

# Coffee Concert – Taunton Young Musicians

The Castle Hotel, Castle Green, Taunton, TA1 1NF

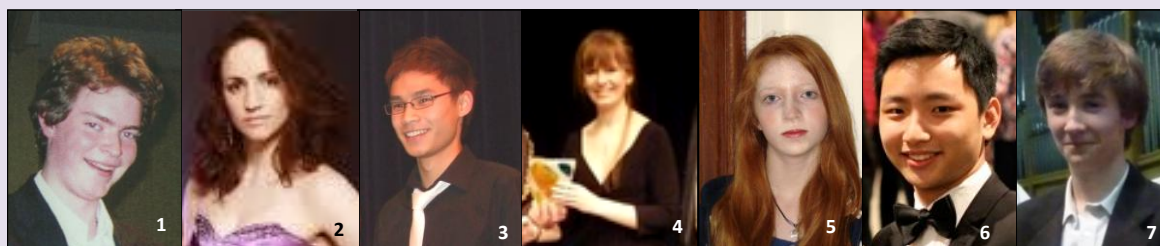
Monday July 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m. for 11:00 a.m.

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This is the first in what promises to be a superb series of high-quality concerts this week in the prestigious surroundings of Taunton's finest hotel, noted for its espousal of fine music performances. Each concert will begin at 11:00 a.m. but coffee will be served first from 10:30 onwards.

## Taunton Young Musician Competition

This competition was launched in 2006, the brainchild of Mavis Kettlewell, and each year has brought truly worthy winners, fine musicians with great musical careers ahead of them.



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|---------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| (1) 2007 – Peter Oakley   | Countertenor | (2) 2008 – Alexandra Wynn  | Mezzo-soprano |
| (3) 2009 – Chris Ma       | Piano        | (4) 2010 – Laura Hammonds  | 'Cello        |
| (5) 2011 – Kirsty Chaplin | Piano        | (6) 2012 – Weng Soon Tee   | Piano         |
| (7) 2013 – Edward Creed   | Piano        | (8) 2014 – Mollie Stallard | Bassoon       |

Since those early days, additional competitions now reflect the increase in specialisation by our young musicians and singers. The Taunton Junior Young Musician was added in 2012 and in 2014 came a separate vocal competition – Taunton Young Singer. With the growth in the number of schools and examining boards giving opportunities for Music Theatre, this year the Festival of the Arts included a new competition, for the Taunton Young Music Theatre Singer.

## The Class of 2015

The competition season this year has been another stunning success, with the following results:



### Taunton Young Singer – Eyra Norman

Currently a student at Wells Cathedral School, in 2009 Eyra gained a certificate of merit for the Hong Kong Music & Speech Association, and a distinction in 2011 her ABRSM Grade 5 theory exam. Apart from singing (which she does superbly!) Eyra enjoys reading, swimming, tennis, computer games and playing the piano.



### Taunton Young Musician – Victoria Creighton (Flute)

Victoria started the flute aged 10 at the Central Music School in Moscow. In 2013 she was winner of the Two Moors Festival Competition and second in the British Flute Society competition in London. This year she won the Wells Cathedral School concerto competition with the opportunity to perform this coming February.



### Taunton Junior Young Musician – Ella Leonard (Oboe)

Ella is at Wellington School where she plays oboe in the Symphony Orchestra as well as in a double reed group. A member of the National Children's Orchestras of Great Britain for the past four years with whom she has played in concert halls around the country, most recently in the Royal Festival Hall. She also enjoys playing the cor anglais and the piano.



### Taunton Young Music Theatre Singer – Hannah Deason-Barrow

Performing is her greatest passion – Hannah is currently studying music, drama and sociology at Richard Huish College and is a singing pupil of Linda Marshall Cole. She recently gained a Grade 8 distinction in singing and Grade 8 in Musical Theatre. She lives and breathes musical theatre and her dream is to perform in London's West End

So who will be at our Coffee Concert? **We're not actually sure at this point!** All of these young artists are at a stage in their lives where they are doing gap years, seeking places in universities or conservatoires and making all the decisions which will determine their futures. Whoever appears, we guarantee a fine morning's music.