



Amateur Festivals Everywhere

British and International Federation of Festivals
for Music, Dance and Speech

Newsletter Issue 12

March 2015



Word from Liz Childs

This Issue:	
Year Book Updates	2
New Members	2
Disclosure and Barring	3
Long Service Awards	3
Music Education Expo	4
WIMC 2015	5
Flying the Safeguarding Flag	6



The Festival Teachers Forum

It is with great excitement and delight that the Federation has established a Teachers Membership. It is, I feel a vital part of the whole Festival movement because if teachers didn't enter pupils into their local festival it would be a very different experience for everyone. Therefore, developing this section, gives teachers their own identity within the organisation.

In order to facilitate this, an online forum has been set up to which all Festival, Accompanist and Adjudicator Members have been given access in the hope that they will use it for positive debate and discussion on various topics, even offering further topics which could be useful and constructive. Some have already got 'on board' with the idea, but we need more and we also all need to be regularly checking it for further comments, replies and topics etc.

The ultimate aim is, however, to draw in teachers in all sectors (private teachers and those who teach in schools). We also need to be really proactive in creating awareness about all the opportunities and experiences that could benefit their pupils. It is important to state that these teachers will not be accredited in any way by the Federation but that the forum along with other benefits, exists as an opportunity for them to have a voice and feel part of the movement.

Obviously this membership is to be developed across all three disciplines (Music, Dance and Speech). So, I am positively encouraging all current members of the Federation to help spread the word and encourage teachers to sign up. As Adjudicators and Accompanists visit festivals, please do take time to talk to festival committee members about this new initiative, leave some postcard flyers (which can be obtained from Festivals House) and encourage teachers whom you meet to find out more about the membership via the Federation website. Please promote the benefits of entering a Federation festival. It does amaze me that there are so many teachers who don't know that their local festival exists and if they do, they are often unaware of what it is all about, and **WE** can help with this. Be proactive and encourage teachers to get other teachers on board. Whilst actually at a festival we could potentially be preaching to the converted though joining the Forum would be a very welcome 'plug' and a great opportunity. If you have a website please consider putting a link to the Federation website with directions to the Teachers Forum. Festivals, please could you help by placing the flyer as an advert in your syllabus and programme?

Continued ...

Foreword from Liz Childs

The Festival Teachers Forum Continued from page 1

Please do contact me (see details in the 2015 Year Book) if you have any questions and I do hope that you can help share, promote and engage in this NEW initiative from the Federation. By the time you read this we will have had a busy time at the Music Education Expo in the Barbican where we plan to launch the Festival Teachers Forum to delegates attending the exhibition.

Music shops are one way of promoting the idea and I am very grateful to June Emerson Wind Music for distributing some of our postcard flyers in their mailings. I am also very grateful to the Co-operative Youth Music and Drama Festival (Barnsley), who have set up a meeting for me with their local Music Education Hub.

I am personally working on developing all of these ideas and would welcome your thoughts on how we can promote this initiative further.

Thank you and I look forward to updating you in the next Newsletter.

Liz Childs

Music Adjudicator and member of the Federation Board of Trustees

Year Book Updates

Barbara Lowe	Music Adjudicator	correct email address
Elizabeth Hayley	Music Adjudicator	new address
Laura Symonds	Dance Adjudicator	new email address

**If you are a member of the Federation and require this information please contact
Festivals House**

New Members

New Accompanist



**If you are a member of the Federation and
require this information please contact
Festivals House**

New Provisional Festival Member

Wallington Dance Festival - Contact Mrs. Charley Nichols
BC,M,CO,T,S+D,MT,N,G,CD March / April 2015

Disclosure and Barring

Mark Whittaker, our DBS Officer, would like to offer some guidance for those completing DBS forms:

'We are now reaching the busiest time of the year for our festivals and in line with this more and more DBS application forms are being received at Festivals House. We send out reminders to Festivals at least two months in advance showing their current list of volunteers and when they are due for renewal. We also send out a copy of the latest update from the DBS to help festivals identifying which roles need to be checked. Due to the change in legislation many festivals have greatly reduced the numbers of people who fulfil the criteria for DBS checks although we still have almost 1,900 volunteers on our data base. In the first two months of this year 250 application forms have been requested by our Festival Members.

