



Newsletter



Dec 2007

Message from the Chairman



How quickly time seems to pass. One minute we are looking ahead to a new year of Festivals and now here we are at the close of the year, with Festivals over for 2007. A big, big thank you to everyone who has been involved in whatever capacity.

The Board meets bi-monthly, and at Conference this year we welcomed Colin Touchin as Vice Chairman. We look forward to working with him.



As you are all aware, our previous Vice Chairman, Aprille Bonner passed away in April, and to mark her dedication and drive for the Federation she loved, the Board opened a Bursary Award Account in her name, to which anyone may contribute.

This award will provide, in 2008, five bursaries for our Festival musicians, to support them in attending EYSM. In 2009 the bursaries will be divided between EYSM and Summer Studio, our new venture in Speech. Do keep looking out for details of this initiative.

Our 200 club in its first year has raised £1,000 for workshops in the Regions. We have two hundred pounds each for five regions sending us details of a workshop they intend to arrange in any of our three disciplines. No doubt those who have already had their regional meetings will be aware of these developments, but the Board feel that it is important that these details reach everyone.

At Conference we were able to extend our congratulations to our President, Bernard Atha OBE on being awarded the CBE, and also to Gillian Irvine of Wansbeck Festival on her MBE.

I have sent congratulation cards to Festivals celebrating Golden, Diamond and Centenary Anniversaries, and 'Thank You' cards to Stewards who have given over fifty years of service to their Festival. This is a fantastic achievement. Well done.

So what of 2008? When you begin to fill in your new diary, why not make a date for EYSM and Conference. I assure you that you really would be amazed at the standard reached at the Friday and Saturday concerts of EYSM. I constantly am.

To ALL members of our Federation, may I take the opportunity to wish you a very merry Christmas and a healthy, peaceful and successful New Year.

Margaret

RECOMMENDED FEES

The Recommended Fees for Adjudicators in 2008 was posted on 19 and 20 December with Year Book 2008. You should receive them both over the Christmas break.

YEAR BOOK 2008

As you know, we asked you for your Year Book details several weeks early so that we could send the Year Book out before the new year. Thank you to all those who met the deadline and saved us so much time in chasing details, it's made a big difference for everyone!

CONFERENCES

A new Conference Sub-committee, Chaired by Vice-Chairman, Colin Touchin and including Linda Lear from Torbay, Carolyn McCabe from Portadown and adjudicators Liz Childs and Steven Roberts are looking at the conference programmes for the next few years and would be pleased to hear from you.

colin.touchin@ntlworld.com

Conference 2008

The sub-committee is joined by Sheila McCallum in 2008 because the conference will be in Greater Glasgow - at the Beardmore Hotel, the only NHS Hotel in the UK!



Dates are 26-28 September and the programme will be stimulating and exciting, with prices as low as possible.

As you plan 2008, can you put conference into your calendar and spend a weekend on the banks of the Clyde, in good company, with much to learn and share?

An important thing to remember is that flights to Glasgow can be very cheap - the conference sub-committee was amazed how cheap! Have a look at the cut-price airlines - the hotel offers a shuttle service.



We look forward to telling you much more when the team has put the programme together! So don't forget to make contact soon if you want to contribute to that discussion.

Charities in England and Wales - an update

Public benefit - guidance

As you may know, the new Charities Act demands that charities prove that they exist for "public benefit".

How to do this has been out for consultation and the Commission's general guidance will be published in January 2008. It has been delayed owing to the large number of responses.

continued overleaf

Charities in England and Wales – an update - continued

The first, general advice for all charities will be produced in January, followed by three months of consultation on draft supplementary guidance for those charities that exist for the prevention and relief of poverty; the advancement of education; the advancement of religion; and charities that charge fees, including independent schools.

The Federation has no doubt that festivals will be able to prove public benefit quite easily and is taking advice on this issue and monitoring all discussions.

We will keep festivals informed of what is required and when.

Financial reporting

Meanwhile, the Office of the Third Sector and the Charity Commission have jointly published a new consultation, examining a package of proposals to reduce the red tape involved in financial reporting for charities.

