

A close-up photograph of a red acoustic guitar. The guitar is the central focus, with its body, neck, and headstock visible. A fish-shaped pickguard is attached to the lower part of the body. The background is dark, making the red guitar stand out. The text is overlaid on the guitar.

# **Leicestershire Music Teachers' Conference**

**Friday 18 November 2011**

Beaumanor Hall,  
Woodhouse, Leicestershire

**Workshop Information**  
and  
**Speaker Biographies**



## **Keynote Speaker - Dame Evelyn Glennie**

**Dame Evelyn Glennie** is one of the most eclectic and innovative musicians on the scene today. She is constantly redefining the goals and expectations of percussion. By combining superb technique, a profound appreciation of the visual and her astonishing musicality, Evelyn creates performances of such vitality that they almost constitute a new type of performance.

Now also in demand as a keynote speaker, Evelyn draws on her amazing wealth of experiences as an international performer using her skills as a musician and sound creator.

Evelyn speaks passionately about subjects including education, business and, of course, music. Her speaking engagements are defined as a 'dialogue with a difference' using the medium of music to demonstrate and enhance the importance of our listening skills amongst the cacophony of modern day sounds.

## **KS 1 & 2: Singing Playgrounds - Ula Weber**

**Based on Ex Cathedra's internationally acclaimed *Singing Playgrounds* project, this workshop explores children's singing games and how they can be used to support teaching and learning across the curriculum. Suitable for non-music specialists, activities will include:**

- **Warm ups for children**
- **KS1 and KS2 singing games**
- **An introduction to effective vocal leading**

For more information on Ex Cathedra's Singing Playgrounds project please go to Ex Cathedra's website [www.excathedra.co.uk](http://www.excathedra.co.uk) or contact the office on 0121 2129129 / [education@excathedra.co.uk](mailto:education@excathedra.co.uk)

**Urszula Weber (Ula)** is a freelance choral animateur, singer, teacher trainer and classroom music specialist whose work has taken her as far afield as Ukraine and Bangkok. Formerly a primary school teacher, she is now Vocal Projects Manager with Sandwell Youth Music and Arts. As well as singing with the renowned choir Ex Cathedra, Ula is also Project Leader for Ex Cathedra Education's internationally acclaimed *Singing Playgrounds* project. She is Artistic Director for the annual summer school for gifted and talented young singers in Derby and is a conducting tutor and Head of Events for the national choral organization Sing for Pleasure. A trained choral conductor, Ula is often invited to guest conduct at choral events across the country. She founded and currently conducts the Sandwell Youth Choir, the Kent Teachers' Choir and The National Polish Folk Choir of Great Britain "*Echo Doliny*".

## **KS 1 & 2: Compose Yourself - Rebecca Lawrence**

**If you love singing, dancing and generally having fun with your pupils then this course is right up your street - or perhaps you would like to be more expressive and creative with the children but haven't quite taken the plunge!**

**I will attempt to drench you in as many creative musical activities as possible - so that you have a bundle of ideas that you could literally do the next day. I want to rekindle your passion for music and give you the courage and desire to try new things.**

**We will look at tried and tested repertoire, musical games and activities, as well as exploring how to let children lead music sessions and how as adults we need to sometimes step back and sing with them rather than at them!**

**Be prepared to sing, wiggle and laugh!**

**Rebecca Lawrence** works as a choral animateur, workshop leader and songwriter. Her dynamic and enthusiastic approach has inspired teachers across the country and her songs continue to motivate children, teachers and parents, to express their love of singing and make lasting memories.

## **KS 1 & 2: Boomwhackers in Action - Geraldine Gaunt and Phil Needham**

**Have you got sets of Boomwhackers that are gathering dust? Are they just sitting on top of a piano looking pretty and colourful? Are you clueless as to how to get the most from them? If so then this fun, hands on, active workshop is just for you!**

**The session will explore Geraldine and Phil's latest publication 'Boomwhackers in Action' that contains:**

- **Lots of original performing and composing activities that are suitable for upper KS1, KS2 and lower KS3**
- **Ideas on how to integrate Boomwhackers with other tuned and untuned percussion**
- **Original stimulating backing tracks and interactive materials to promote learning and understanding using Boomwhackers**

**For this workshop, you will need comfortable clothing, a sense of humour and a smiling face!**

Geraldine Gaunt, Senior Officer for Music and Phil Needham Assistant Officer for Music both work for Wakefield Local Authority. They have created many successful resources for schools over the years and their popular workshops for children, staff and organisations are in great demand up and down the country.

Geraldine & Phil work closely together and are passionate believers that music making is for all children and all teachers. Their inclusive approach permeates the many resources that they have developed from the popular 'SEAL Songs in Action' through to 'Funky Feet.' They were very proud to recently have several songs included in the national 'Sing Up' magazine and website, one of which was performed over four days by over 16,000 children as the finale to the Primary Proms at the Royal Albert Hall!

