



# Amateur Festivals Everywhere

The British and International Federation of Festivals



## Word from Steven Roberts, Chair of the Board of Trustees

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Dear Members,

I was delighted to preside over the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting in Edinburgh during our conference weekend. What a super conference we had. It was a delight to welcome familiar faces as well as new ones. In order to keep you all informed I have included an extract from my Chairman’s Speech which I believe gives a flavour of the past year;



One thing is certain in life and that is change, however, I hadn’t prepared myself for change at Festivals House so soon after becoming Chairman. I would like to thank both Gill Smithers and Terry Luddington for their help, support and indeed ability to embrace our movement and to support our members so well during the past three years. Their insight and attitude to what makes our movement successful was always present. We also said goodbye to administrative assistant Sarah Bronnert who wanted to develop her teaching and performance portfolio.

We needed to move forward and with Terry’s help, we did so. I am delighted to introduce to you our new General Manager Claire Lloyd; Michelle Surtees-Myers, our administrative assistant and Jazmine Linklater who is still relatively new and will be working on our marketing and PR. Fay Hayward and Mark Whittaker are both working hard at Festivals House but could not be with us on this occasion. I am sure you will have picked up from the previous Newsletter that Terry has not disappeared completely, but will be working with us on a part-time basis on business development.

We have lost a number of our members this year and it is always sad to hear of such news. It is important to remember their significant contribution to the Federation.

We are still working hard to bring our movement to a wider audience and to put us at the centre of the go-to people for advice and support for amateur festivals.

We moved our investments last year in a bid to improve the overall financial return and after a slow start and a worrying period shortly after the BREXIT vote, we appear to be on track. I would like to thank Clara Lane who has given the Board monthly updates on our investment performance.

The Elena Cobb Star Prize has been successful during the past year and will continue into 2017 Fiona McLean-Buechel, our newest Corporate Friend, delivered a fantastic session at conference on Mindfulness

for Performers and Educators. Our online calendar is still very popular and now has further improvements. We have also seen more festivals using social media to spread the word about the good work that they do. We have undertaken work at Festivals House to improve the working environment and have had new double glazing fitted, the heating system on both floors has been significantly improved, the roof porch has been replaced and we are currently looking at decorating and freshening the overall layout of Festivals House.

Regional championships are currently held in Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire and the North West, providing a showcase for our regional winners. These events will be running again in September 2017.

Since our last Conference in 2015, we have welcomed six new festivals (three as full members and three as provisional members) and three new adjudicator members with a steady stream of applications being received throughout the year.

Our Adjudicators and Festivals Councils continue to work hard throughout the year and provide invaluable support to both the Board and Festivals House staff.

We are continuing to look at how to make our Year Book more accessible and to receive information in a more timely manner. Our approach to safeguarding continues with 108 festivals having completed their implementation of the new approach and can fly the Safeguarding Flag. Currently over 70 Festivals are working toward implementing safeguarding. However, like most things the guidance is ever changing, but rest assured we will keep you informed of developments on this front. There are challenges ahead, in particular surrounding the child licensing legislation and the inconsistent application of this law. We have already begun to discuss this at the Festivals House and we will continue to provide much valued support in this area.

Social media generally has seen more activity and we will continue to seek out new ways of attracting attention for our work. I would ask you all to try to capitalise on the 250,000 young performers for whom all social media platforms are second nature.

We presented successfully at the Music Education Exposition and Musical Theatre and Drama Education Show as well as the MOVEIT exhibition. Both presentations were included at this year's conference.

One of my highlights was to attend The Patron's Lunch in June which was the finale to a weekend long celebration on the occasion of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Representatives from all of the Queen's 600 organisations and charities attended and despite the rain we had a marvellous time. 22 of our members attended and had the opportunity to meet and speak to both the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and some of us even managed to get snapped for OK magazine. I have to admit my Patron's Hamper has come in very hand during the summer.

We continue to work alongside the BBC as one of their BBC Ten Pieces Champions and last year a number of our Festivals did some work under the banner of this excellent initiative. We have recently learned that the BBC will be releasing a new set of ten pieces early next year for the 2017/18 academic year which should give a better lead in time for our Festivals who wish to promote this initiative.

