

# TAUNTON FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Affiliated to the British & International Federation of Festivals of which Her Majesty the Queen is Patron

## 2015 HANDBOOK



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# IMAGINE!

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dance, opera ...

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# TAUNTON FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

## Howard Goodall - Our Distinguished Patron

I am honoured to be patron of this fine and eclectic festival, focussing as it does on encouraging and promoting rising talents of the future. It is admirable that the festival reaches across art forms, taps into the huge well of skills being developed in, for example, musical theatre, a field in which I have been able to witness first-hand over three decades a thrilling growth in the breadth and expertise of performers. In all artistic genres, creative journeys begin with the support, challenge and enthusiasm of festivals such as Taunton's. I am very happy to be associated with it and to wish all participants, as performers and/or audience members, every success and enjoyment.



**Howard Goodall, CBE**

**The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech (BIFF)** works for amateur Festivals everywhere. We have over 560 UK & International members encompassing our amateur Festivals, professional Adjudicators & Accompanists, friends and supporters.

Amateur Festivals have been active for over a century in our local communities and they play a very important role in keeping interest in the arts alive. Each year over 250,000 children and young people take part in our Festivals and experience a unique opportunity to be assessed, encouraged and inspired by active professional Adjudicators.



Our role is to ensure the future sustainability of the amateur arts sector and we aim to do this by supporting our Festivals to maintain their traditions whilst encouraging them to push the boundaries to reach new participants and audiences wherever possible. We are therefore delighted to see the recent innovations at the Taunton Festival of the Arts and wish them every success for the forthcoming Film Festival and their ambitious programme for 2015.

*Terry Luddington (left) – Chief Executive Officer, BIFF*

## Star Trust – The Festival's Chosen Charity

What is STAR?

- **Somerset Trust for Arts & Recreation**
- **STAR is a charity for Somerset children designated as 'in need'**
- **Our aim is to provide opportunities through music, sport, art and recreation to young people aged 5-25 who are most disadvantaged**

What We Do

**We fund young people to take part in music, sport, art and recreational activities. Through these activities, we aim to:**

- **Provide young people with stability**
- **Improve independence and build confidence**
- **Build self-esteem, improve feelings of self-worth and physical and mental well-being**
- **Improve social skills**
- **Provide and fund activities to broaden young people's horizons**
- **Connect young people with their local communities**



***Investing in children is good for all of us***

**[www.somerset-star.org.uk](http://www.somerset-star.org.uk)      Email us at: [star@somerset-star.org.uk](mailto:star@somerset-star.org.uk)**



**Somerset Opera** was founded in 1974 by Brian Cresswell and mounts productions performed by members from across Somerset and beyond, young performers and professional singers from college courses. We are also fortunate to have Donald Maxwell as Patron. The main opera production each year is performed in full costume with orchestra and in July 2015, we will be performing Mozart's 'The Magic Flute'.

In addition there are concert performances of operas and choral works and, as 'Somerset Opera on Tour', we perform across the county in forms ranging from complete G&S productions to concert parties. Our Spring 2015 touring production will be 'Patience'.

Somerset Opera is delighted to be a partner in the Taunton Festival.

[www.somersetopera.org.uk](http://www.somersetopera.org.uk)



*Bringing you superb live music: a wonderful and varied programme for 2015. Visit our website for full details.*

#### **St James's Church, Taunton**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February - Romance in the Air - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Chamber Concert - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June - Concerti/Vivaldi - 7:30 p.m.

#### **Temple Methodist Church Taunton**

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September - Soprano & Strings - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November - 3:00 p.m.

Featuring Taunton Young Musician, 2015

#### **Crowcombe Court, Crowcombe nr Taunton**

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July - An evening of Georgian Music  
7:30 p.m.

#### **Regal Theatre Minehead**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November with Minehead Choral Society - 7:30 p.m.

[www.tauntionsinfonietta.org.uk](http://www.tauntionsinfonietta.org.uk)

**Tickets from Taunton Information Centre**

**Please check nearer the time - details may vary.  
But not the quality! Join us for a great experience.**



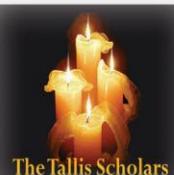
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# TAUNTON FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

## Welcome to the Taunton Festival of the Arts

The Festival has undergone quite radical change and there have been additions since the centenary celebrations of 2013. In fact it was the success of those extra events planned in the centenary year that has given the Festival confidence to offer additional opportunities particularly, but not specifically, to the young people of our area.

What has changed?

Once Dance and then Film were added, the original title for the Festival began to look increasingly cumbersome. While we are proud to operate in Somerset, the Festival base is here in the county town and there seem to be no obvious geographical restrictions placed on entries and taking part. Hence the title **Taunton Festival of the Arts** which allows further development and partnerships with other community arts groups. In today's technological age, merely changing a title is not enough and thus a whole new web site - [www.tauntonfestival.org.uk](http://www.tauntonfestival.org.uk) plus a new e-mail contact address [info@tauntonfestival.org.uk](mailto:info@tauntonfestival.org.uk) have been introduced, as well as a new and vibrant logo by Darren Riggs.

For some time schools had been suggesting that with the growth of their own activities, a music and drama festival in November was becoming increasingly more difficult to support. In response we have moved Music Week to February and Drama to March leaving June for the Dance. Film then had a natural habitat in November.

All these changes, plus the addition of a Film Festival, new competitions for Taunton Young Theatre Singer, a National Competition for Young Bassists and to crown the year, a Summer Festival, suggested that the Festival should publish a **FESTIVAL HANDBOOK 2015** to outline as many of the changes as possible.

In order to provide financial support for the new-look Festival we now have a Friends and Benefactors scheme (information on how to join is in these pages). We also have a number of 'Partners in Performance', namely Lentells, Somerset Opera, Rotary Club of Taunton, Ronald Tickner Educational Trust, Music on the Quantocks, Taunton Association of Performing Arts (T.A.P.A.), Orchestra West, TauntonForward, John Packer Ltd. and Taunton Deane Borough Council.

In addition the Festival is delighted to have **Go Create** as Partners in the Arts for the Summer Festival (**Taunton Live 2015**) in July 2015.

Finally the Festival has been persuading well-known figures in the local and wider artistic world to support the festival by becoming patrons. We are proud to announce that, at present, the following have agreed to become patrons – **Howard Goodall** C.B.E (Taunton Festival of the Arts), **Miss Elizabeth Watts** (Somerset Song Prize), **Professor Julian Pike**, Head of Vocal & Operatic Studies at Birmingham Conservatoire of Music (Taunton Young Singer), **Lady Gass** (Summer Festival), **Joel Quarrington**, Principal Bass of the London Symphony Orchestra (National Young Bassist Competition), **Terence Etheridge** (Dance) and **Philip John Thrupp** (Drama).

