



Amateur Festivals Everywhere

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



Newsletter Issue 20

January 2016

Word from Terry Luddington, CEO

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Well Happy New Year! Here is a quick summary of what the first 6 months of 2016 has in store for us...

If you have not done so already please make sure that you, and your friends and colleagues, write to your MP in **January** to help save creativity in our schools in England. Easy to use templates can be found here (www.baccforthefuture.com) or please contact me directly this week for assistance.

Last week I attended the BBC Ten Pieces Champions Day at the Barbican and it is clear that, with over 50% of all UK schools taking part so far, the Ten Pieces initiative is here to stay. Following the BBC's presentation at Conference last year I am delighted that so many of our members are now exploring how to incorporate Ten Pieces performance opportunities into their Festivals. If you need more information on how Ten Pieces could work at your Festival then please email me at bbctenpieces@4afe.co.uk. I hope this is the start of greater collaborative working with the BBC and I would therefore like to encourage members to look at staging an event on BBC Music Day Friday 3rd **June** as an opportunity to promote your work (please use the link www.bbc.co.uk/events/exh2mb to see what happened in 2015).

In **February** we will be promoting the work of the Federation and its members at the Music Education Expo (MEE2016) and the Musical Theatre & Drama Education Show (www.musiceducationexpo.co.uk) and in **March** at the UK's biggest Dance event — MOVEIT (www.moveitdance.co.uk). As part of these events we are delighted to be supporting the following seminar presentations "Mindfulness for Performers and Educators" from Federation Music Adjudicator — Fiona McLean-Buechel and "Safeguarding in the Competitive Dance World" from Federation Dance Adjudicator— Deborah Norris.

In **April** I have been invited to present our work to all the Combined Arts Representatives attending the National Federation of Women's Institutes (WI) Conference in Oxford. With over 212,000 members and 6,300 WIs across the UK I see this as a great opportunity to encourage greater partnership working between WIs and our Festivals. If you, or your Festival, already have strong links with your local WI then please let me know by email to terry@federationoffestivals.org.uk to help inform my presentation.

In **June** the Federation will be proud to play its part in the Patron's Lunch (www.thepatrons-lunch.com). As part of the celebrations the organisers are keen to capture and share personal photographs, thoughts and memories from events where the Queen has supported the work of the Federation and its members over the years. One example would be the Royal Reception held at St James's Palace on the occasion of our 70th Anniversary. If you have attended such an event, or know of someone who has, then please let me know so we can capture and share your stories in the coming months.

Thank you for your continued support for the work of the Federation and please watch this space for more news of our plans for later in the year as exciting times lie ahead for Amateur Festivals Everywhere.

New Federation Adjudicators and 10% discount

New Dance Adjudicator



Miss Danielle Drayton

AISTD, Dip(Hons)

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

BC,M,J,CO,T,S+D,MT,N,G,CD

New Speech and Drama Adjudicator



Mrs. Ann Bauer

MEd, BA(Hons), LRAM, LGSM, PGCE, DipSpLD

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

AD

The Board has confirmed that new Federation Adjudicators may offer a 10% discount for their first booking regardless of the number of sessions the engagement is for.

Originally the discount was only allowed for bookings of three sessions or more but it has now been agreed that the discount may be offered for any number of sessions but is only permissible for the first booking.

It is hoped this will encourage Festivals to consider offering a new Adjudicator their first engagement and will enable Festivals who may not be able to offer a full three session day to participate.

Federation Adjudicators who may offer this discount include Danielle Drayton and Ann Bauer, detailed above, as well as:

Karen Anderson	Music Adjudicator	Clarinet	f
Frances Eager	Music Adjudicator	Piano	cfbda
Peter Esswood	Music Adjudicator	Cello	dij

Festivals are advised to enquire if the new Federation Adjudicator is able to offer the 10% discount when they first make contact about an engagement.

