



# Amateur Festivals Everywhere

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

Newsletter Issue 11

February 2015



## Word from the Chair



The New Year seems to be a distant memory now and a number of Festivals have already taken place. I adjudicated at a relatively new Festival recently where entries have continued to increase year on year. Being at this Festival reminded me just how impressive our movement is and how good it is at what it does. Just consider your own Festival for

a moment.....how many performers do you put on stage? How much audience do you accommodate? How many teachers are involved? How many volunteers do you have? These may seem very basic questions, but have you ever taken that moment to truly consider what you achieve at your Festival? Go on – try it now!

Since becoming Chairman, I have spoken to marketing specialists, politicians, publishers, exhibitors, examination boards and have even got close to the House of Lords – everyone is very interested, but usually more interested in what they need to do to promote themselves rather than our Federation. But, this has only strengthened my resolve to better engage with those people who can lend us their name, their support and ultimately their influence.

My social media knowledge has increased as I have looked further into what is really out there for music, dance and speech. I was delighted to see the BBC Song and Dance initiative launched in January, along with the BBC Young Dancer and there are others encompassing all of our disciplines – the trick is finding them and getting those people on board. In all of my activities I am a strong advocate of partnerships and this will also be part of my strategy for the Federation.

Our staff team have made significant strides forward and consistently review the work of Festivals House to ensure we remain efficient and current. The work also of the Board and Councils is important and I would encourage all of our members to speak to your elected members to continue to shape our future work.

There are a number of priorities for the coming year, but for me there are five that feature highly; improving our visibility, engaging better with our regions, establishing our Festival Teachers Forum, ensuring our new approach to Safeguarding is embedded and more support for our Adjudicator and Accompanist members. Do get in touch with me if you have any suggestions or comments, I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes. Steven Roberts

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## 2015 Year Book Updates

**If you are a member of the Federation and you require contact information for festivals, Adjudicators or Accompanists please do not hesitate to contact Festivals House on 01625 428297 or [info@federationoffestivals.org.uk](mailto:info@federationoffestivals.org.uk)**

## New Members for 2015

### New Accompanist



Ms Anne Marshall MMus(Dist), PGDip RCM (adv perf), JFRCM (acc)

Please contact Festivals House for contact details

### New Music Adjudicator - Piano



Ms Anna Markland, BMus Hons(Oxon), ARCM, ARAM

Please contact Festivals House for contact details

## New Years Honours

We are delighted to announce that **Ann Lampard**, a Music Adjudicator with the Federation for a number of years, has received an MBE in the New Years Honours for services to Music.

Ann is a vibrant and highly respected Voice Teacher, Masterclass Tutor and Opera Producer. She was for 18 years the Head of Voice at the Junior Royal Academy of Music in London, and now spends her life combining a successful teaching practice on the beautiful Isle of Skye with traveling all over the UK to adjudicate, and as far afield as the Hong Kong Festival.

Her hope is to inspire young singers in Masterclasses and private coaching, and teach a deep love of singing and song to young aspirant classical singers of the future, as well as those who wish to sing as a wonderful hobby.

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It gives Maidstone Music Festival great pleasure to announce that **Nigel Stratton**, former Chairman of the South East Region, was made an MBE in the New Years Honours.

The award was made to Nigel for his services to the community in Tunbridge Wells. Nigel is a managing partner at Berry and Lamberts Solicitors, and helps the elderly as Chairman of Age UK Tunbridge Wells. Nigel was also chairman of the Tunbridge Wells Arts Festival for over ten years.

Nigel is looking forward to attending the Palace at the end of February to receive this prestigious honour.

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**Dorothy Gunnee**, Committee Member of Glasgow Music Festival, has received an MBE for Services to Community Music and Young People in Glasgow. Having studied singing, piano, timpani and percussion at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now RCS) and a career spanning over 40 years as an instrumental teacher has enabled Dorothy to work with children and young people throughout Scotland and abroad. An examiner for the Guildhall School of Music, Dorothy also set material for the Scottish Examinations Board and for 15 years she undertook the role of Senior Instrumental Instructor in Glasgow City.

She has contributed to a number of Youth Arts Groups and is now Honorary President of East Glasgow Music School of which she was Director for some 26 years. In 1975 she was party to the establishment of Glasgow Symphony Orchestra and continues in her role as Administrator. She indulges her love of choral singing with The Glasgow Phoenix Choir and a number of Community Choirs.

Involvement with the Festival Movement started as a 15 year old steward with Glasgow Music Festival. This led to membership of the committee, ongoing since 1976, incorporating 25 years as treasurer. In parallel to GMF she helped create East Glasgow Music Festival. This quickly grew to be the largest competitive youth music festival in the country and for 15 years was a major event for schools and youth groups in the city and beyond. She has adjudicated at Scottish Festivals and currently undertakes roles in both administration and adjudication with the Bridgeton Burns Club Schools' Competition and the Trades House of Glasgow Robert Burns Festival.

