youth Orchestra of Spain and has given masterclasses in Ireland, Beijing, Tokyo, Slovenia and Portugal as well as the UK. Now Head of Harp and a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music in London, her past pupils have had considerable success in national and international competitions and hold orchestral and teaching positions worldwide. Karen has served on the jury for international competitions in the USA, Wales, Serbia and Poland. She co-lead the Futures course at Harpmasters Academy, Switzerland, from 2012-2016 and the First Harpy Summer Academy in Hong Kong in 2015. Associate Artistic Director of the World Harp Congress, she has actively participated in every congress since 2002.

Piano – KENNETH ROBERTS

Kenneth Roberts was born in Hastings and educated at York University where he gained BA and MA degrees in music. He works as Conductor/Musical Director for numerous companies at home and abroad and has conducted over 250 opera, ballet and other theatrical productions. He has played and conducted at many prestigious venues including The Royal Albert Hall, The Festival Hall, The Britten Theatre, Kensington Palace and Hampton Court. His second opera, 'Mister Butterfly,' which he wrote in 1994 was premiered in Hong Kong and subsequently performed at the Edinburgh Festival, and featured in a documentary shown by BBC television and BBC World Service Satellite. Between 2001-2011 he worked at the University of New Hampshire, USA, where he directed a new 'African' Musical, that he was commissioned to write, and also composed music for an award-winning 'international' children's piece. He was also musical director and conductor for Plymouth State University's Educational Theatre Collaborative. In 2002 he fulfilled a commission from the Purcell School in association with the Vaughan-Williams Trust as part of their centenary celebrations to mark the birth of Sir William Walton and in 2007 he completed a commission to write a ballet based on the novel 'The Trumpet Major' by Thomas Hardy. In 2010 he also contributed music for the recently published musical version of 'Pollyanna' and also became a British and International Federation of Festivals adjudicator. His highly acclaimed reduced orchestral arrangements of operatic scores by Mozart, Rossini, Verdi, Puccini and others are currently being played all over the world and are available from www.smallscores.com. In between times he has enjoyed giving his series of lecture recitals around the country at music clubs, and on cruise liners on subjects ranging from Mozart to 'Jelly Roll' Morton and has recently released a CD of piano music entitled 'Around the World in 80 Minutes.'

Singing – JULIA DEWHURST

A lyric-coloratura soprano, Julia Dewhurst's ongoing performing career has encompassed opera, concert and recital repertoire from Early Music to first performances of contemporary works. She has broadcast for BBC TV and Radio and has appeared in many of the country's leading concert venues. Abroad, she has undertaken engagements in Germany, France, Spain, Holland, the Middle East and the Seychelles where she gave concerts and masterclasses in the Seychelles Festival of Classical Music. On the opera stage she has appeared with the Royal Opera, ENO, Kent Opera, English Touring Opera, Pavilion Opera, European Chamber Opera, Opera East, London Opera Players and The Garden Opera Company. Her roles have included Susanna and the Countess (The Marriage of Figaro), Queen of the Night, Pamina and First Lady (The Magic Flute), Gilda (Rigoletto), Donna Anna (Don Giovanni), Micaela (Carmen), Despina (Cosi fan Tutte), Constanza (Die Entführung), Norina (Don Pasquale), Miss Wordsworth (Albert Herring) Loelia in the premiere of Donald Swann's comic opera The Man with the Thousand Faces, and many of the Gilbert & Sullivan soprano roles. Julia has extensive teaching experience across the entire age range. She was for many years a visiting singing specialist in a London primary school working at Foundation, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 levels and leading voice care workshops for teachers. She has been a much sought-after adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals for more than 18 years. She is a member of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, the Association of Teachers of Singing, the British Voice Association, the Association of English Singers and Speakers, for whom she has judged both the Patricia Routledge Competition and the Courtney Kenny Award and she is a Friend of the Society of Teachers of the Alexander Technique.

Strings – FIONA MCLEAN-BUECHEL

Fiona is a founder member of NYOS and an alumnus of St Mary's Music School, studying at the Royal Scottish Academy in Glasgow and the Royal Academy of Music in London. She has a passion for music in all forms; combining a busy career as a performer with writing creative and collaborative national and international performance projects. She is Lead Tutor for Strings at Trinity Laban Junior Conservatoire in London and a specialist Music Adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals. She has held teaching posts at the Junior Guildhall School of Music, Colchester Institute, Goldsmith's College, National Children's Orchestra, Head of Strings for London Borough of Bexley, and as specialist strings examiner and syllabus developer for the Guildhall Examinations board. She has been a visiting professor of violin at Dartington College, Cardiff University, and lectured for the European String teachers Association, Cardiff University, South West Sound and U3A. In 2005 Fiona co-founded and was course director with the Dartington International Summer School on the Dartington Plus Summer Youth Strings Programme. She subsequently founded and is Creative Director of SouthWest Camerata whose work was nominated for a Royal Philharmonic Society for Education and was a cover story for the European String Teachers Association magazine. Fiona has delivered sessions on Mindfulness for Musicians on behalf of the Federation of Festivals, at the 2016 Music Education Expo in Olympia, the Federation of Festivals conference in Edinburgh, Musicians Union, IAPS, Chipping Norton Music Festival and at Trinity Laban Conservatoire.

Woodwind and Brass, Recorders, Small Ensembles, Music Versatility – ROSANNA WHITFIELD

As an experienced adjudicator member of The British and International Federation of Festivals, Rosanna is regularly called upon to adjudicate in the UK and abroad and has forged long-standing links with specialist music schools in Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Her positive, interactive adjudicating style inducing young musicians to participate, year on year. Rosanna's vast experience as a performer, teacher and presenter, teamed with an innate love of music, underpins her unstoppable drive as a dedicated campaigner for music in education. Her natural ability to both captivate audiences and inspire young musicians to achieve their dreams stems from an unquestionable belief that music can change lives. As Director of Music at Whitgift School, Rosanna has devised educational projects for all levels of musician from beginner to advanced, and regularly presents interactive concerts and masterclasses to thousands of primary school pupils. A keen conductor and composer, she directed the world première of her work, 'The Gift', at Croydon's Fairfield Halls in November 2012, involving over 300 performers. Instrumental in developing the Whitgift International Music Competition in 2013, Rosanna continues to promote the outstanding benefits of the many musical projects offered by the school and supported by the Whitgift Foundation.