They claim that the proposals would reduce the regulatory burden for up to 75% of registered charities, allowing them to meet their accounting and reporting obligations in a simpler, less expensive, way.

The actual proposals include:

- only registered charities with an income above £25,000 would need to prepare a Trustees Annual Return, (currently a requirement for all registered charities)
- the income threshold of £10,000, above which charities must submit their annual accounts to the Charity Commission would increase to £25,000
- the income threshold of £10,000, above which charities must have their accounts externally examined, would increase to £25,000
- the threshold of £100,000, above which a charity must prepare accruals accounts (as opposed to simpler receipts and payments accounts), would be raised to £250,000

The consultation closes on 31 March 2008

To take part, visit:

www.charitycommission.gov.uk/news/threshold.asp

Safety Audit / Child Protection – England and Wales

The Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups Act, 2006, means that festivals need to look again at their work at a new series of workshops.

If it were possible to send out written details, we would certainly have done it!

But we are sure that it's not – and all the evidence proves that workshops work!

So please try to ensure that your festival attends a workshop as soon as possible.

To give you some background over the last 3 years, Liz Whitehead has worked with over 500 organisations and, at her most recent workshop for the Voluntary Arts Network, was joined by the Chief Executive of the new Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) – the body set up by the new Act to monitor the new safeguarding checks to be set in place in England, Wales and N Ireland from late 2008. The ISA put this workshop for the voluntary arts high in its list of priorities – making it one of the first meetings attended by the newly appointed CE. More evidence of just how important it is to help and support all our volunteers.

Happily, unlike many other arts organisations who offer only one workshop to the whole of the UK, Federation festivals have already had an opportunity to attend a workshop organised by their Regional Forum and, in January, for those who couldn't make it last time, the Board is subsidising two more workshops.

There may be other workshops later, but **none are planned at present**. It is the Board's earnest hope that you will try to attend in January.

Your festival has received details of these workshops already. We hope you have considered them carefully.

FEDERATION WORKSHOPS

Sun 20 January – Hilton Hotel, M1, Derby/Notts

Sun 27 January – Holiday Inn, M4 Swindon

Details from Festivals House

The Yorkshire Regional Council is holding a workshop for the Yorks and Humber region on **9 February in Pontefract**

For details contact Blanche Woollin - see Year Book, regional pages

If these dates are impossible for you, then Liz is taking workshops for arts umbrella bodies on behalf of the Voluntary Arts Network, during 2008 - dates below. Please note, though, that places are strictly limited at these events and that the workshops are not entirely geared towards festivals.

Voluntary Arts Network Workshops

£35 per person

Weds 13 February - Birmingham
Weds 2 April - London
Weds 14 May - York
Weds 25 June - Manchester
Weds 10 September - Cardiff
Weds 26 November - London

Contact: daniel@voluntaryarts.org

Safety Audit / Child Protection – Northern Ireland

The Disclosure Services provided by the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Department of Health and Social Services are being replaced by a new service called Access Northern Ireland.

This is part of the Government's ongoing commitment to delivering ever more effective safeguards for the vulnerable and AccessNI is intended to put Northern Ireland at the leading edge of national systems, playing a full role in new and emerging systems of protection, such as the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

A workshop for festivals in Northern Ireland has been arranged for 7 June 2008.

At that workshop, Liz will report on the consultation and ongoing discussion that is taking place from early in the new year and provide them with a template (as in England and Wales workshops) for a safety audit of their work, in line with the new legislation.

Safety Audit / Child Protection – Scotland

An update for all Scottish festivals was held in November and the situation in Scotland is presently being carefully monitored. As and when new information comes to hand, we will pass it out to you via your regional representative, Eileen Waterston. There will be a chance for a further update at conference 2008, which will be particularly important for those festivals who missed the November meeting.