Dorothy has been awarded a Long Service Award by The British and International Federation of Festivals recognising 40 years voluntary service and the Lord Provost's Medal for Services to Music in the City of Glasgow.

## Council Elections

In November 2014 both Bryan Husband and Penelope Price Jones were elected as Music Deputies to the Adjudicators Council.

In February 2015 Mia Ball was elected as a Speech and Drama Deputy to the Adjudicators Council.

## Calendar of Events

In January we launched an online Calendar of Festival and Federation Events. Many Festival members have already added their events to the Calendar which can be accessed and viewed from the Federation website.

With over 9,000 visitors to the Federation website each month it is a great way for Festivals to promote their forthcoming events.

To add your Festival events to the Calendar you will need to join the Festival Teachers Forum by typing the link below into your browser <http://ftforum.4afe.co.uk> and following the instructions to register on the screen.

## Flying the Safeguarding Flag

The training programme for our new approach to Safeguarding got underway in January and so far 58 delegates and 34 Festivals have completed the course. We are delighted to announce that the following Festivals have successfully introduced our new approach to safeguarding so far in 2014/2015:



- Alderley Edge Festival
- Buxton Music, Speech and Drama Festival
- Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts
- Chichester Festival for Music, Dance and Speech
- Colsterworth Festival of Performing Arts
- Co-operative Youth Music and Drama Festival
- East Grinstead Music and Arts Festival
- Harrogate Competitive Festival for Music, Speech and Drama
- Huddersfield Mrs Sunderland Festival
- Kettering and District Eisteddfod
- North Lincolnshire Music and Drama Festival (Brigg)
- Oundle Festival of Music and Drama
- Paul Watson Memorial Festival for Dance
- Ramsbottom Music Festival
- Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival

## In memory of ...

We are very sad to announce that, at the age of 86, **Robin Winbow** passed away peacefully in his sleep on Sunday 3rd August 2014. Robin was a Dance Adjudicator for many years, he was quite a character, a real gentleman and was much loved by performers and fellow Adjudicators alike.

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Also the passing of **Mr John Iredale** on Friday 23rd January 2015, Chairman of Hadyn Wood Festival.

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Inverness Festival Association regrets to announce the death of **Miss Elizabeth Davis**, 5<sup>th</sup> July 1923 – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2014, who was Inverness Music Festival's Organising Secretary (currently known as Administrator) from 1988 until 1998.

Elizabeth was approached to take on this post after the Music Festival had been in abeyance since 1985 because of industrial action by schools' teaching staff. She had not previously been involved with Inverness Music Festival but always had had a keen interest in music. A former policewoman (she was the only female police sergeant in Inverness Constabulary and the first female to hold supervisory rank in the Highlands and Islands), she always liked to be in charge, but was also very good at delegation! For many years she used to help marshal children, behind the scenes at dancing shows, given by a local dancing teacher. Perhaps influenced by her mother, who had been a piano teacher, Elizabeth played in a local dance band and was a member of Inverness Opera Company, singing alto. She then went on to co-found the Inverness Singers and also to sing in Inverness Methodist Church Choir.

Elizabeth ran Inverness Music Festival for ten years, from her very large dining room, with the assistance of other members of the Music Festival Committee. The phone was constantly ringing, or ringing out, but Elizabeth (or Bette as she had been nicknamed in the police!) never charged the Association for any phone calls she made on its behalf. She jokingly said that she couldn't have kept track of them all!

After Elizabeth demitted office she still took an interest in the Inverness Music Festival, attended some of the Festival competitions and occasionally came to the AGMs – especially if she had some project or other “up her sleeve”!

Shortly before she died Elizabeth was delighted to be told that the Inverness Festival Association Executive Committee had decided to inaugurate a new competition (a Premier competition for the winners of Open Classes in Traditional Scottish Music) and call it the Elizabeth Davis Competition. Less than a week before her death two members of the Executive Committee visited Elizabeth to show her the Quach, engraved with her name, which will be presented to the winner of the new competition in March 2015.

## Long Service Awards



The Long Service Award Scheme offers festivals the opportunity to recognise the work that festival volunteers do. Awards are available for those who have completed 10, 25, 40, and 50 years service.

We have now been able to source a supplier who can provide the same high quality enamel badge at a much lower price and we are therefore delighted to be able to pass this saving onto festivals.

The award now costs **£9**, a reduction from £12, and the cost includes an enamel badge, a certificate and postage. The awards can be presented either by the Festival Committee at the festival or at a Committee Meeting, or the presentation can be arranged for our Annual Conference if the recipient is attending.

A copy of the Long Service Award form was included with the 2015 Year Book but please contact Festivals House if you require additional copies.

*Performance*



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