



Amateur Festivals Everywhere

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



Newsletter Issue 18

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Word from Steven Roberts

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Visit to Spain- New member - Fiestalonia Milenio!

The end of September saw Steven Roberts have a flying visit to our new International Members, Fiestalonia Milenio. Fiestalonia are festival organisers based in Lloret de Mar on the Costa Brava, Spain. He was met at Barcelona airport by Fiestalonia's Marketing Manager, Gary Leman. Gary is a recent expat and has been working for the company almost since his arrival in Spain in December last year.

There was little time for sightseeing on the hour long journey from the airport and the time soon passed with enthusiastic discussion and introduction to the company and the region.

Steven stayed at the hotel that is used by all of Fiestalonia's performers so he could experience first hand the facilities. There was just time for a very quick sample of the lunch before heading into one of the arrival meetings. These meetings are set up for the leaders of the groups to attend and be presented to the Fiestalonia staff and the curriculum for the festival events. The meeting was in Russian for the Eastern European participants and although the meeting was translated for him by Diana from the Sales department it was clear enough to follow without translation! As an added surprise Steven was interviewed by the attending press, a womans magazine from Moscow!

For the rest of the afternoon and evening Steven was given a tour of the local town and the stages where the contests are held. This included a 15th Century church where some of the choral and instrumental concerts take place. Most of the venues are outside to make the best experience for the performers and audiences in the sunny weather!

Monday morning started with a short walk to the Fiestalonia offices, stopping on the way for coffee! The day does not start in Spain until after the second coffee has been taken! Steven was introduced to the Fiestalonia staff, including the MD, David, and to the way of working and communication/organisation of the company. Then onto the contest venue – the Grand Casino, which has a sizeable stage and production facilities. The morning gave the participants some rehearsal time and Fiestalonia time to prepare for any special requests for lighting, sound levels and microphone set ups.

A working lunch was the ideal opportunity to discuss the differences between UK and continental Festivals before returning to the casino to witness the main contest. The contest had singers, instumentalists and dance groups participating from all over the World, including a couple of dancers from Iran. They had arrived after great difficulties in being allowed to travel and after Steven talked with them he discovered the complexities of them getting to Spain and the difficulties in dancing in Iran, as it is all underground!

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Foreword (continued)

Steven saw the Fiestalonia way of marking which is a little different to the UK standard, however it was good to see that the judges had almost the same opinions of the performances.

After another interview with the Russian magazine, Steven witnessed the preparations for the final routine for the Gala concert. Fiestalonia formulate a final routine in which all of the participants are on stage at the end of the festival for a Grand Final number. After returning to the hotel for dinner there was just enough time for a last discussion with Gary and saying farewells before a very early morning flight back to the UK!

A compact visit and a great experience with benefits for all concerned. Gary will be attending the AGM in October and at least now you can also ask Steven for his opinions and about his experience in Spain!!

Gary Leman, Marketing Manager, Fiestalonia Milenio

New Vice Presidents

We are delighted to announce that three new Vice Presidents have joined the Federation, each is outstanding in their field and has made a huge contribution to their discipline.

As Vice Presidents they will advocate the work of the Federation and encourage greater participation in all aspects of festivals as well as providing ideas for new initiatives and media opportunities that come to their attention.



Cecilia McDowall, Music Vice President

Born in London Cecilia has been described by the International Record Review as having 'a communicative gift that is very rare in modern music'. Often inspired by extra-musical influences, her writing combines a rhythmic vitality with expressive lyricism 'which is, at times, intensely moving'. She has won many awards and has been short-listed seven times for the British Composer Awards. In 2014 she won the British Composer Award for choral music. Her music has been commissioned and performed by leading choirs, including the BBC Singers, ensembles and at major festivals both in Britain and abroad and has been broadcast on BBC Radio and worldwide.

Her recent commissions include the Musicians Benevolent Fund St Cecilia anthem for the service of St Cecilia at St Paul's Cathedral, sung by the joint choirs of Westminster Abbey, Westminster Cathedral and St Paul's Cathedral, and liturgical works for Durham and Liverpool Cathedrals.