From the Chairman of the Festivals Council

At the Conference in October we reviewed how the present regional structure was working after ten years and the statistics were, to say the least, disappointing. A number of regions had not completed their required quota of festival visits over the 3 year cycle whilst in some cases the same festival had been visited more than once. One festival had written to the Federation Chairman asking for help because they had never had a visit. To those regions who are performing well, thank you and keep up the good work, for the rest we hope to see a significant improvement during 2008.

At the Conference I was asked to lead a session on 'contracts'. Reports from our adjudicator members tell us that generally festivals are well run and friendly, but that they are rarely sent a contract, outlining what the festival is prepared to pay for, or asked to sign a copy and return it. The Organising a Festival booklet suggests a number of alternative letters and that they be sent to the adjudicator for your next festival no later than month 2 after the end of your current festival.

During this session I tried to emphasise that whatever you agree with the adjudicator is up to you. Since then, I have received feedback that makes it clear to me that some of my remarks came across very differently from their light-hearted intention. I am really sorry about that. Thank you to those who pointed that out. I am glad to have this opportunity to say again that Federation Festivals should support the minimum recommended fees as agreed annually at the AGM. The guidelines for Federation Festivals are clear and are published as the "Recommended Fees" document and the "Organising a Festival" pack. If you haven't got either of those, you should contact Festivals House for copies right away.

Also at conference discussion was initiated because an adjudicator cancelled two festivals to go to other engagements. We are sure that these must have been isolated cases and we know that, generally, these instances are sorted out amicably between both parties. Agreement at conference was that, in the case of a late cancellation by an adjudicator after the printing of the syllabus, other than for sickness or family bereavement, the festival should have a way to recover some costs.

We have taken advice on this* which (in short) is that, if the festival wishes to protect itself from this possibility, it should be made clear at the time of

making the contract that, in the event of cancellation as outlined above, the festival reserves the right to seek some compensation for their losses in printing and the telephone expenses incurred in finding a replacement. It is very important, however, to ensure that this charge is agreed with the adjudicator at the time of contract so it cannot be construed as a penalty clause (which would be ineffective in law - the agreement must be made before any breach of contract occurs).

The Board have decided to stage the Certificate of Good Practice into Bronze, Silver and Gold awards, and the criteria for these will be issued to your representatives early in the New Year.

A Very Happy Christmas to all our hard working volunteers and a successful New Year. Thank you for all you do.

Regards

Peter

* Full advice available from Festivals House

REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

The Board has discussed regional boundaries for festivals in England with Regional Representatives and agreed that, over 2008 and 2009, festivals should be encouraged to attend whichever Regional Forum meeting is most convenient to them.



It may be that, in fact, you live closer to another region's meeting venue – or, that another meeting fits in with a trip you are making to another part of the country.

Whatever the reason, the content of all regional meetings should be relevant to all festivals – whichever meeting they choose to attend. Festivals should gain as much by attending one as another.

With this in mind - in January, festivals will receive a list of all the Regional Forum meetings to be held in England during 2008, including dates, times, venues and the general content of the meeting, so that all can make the best decision to suit their festival.

There is no message from the Adjudicators Council Chairman in this issue as Douglas Coombes has resigned from Council and Board due to pressure of forthcoming work. We are very sorry indeed to lose him. We thank him for his hard work and diligence during his extended term of office.

NEWSLETTERS

Now that we are up to full strength of staff, we plan to send out Newsletters at least 4 times a year. This one has been put together really fast and it would be just great if you would tell me what you like, and dislike, about it and what you'd like to see in the future.

Please email me on

liz@federationoffestivals.org.uk

Also let me know if you would like to receive a paper copy of this Newsletter

0870 7744 290 / 291

EYSM

(European Youth Summer Music)

26 July to 2 August 2008

The Federation's Summer Course for Instrumentalists and singers

Could your festival give a full or part-bursary? Contact

liz@federationoffestivals.org.uk



"He has come home exhausted but exhilarated and has spoken of little else since I picked him up!"



"The standard of the concerts was staggering."

"a stunning programme that kept even our 8 year old enthralled."



"As we were reunited with our daughter yesterday her first words were 'can I come back next year'."