May I encourage all of you, competitors and families, to consider how you can help this Festival to grow and to take a major role in promoting the arts in the county town, which recently has been showing signs of regaining its true position as an arts provider. Become a Friend or ask if you can become a steward. The Festival is looking to the future and we invite you to come aboard.

Brian Cresswell



# TAUNTON FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS



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Taunton.**

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*With*

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

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30 p.m. in St. James's Church, Taunton

Programme to include:

*Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune &  
Danses sacrée et profane (Debussy)  
Masque et Bergamasque (Fauré)  
Violin Concerto in E Minor Op. 64 (Mendelssohn)*

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 7:30 p.m. in St. James's Church, Taunton

Programme to include:

*'Pavane' (Fauré)  
'Tombeau de Couperin' (Ravel)  
Violin Concerto in D Major Op. 61 (Beethoven)*

*Tickets from Music on the Quantocks*

[www.quantockonline.co.uk/music](http://www.quantockonline.co.uk/music)

**TAUNTON FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS**  
**TRUSTEES COMMITTEE**

President	Diana Rees
Chairman	Brian Cresswell
Treasurer	Michael Chapman
Secretary to Trustees	Anne Cleves
Music Secretary (Piano)	Gwynneth Flitters
Music Secretary (Wind)	Hilary Daniel
Music Secretary (Strings)	Michael Chapman & Anne Cleves (acting)
Music Secretary (Vocal)	Linda Marshall Cole
Drama Secretary	Matthew Kirby
Assistant Drama Secretary	Alastair Kirby
Dance Secretary	Natasha Ballardie
Film Festival	Nigel Cousins
Ordinary Member	Kate Waldren

**SUB – COMMITTEES**

**MUSIC**

Michael Chapman (Chair), Anne Cleves, Linda Marshall Cole, Brian Cresswell, Hilary Daniel, Gwynneth Flitters

**DRAMA**

Matthew Kirby (Chair), Sylvia Fellgett, Alastair Kirby.

**DANCE**

Natasha Ballardie (Chair), Caroline Barnes, Marie Eveleigh-Bowles, Nicky Jenks, Lin Kingston, Claire Marks, Paul Marks, Helen Pitman, Ali Porter, Lisa Tustian, Louise Wady.

**FILM FESTIVAL**

Nigel Cousins

**TAUNTON YOUNG MUSICIAN / TAUNTON JUNIOR YOUNG MUSICIAN**

**TAUNTON YOUNG SINGER / TAUNTON YOUNG THEATRE SINGER**

Brian Cresswell (Chair), Nigel Cavey, Michael Chapman, Anne Cleves, Linda Marshall Cole, Hilary Daniel, Gwynneth Flitters.

**TAUNTON YOUNG THEATRE PERFORMER**

Matthew Kirby (Chair), Alastair Kirby.

**NATIONAL DOUBLE BASS COMPETITION**

Brian Cresswell (Chair), Nigel Cavey, Michael Chapman, Keith Gibbs, David Heyes.

**SOMERSET SONG PRIZE / SUMMER FESTIVAL**

Brian Cresswell (Chair), Christopher Ball, Michael Chapman, Kate Cresswell, Sue Goodman, Hilary Marshall, Harold Mead, Gill Parker, Martin Parker, Nicki Reid, Guy Robinson.

**TAUNTON LIVE 2015 CHURCH & ORGAN MUSIC STEERING COMMITTEE**

Brian Cresswell (Chair), Nancy Beveridge, John Bodiley, Caroline Lee, Jean Lee, John Lee, Hilary Marshall.

**Handbook Editor:** Harold Mead    **Assistant Editors:** Sue Goodman, Anne Parfitt-Rogers



**Taunton Association of Performing Arts (TAPA)** was founded by Brian Cresswell in 1998 to promote and support the performing arts in Taunton Deane.

Membership is open to any performing arts group in the Taunton Deane area. **TAPA** provides an events diary, sits on the Taunton Cultural Consortium and liaises with Taunton Deane Borough Council on behalf of its membership. We are proud that we were instrumental in bringing about the reopening of the Brewhouse Theatre in 2014.

**TAPA** is pleased to support the new Taunton Festival.

# TAUNTON FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

## FRIENDS and BENEFACTORS

Gill & Martin Parker, Friends/Benefactors Coordinators

If you would like to help support music making, drama, dance and film, especially with young people in mind, then why not become a **Friend** or **Benefactor** of our Festival?

### Friends

For an annual fee of **£20** you can become a Friend of either **Music: Drama: Dance: Film**

For an annual fee of **£40** you can become a Friend of **all four** Festivals.

For an annual fee of **£25** you can become a Friend of one of the following Competitions:

Young Theatre Singer: Young Singer: Young Double Bassist: Taunton Junior Young Musician: Taunton Young Musician

For an annual fee of **£60** you can become a Friend of all the Competitions.

For an annual fee of **£50** you can become a Friend of either the

- Somerset Song Prize or
- Taunton Live 2015 – the Summer Festival

### Benefactors

For an annual fee of **£120** you will have access to **all** of the above.

**What to do:** Register on-line at [www.tauntonfestival.org.uk](http://www.tauntonfestival.org.uk)

For further information, Email: [friends@tauntonfestival.org.uk](mailto:friends@tauntonfestival.org.uk)

**Post:** Taunton Festival of The Arts, 'Cranford', Bishops Hull, TAUNTON, TA1 5EW

**We have been delighted with the response to our new scheme in a short time, and are grateful to:**

**Benefactors:** Chris Ball, Nancy Beveridge, Mr. K. Burge, Anna Bushell, Michael Chapman, Edward Cresswell, Kate Cresswell, Chris & Katy Davies, Stephen Grimshaw, Hestercombe Centre for Young Musicians, Harold Mead, Gill & Martin Parker, Lady Rougier, Mary Trewin

**Friends:** Wendy & Nigel Cavey, Devage Eriyagoda, Gwynneth Flitters, Mr. & Mrs. R. Foster, Mrs. A. Hague, Rosemary Lea, Gill Williamson

## TAUNTON FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS



**The Festival is delighted to welcome GoCreate as our 'Partner in the Arts' and the following as our 'Partners in Performance'**



Orchestra West



# Welcome to Taunton!

Andrew Hopkins – Marketing & Tourist Lead, Taunton Deane Borough Council

Welcome to the first Taunton Festival of the Arts! We are delighted to be the host venue for this new event within our beautiful town centre.

Taunton is a thriving, forward-looking town where modern life sits happily alongside relics of its past. You'll be hard pressed to find a more convenient, safe and welcoming destination with such a fantastic mix of large chain stores and specialist independent shops, restaurants, leisure and cultural facilities.



During your visit why not make our Visitor Information Centre your first point of call? The friendly and helpful staff will advise you on what to see and where to go, sell you tickets for events taking place and direct you to places to eat and drink.