This year's conference was about all choices and we were delighted to bring you some choices. The Board and indeed many members have considered ways of us trying to freshen our brand and our look and even our name. We have been working with a designer to try and make our logo and image more current and more relevant to now. We displayed banners and postcards at conference so that members could provide feedback. For our members who were unable to attend conference, we have put information in this edition of the Newsletter so please share your thoughts.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their support and know that we can move forward and shape the movement to be able to continue supporting young performers for many years to come. Thank you.

## Announcements

### Highest Overall Mark Awards

It has been agreed that in the case of two or more identical marks in an Overall Award, the winner should be decided by the Adjudicator based on technical and artistic merit. This applies when a cup is awarded to the highest mark over several ages. These cups are mostly awarded at dance festivals.

## Federation Forum Meetings

Attending your local Federation Forum meeting is a great way to share good practice, discuss issues affecting the festival movement and meet contacts in your region. Please note that all Federation members are free to attend their local Federation Forum meeting.

## Proud to be a member? Then let's shout about it!

We think being a member of the British and International Federation of Festival is something that we should all be very proud of. It helps to promote the work of the Federation and therefore the profiles of our members. For our Adjudicator and Accompanist members, we would ask for you to make sure that you note your affiliation to the Federation in your biographies. For our Festival members we ask you to note not only your own affiliation to the Federation but also make sure that you note your chosen adjudicator's affiliation in your programmes too.

## Adjudicator Engagement

We have heard from a few of our adjudicator members recently who have experienced some inconvenience when they have thought that they have been engaged by a festival only to find out that they haven't. It appears that this confusion has occurred when festivals have sent out multiple invitations to adjudicators and have accepted the first adjudicator to respond. We would therefore discourage sending multiple invitations to avoid any confusion.

## New Adjudicators

Starting as a new Federation adjudicator can bring with it some uncertainty as the adjudicator starts to establish themselves and develop their reputation. We would like to encourage our new adjudicators so they flourish and grow. If you are a festival that uses over four adjudicators, have you thought about giving a new adjudicator an opportunity? We will always publish the details of any new adjudicator in the Newsletter so why not keep your eye on the new additions to our membership and perhaps try something new?

## Celebration at Springboard

At the recent AGM of Springboard Festival, both June Ingleton and Heather Cowl were presented with medals from The Federation for 50 years' service to the Festival! It was also a celebration of other members' 80th birthdays. Ursula made the stunning cake pictured.

From left to right: Linda Battacharya, June Ingleton, John Ingleton, Professor Gavin Henderson (Festival President), Ursula Eastwood, Maxine Toff, Jenny Leworthy and Heather Cowl.



## Longwell Green Eisteddfod—70th Anniversary

The Longwell Green Eisteddfod celebrated their 70th anniversary this year with the cutting of a cake by the founder of the Eisteddfod, Mrs Kath Hook, who started the Eisteddfod one Sunday evening in 1946. Since then it has been going from strength to strength with entries in all sections; Speech and Drama, Vocal, Piano, Instrumental and Dance - and now runs from Monday to Saturday.

The photo shows the founder, Mrs Kath Hook, cutting the cake helped by the Dance adjudicator, Miss Tanya Allen.



## New Festival Members

It's with great pride that we can now announce full membership has been awarded to the following festival:

### **Dulwich Music Festival (June)**

[www.dulwichmusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.dulwichmusicfestival.co.uk)

Festival Organiser: Lorraine Liyanage

**If you are a Federation member and require contact details please request them from Festivals House.**





## News from Spain



Our member festival based in Spain, Fiestalonia, have had a busy summer season!

They have had performers from all over the world participating in their summer festivals in Spain on the wonderful Costa Brava and in Italy in the relaxing spa town of Montecatini.

Highlights of the Festivals have included an outstanding choir from South Africa who performed a great mix of African Tribal songs along with contemporary choral music and even Mac the Knife. They enjoyed performing in the Spanish sunshine but the highlight of their tour was the performance in the famous Sagrada Familia in Barcelona.

One of the most popular Festivals was the Sea Sun Festival in July. They used a new stage location which was right next to the beach which gave a stunning backdrop of the Mediterranean and a welcome sea breeze.