2016 Year Book Updates

Mid Sussex Competitive Music Festival		updated email address for Rebecca Dowden rebeccadowden68@gmail.com
Scunthorpe Musical Festival		new contact details Mrs Lorraine Preston 01724 331704 sipreston783@gmail.com
Weymouth Dance Festival		correct email address for June Hornby is junehornby@uwclub.net
Susan Collier	Music Adjudicator	address: 96 Queens Avenue, Finchley, London, N3 2NP
Marilynne Davies	Music Adjudicator	Undertakings list should include 6 sessions at Haydn Wood
Fiona McLean-Buechel	Music Adjudicator	Surname spelt incorrectly in Year Book
Roy Robinson	Music Adjudicator	Principle instrument viola and piano
Tish Nicoll	Speech Adjudicator	Land line number is 01284 704993
Maeve O'Donoghue	Speech Adjudicator	Undertaking list should include 30 sessions at Armagh and Carrickfergus

Membership

New Provisional Festival



Blackpool Winter Dance Festival

Mrs. Francena Brown

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

www.blackpooldancefestivals.com

Dance

February annually

A Festival of Poetry Speaking in School

Jill O'Hare, a Federation Speech and Drama Adjudicator, was recently invited to participate in a wonderful new venture organised by Hounslow Festival of Music, Speech and Dance:

"In October 2015 a phone call put me in touch with Miss Patricia Barrett, Chairman of Hounslow Festival of Music, Speech and Dance because they needed an Adjudicator for their exciting new venture, taking their team of volunteers and an Adjudicator into a primary school for a Festival of poetry speaking.

"Off-site" visit was the term used by Hounslow Festival which fitted very well.

Each year group entered a class from Year 1 through to a combined class of Year 5 & 6. The school wished each class to have a first, second and third, and that the marks and categories were announced as part of the adjudication. The school - Stanhope Primary School, Greenford, Middlesex prepared the report sheets and produced a programme and certificates.

Hounslow Festival provided bronze, silver and gold medals for each class and stickers denoting the category that each performer had gained. I was told that if more than three medals were needed per class then that was permissible. It was wonderful to be able to present two additional silver medals to one class and four additional bronze medals to another.

The performers had all chosen their own poems..... so it was with some trepidation that I scanned the programme when it arrived by email. How pleasantly surprised I was at the choice of poets and variation in poetic themes. James Carter, Roger Stevens, John Foster, Carol Ann Duffy, Marian Swinger, William Blake, Eleanor Farjeon, Grace Andreacchi, just some of the poets and "Cardboard Box", "The Fly", "Poison Tree", "Spaghetti", "I did not eat the goldfish", "Football in the Rain" were among the poems.

In my usual research before a festival I was fascinated to realise that so many of the chosen poets were also musicians, and Jack Prelutsky in fact had abandoned a promising operatic career in order to continue with writing poetry. Talking about poems rhythms and musicality (only part of my adjudication of course), but linking some of it to music makers hopefully enriched my audiences and speakers awareness of many of the rhythmic variations. There was such an enthusiasm for poetry and performance in this school and as their speaker's technical mastery and sense of perception expand their respective choices will inevitably broaden. The Headmaster was gracious enough to listen to some of the performances and also to thank us all afterwards.

It was a very rewarding day, yes there were a few prompts needed etcetera, etcetera but the performers worked so hard at creating a sense of shared enjoyment with their wide-ranging choice of themes and complexity of poets' thoughts and language. The children were very supportive of each other, that was what really counted, they listened and applauded, this all helped to make the experience so worthwhile.

Hounslow Team and I hope that this idea will grow so that poetry is given even more recognition, which it truly deserves, in our wonderful list of Art Forms that embraces all cultures.

"Speech and Drama helps to develop and foster the imagination and creativity that our children gain through practising them". (Quote from the school programme).

Thank you Hounslow Festival team and Stanhope school for such a happy day."

Huddersfield Mrs Sunderland Festival 2016

An open evening was held on Wednesday 16 September in Huddersfield Town Hall to launch the 2016 Festival. It was hoped that present and potential sponsors, advertisers, performers, teachers, volunteers and audience would call in to see what would be happening in February.