Whilst in the centre, pick up a copy of our self-guided Taunton Heritage walking trail, highlighting all of the key sites. These include Bath Place, once the main thoroughfare to the west, but now home to a superb range of independent shops and eating venues, the Museum of Somerset and Castle House, located within the remains of Taunton

Castle, and St. Mary Magdalene Church, which boasts the tallest tower in the county.

On your walk around you will pass a wonderful array of tea shops and cafés such as Mr. Miles and Café Culture in the High Street, Scrumpers in Bath Place and the Shed overlooking the river. For something more substantial try Augustus, Brazz, Cosy Club, County Stores, the Sanctuary or the Willow Tree. And after you've eaten we have a great selection of pubs to wash your food down - for example the Plough, Racehorse or Ring of Bells. Taunton has something for all tastes.

Or for a relaxing break away from the hustle and bustle, why not take a leisurely stroll through our award-winning green flag park Vivary Park? It's the home to the Taunton Flower Show (taking place on the first Friday and Saturday each August), Sunday afternoon concerts in the Bandstand at 3:00 p.m. or for the more active, the high-rope adventure course at the Vivary Centre. Alternatively you could follow the river Tone through Goodlands Gardens, French Weir Park onto Longrun Meadows, home to the first Willow Cathedral in England.



A vibrant selection of events take place including an award-winning weekly Farmers Market and Friday/Saturday craft and produce markets, both taking place in the High Street and always worth a look.

If you are looking to stay over during the Festival, we can offer you accommodation to suit all tastes from luxury hotels, town centre guesthouses or a range of lodges all within easy reach of the centre. The Visitor Information Centre will be able to help point you in the right direction.

We look forward to seeing you.

For more information, contact the Taunton Visitor Information Centre on 01823 336344, email: [tauntontic@tauntondeane.gov.uk](mailto:tauntontic@tauntondeane.gov.uk) or Twitter: [@TauntonTIC](#)





# Music

Taunton Young Musician Competitions • Taunton Young Singer • Music Festival Week  
National Double Bass Competition • Young Theatre Singer Competition • Somerset Song Prize

[www.tauntonfestival.org.uk/events/music-festival/](http://www.tauntonfestival.org.uk/events/music-festival/)

## MUSIC FESTIVAL Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

Gwynneth Flitters – Music Secretary (Piano)

### PIANO CLASSES



Piano and Keyboard classes will take place at Taunton School in the Gwyn Williams Room on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015**, and possibly on the morning of Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. This will depend on demand. Bearing in mind the demands of school work, we try to avoid asking students to attend on both days, especially if they live some distance from Taunton.

New classes for 2015 include another Beginner class (7 years and under), another Baroque class and two extra Jazz classes. We will continue to offer Music Composition – entries not many in number but good quality – and also a Piano Workshop for students of Grade 5 standard and beyond (introduced last year and worth repeating). Keyboard classes have not had much take-up but we live in hope!

Workshop for students of Grade 5 standard and beyond (introduced last year and worth repeating). Keyboard classes have not had much take-up but we live in hope!

Our adjudicator will be **Elizabeth Brazier** (*right*), a very experienced piano and 'cello teacher and examiner.



Our syllabus has broadened over the years as we have listened to teachers and students, so if there is something you would like to see included, please let us know and we will add it for 2016.

The whole point of a music festival is to share the joys of making and listening to music. Come and be part of our audience. Pop in for an hour or stay all day! You will be very welcome.

### WIND CLASSES

Hilary Daniel – Music Secretary (Wind)

Taunton Festival of the Arts Wind Day 2015 is on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015** at the Temple Methodist Church. We are very fortunate to have **Colin Bradbury** (*see below*) as our adjudicator. In the past we have been lucky to have orchestras, swing bands, samba bands, folk groups and hope that these will continue to support us in 2015.

All wind instruments are included in the syllabus either to be played individually, in a duet or music making in groups. No matter how small or large the wind instrument there is a class for it! If there isn't then please let us know via the website above.

Last year we included free reeds in our competition list. Concertinas and accordion classes were added and proved very successful. New for this year will be jazz classes for woodwind and brass, either improvised or arranged.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in 2015 for another fabulous Wind Day of music making.



At the age of 18 **Colin Bradbury** (*left*), winner of the Blackpool Musical Festival scholarship and founder member of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, played Mozart's Clarinet Concerto with the orchestra at the Edinburgh Festival. Nine years later, after studying at the Royal College of Music, completing National Service in the Irish Guards Band, and playing for four years in the pit at Sadler's Wells Opera, he was appointed Principal Clarinet of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. During the next thirty years he performed the concertos of Mozart, Weber, Nielsen, Busoni and many others, working with conductors from Adrian Boult to Pierre Boulez in a repertoire unequalled in its breadth and depth. He also returned every year to the Royal Albert Hall, where his playing of the clarinet cadenza in the Fantasia on British Sea Songs became a regular feature of the Last Night celebrations.

He combines a solo career with lecturing and adjudicating, as well as giving talks about his life in music. He has also ventured into the film world, playing the retired clarinettist, 'Olly Fisher', in "Quartet", directed by Dustin Hoffman and starring Maggie Smith, Pauline Collins, Tom Courtenay and Billy Connolly.



# Music

Taunton Young Musician Competitions • Taunton Young Singer • Music Festival Week  
National Double Bass Competition • Young Theatre Singer Competition • Somerset Song Prize

[www.tauntonfestival.org.uk/events/music-festival/](http://www.tauntonfestival.org.uk/events/music-festival/)

## STRING CLASSES

Anne Cleves – Music Secretary (Strings – Acting)

The Music Festival Strings Day is to be held on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February** at Temple Methodist Church in Taunton. The adjudicator will be **Kathryn Hardman (right)** who is in demand as a Festival adjudicator but who also teaches at the Welsh College of Music and Drama.

We are also hoping for applications for the Guitar classes which have attracted growing interest during the past two years and for which an adjudicator is yet to be appointed.



*Several years ago, when the then Taunton and Somerset Music and Drama Festival was beginning to expand its organisation of the different disciplines, Mary Trewin, a professional violinist and teacher, who established the first Suzuki teaching system in Taunton, was invited to become the Strings Day Secretary, a role which she fulfilled with her customary zeal and expertise. The classes covered a wide range of ability and ages - performers from 8 years old to teenage recitalists tackled works from a vast range of composers. There were duets, chamber music and instrumental ensembles. New classes for Harpists appeared, also for Guitarists – both for acoustic and electric guitars: in 2013 there were so many young guitarists that an extra adjudicator had to be found. Mary's international experience as a Festivals adjudicator was also a great help in finding appropriate adjudicators for our Festival. Mary retired in 2013 and all who know her well can see that she will be a hard act to follow! The committee is enormously grateful for all her hard work, for her warmth and humour which set such a happy atmosphere during 'her' day in the Music week of the Festival, and for her dedication and encouragement of all the young performers before her.*

## VOCAL CLASSES

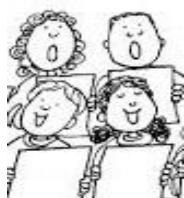
Linda Marshall Cole – Music Secretary (Vocal)

Singing is a thriving aspect of the Festival and there are opportunities for all ages to compete during the first week of February and to receive helpful adjudications. The Festival is often used by singers as trial ground for their exams songs or a chance to find a platform for performance in a friendly but constructive environment.



**Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2015.**

This day has a dual purpose.



- (1) Choirs have an increasingly important part to play in the Festival format so we welcome entries from 11 years and under groups, the 11 to 16 year olds and also 11 to 18 choirs. The music is own choice and there is also a class for Barbershop and Show Choirs.
- (2) Owing to the success and popularity of the Junior Vocal Day and consequent increasing numbers of entries, we have introduced Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> as a separate day for 14 and under classes. Hopefully this will avoid overlapping times and venues. This will help our younger singers feel more at ease and consequently enhance their experience.

**Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> February.**

This is the second of our Junior Vocal Days, especially for age 15 to 18 competitors. As usual there will be a wide variety of classes including English Art Song, Sacred solo, Folk, Early music, Duet, Music Theatre up to 1949 and Music Theatre 1950 onwards.



**Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> February.**

The Senior Vocal Day for adults extends to Opera, Oratorio, French Melodie, Italian Song and German Lieder, with the opportunity to sign up for an individual Workshop with Sarah Jefferies.



## Adjudicators

We are happy to announce the return to Taunton of two excellent adjudicators, Sarah Jeffries (*above, right*) and Alison Mary Sutton (*left*). Please read more about their credentials and experience on our website.

## Syllabus

A full syllabus and entry form can be found on the website. If you have any queries about the singing section of the syllabus or vocal items, contact Linda Marshall Cole, 01823 284180, [linda@johnhcole.plus.com](mailto:linda@johnhcole.plus.com).

## THE HISTORY OF THE TAUNTON YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR COMPETITION



*Some reflections from  
a distinguished founder  
of the Competition,  
Mavis Kettlewell.*

The introduction of a Taunton Young Musician of the Year Competition with monetary prizes had long been on the Festival's 'wish list', although it was acknowledged that it could not be contemplated without external funding. In 2006 a successful application for support was made to TDBC and further help came from local builders AH Gadd Ltd, the Rotary Clubs of Taunton and Taunton Vale, Queen's College, Energy Solutions, Taunton Sinfonietta and Shakespeare Glass, who donated a fine winner's trophy.

The first competition was launched that year, and designed to be in two rounds. Round One was to be within the November Festival Syllabus in selective TYM classes, from which finalists would be chosen. The final round in January was to be judged by three adjudicators who should, where possible, be members of the British & International Federation of Festivals and whose specialities would be compatible with the skills of the finalists. Helpful presentation workshops were also offered for all finalists.

**Rules** were established and by and large, have remained the same other than the age at entry which was reduced from 21 to 19 yrs in 2012; also the residential requirement was extended from a 20 to a 30 mile radius of Taunton. During the years it had been acknowledged that some very young entrants deserved recognition and monetary prizes were occasionally awarded. A Junior Competition became official in 2012 through a generous donation and trophy awarded by Councillor Jefferson Horsley.

### Competitions

#### First TYM 2006/7

1<sup>st</sup> **Peter Oakley**, (counter tenor) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Michael Collins (baritone) - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thomas Hedges  
*Peter is currently a lay vicar at King's College Chapel Cambridge.*

#### Second TYM 2007/8

1<sup>st</sup> **Alexandra Wynn**, (mezzo) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Laura Hammonds ('cello) - 3<sup>rd</sup> Asako Onishi (piano);  
*Alexandra recently achieved a first class degree at the RNCM.*

#### Third TYM 2008/9

1<sup>st</sup> **Chris Ma (piano)** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Stephanie Cheung (piano) - 3<sup>rd</sup> Tom Harris (sax).  
*Chris achieved Bachelor of Music (Hons) 2014, Piano Performance Royal Academy. Now at Guildhall.*

#### Fourth YM 2009/10

1<sup>st</sup> **Laura Hammonds** ('cello) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Daisy Newberry (saxophone) - 3<sup>rd</sup> Oliver Kelham (tenor).  
*Laura is currently a final year student at the Royal Academy of Music.*

#### Fifth TYM 2010/11

1<sup>st</sup> **Kirsty Chaplin** (piano) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Francombe (tuba) - 3<sup>rd</sup> Weng Soon Tee (piano).  
*Kirsty also became Bath Young Musician of the Year in 2013 & is continuing her studies at Wells Cathedral School.*

#### Sixth TYM 2011/12

1<sup>st</sup> **Weng Soon Tee** (piano) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Darren Hodge (guitar) - 3<sup>rd</sup> Claire Barnett Jones (mezzo).  
Special Junior Prizes: Robin Stallard (dbl. bass) Runner up: Naomi Chidgey (harp).  
*Weng Soon Tee gained a place at Royal Academy of Music in 2014.*

#### Seventh TYM 2012 /13

1<sup>st</sup> **Edward Creed** (piano) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lucy Bray (soprano) - 3<sup>rd</sup> Natalie Too ('cello)  
Junior prizes to Nazariy Alexandryants (Saxophone) and Gregory Steward (trumpet).  
*Edward is continuing his studies at Wells Cathedral School.*

#### Eighth TYM 2013/14

1<sup>st</sup> **Mollie Stallard** (bassoon) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Josephine Jobbins (double bass) - 3<sup>rd</sup> Anya Lee (Viola)



# Music

Taunton Young Musician Competitions • Taunton Young Singer • Music Festival Week  
National Double Bass Competition • Young Theatre Singer Competition • Somerset Song Prize

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## TAUNTON JUNIOR YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR 2014/2015

TJYM began as an addition to Taunton Young Musician, but it was felt that it should have its own identity as a separate competition, with a prize of £100 and the Jefferson Horsley trophy to keep for one year.



This competition is open to solo instrumentalists aged **13 years and under on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2014**. They must have attained grade 5 standard or above, and should offer 2 or 3 contrasting pieces for adjudication, with a total time limit of 10 minutes.

The competition will take place on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2015** in Temple Methodist Church, Taunton.

Further details will be announced in our syllabus and on our website. Our adjudicator will be Stephen Bell (*left*).

## TAUNTON YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR 2014/2015

The Taunton Young Musician competition is now in its ninth year. The aim of the competition is to encourage musical excellence amongst instrumental students from age 14 up to 19. The Festival Committee feels that by providing a good performance platform with specialist adjudicators (who are all experienced professionals offering teaching advice at a very high level), plus prize money and other incentives, that students will enhance their musical career and enjoy the experience that the competition offers. Many of our competitors have gone on to make a career in music as teachers and performers.

