



Amateur Festivals Everywhere

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

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Word from Terry Luddington, CEO

This Issue:	
The Patron's Lunch	2
Springboard	2
Regional Championships	3
Conference	4
Elena Cobb Star Prize	4
Reigate and Redhill	5
Colchester	5
Singapore	6



In the first 6 months of this year I was able to travel around the country and meet many of our Festival members at the Safeguarding training events funded by our Big Lottery Award. To date this funding has provided training for 212 Festival Safeguarding Officers, Trustees and responsible Committee Members and has proved to be a valuable experience for everyone involved. I thought I would share with you some of the many testimonials I have received as a result

"Thank you for last Monday's safeguarding training course. A lot to think about. A lot we have to pass on to our Committee and helpers."

"Just a few lines to thank you for the excellent course on Tuesday. It has certainly given us food for thought and we shall ensure that all our Festival committee and helpers are appraised of the training we have received."

"May I congratulate you on a very well run and valuable training session. It will prove to be invaluable in the prospective running of the festival in the safeguarding area."

We are now planning further training sessions for Scotland and Northern Ireland and I'm very much looking forward to the first of these scheduled for the Northern Ireland Regional Forum meeting in October.



Festival Delegates at one of the Safeguarding training sessions in London

The Patron's Lunch

The British and International Federation of Festivals has been invited to take part in The Patron's Lunch, a significant National and Commonwealth event to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's patronage of over 600 charities and organisations throughout her lifetime, on the occasion of her 90th birthday. www.thepatrons-lunch.com

On Sunday June 12th 2016, The Mall in St James's Park will be transformed for its largest ever street party to celebrate The Queen's patronage of over 600 charities and organisations on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

The Patron's Lunch will be an iconic event recognising the unrelenting support and service our Monarch has given to the community over her 63 year reign. The Mall will be the centrepiece to a truly magnificent spectacle with 10,000 guests, the majority of which will be representatives from the Patron's Organisations, taking part in a classic British 'street party'.

The invited guests will enjoy a hamper-style lunch at tables positioned along the full length of The Mall, with entertainment and Union flags a plenty. Her Majesty The Queen will be joined by the Duke of Edinburgh and other members of the Royal Family to celebrate the occasion. Their Royal Highnesses, The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry will reside as Joint-Presidents of The Patron's Lunch; honouring the dedication shown by Her Majesty to so many charities and organisations.

The day itself promises to deliver an electric festival-themed atmosphere that can be enjoyed not only by the lunch guests on The Mall, but also by the general public who will be able to soak up the festivities at large screens situated in the Royal Parks; Green Park and St James's Park.

But the fun and celebrations won't just be happening on The Mall, it is hoped that The Patron's Lunch will inspire as many people as possible to host their very own *Patron's Lunch* in streets along the length and breadth of our nation and across the Commonwealth. These street parties will give local communities a chance to enjoy the fun whilst also providing an opportunity to raise funds directly for local initiatives and community programmes.

Springboard - Brighton and Hove Performing Arts Festival

Springboard - Brighton and Hove Performing Arts Festival's Evening of Highlights was a spectacular success with over 250 people in the audience including the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Denise Cobb.

The variety and standard, as well as the atmosphere of the whole event, impressed the enthusiastic audience. Over 40 performers took part in solos, duos and a choir. Musicians and actors of all ages presented an outstanding selection of what Springboard had seen and heard over the previous weekends, including classical guitar, singing as well as a broad variety of instruments and poetry and plays.



Performers who took part in the festival

Sue Sheen, Chair of the festival, said "Springboard enjoyed another stellar year of outstanding performances in all music and drama sections and we would like to thank all who took part in this memorable event."

Regional Championships

We are delighted that two Regional Championships will take place in September. Both of these events will showcase some of the most promising talent within the festival community and offer those attending a wonderful day's entertainment across the three disciplines.



These will take place on Saturday 5th September at Alderley Edge School for Girls, Wilmslow Road, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7QE, commencing at 11am. There is ample parking at the school, and the railway station is directly opposite. There will be an hours break for lunch and refreshments will be available to purchase in the school, there are also several cafes within a five minute walk. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at, <http://www.wegotickets.com/event/328277> or on the day. Adult tickets are £5 and Children under 12 are £2 each.