Fiestalonia invite you to see their video reports at [www.fiestalonia.net](http://www.fiestalonia.net)

Some of you may remember Gary Leman who presented at last year conference. He reminds us that he is still interested in offering support in the way of advertising and prizes for your Festivals.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with him at [gary@fiestalonia.net](mailto:gary@fiestalonia.net)



## New Festival Members

It's with great pride that we can now announce full membership has been awarded to the following festival:

**London International Music Festival (July)**

[www.internationalmusicfestival.london](http://www.internationalmusicfestival.london)

Festival Organiser: Adele Youngs

**If you are a Federation member and require contact details please request them from Festivals House.**



## BBC Ten Pieces



After a glorious summer of Ten Pieces culminating in two sell-out Proms, we are excited about the next stage. BBC Ten Pieces will be inviting creative responses from all age groups inspired by all of the music they have brought to you over the past two years. A new look website will be unveiled later this year making it easier for you to use the wealth of resources built up over the first two years of the project and introducing new material.



The BBC are gearing up to announce the brand new set of Ten Pieces early next year, ready for the 2017/18 academic year—giving our festivals plenty of time to consider adding this great scheme into their programmes.

If you would like to incorporate BBC Ten Pieces into your festival then please contact Festivals House, or find out more by visiting the [Ten Pieces Website](#).

**BBC Learning**  
Transforming lives through education

## New Mentoring Scheme

BBC Ten Pieces are inviting expressions of interest from all organisations working with musicians aged 10-18! Get in touch to show how your young musicians would benefit from working with BBC professional musicians—**deadline Nov 21st**.

To find out more about the scheme, [click here](#).

If you would like to take part, please download and return to the BBC this [Expression of Interest Form](#).



## BBC Music Day 2017—Friday 9th June

The Ten Pieces uploader will be open in early 2017 and we're looking for a record number of creative responses from you all. Any age group can participate and any art form that responds to the project will be included in an online celebration on BBC Music Day.

You can also get involved in BBC Music Day by putting on your own special Ten Pieces assemblies. This is a fantastic way for schools to get involved in the UK-wide celebrations. The challenge is on to create the biggest collection of school music assemblies across the UK on June 9th.

How will you get involved? Show BBC Ten Pieces your ideas [here!](#)

## In Memory Of Anthony Walker-Morecroft

Anthony passed away peacefully at home on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

He was the much loved husband of Allison Walker-Morecroft, Federation music adjudicator, father to six children; four daughters and two sons, and grandfather to nine grandchildren. Anthony was a school master at Welbeck College for 33 years but also enjoyed singing. He took part in festivals in his youth and later became the treasurer of Norfolk County Youth Festival.



## Margaret Maxwell-Timmins

On October 9th, 2016, peacefully at home after a long illness, Margaret aged 89 years passed away. Margaret was the wife of the late Donald Maxwell-Timmins. Donald was the Chairman who preceded Margaret Venables.

She was much loved by her family, friends, carers and her best friend Janet.

## Trudi Thatcher

Trudi joined Highbridge Festival of The Arts' Festival Team in 2006 as a member of the Catering Committee. After a few years, she joined the Dance Team and then took on the role of Sponsorship Secretary, raising funds for the Festival, particularly at a time when they were much needed. Trudi became Vice Chairman of the Festival in 2012, progressing to Chairman in 2014. Sadly, she passed away in June of this year. In the ten years that she was involved with Highbridge Festival she was highly respected for being hardworking, straight-forward and committed.

## Mollie Petrie

We were saddened to learn of the death of Mollie Petrie, Vocal Adjudicator, earlier this year. Mollie was one of our leading Vocal Adjudicators in the 70s, 80s and 90s. She was a great Festival supporter, a very busy adjudicator and very knowledgeable on her subject.

As a performer, Mollie sang for 40 years in oratorio, recital and opera. She was a regular soloist with the BBC West of England in recital and was a founder member of the BBC West of England Singers.





## Members' Directory Updates

Updates to the Adjudicator information published in the Year Book:

**Daniel Chandler** Music Adjudicator

**Jacquelyn Fugelle** Music Adjudicator

**If you are a Federation member and require contact details please request them from Festivals House.**

## Members' Directory Updates

Updates to the Festival information published in the Year Book:

**Barnsley Youth Music and Drama Festival**

**Name changed** from Co-operative Youth and Music Festival. [www.barnsley-y MDFestival.co.uk](http://www.barnsley-y MDFestival.co.uk)