This year's preliminary round will be held at the Gwyn Williams Room, Taunton School on 15<sup>th</sup> November and the adjudicator will be Ian Smith from Bedford (*see below*) who has a huge breadth of musical experience. Entrants will need to have obtained Grade 6 standard or above to enter. The **Final on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April** will be held at the Castle Hotel and the adjudicators will be Anthony Negus and Maria Jagusz. The winner will receive a glass trophy donated by Shakespeare Glass, Taunton, to be retained for one year, perform as a guest with the Taunton Sinfonietta at one of their annual concerts and take part in the final stage of the Rotary District 1200 Young Musician Competition if eligible. First prize will be £200, second prize £100 and third prize £50. The competition has been generously supported in the past by Taunton Deane Borough Council, Taunton Music Trust, The Rotary Clubs of Taunton, Taunton Vale and Wellington, Taunton Festival of the Arts, and Shakespeare Glass.

### Ian Smith BA, LRAM, Cert Ed (Cantab)

Ian was born in London and is a graduate of York University. He studied violin privately with Frederick Grinke. His first teaching post was as resident violin teacher at Cranleigh School in Surrey. Whilst there, he was in demand as a violinist playing regularly under Vernon Handley in the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra and in other professional orchestras. He subsequently moved to Milton Keynes as Head of Music at Stantonbury Campus. There, as well as his teaching post, he worked extensively as player and conductor and was actively involved with young people through the Saturday Morning Music Centre. In 1981 he moved to teach in Bedford but maintained many of his Milton Keynes links. Ian became Musical Director and principal conductor of the Bedford Choral Society (1985) and the Danesborough Chorus (1977), posts which he still holds.



Ian's strong connection with youth music making deepened when he became Head of Bedfordshire Music, a post he held for 11 years. He then returned to the classroom as Director of Music and Head of Expressive Arts at Wootton Upper School. He conducted the Bedfordshire County Youth Second Orchestra for many years with whom he gave frequent performances at the Edinburgh Festival. He continues to work with pupils on various courses. His wide-ranging career also includes radio recordings together with television appearances for BBC and ITV.



# Gillian Greig Music

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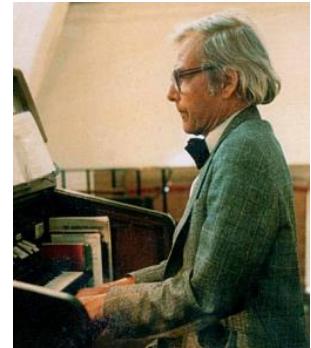
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The **Ronald Tickner Educational Trust** was founded in 2000 to commemorate a true man of music whose time was so often spent encouraging young musicians.

Ron Tickner (right) was assistant organist at Salisbury Cathedral (1947-54) under Sir David Willcocks, Director of Music at Dr. Morgan's School (1954-60), Director of Music at Richard Huish School and College (1961-83), organist at St. Mary Magdalene Church (1963 - 99), repetiteur for Somerset Opera (1975-99), conductor of Taunton Choral Society, and a tireless supporter and accompanist for the Taunton & Somerset Music, Drama and Dance Festival.



The principal objective of the **Ronald Tickner Educational Trust** is to advance the study of music by providing bursaries for young organ scholars and piano accompanists. The Trust also supports competitions to encourage students to improve their abilities in playing the classical organ or piano. It has sponsored the prize awarded to the winning young accompanist in the **Somerset Song Prize** and supports the **Taunton Young Musician of the Year**.

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2014/15 Season

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## TAUNTON YOUNG SINGER

Linda Marshall Cole – Music Secretary (Vocal)

After a resounding success last year when, for the very first time, singers were adjudicated in a separate event from instrumentalists, here are details for the coming year's competition:

**Open to any voice:** aged 18 or under on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014; of Grade 6 standard or above; recommended by their singing teacher if no singing exams have been taken.

First Round, from which finalists will be selected, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2014: Two contrasting songs up to a maximum of 10 minutes. Final, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2015: A recital of 15 minutes duration.

Further details and an application form are available on the website.

We have engaged two excellent adjudicators – **Lorna Anderson** - First Round. **Maria Jagusz** - Final.



**Lorna Anderson** (*left*) has appeared in opera, concert and recital with major orchestras and Festivals throughout Europe and elsewhere. As a renowned performer of Baroque repertoire she has sung with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Les Arts Florissants, The Sixteen, The English Concert, St. James Baroque, La Chapelle Royale and the Academy of Ancient Music, under conductors including William Christie, Harry Christophers, Trevor Pinnock, Richard Hickox and Sir Charles Mackerras. Her many opera roles include Morgana in 'Alcina', Sevilla in 'La Clemenza di Tito' and Handel's 'Theodora'.



**Maria Jagusz** (*right*) trained at the Royal Northern College of Music and the National Opera Studio. Since then she has sung many of the leading mezzo-soprano roles in the UK and Europe. She has worked with Jose Carreras, Placido Domingo, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Mirella Freni and Dame Felicity Lott. As well as her singing engagements, Maria runs a busy teaching practice and creates many performing opportunities for up and coming artists. She runs the Young Artists Programme for Loughborough Festival Opera.

## TAUNTON YOUNG MUSIC THEATRE SINGER

We are pleased to announce two completely new competitions in recognition of the increasing interest shown in Music Theatre. The date for this event is 17<sup>th</sup> January 2015. The age groups are: (1) 15 and 16 years of age (2) 17 and 18 years, as at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014.

Competitors are invited to perform two contrasting items from different periods and genres, up to a maximum of ten minutes. Movement will be permitted, if appropriate, but not costume or props. Further details and an application form are available on the Taunton Festival website.

Our adjudicator will be **Benjamin Costello** who has taught at a number of Performing Arts Colleges and is well versed in this medium.



**Benjamin Costello** was born in London in 1976. He is a freelance musical director, singing coach, accompanist and adjudicator working throughout the UK and overseas. He performs and teaches in diverse musical genres, in particular musical theatre and vocal music, and has worked for most of the major London performing arts colleges (including Arts Ed, Mountview, LAMDA, the RAM and the LCM). He also has extensive experience training treble and adolescent voices. In addition to his freelance activities he is Founding Director of Thames Concerts Ltd, and is on the vocal faculty at Laine Theatre Arts.



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## I HAVE A DREAM ....

The 2015 Competition for Young Bassists grew out of the success of the 2014 Taunton Young Musician of the Year and is the brainchild of David Heyes (*right*), who has been Specialist Double Bass Tutor at Wells Cathedral School for 17 years. David is a fervent and proactive educationalist, which he combines with a busy career as a double bass soloist, publisher and Artistic Director of Bass-Fest. He has commissioned more than 500 works for double bass over the past 30 years, including many works for younger players, and is passionate to help create a new and exciting repertoire of modern but accessible works for young bassists of all abilities. 'Fizz @ 50' combined David's 50th birthday with a project to commission 50 works aimed at young bassists. Composers from eleven countries took part and each received a bottle of champagne as the commission fee.