Background music was provided by Jordan Earnshaw with the KMS String Quartet and pianist Kitty Byrne. Jordan and Kitty have both been playing at the Festival for many years.

The Mayor of Kirklees, Cllr Paul Kane, presented an Honorary Life Membership certificate to J Michael Hampshire who is retiring after more than 30 years of involvement with the Festival and who has been Chairman for the past 12 years.



The photograph on the left shows (from left to right) : Ray Brown (Chairman), Mayoress and Mayor of Kirklees, Susan Bedford and Cllr Paul Kane, J Michael Hampshire and Rosalind Watt (Festival Administrator).

With thanks to The Huddersfield Examiner for the photo.

An Honorary Life Membership certificate has also been given to Mrs. Jesse Jameson (left) whose life has been dedicated to the Festival, most recently as Chairman and President.



In Memory

Annie Chan of the Hong Kong Music and Speech Association is sad to announce the sudden death of **Teresa Leung**, the beloved Chairman of the English Speech Sub-committee.

Teresa had a delightful evening when she attended the English Speech's Working Dinner on 20th November but she was taken ill a few days later and passed away on Wednesday 16th December.

The Federation would like to offer its condolences to all her family, friends and colleagues.

It is with much sadness that we have to announce the death of Bond Syms, the Chairman of Mossgrove Youth Musical Festival who passed away earlier this month. He will be greatly missed by his friends in the festival community.

Hastings Musical Festival regret to announce that their former Speech and Drama Secretary, Doris Bridger, has sadly passed away.

Doris was a stalwart supporter of the Festival, volunteering for well over 30 years, 20 of which were as the Speech and Drama Secretary. A Service of Commemoration for Doris will be held on Saturday 6th February at 2pm at St. John's Church, Upper Church Road, St Leonards.

Godalming Music Festival Harpsichord classes

Godalming Music Festival have introduced a harpsichord class and Mariette Gardener, Piano Secretary, says:

“The idea of holding a Harpsichord Workshop came from the parent of one of our Music Festival entrants in 2014. Keen to expand the boundaries of the popular Piano section of our Festival, we tried out the idea last year in a local Community Centre which offered easy access for the instrument and performers alike. A local professional pianist and harpsichordist hosted the workshop and kindly provided the harpsichord as she has a "travelling" instrument which was easy to reassemble on site, in spite of its surprisingly large size.

The 2015 Harpsichord Workshop was held in September, deliberately placing it outside our main Festival time of February - March. We invited students through local piano teachers, and not all who attended were previous Festival entrants. Setting no age limit, our 7 entrants ranged from 9 years old to adult, with a range of ability from Grade 5 to Post-Diploma. With the rough guide that the workshop would help with List 'A' exam pieces, each student brought the piece they wished to play with them and was allowed at least 10 minutes to explore their piece on the harpsichord. This was a new and very different experience from playing the piano, and the students found it both fun and very informative.

The afternoon ended with tea and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.”

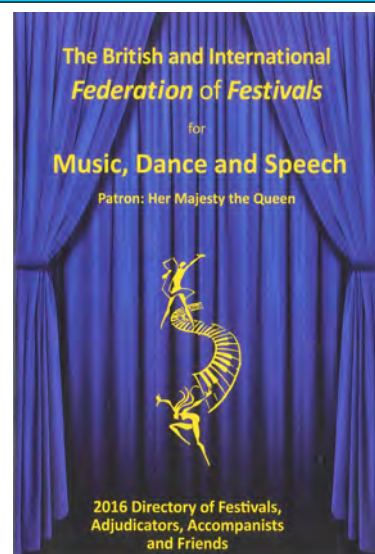
2016 Year Book and Organising a Festival

The 2016 Year Book has recently been published and a copy has been posted to each member.

We are also able to supply copies of Organising A Festival which is a very useful guide to current good practice for Federation Festivals and Adjudicators. You can view and print the documents from our website

www.federationoffestivals.org.uk/organising-a-festival/ .

If you require a hard copy of either publication they can be purchased at a cost of £5 each. Please contact Festivals House for details.



Performance

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

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