Commissions for 2014-2015 included a short chamber opera, Airborne, marking the centenary of the First World War and works for the BBC Singers and Westminster Cathedral amongst others. In March, 2015 Dulwich College staged the premiere of Some corner of a foreign field at King's College, Cambridge with the tenor soloist, Andrew Kennedy. Oxford University Press have signed Cecilia McDowall as an 'Oxford' composer and she is currently 'composer-in-residence' at Dulwich College, London. In 2013 she received an Honorary Doctorate in Music.

New Vice Presidents



Brenda Last, OBE, Dance Vice President

Brenda Last was born in London and educated at the Mary Datchelor Grammar School for Girls. She received her dance training at the Bidy Pinchard School of Dance and won the Adeline Genee Gold Medal in 1956. She then spent one year at the Royal Ballet School. In 1957 she was one of the founder members of Western Theatre Ballet which later became the Scottish Ballet.

In 1963 she joined the Royal Ballet becoming a principal dancer in 1965, dancing all major roles and appeared in Ashton's film of "The Tales Of Beatrix Potter". She was subsequently appointed Ballet Mistress and Repetiteur to the Company.

From 1977 - 1980 she was Artistic Director of the Norwegian National Ballet. Returning to London she joined the faculty of the London Contemporary Dance School where the first degrees in dance in Europe were awarded. She has taught throughout the world for the Royal Academy of Dance and given classes to the English National, Scottish, Royal New Zealand and Australian Ballet Companies. She has worked extensively with the Noriko Kobayashi Ballet in Tokyo where she mounted works from the Royal Ballet's repertoire.

A Vice President of All England Dance, she is currently Artistic Advisor and Fellow of the British Ballet Organisation, Patron of the Louise Browne Yorkshire Scholars and Kate Simmons Dance and Artistic Director of the Molly Lake Award. She was a Trustee of the Royal Ballet Benevolent Fund for 30 years.

She regularly teaches the Michael Clark Company where many of the dancers are her former students and in 2012 she was awarded the OBE for services to Dance.



Fiona Shaw, CBE, Speech Vice President

Fiona Shaw was born in County Cork and attended secondary school at Scoil Mhuire in Cork City. She received her degree in University College Cork and trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in London and was part of 'new wave' of actors to emerge from the Academy.

Fiona Shaw is often acclaimed as one of our finest classical actresses but has won quiet applause for her film forays too. She has an eclectic array of film credits, gathering plaudits for her role as a pretentious Anglophile in *The Butcher Boy* (1997) and stealing the show as the headmistress in *Three Men and a Little Lady* (1990). Fiona has also worked in film and television, including *My Left Foot*, *Jane Eyre*, *Persuasion*, *Gormenghast*, and five of the *Harry Potter* films in which she played Harry Potter's aunt Petunia Dursley.

Still first and foremost a stage performer, her mantelpiece groans with theatre awards, including three Laurence Olivier Awards for best actress, two London Critics' Awards and one New York Critics' Award for her performance in TS Eliot's *The Waste Land*.

She has extensive experience with the Royal National Theatre and was awarded an Officier des Arts et Lettres in France in 2000 and an honorary CBE in the 2001 New Year's Honours.

Festival Teachers Membership

As many of you are aware this is a new area of membership for the Federation and has only been up and running as an online forum since the start of this year. There has been considerable interest, which is really pleasing, and several Festivals and Adjudicators have signed up. An excellent start!

However, we now need to develop and grow the membership so that Teachers who are currently unaware of the Federation and all the marvellous opportunities available to their students can be made aware. Like all things it is really easy to sign up to things and forget about them, BUT I am urging and encouraging everyone who has signed up to the forum to regularly check it, bookmark it and to add new topics which they feel will be of interest and worthy of discussion and debate in a positive and constructive way.

Please help promote membership by creating awareness amongst ALL your colleagues, remembering that the forum is open to all the 3 disciplines of Music, Dance and Speech & Drama. Festivals please place adverts for the forum in you syllabi and programmes and talk about it whenever the opportunity arises and Adjudicators the same, please do mention it whilst visiting festivals.