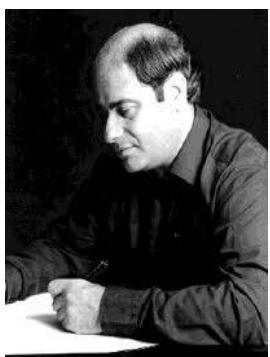


*Photo: Katrien Bos*

David Heyes studied double bass with Laurence Gray and Bronwen Naish, later at the Royal College of Music and completed his post-graduate studies in Prague with Frantisek Posta (Principal Double Bass, Czech Philharmonic). He has given recitals and master classes in 13 countries over the past few years and has also sat on a number of international competition juries, twice as chairman.

David has been Specialist Double Bass Tutor at Wells Cathedral School for 17 years and his collaborative work gained him a prestigious award from the David Walter Charitable Trust of New York for his pioneering activities as a soloist, teacher, publisher and commissioner of new music for double bass. He works with composers throughout the world and is particularly interested to expand the double bass repertoire, by commissioning new works and by rediscovering forgotten ones, and since 1990 more than 500 works have been written for him.

**The 2015 Competition for Young Bassists** (21<sup>st</sup> March, 2015 at Taunton School) is open to school-age bassists from anywhere in Britain and there are two categories. Bassists in category 1 (up to age 13 years) are asked to prepare a ten minute programme of their own choice and this is a great opportunity to study and perform music they really enjoy. Category 2 (14-18 years) asks players to prepare a 20 minute programme of two or more works of their own choice. This offers the more advanced players an opportunity to explore a wide range of solo repertoire and to create a programme which demonstrates both musical and technical skills across the range of the double bass. Our aim is to create a competition which is useful for both students and teachers alike and in future years to develop the scope of the competition with the addition of workshops and concerts.



The **Tony Osborne Award** is open to any bassist from either category who performs a work by this most important and prolific double bass composer and the award is underwritten by David Heyes and Recital Music. Tony's music is rhythmic and energetic, jazzy and lyrical, and he has written music for every level of performer from complete beginner (Junior Jazz) to the virtuoso. His music is performed and loved by bassists across the world and we are proud to welcome Tony (*left*) as an adjudicator for the 2015 competition.

Our other adjudicator, Australian composer **Sadie Harrison** (*right*), has lived in Britain for many years and has had a stellar career not only as a composer but also with commissions, performances, recordings and broadcasts across the world. Her connection to the double bass is more recent and she has written a number of exciting and adventurous works for the instrument. Sadie was a Featured Composer at Bass-Fest 2014 and her new double bass quartet was performed by an international line-up of players.



In 1986, David Heyes founded the publishing company Recital Music, which now has the largest catalogue of double bass music in the world, and he has written articles and reviews for the leading specialist magazines including The Strad, Bass News, Music Teacher, Double Bassist, ESTA News & Views and Classical Music. He has given recitals, masterclasses and workshops throughout Britain and abroad including UK (Trinity College of Music, Royal Northern College of Music, Royal Welsh College of Music), USA (University of Montana, University of North Texas), France (Paris Conservatoire), China (Central Conservatory, Beijing), Norway



# Music

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(Norwegian Academy of Music), Netherlands (Rotterdam Conservatoire), Spain (Palma Conservatoire, Inca School of Music), Portugal (Escola Superior de Musica, Porto), Italy (Ancona University), Czech Republic (Janacek Academy of Music, Prague Conservatoire) and Denmark (Carl Nielsen Academy, Aarhus Academy of Music).

We are pleased to present the message below from the distinguished **Patron** of this event:

*"I am very pleased to be able to offer my support and encouragement for the Taunton Young Bassists Competition. It is initiatives exactly like this that are responsible in part for the huge advances and improvements we hear today in double bass playing and its pedagogy. The youngest generation of bassists has never been better and their musical sophistication and artistry places them on an equal footing with the other members of the violin family who have enjoyed a much longer history of being accepted as "solo" instruments. With wonderful new compositions being created all the time and new stages and platforms being opened up to double bass performers throughout the world, truly this now is the golden age of our instrument.*

*I wish everyone involved with the Taunton Young Bassists Competition my very best.*



*Joel Quarrington"*

For over thirty years, **Joel Quarrington** has served as the Principal Double Bassist of many ensembles, including the Canadian Opera Company, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa. In August 2013 he became the new Principal Bassist for the London Symphony Orchestra.



Of course, no discourse about double basses in Somerset could possibly omit one man's inspired contribution to this musical genre. We are talking about the late **Hugh Bushell** (*left – photo copyright Julian Comrie*), who with his wife Anna, turned their home in North Curry into a veritable powerhouse of string playing. The inimitable Hugh played the double bass with enthusiasm and commitment and spent most of his life encouraging young people to make their music in the same way.

He introduced 'mini basses' to Somerset – the perfect size for primary school-age children – and coached double bass for the National Children's Orchestra, among many other musical activities. Both he and Anna were inveterate arrangers, and the most unlikely tunes turned up as pieces for ensemble double basses and violas (Anna's instrument to this day).

Also of course he founded the Taunton Sinfonietta, whose playing still delights audiences today and is a fine tribute to a great man of music. We are sure that this competition for young bassists is just the sort of thing he would have loved and enthusiastically supported.

The organisers will therefore be proud to present the **Hugh Bushell Trophy** to the winner in the Junior category for this new competition, for players up to 13 years old. The winner will also receive £100. Second prize is £75, with the third-placed competitor receiving £50 and the **Martin Penning Award**.

We are very fortunate also to have in Somerset one of the greatest current exponents of the art of the double bass, encompassing many genres of music for this unique instrument. I refer of course to Ron Prentice, bass player extraordinaire and maker of finest quality stringed instruments over many decades. Let the man himself say a few words.

*"Back in 1949 I was persuaded by my doctor to give up learning to play the trumpet and took up the bass because (a) you stood at the back of a band out of sight and what is more (b) it looked easy to play:*

*How wrong can you be?*

*Eventually I joined the Terry Lightfoot Jazz Band, then became professional, joining a Rock 'n' Roll Band on a tour of the Moss Empires with comedian Max Wall. This led on to a summer season in Blackpool and then some time playing in London's West End hotels. I then joined the Oscar Rabin Orchestra for a period of four years. At this time I acquired a bass guitar and became one of only three professional players of the instrument in London.*



# Music

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Subsequently I 'cleaned up' the work and spent the next eighteen years as a freelance session musician, playing on nearly 2000 pop records. I also worked on hundreds of BBC radio shows and TV shows including Crackerjack, Basil Brush Show, The Saint, The Avengers, & the Maigret series.