## **KS 1, 2, 3 and 4: Taste of Taiko - Jonathan Kirby and Hannah-Jasmine Brunskill**

During a Kagemusha 'Taste of Taiko' session, you will:

- **Get an understanding of the basic principles of taiko - attitude, kata, technique and ki - and its origins**
- **Experience playing taiko just as you would teach others from the simplest detail of how to stand correctly to learning a melody pattern and playing it in a team**
- **Have the enjoyment of playing taiko as a part of a group**
- **Celebrate success on every simple step of the way**
- **Address issues around implementing taiko successfully within a learning environment**
- **Have an opportunity to ask questions**
- **Have fun!**

Kagemusha Taiko is an arts education company based in Exeter whose artistic director and principal teacher is **Jonathan Kirby**. Jonathan is a fully-qualified teacher and has maintained a strong focus on education throughout his pioneering work with taiko in the UK. As well as teaching 4 junior groups and 2 adult groups in Exeter, he and his team travel around the UK delivering the complete teacher-training programme that he has developed over the past 12 years. As well as dedicating their time and energy to education, Kagemusha Taiko perform nationally and internationally, working with some of the world's leading players as they create and perform original taiko repertoire, driven by artistic excellence.

## **KS 2 and 3: SEN Music and Dyslexia in the Classroom - Dr. Katie Overy**

This workshop will cover the followings areas: -

- **The neuroscience of music**
- **Musical rhythm games designed for dyslexic children to support language skills**

**Dr Katie Overy** graduated in Music from the University of Edinburgh, and went on to study the psychology of music at Sheffield University. Her doctoral research explored dyslexic children's difficulties with timing skills and the potential of musical rhythm games in the language classroom. After studying at the Kodaly Pedagogical Institute of Music, Hungary for 9 months, she then spent 2 years at Harvard Medical School, learning brain-imaging techniques and conducting music neuroscience research. She joined the University of Edinburgh in 2004, where she is currently a Senior Lecturer in Music.

## **KS 2, 3, & 4: Creative Conducting - Tom Williams**

This workshop covers the following aspects of conducting:

- **Effective rehearsal planning and execution**
- **Repertoire choice**
- **Practical help and tips**
- **Resources and helpful contacts**

**Tom Williams** was born in Halifax, West Yorkshire, in 1977. A former Chorister of Ripon Cathedral and Music Scholar at Uppingham School, Tom went up to Cambridge University in 1977 where he was Senior Choral Scholar in the choir of King's College. He directed Collegium Regale, an a cappella vocal ensemble comprising of the scholars, who toured internationally and released a disc on the Qulisma label. Since 2000 he has worked as a professional singer, conductor and vocal tutor. He is a regular member of the Exaudi Vocal Ensemble, Polyphony, the Choir of the Enlightenment and also a Choirman of the Temple Church. He is represented as an oratorio soloist by Jill DaviesArtistManagement. He has sung in prestigious concert halls all over the world and also had the privilege of working with high profile conductors such as Kurt Masur, Sir Mark Elder and Sir Andrew Davies amongst others. He is Music Director of Leicestershire Chorale, an award-winning chamber choir who work regularly with the Bardi Symphony Orchestra and the period instrument ensemble The Saraband Consort. He is also Artistic Director of YouthFindaVoice, a project which aims to promote choral singing in Leicestershire Senior Schools. He has worked as a guest conductor at the Dartington International Summer School, with the Temple Singers and the Northampton Bach Choir.

### **KS 3 & 4: Recording for Dummies - Robert Abba**

**A basic guide on starting or improving on recording GCSE / A' Level course work or class work from any key stage. It will include:**

- **Choosing the right microphone**
- **Putting the microphone in the right place**
- **The recording process**
- **Choosing and purchasing the equipment**

After studying electronic engineering and music technology at York University, **Robert Abba** immediately started in education with a technical role; building, maintaining and teaching the use of a Further Education College's studio. He then lectured Music Technology for 5 years, specialising in recording, acoustics and synthesis. Robert now works as a full time teacher of music and music technology at Beauchamp College. Recording remains his main passion and he especially enjoys pupils' excitement when their GCSE / A' Level composition has been brought to life in the studio.