As in many things, awareness grows through word of mouth as well as through social media etc. Please place the flyer on your website if you have one and let us see how much of an impact we can make and more importantly how many NEW Teachers we can reach out to so that their pupils can benefit from festivals in a way that we all know can be inspiring, motivating, encouraging and in some cases 'life changing'.

Remember, without Teachers would we actually have so many wonderful Festivals? Let's find more Teachers, get them involved and value them. Thank you.

Liz Childs, Member of the Board of Trustees and Music Adjudicator

Contact Information Update

Karen Anderson Music Adjudicator

Jill Baldock Dance Adjudicator

Drusilla Duffill Dance Adjudicator

Claire Jennings Dance Adjudicator

Jonathan Owen Speech and Drama
Adjudicator

Jenny Thornton Speech and Drama
Adjudicator

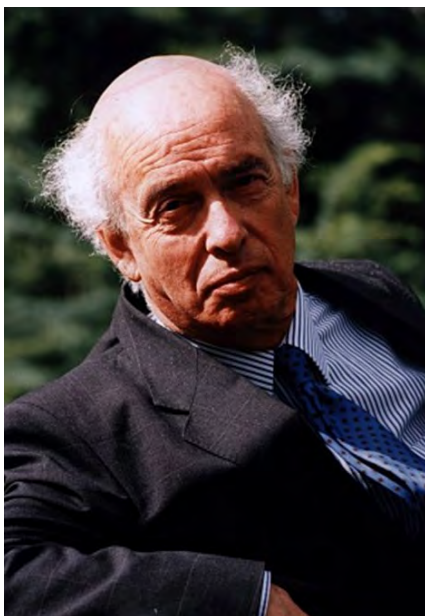
If you are a member of the Federation and require contact details please call Festivals House.

In Memory

It is with great sadness that we share the news that the President of The Newry Musical Feis, **Miss Ethel Fitzpatrick**, died on 22nd September, following a long illness.

Miss Fitzpatrick described herself as "...a child of the Feis"; she is particularly associated with Speech, Drama and Music taking part as a performer from early childhood until well into her adult years. She excelled as a teacher and entered her students across a variety of festival disciplines that ranged from First Steps Recorder to the most challenging aspects of the Speech syllabus.

She served as a Committee member from the late 1950s until 1973 when she was elected Chairperson, a position which she held until she took up the role of President in 2001.



It is with regret that we announce the death of **Lord Moser KCB, CBE, FBA** a great supporter of The British and International Federation of Festivals and our President from 1992-1999.

Music remained Moser's great passion throughout his life: he played Mozart and Bach concertos at occasional concerts at the LSE and enjoyed playing chamber music at home with friends.

Lord Moser was appointed Commander of the French l'Ordre National du Mérite in 1976 and awarded the Commander's Cross, Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1985. He was appointed CBE in 1965, KCB in 1973 and raised to the peerage in 2001.

Sir David Willcocks, (photo Maggie Heywood) one of the most respected and loved figures of British 20th century choral life, has died, aged 95.

Sir David was Music Vice President of the British and International Federation of Festivals since 1985..

It is for his time as Organist and Director of Music at King's College, Cambridge, a post he took up in 1957 and held until 1974, for which he will be best known, particularly among record listeners for whom riches from those years will form a part of most choral collections.



In Memory



A life well spent! During the Christmas holidays in 1983, my mother told me that she met Br. Paul in town. He said he was looking for some new stage stewards to help with the Feis, as he was expecting important guests from the Federation – the then Chairman Ian McIntyre and Secretary Eileen Crane. My mother also told me “I said you would”. Those four simple words brought me into closer contact with our then Festival President Br. Paul O’Donovan, OFM Cap. Over the next 31 years I would work alongside Br. Paul in various capacities, developing and supporting our Festival.

Br. Paul was born and grew up in the townland of Ballinacarriga, in Dunmanway, about 40 miles outside Cork city. He went to the local school and joined the Capuchin Order in Rochestown, Cork in his late teens. After profession he was assigned to the Capuchin Friary in Raheny in Dublin and subsequently to Holy Trinity Friary in Cork where he served for almost 35 years. He was first appointed Vice-President of the Father Mathew Hall and Feis Maitiú and after three years he was appointed President when he was still in his late 20s. Br. Paul was executive President of the Festival for the next 25 years.