I also worked on many films for Gaumont British, with Muir Matheson, several for Walt Disney, two James Bond films for John Barry and many more. I also played for the BBC Variety Orchestra, the BBC Big Band, the Jack Parnell ITV Studio Orchestra, The RPO, English Chamber Orchestra , the Philharmonia, whilst also managing to fit in working for the National Theatre in Shakespeare's 'As you like it' and doing a European tour with them. Whew!"

Indeed – and we are delighted that such a wonderful musician has been pleased to associate himself with our Young Bassist Competition. The winner of the 14-18 years old category will receive a prize of £500 plus the **Ron Prentice Trophy**. The second placed player will receive £200, the third placed the **Wells Cathedral School Award** of £100.

In addition to the above, there will be the special **Tony Osborne Award** of £250 open to bassists from either age category who include a piece by Tony in their programme.



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# Music

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## Somerset Song Prize 2015

Guy Robinson

Schubert's '*Du bist die Ruh*' is an exquisite song. It sounds so simple and straightforward, allowing the listener to close their eyes and enjoy its beauty, and enticing young singers to think - naively - that it would be easy to sing.

I recall vividly how I lost my ability to breathe when attempting this song in German song class at college. Though it was about 12 years ago, I also remember apologising to the coach after the ordeal, knowing full well that I'd been lured into an easy trap. Like so many of Schubert's songs, this one is extraordinarily difficult to pull off properly and deserves both respect and a lot of hard work.

Singing it one feels very exposed, needing to rely on a flow of breath, composure and technique. And that's even before you start considering what you're actually singing about, German pronunciation or the fact that the song is only a few minutes long and is likely to be programmed with a diverse range of other such songs in any recital. Song singing is not for the faint hearted!

The next Somerset Song Prize will take place on **16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015** when young singers' mettle will be put to the test.

The competition will take a similar format to the first competition in 2013, with a preliminary round on the Saturday, followed by the Grand Final on the Sunday. Singers from 18 to 26 years old will compete for a first prize of £1000 plus the **Lentells Trophy**. Second prize is £500, third is £250 and there's an accompanist prize of £150. Combined, these prizes represent a significant enticement, reflecting the scale of ambition for the Somerset Song Prize and the fact that this competition is one for the national singing map. Building on what happened in 2013, it will undoubtedly attract some of the country's finest singers from music colleges and those studying privately.

We've learned a lot from organising the competition in 2013 and hope to attract even more applicants this time round. Also we're trying next year to offer as open a programme as possible, allowing singers to explore all sorts of repertoire – providing it is not extracted from an oratorio or opera.

As before the Grand Final will be held in the prestigious Castle Hotel, Taunton and will be topped by a recital from the Song Prize's patron – **Elizabeth Watts**, a song singer of international repute having won the Kathleen Ferrier Award and Cardiff Singer of the World Song Prize, and having performed in some of Europe's most prestigious recital venues with many of the finest accompanists performing today.

Planning and delivering an enjoyable recital, as Elizabeth does frequently, compounds the challenges I outlined above. Imagine putting together a programme with just you and an accompanist that lasts 45 minutes in the first half and the same after an interval. And then imagine singing a different recital a week later, and at the same time being hounded by another festival who are putting their programme together for the autumn for the programme you're going to be singing then.

At each event, indeed within each song, you embrace the audience – as if speaking intimately to them individually and transporting them into an entirely different place. One minute you're speaking in terms of peace, the next you're battling evil spirits, followed by a song that is so abstract it is almost impossible to pin down.

There are qualities in the best recitals that are just that – impossible to pin down, when the singer and accompanist both shine, feeding off each other and raising each other to new heights. One emerges knowing that you've heard something special.

For more information about the next Somerset Song Prize visit [www.somersetsongprize.org.uk](http://www.somersetsongprize.org.uk)



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## And the winner is . . . . .

In the 2013 Somerset Song Prize the winner was countertenor **James Hall (left)**. Before that he had graduated in music at Cardiff University, and studied at the Royal College of Music. He was awarded the Sir Geraint Evans Prize in 2009, again in 2010, and was a finalist in the Brooks Van Der Pump English Song Competition (2012). We thought you might like to hear some of his thoughts on music and performance.

### **You've been singing in Munich this summer. Tell us a bit about that . . .**

*This summer, I was a part of a team of singers from the UK, France, and Switzerland who sang as the chorus of Bayerische Staatsoper's new production of Monteverdi's L'Orfeo. I've sung abroad before for concerts, but this was a particularly amazing experience working on an opera in a major house on the continent. Christian Gerhaher (who performed the title role) was an inspiration, I learned so much in such a short period of time just by watching him work.*

### **What song singing have you done since winning the Somerset Song Prize in 2013?**

*I was invited to sing a recital for Music in the Quantocks in February after the SSP Final, and it was wonderful to perform in such a packed, intimate venue, especially when some people had not heard a countertenor before. Working with James Baillieu was a huge privilege too, he gives such care and attention to every phrase/bar/note that it really made me up my game. I've started to look at more Elizabethan lute songs and have really enjoyed preparing such a delicate and colourful song style for performance.*

### **Are you finding an affinity with any particular composers at the moment?**

*I've been particularly attracted to early music recently, such as Monteverdi. Having just worked on 'Orfeo' for the last month, I'm currently covering in a new English translation production by Ryedale Festival Opera of L'Incoronazione di Poppea and I've really enjoyed taking the things I learned from Munich immediately to the Ryedale production. Purcell, also, has been someone I've been looking at recently. I'll be performing 'The Fairy Queen' at Inner Temple, London in October and have been really swept away by his world, both in his operas and individual songs.*

### **Still learning a lot of new repertoire?**

*Yes, very much so. Every project I am involved in seems to require me to learn something new! However, away from things I need to learn for projects, I'm actually spending time working on music I already know and finding that next level for them rather than learning new music. Quality over Quantity!*

### **Is the world of countertenors a small one?**

*I would say so, everyone seems to know everyone. I think because the countertenor voice is such a niche voice type, you are always introduced to each other at parties or at performances. It's funny because we rarely work together as shows usually require only one countertenor so it's always outside of work!*

### **Do you have a feel for how you'd like to balance opera and recital work?**

*German countertenor Andreas Scholl has a lovely way of putting it and describes himself not as an opera singer, but rather a singer that does opera. The countertenor voice is perfectly suited to the recital hall and I'd love to balance my opera work with recitals. I think countertenors like Andreas Scholl and Iestyn Davies have a really great balance and you can see they take the detail of the recital hall into the opera houses when they perform. I'd really love to try and emulate as much of that as I can in the future.*

### **What's next? Off to Holland?**

*Yes, I'm performing with Dutch group Silbersee in September for the Gaudeamus Muziekweek 2014 in Utrecht, Holland. The piece is a challenging piece for two sopranos and countertenor with orchestra, called Cantatrix Sopranica by South Korean composer Unsuk Chin. I'm very much looking forward to performing it as it is an exceptionally dramatic and flamboyant piece with amazing ethereal moments of beauty.*

### **Do you have an agent?**

*Not yet . . .*



# Drama

Young Theatre Performer of the Year • Drama Festival Week

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## TAUNTON YOUNG THEATRE PERFORMER OF THE YEAR, 2015

Matthew Kirby – Drama Secretary

Drama is such an important skill to learn. Through Drama we learn to explore about ourselves, but also the way other people think, feel and communicate. With Drama, there is no right or wrong answer. All options and opinions are valid, ensuring “can’t do” is turned into “can do” consequently developing an individual’s confidence and ensuring they thrive within that environment.