I normally work Tuesday's and Thursday's and I am always pleased to hear from anyone needing advice on disclosure matters. A short telephone or email chat can reduce stress levels and save a great deal of time for the applicants. I would ask that Festival Safeguarding Officers cast their eyes over the application forms before sending them in. An extra pair of eyes at the start can save a lot of time for everyone. Unfortunately, we do get a lot of forms with mistakes on them, in the last two weeks we have rejected about 40% of forms which has meant a lot of emailing and returning of forms for correction, many for minor mistakes which might have been spotted earlier.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or one of my colleagues at Festivals House as we are always happy to answer your queries.'

Long Service Awards

Members of M.O. Productions, organisers of the Gibraltar International Dance Festival, have recently received awards from the British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech for giving over 10 years voluntary service to the Festival Movement.

The Awards Scheme for Festival Voluntary Helpers acknowledges members voluntary contribution to community festivals such as the annual Gibraltar International Dance Festival. The Gibraltar Festival has been active for over a decade providing educational opportunities to Gibraltar's youth through its local event and also internationally with the twinning of both the local festival and the Sussex Festival for Dance & Song. The festival also plays an important role in keeping alive local interest in the arts and allowing young people to receive imminent advice from professionals.

The Awards have been presented to the following recipients for over 13 years voluntary service:

- Seamus Byrne
- Alfred Rumbo
- Robert Balban
- Lawrence Robles
- Zaskia Byrne

Chairman of M.O. Productions, Seamus Byrne said "We are delighted to be recognised by such a prestigious organisation in the United Kingdom whose patron is Her Majesty the Queen. We have been producing the annual festival voluntarily for over 13 years and look forward to organising many more festivals for many more years to come."

MUSIC EDUCATION EXPO

Sarah Langdon, Office Administrator at Festivals House, talks about her visit to the Music Education Expo where the Federation had a stand to promote, not only the organisation, but also the new Festival Teachers Forum;



We spent two days, the 12th and 13th March, at the Music Education Expo in London. The Expo attracts people and organisations from all sectors of Music Education. There are trade stands, seminars, workshops, shops and a chance to find out about all the exciting things going on in music education.

Our primary aim was to promote our new Festival Teachers Forum and with nearly 75% of the people attending the Expo being Music Teachers, this was a great place to launch our new initiative. The Festival Teachers Forum is a place for teachers of all of our specialisms to interact with our Festival, Adjudicator and Accompanist Members and for them to have a voice within the festival community.

Over the two days, Terry and I met hundreds of people with many different interests in our organisation. We were delighted to be joined by Liz Childs, Music Adjudicator and member of the Board of Trustees, on the Thursday afternoon and Keith Lowe, Chairman of Alderley Edge Festival and member of the Board of Trustees, on Friday. Armed with our new publicity material about the Festival Teachers Forum, all the visitors to our stand left informed and interested in the things the Federation has to offer, not only the teachers but parents, performers, non-federation festivals and professional musicians.

It was a great opportunity to chat to the public about what our organisation stands for and all the wonderful things our festivals are doing. It was also a wonderful opportunity to meet some of our festival and Adjudicator members who were visiting the exhibition.

I had a chance to look round the rest of the Expo and saw so many interesting stands including exam boards; music publishers; shops; a range of companies providing workshops from ukulele classes to didgeridoo; summer schools and tours; conservatoires and instrument makers. Several of the stands were offering cupcake giveaways and prize draws for bottles of champagne. Unsurprisingly, these stands were quite busy! One of the stands was giving away cajón's, a percussion instrument but, sadly, we didn't get there before they ran out.

The Expo attracted over 2,000 visitors and next year will be even bigger, moving from the Barbican Exhibition Hall 2 to Olympia Central to incorporate their new Musical Theatre & Drama Education exhibition.

The Music Education Expo was a brilliant opportunity for us to connect with teachers and performers and promote the Federation and its members.