NEW INITIATIVES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

We hope this regular new Newsletter item may pinpoint new possibilities for your festival.

First of all –a couple of useful, general websites

www.funderfinder.org.uk
www.acf.org.uk/linkstrusts.htm

£130 million 'grassroots grants'

The Cabinet Office has unveiled the new, multi-million pound funding programme to boost local community organisations with much-needed access to small grants and long-term financing. It also announced the appointment of the Community Development Foundation as its lead national partner in delivering the scheme.

'Grassroots Grants' will launch in the new year with £130 million available from 2008-2011 to strengthen the community sector. It will be divided into two parts: an £80 million small grants fund for community organisations; and a groundbreaking £50 million endowments programme to enable local foundations to generate additional donations from the private sector on a matched basis and invest them in endowments, thereby building their capacity to provide long-term funding for frontline community organisations.

The Community Development Foundation (CDF) will open an application process in January to identify and appoint local funders who will deliver Grassroots Grants locally. Applications will be invited by April with further details of the process and the programme to be confirmed in January.

More details in the next Newsletter
For more details, visit
<http://tinyurl.com/3y5pgr>

The Clore Performing Arts Awards

(previously the Small Grants Programme)

Funds performing arts education initiatives aimed at children and young people (aged 0-18) across the UK. The Awards will be worth a total of £1 million to the sector up to 2010.

Who is eligible to apply?

- The Awards make grants for creative projects with under 18s
- The Awards will fund education programmes that cover every aspect of the performing arts including opera, dance, music, musical theatre, the spoken word and theatre
- Organisations must be either a registered charity or a limited company to apply
- Early years settings, primary, middle and secondary schools, sixth-form colleges, SEN schools and voluntary youth organisations are eligible to apply
- Both professional and amateur arts organisations are eligible to apply
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate both artistic excellence and fully participatory experience for young people

What the Awards will fund ...

- The Awards will fund project costs ranging from £1,000 to £10,000
- The Clore Duffield Foundation prefers to be the major funding body
- The total project budget should not exceed £30,000
- Applications should be for a new project rather than for a repeat or extension of an existing project

The application process

- The deadline is **12 March 2008**

The application form is downloadable from:

www.cloreduffield.org.uk/small_how.htm

If you are a registered charity or limited company, in addition to the form you need:

- A project summary (max 500 words)
- A budget breakdown for the project
- Most recent audited accounts
- Most recent annual report

The Directory of Social Change www.dsc.org.uk

This organisation can be a real help if you have someone who can find time to do some research.

DSC offers a wide range of publications, training days and details on grant-making trusts and companies. If you haven't seen this organisation, then look them up on the web or write to

Directory of Social Change
24 Stephenson Way
London N1 2DP **08450 77 77 07**

If you have access to the internet, you can try out the 4 websites that DSC offers

- governmentfunding.org.uk
- grantsforindividuals.org.uk
- trustfunding.org.uk
- companygiving.org.uk

and then subscribe if you wish to do so.



Practiceathon

"I encourage everyone to join me in supporting this wonderful music initiative with CLIC Sargent, to help make a difference for children and young people with cancer. Practice-a-thon! creates a great opportunity for everyone, including me, to make music for such a worthwhile cause."

Nicola Benedetti



Sponsored practice or events for children of all musical abilities

**25% of monies raised can be kept by
your school or music group with 75%
going to help children with cancer.**

Practice-a-thon Music has been running for several years and with the help of musical children across the UK it has raised over half a million for children and young people with cancer.

Dance-a-thon is also running, see the website below for details.

The website suggests ways of taking part which include holding a public event as part of the practice.

Could your festival host part of practice-a-thon for young people, to draw publicity? Could children join practice-a-thon on behalf of your festival?

Can you think of a way to link children to your festival through practice-a-thon, to encourage local support and publicity?

It's worth a look on the web if you have music or dance at your festival. Organisations like the Associated Board are right behind Practice-a-thon and certificates are provided to all taking part – could your festival link to this highly publicised activity?

www.clicsargent.org.uk/Getinvolved/practiceathon