### **KS 3 & 4: Body Percussion (Using your body as an instrument) - Victoria Leith**

**This session will explore how using their bodies as an instrument not only offers each child the opportunity to learn an instrument but also keeps them fit and enables them to explore how to be self-disciplined and work as a team , learning**

**how the teacher can facilitate and encourage the students to discover rhythm patterns for themselves.**

**Victoria Leith** is a qualified teacher - she graduated in 1998 and taught for two years as an English and Music specialist in a middle school. She then went on to set up her own performing arts in education collective and worked in schools for six years, facilitating workshops for children from 4 to 18 years of age, mainly focusing on body percussion, singing, song-writing and citizenship. She now offers training to schools based on wider opportunities activities - and every child learning an instrument for free - themselves! She also works one day a week in a Montessori school and has one daughter, aged 4.

## **KS 3 & 4: How Important is a Music Education Anyway? - Dr. Jonathan Savage**

**This workshop will look at the current state of music education in the United Kingdom. It will consider why a music education is important for all children, what it should contain and who should be involved in delivering it. The presentation itself will be followed by opportunity for discussion and debate .**

**Jonathan Savage** is a Reader in Education at the Institute of Education, Manchester Metropolitan University. He has a number of research interests, including implementing new technologies in education, cross-curricular approaches to teaching and learning, creativity and assessment. He writes a regular column for *Music Teacher*.

He is Managing Director of Ucan.tv ([www.ucan.tv](http://www.ucan.tv)), a not-for-profit company that produces educational software and hardware including Sound2Picture ([www.sound2picture.net](http://www.sound2picture.net)) Sound2Game ([www.sound2game.co.uk](http://www.sound2game.co.uk)) and Hand2Hand ([www.hand2hand.co.uk](http://www.hand2hand.co.uk)). Free moodle courses are available at [www.ucan.me.uk](http://www.ucan.me.uk). He also manages the Roland Champion Schools initiative on behalf of Roland UK. Jonathan runs an active blog at [www.jsavage.org.uk](http://www.jsavage.org.uk) and can be followed on Twitter @jpjsavage.

## **KS 3 & 4: Ways into Songwriting - Em Whitfield Brooks**

**This workshop will look at:**

- **A broad range of approaches to whole group songwriting**
- **Building songs through riffs and patterns**
- **Finding Lyrics**
- **Exploring Structure**
- **Working with Harmony**
- **Encouraging 'non-singers'**

**Em Whitfield Brooks** is a singer, songwriter, director, facilitator and ex-clown working with groups of all ages and abilities in the search for musical, vocal and personal liberation. She has led diverse singing, music and theatre projects since 1987, and works in schools, colleges, community and corporate settings across the UK and internationally.

A published songwriter, Em worked at The Sage Gateshead for seven years on numerous projects; she was Advisor for Sing Up Vocal Force for three years and travelled the UK as Sing Up National Trainer for the programme's duration. She is director of the 250-strong Hull Freedom Chorus, is writing a community play for the Stephen Joseph Theatre Scarborough and has also led projects for Youth Music, West Yorkshire Playhouse, York Theatre Royal and Scunthorpe Cooperative Junior Choir. Em has taught at Leeds College of Music, York St Johns University and music education conferences across the UK. She is founder/director of Ryedale Festival Community Opera, co-director of Angus & Ross Theatre Company, and one half of vocal duo The Ruby Larks.

## **KS 3 & 4: Jazz in School - Nick Weldon**

**The presentation will touch upon:**

- **Rhythmic foundations**
- **Basic jazz harmony**
- **Jazz improvisation**
- **Ensemble skills**
- **Repertoire**

**Nick Weldon** is well known as a jazz pianist in the UK.

Frequently seen as a sideman in hard-swinging bands (eg those of Don Weller, Spike Robinson, Bobby Wellins, Tommy Chase, Pat Crumly) Nick was also the accompanist of choice for many touring American artists (eg Sonny Stitt, Jimmy Witherspoon, Johnny Griffin, Eddie Henderson, Bobby Watson, Dewey Redman).

Nick is also known as a sensitive accompanist of singers, having worked with Annie Ross, Jimmy Witherspoon, Andra Sparks, Carol Kidd, Christine Tobin, Trudy Kerr, Sheila Jordan, Mark Murphy and many more).

He has his own record label, Verge, and has released two trio albums *Lavender's Blue* and *Live at the Albert* (both with Andy Cleyndert and Paul Clarvis), and two quintet albums *People We Once Knew* and *Your Time* (both with Andra Sparks).

Nick has published the novel 'Idristan', has had a play broadcast on Radio 4 ('Laura-Mae and the Olivardies'), and released a poetry single 'If I were a Gong', with percussionist Paul Clarvis.

He is currently working on a series of video poems 'Shoefactory Songs', which can be found on YouTube.

Nick plays double bass in several orchestras, and has a trio with Andra Sparks and guitarist Dominic Ashworth called *Strumpluck Warbletwang*.

He is professor of jazz piano, double bass, jazz history, improvisation and ensemble at Trinity College of Music, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and Jazz School UK.