**Bristol Dance Eisteddfod**

**New Festival Organiser:** Elaine Bailey

**Exeter Dance Festival**

**New Festival Organiser and Secretary:** Kathryn Tayler

**Hornsea Music Festival**

**Updated email address for Festival Organiser:** Christine Jarratt

**Inverness Music Festival**

**New Festival Organiser and Chairman:** Jean Slater

**North Lincolnshire Music and Drama Festival (Brigg)**

**Updated email address for Festival Organiser:** Julie Smith

**Watford Festival of Music, Speech and Drama**

**New Festival Organiser and Chairman:** Jennifer Hill

**New Vice Chairman:** Martin Clarkson

**Wyre Forest Dance Festival**

**New Festival Organiser:** Helen Leek

**If you are a Federation member and require contact details please request them from Festivals House.**



## Friends of The Federation

Updates to the information published in the Year Book:

<b>Margaret J. Venables</b>	President of The Federation & Fellow of The Federation
<b>Melody Bridges</b>	New Friend of the Federation
<b>Elizabeth Sharp</b>	New Friend of The Federation

**If you are a Federation member and require contact details please request them from Festivals House.**

## A Warm Welcome To our new Corporate Member

**Fiona McLean-Buechel**

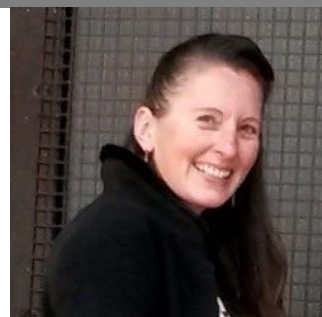
**If you are a Federation member and require contact details please request them from Festivals House.**



## To our newest Music Adjudicator

**Fiona Berry      Saxophone fjcgd**

**If you are a Federation member and require contact details please request them from Festivals House.**



## Online Events Calendar

You might have noticed that on the website we've upgraded to a new events calendar. As some members are already aware, this has meant a change in procedure for festivals to submit the details of their events. From now on please contact Jazmine or Michelle at Festivals House with all the necessary information and they will see to it that your festival is put into the calendar.

**Please include the dates of your festival, the times and the location.**

You can view the new calendar by clicking here:  
<http://www.federationoffestivals.org.uk/calendar/>

## Conference in Edinburgh 2016



Conference this year was jam packed with enthusiasm and fresh ideas from all our delegates. The weekend opened with a high energy ceilidh, with music from Strung, Drawn and Quartered – a hugely talented young group from Scotland. They managed to fill up the dance floor and it was an honour to see them perform.

Saturday saw us all get our thinking caps on. The day started with Sir Anthony Seldon's brilliant speech on the importance of arts education. There were sessions for all disciplines, and fruitful debates and ideas came out of each one.

Sunday morning saw something a little different, as Fiona McLean-Buechel had us practicing mindfulness in the most surprising of ways involving dancing and even some shouting! To close the day we had an incredibly moving performance from the band Equilibrium, which was set up with the help of charity Drake Music Scotland. Drake Music Scotland offer opportunities for disabled musicians to write and perform. You can find out more at [www.drakemusicscotland.org](http://www.drakemusicscotland.org).

Finally, it was with great excitement that we could reveal the date and location of our next conference, which will be held in the West Midlands from the 22nd to 24th September 2017.

Attached is Tim McCarthy's excellent report of the discussions and outcomes from his session, 'Declining Speech Entries and Disappearing Teachers' and we will be passing on further reports from conference to you in the coming months.



## Rebrand Ideas



### THE BRITISH & INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FESTIVALS

As many of you are already aware, at this year's Annual Conference we unveiled some ideas for a fresh new look to take us all forward. The festival movement is an ever-changing environment so it's essential that we continue to develop in order to attract the young performers of tomorrow. These young performers may well grow into our future teachers, adjudicators, accompanists and festival organisers. We really want to encourage them to start their performance journey with us.

The simple logo at the top comprises three spotlights to represent our three disciplines. The three points of the spotlights also form a crown, referencing our Royal Patron, Her Majesty the Queen. Below are three sub-logos, that we envisage being used in your syllabus/programme on the relevant pages, or on relevant web pages.

We have already had some great feedback and are so appreciative of everyone who has taken the time to consider the potential of these new designs and feed their ideas back to us.

If you haven't already done so, please contact Festivals House to let us know your thoughts!



**We want to consult our members and move towards a new look that will serve everyone equally and positively. We're really looking forward to hearing your opinions on this, and can't wait to move forward together.**

# Performance

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

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