



Milsom School of Music
49 Peveril Road, Sheffield, S11 7AP
Phone: 0114 2682061
Mobile: 07730 539276
Email: ruth@milsom-music.co.uk
Website: www.milsom-music.co.uk

NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN TERM 2007

Dear Parents and Pupils,

The new academic year has arrived and has already seen a welcome expansion of activities for the Milsom School. Please take time to read this newsletter – we are very excited about the opportunities that continue to open up for us and hope to see you at some of the events listed below.

New teaching staff

We are delighted to welcome on board two new instrumental tutors – George Parsons and Lindsay O'Malley. Both come with an impressive music education behind them, and plenty of experience as performing musicians.

George has recently left a post as Music Director at Christ Church, Fulwood in order to take a Masters degree at the University of Sheffield. He will be teaching piano and theory, as well as taking some of the piano accompanying work that Ruth has, until now, done single-handedly (no pun intended!).

Lindsay has joined us to teach clarinet and saxophone and is rarely seen separated from her instruments. Both George and Lindsay are, like the rest of us in the Milsom School, real enthusiasts about music. We hope that this enthusiasm is infectious!

You can read more about George and Lindsay on our website.

David's research

(19th-century performance techniques)

The first year of David's research fellowship at Leeds University has proved highly fruitful. David has, as many of you know, had opportunities to speak and perform in lecture-recitals at several prestigious music conferences in England and Austria. This way of publicising his research into 19th-century performance style is becoming increasingly popular and is a unique way of transferring this invaluable knowledge to both the academic and performing communities.

Interestingly, David has experienced a marked difference in reception in England and on the Continent. Academics from central European countries (Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, etc.) formed the audience at the Austrian conference (marking the centenary of Joseph Joachim's death); the reception here was relatively dry and it seemed that David's work in re-adopting Romantic performance techniques was rather like casting seed on stony ground!

By contrast, at a recent (and rather dauntingly large) conference at Royal Holloway, Egham, people were queuing to congratulate David after his lecture-recital and to ask him questions about his work. This has already led to invitations to give similar lecture-recitals in California, Brazil, Estonia and Belgium – watch this space...

David and his colleagues give regular concerts in Sheffield and Leeds, as part of his ongoing research programme. Your next opportunity to witness this revolution in musical performance is on **Saturday 6th October** (see enclosed flyer) – don't miss it!

ABRSM Exams – Special Visit & Rehearsals

Monday 17th December is the date for our next exam session. This will be held, as before, at Birkdale School.

There will be an opportunity to rehearse for your exam (with piano accompaniment) in the venue itself, on **Saturday 1st December**. You can book your slot for a rehearsal by emailing us, or speak to your teacher to arrange a time.

Other Events This Term

Events for this term are all listed on our website. A copy of the information is also enclosed with this letter.

We would like to highlight the **Performance Workshop** on **Saturday 10th November**, which will be taken by Mari Bullock. The topic is "presentation skills"; Mari will be leading an interactive session designed to help pupils gain confidence in presenting themselves, and their music, on stage. *Please book early for this session*, either by emailing us, or by speaking to your teacher.

If you are nervous about participating in either a workshop or the end-of-term concert, we would still love to see you there as an observer (workshops offered at half price). No-one will pressurise you into doing anything, and we hope you will take these opportunities to gain from observation of others, and also to meet some of your fellow learners.

Best wishes for a productive term.

David & Ruth Milsom