Jackie Martindale, North West Regional Representative and event organiser said "It will be a wonderful occasion, with twenty nine performers of a very high standard from across the whole of our large region. I would like to extend a big thank you to the Chair of The British and International Federation of Festivals, Steven Roberts, for joining us on the day to present the prizes."

The presentation of prizes will take place during the afternoon and every entrant will receive a medal. A cash prize of £100 will be awarded to the winner of the three disciplines of music, dance and speech.



These will take place on Saturday 12th September from 11.00am until 4.00pm at the Carleton Community High School, Pontefract, WF8 3NW Refreshments will be available throughout the day. Tickets are £5 each and can be obtained in advance from Margaret Venables, 2 Meadow Drive, Darfield, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S73 9HL, 07770 987065 or marbrey@talktalk.net. Cheques should be made payable to "Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire Region" and please include a S.A.E. Tickets may also be purchased on the day.

Margaret Venables, President of the British and International Federation of Festivals said "At Conference in 2001 Cynthia Carr suggested the idea of Regional Championships. It was discussed by the Festival Council and agreed that we should take it back to the Regions for further development. For Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire this will be our seventh Biennial Championships with thirty three performers taking part. For the North West this will be their first event and I would like to congratulate the North West Regional Team, I'm certain your forthcoming Championships will be a memorable success. Good luck to everyone involved."

If you would like any further information on the Regional Championships please contact Festivals House on 01625 428297 or email info@federationoffestivals.org.uk

Conference

Preparations for Conference are well underway and we are delighted so many of our members have already booked their place and will be joining us at The Old Ship in Brighton from 16th to 18th October. We are particularly pleased to welcome so many Adjudicators who will be taking part in the Self-Moderation and Standardisation Session on Sunday morning.

A further addition to the Conference programme on Saturday afternoon will be a short presentation from Gary Leman of Fiestalonia Milenio – “The European leader in the organization of worldwide festivals and competitions for non-commercial creative collectives.”

Fiestalonia Milenio is one of our newest festival members with Festivals in Spain, Italy and France covering many of our performing arts disciplines with some interesting additions such as circus and acrobatics. They have their own panel of International Judges and have developed their own marking system and judging criteria. I think there will be something of interest for all our delegates in what Gary has to say.

If you would like to attend Conference and have not yet booked your place please refer to the Federation website <http://www.federationoffestivals.org.uk/conference/> which contains details of the full programme and includes links to the booking forms. Please be aware that now we have less than fifteen rooms available at the Conference venue and a limited number of Non-Residential places.

Gill Smithers, Office Manager

Elena Cobb Star Prize Award



“I am very excited that already seven Federation Festivals will be offering Elena Cobb Star Prize classes in their Syllabus for 2015–2016. All of my pieces were composed with one objective in mind; to provide students with repertoire that would inspire them to play the piano. The tunes are already very popular amongst students and teachers around the world, and are being performed regularly in concerts, festivals and examinations.”

Elena Cobb

Further details of the Elena Cobb Star Prize can be found at <http://www.federationoffestivals.org.uk/elena-cobb-star-prize/> and there is still a small amount of funding available for any Federation Festival who wishes to offer these classes next year.

Elena has received some very positive feedback about her books from Teuta Koco - Piano teacher – “I was looking for repertoire for one of my 5-year-old pupils, Aidan. I thought that choosing a piece from *Higgledy Piggledy Jazz* (late-elementary to intermediate level) might be overwhelming but to my surprise, Aidan, was only interested in learning a tune that appealed to him, with no regard to his age.

Aidan loved the tune from the moment he first heard it, and before long, *Nerdy Cat's Twist* became his signature tune. He was having so much fun that I decided to sign him up for the Croydon Music Festival, in the ‘own choice’ category for the under 9’s. Even though an older pupil won, Aidan received a special mention from the adjudicator for playing his fun piece really well. Since his performance at the Croydon Music Festival, I have received countless requests from my pupils (including my daughter Anna) who also wanted to learn to play it.”