Terry Luddington, Liz Childs and Sarah Langdon at the Expo

WIMC 2015

The AMATI Magazine recently interviewed Rosie Whitfield, Music Adjudicator with The British and International Federation of Festivals and Head of Music Development at Whitgift, and a brief excerpt of the interview is included below:

Two years ago, Whitgift School in Croydon started a biennial international music competition open to boys of school age from all over the world. The prize: a scholarship to the school and the chance for the lads to develop their musicianship to the full. As the first group of scholarship holders – from Moldova, Bulgaria and Romania – prepare to leave school with new scholarships to leading UK conservatoires, the school is gearing up for another competition this summer. AMATI asks Rosie Whitfield about the contest's vision and aims – and why they would love more UK applicants in 2015.

Your first crop of scholarship boys are now on their way to music college. Have they done as well as you thought they would? Or has their progress perhaps even exceeded expectations?

They have all been offered scholarship places at music college. We are delighted with their achievements and are now busy trying to assist them with financing their courses, by finding sponsorship to cover any costs they cannot meet. It is so expensive to live in London and some of these boys have no financial backing from their families.

Some people seem to be automatically put off a setting like a big private school, but it seems to me that you are from a very down-to-earth background yet regard these opportunities as something within everyone's grasp, depending on hard work. Is that the case?

Certainly my background was very down-to-earth – and I am proud of that. This is a big school but many pupils have bursary assistance, which means they can come to the School despite coming from a financially-challenged situation. Hard work will get you everywhere!

What qualities do you think youngsters need in order to "make it" in music? Can Whitgift help them develop those qualities?

You have to know what you want and work extremely hard to get it, but ensure that you don't get too big for your boots. Treat people how you would hope to be treated yourself and you can't go far wrong. It's clear to me that there are some young musicians who are simply incredibly musical. However, they are not always the ones who succeed. Remember the story of the tortoise and the hare? Consistent practice and a natural lust to achieve through hard work sometimes outshines natural talent – so a balance of both attributes is the best solution.

Please tell us about the 2015 scholarships. When is the closing date and how do people apply?

The WIMC 2015 is currently open for applications, details of which can be found on the Whitgift website. The closing date for entry is 1 May 2015. The competition opens with a recital on 28 June and finishes on the evening of Wednesday 1 July.

You'd like some applicants from the UK, wouldn't you? What would you say to encourage British kids and their parents & teachers to put in for this?

We are overwhelmed with entries from across the world, but we would love to have UK entries as this is truly a wonderful opportunity for a young musician from the UK. Log on to the website and complete the simple form! We want to hear you play and would love to invite you to enter the competition in June. This will be a memorable experience – and one which you will treasure, I promise.

Flying the Safeguarding Flag

The training programme for our new approach to Safeguarding has now reached the halfway stage and so far 80 delegates and 49 Festivals have been trained. We are delighted to announce that the following Festivals have now completed the implementation of our new approach to safeguarding this month:



- Burnley Festival
- Hastings Musical Festival
- Reigate and Redhill Music and Drama Festival
- Southampton Stage Dance Festival
- Southend Musical Festival
- Woking Festival of Dance
- Woodley Festival of Music and Arts

The training is designed for Festival Safeguarding Officers (and their deputies), Festival Charity Trustees and / or Festival Committee members with a Child Protection responsibility. We still have delegate places available for the following dates / venues:

- Tuesday 21st April - Wadebridge Exchange, Cornwall 9:30am to 12:30pm
- Sunday 26th April - Premier Inn St Helens 1:30pm to 4:30pm
- Monday 27th April - Premier Inn Newcastle Washington 10:30am to 1:15pm
- Saturday 6th June - Premier Inn South Mimms A1/M25 1:30pm to 4:30pm
- Saturday 13th June - Premier Inn Leicester Fosse Park 9:30am to 12:30pm
- Saturday 13th June - Premier Inn Leicester Fosse Park 1:30pm to 4:30pm

We also have some online training course places available for those who are unable to attend one of the above sessions. Delegate places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and we currently have capacity for at least two delegates to attend from each Festival. To book one or more delegate places for your Festival please email newsletters@4afe.co.uk

Performance



The British and International **Federation of Festivals** for Music, Dance and Speech
 Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Festivals House,
 198 Park Lane, Macclesfield
 Cheshire, SK11 6UD
 Phone: 01625 428297 / 611578

Email: info@federationoffestivals.org.uk
 Web: www.federationoffestivals.org.uk
 Twitter: [@FestivalsHouse](https://twitter.com/FestivalsHouse)
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/4AmateurFestivals