Though he did not have a performance background, Br. Paul very quickly understood what a Festival was all about. But he also brought a very pragmatic administrative approach to the event. He developed a blueprint for the organisation of the Festival, one that we still use today. He saw the importance of a sound financial basis and utilised the building to include a tuck shop and coffee bar, building time into the programme so that these facilities could be exploited to support the Feis. We still do this today.

He saw the importance of attracting publicity and inaugurated an “Official Opening” each year, inviting senior cabinet Ministers, Deputy Prime Ministers, the Prime Minister and two serving Presidents of the Republic of Ireland to perform the Official Opening. It became an annual question “who is opening the Feis?” many wondering who Br. Paul had persuaded to perform this important function. This brought much publicity to the event each year.

But Br. Paul was keen to secure the financial stability of the Feis, and though out of office, he persuaded our local TD (MP) who happened to be the Minister for Education at the time, to set in motion an annual grant for the Festival. Though Ireland has suffered much during this recent period of austerity, and although this funding was reduced, it is still in place today and a vital pillar of the event.

Br. Paul was responsible for bringing the Cork Feis into the Federation, wanting to develop the art of adjudication, the syllabus and to set in place methods of good practice. His first Conference was at the Old Ship in Brighton (how ironic that we should be there again this year!) Br. saw how important this Annual event was to learn new ideas, to network and to meet potential adjudicators. As President he made every effort to attend each year, though I think he also enjoyed the opportunity to travel and to relish some good hotels! But he came away with new ideas, new contacts and always new friends. He had a certain charm and enjoyed the company of many of the lady adjudicators and organisers!

In 1994 Br. was reassigned within the Order to Guardian (community leader) of Holy Trinity Friary. He was sad to relinquish his position at the Feis, was not interested in personal promotion, but was conscious of his vow of obedience and complied with his superiors’ wishes. During this time he was also elected to the Governing Council of the Order in Ireland.

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A life well spent! (continued)

After seven years as Guardian he was again reassigned to the Rochestown Friary, just outside Cork City, where he remained for the rest of his life, serving as deputy Guardian and finally Guardian again for the last eight years. Through all this time he kept in touch with the Feis, helped out whenever he was needed and was always content to support and encourage the new Festival leadership, never pulling rank or experience. This is indeed a very special and unique skill, giving authority and encouragement.

All who met Br. Paul were touched by his gentle manner, his friendliness, his hospitality and his subtle sense of humour. He was above all a gentle gentleman in every sense of the word. At his funeral Mass, among the symbols representative of his life were the Feis Syllabus and the Federation 40 years long term service award presented to Br. Paul six years ago. The Capuchin Order have kindly given his long term service certificate and medal to me, which will now hang in our Festival Office.

On my own behalf and on behalf of all at the Feis, I thank everyone who sent messages of sympathy and support. We have been uplifted by so many kind words about Br. Paul, by so many personal stories and reminiscences and by so much heartfelt sadness at his passing. It has been a privilege to know and work with Br. Paul and I hope that we will long be able to carry on his wishes and aspirations for our Festival.

Timothy McCarthy, Director, Cork Feis Maitiú.

Flying the Safeguarding Flag

This month we are delighted to announce that the following Festivals have now completed their implementations of our new safeguarding approach and can fly the safeguarding flag:



Darlington Festival for Performing Arts

Fleetwood Music and Arts Festival

Kingston upon Hull Musical Festival

Lichfield Festival of Music

Mid Somerset Festival

Mid Sussex Competitive Music Festival

Oxford Music Festival

Rothwell Competitive Music Festival

Selston Music Festival

St Austell Festival of Music and Speech

Sutton Music Festival incorporating Speech and Drama

Wirral Festival of Music, Speech and Drama

New Members

New Festival Member



Web Theatre Drama Festival

Mr. I. Foster

www.webtheatre.biz

Speech and Drama

March annually



The Maltese Islands Festival of Drama, Music and Dance

Mrs. M. Mercieca

Music, Dance and Speech and Drama

February annually



Hampshire Festival of Dance

Mrs. Louise Jacquemin

Dance

February annually

Performance



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