90th year for Reigate and Redhill Music and Drama Festival

In 1925 a lady by the name of Anna Garfield-Howe decided to set up a festival for local choirs, vocal groups, and solo singers, calling it the Reigate, Redhill and District Musical Competition Festival.

Mrs Garfield-Howe, née Millhof, was born in Russia in 1886 and with her wide ranging musical skills and enthusiasm she was inspirational in passing on her love of music to others, particularly young people. She even gave early strings lessons to Jacqueline Du Pre and her sister Hilary.

In setting up the Festival she gained the support of many eminent names and under her leadership it flourished, even continuing during the war years.

Today the Festival has grown out of all proportion to its limited beginnings, when all the classes were completed on one Saturday, including the presentation of prizes and prize winners' concert.

From Tuesday 5th May to Saturday 16th May local venues resounded with all kinds of musical instruments, choirs, solo singing, and drama, as nearly 2,000 performers took part. A Gala Concert at the Harlequin Theatre, Redhill, was the Grand Finale, featuring the Festival's highlights, including a piano concerto excerpt supported by a professional orchestra.

The Festival's AGM, which took place on 7th July, was followed by a celebratory party!

Angela Barker, Chairman of the Festival, said: "Anna Garfield-Howe would have been proud and gratified to see how what she began has grown to be the flourishing Festival that exists today".



Mrs Garfield-Howe,
founder

Colchester Festival of Music and Dance

Three weekends of dancing and music-making came to an end in the Swinburne Hall at Colchester Institute on Saturday evening, 4th July.

Before an enthusiastic and packed audience, Jessica Edom-Carey from Chelmsford became the first singer to be acclaimed the Colchester Rotary Musician of the Year. Displaying her versatility and maturity, Jessica had already been announced as the Singer of the year, having won four of the Open voice classes. Her performance on the night was the climax of a full and very enjoyable programme.

Matthew Herbert from Dovercourt, winner of the Open Piano Class, was runner-up Musician of the Year. Jennifer Collins was runner-up Singer of the Year, and was the first recipient of the Janice London Memorial Salver, donated by Colchester Centurion Rotary Club.

The previous evening, in the Main Hall at Colchester Institute, there was a beautifully varied programme of Solo and Group Dance. Most of the dancers were from the Graham School of Dance, Bishops Stortford, and included the youngest dancer Evie Marner, not yet 5 years old, who won everyone's heart, and collected the Under – 7 trophy.

The Colchester Centurion Rotary Club award to the most outstanding performance went to Georgina Clarke, the only dancer to be marked "Outstanding" for her Stage Dance.

Festival Chairman Pat Prestney was full of praise for the splendid entertainment provided by the many young performers.

Singapore Performing Arts Festival Music Section

The **Singapore Performing Arts Festival** has recently extended its classes to include music and Luise Horrocks, Federation Music Adjudicator, was invited to the 2015 festival.

"In 2014 a small trial run of a Music Festival took place in Singapore. Open only to certain selected students, it was such a success that the organisers decided that 2015 would see the launch of the first fully-fledged music section of the Singapore Performing Arts Festival, affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals and open to all comers. This extremely well put together and happy event ran over 3 days with classes in piano and violin. Performances were grouped according to grade so we had Grade 1 entrants' right up to Diploma students and I had the privilege and pleasure of listening to and adjudicating some extremely fine musicians.



Some of the delighted performers receive their certificates

All the performers were given a certificate and, such was the standard, that there were quite a few who managed to achieve the Gold Award. I was able to do some work with individuals and also to 'warm-up' some groups and there was a tremendous atmosphere of both enjoyment and dedication. I truly believe that this very new section of the Singapore Performing Arts Festival will grow and grow with other instruments included and even more students of all ages taking part."

The wonderful success of the music section at the Singapore Performing Arts Festival shows how important it is for festivals to review the classes they offer and to encourage participation across a broad spectrum of performance. Additional information about the festival can be found at www.msworks.sg.

Contact Information Update

Colin Touchin

Music Adjudicator

If you are a member of the federation and require the new contact details please call Festivals House.

Performance



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

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