The Speech & Drama side of the Festival has an exciting year lined up for 2015, to mark the 101<sup>st</sup> year, and the events will run from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> until Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.

We are delighted to announce a brand new competition for 2015's Speech and Drama Festival: "Taunton Young Theatre Performer of the Year". This competition will take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at the Temple Methodist Church and will be adjudicated by **Philip Thrupp** (*see next page*).

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS & DETAILS OF PRIZES AND AWARDS: -

#### Junior Category – 10 to 14 years

Programme: Max 10 mins

- A Recital performance based on a chosen theme
- At least 2 pieces to be performed
- 1<sup>st</sup> piece must be an acting speech/monologue
- Other pieces can be Verse Speaking, Spoken Prose, Prepared Reading, Performance Poetry, Mime, Sonnet, Shakespeare or Bible Reading
- The recital should include an introduction, links and a conclusion

ENTRY FEE: £15

1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE: £100

#### Senior Category – 15 to Adult

Programme: Max 20 mins

- A Recital performance based on a chosen theme
- At least 3 pieces to be performed
- 1<sup>st</sup> piece must be an acting speech/monologue
- Other pieces can be Verse Speaking, Spoken Prose, Prepared Reading, Performance Poetry, Mime, Sonnet, Shakespeare or Bible Reading
- The recital should include an introduction, links and a conclusion

ENTRY FEE: £20

1<sup>st</sup> PRIZE: £200

**The Overall Winner of the Competition will receive The Robin Bush Trophy.**

### NEW CLASSES

The 2015 Festival will showcase several new classes for students and performers. The following will be included: -

#### A Television News Reading Class

The television news bulletin will be provided to the competitors approximately 15 minutes prior to each class. The competitor will present a prepared reading from the script provided and will conclude with one own choice news item, beginning with: "And Finally".

There will be 2 classes for this category, a Year 6-8 class and a Year 9 and over class.





# Drama

Young Theatre Performer of the Year • Drama Festival Week

[www.tauntonfestival.org.uk/events/drama-festival/](http://www.tauntonfestival.org.uk/events/drama-festival/)

## Sight Reading

For these classes, the adjudicator will provide a reading for the competitor approximately 5 minutes prior to the commencement of the class. The performer is then expected to read the passage.

**Year 6 and under**

**Year 7, 8, 9**

**Year 10 and above**



## Group Mime

For many years, the Festival has been running Mime classes for Solo and Duo performers. Due to increased numbers in both these categories, it has been decided to introduce a Group Mime category, incorporating three or more performers into the performance.

**Year 7 & Under (Max of 4 mins)**

**Open (Max of 5 mins)**

It would take more space than we have here to describe every item in detail, but in addition to everything above, we will also feature:

- Acting Improvisation (solo and duo)
- Verse speaking
- Performance Poetry
- Acting
- Group Speaking
- Prepared Reading
- Spoken Prose
- Bible Reading



## OUR ADJUDICATOR

**PHILIP JOHN THRUSS - LGSM, LLAM (HONS), NDD, CERT GSMD, HON FIEMS, FRSA, FSTSD.**



Philip (left) trained at the Exeter College of Art and at the Hartley Hodder Studio gaining an LGSM Teacher's Diploma and an LLAM Teacher's diploma with Honours. He has taught speech and drama to pupils of all ages and public speaking to adults. He has been a Tutor of Voice and Speech at Wesley College, Bristol, and adjudicates regularly at festivals throughout the British Isles, Ireland, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong.

In 1995 Philip was appointed International Examinations Coordinator for the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and worked extensively on the development of its overseas centres. In the last five years his work has taken him to Sri Lanka, Los Angeles, Spain, Kenya, Singapore, Zimbabwe, Cape Town, New York, the Netherlands and Australia, where he has examined and presented workshops. His workshop "Playing Restoration Comedy" has been presented worldwide. In Bristol he was an adjudicator for regional competitions of the English Speaking Union and a judge for Rosebowl Awards for Amateur Drama, a competition involving the whole of the West Country. His pupils are working actors, drama teachers as well as examiners.

Philip was one of the team of adjudicators chosen for the British and International Federation's Festival of Festivals at Warwick. Philip is pleased to be examining for the Trinity International Examinations Board and has recently examined in Sydney, Melbourne, Baltimore, Johannesburg and India. He is delighted to have been awarded a Fellowship of the Society of Teachers of Speech and Drama.



## Dance Festival

Natasha Ballardie – Dance Secretary

Dance Festival Patron:

Terence Etheridge

Dance Festival Co-ordinator:

Natasha Ballardie

Dance Festival Secretary:

Nicky Jenks and Claire Marks

Dance Festival Co-opted Members:

Claire Marks, Lisa Byrne, Helen Pitman, Louise Wady, Caroline Barnes, Lin Kingston, Ali Porter, Marie Eveleigh-Bowles, Paula Kenny, Lisa Tustian, Naomi Porter, Eve Whyborn & Paul Marks.

The Dance section was re-introduced to the Festival in 2012. After many absent years the dance committee put a syllabus together, offering the basic classes to establish a growing and successful dance festival to date.



Patron to the Dance Festival is Terence Etheridge (*left*) who has had an extensive career in dance and has performed with the English National Ballet, Northern Dance Theatre and in various West End musicals and television programmes. He has taught at some of the world's best dance schools: these include The Royal Ballet School, Ballet West, Rambert School (Principal and Ballet Master) Urdang Academy (Head of Dance), Hong Kong Ballet, Icelandic Ballet Company, Royal Swedish Ballet Company, Finnish National Ballet, Ballet Gulbenkian (Portugal) and London City Ballet. Terence has choreographed pieces for the Royal Opera House (London), the Vienna Festival Ballet, Cape Town Opera, Die Fledermaus (Gothenburg), Merry Widow Opera (Sweden), Don Carlos (South Africa), Chess, the Musical (Denmark), Sweeney Todd (Finnish National Opera) and New Youth Ballet (Australia).

Going back to 2012 when it all started, the festival was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June and a lot of work and organisation was required. We had no foundation to work from, so it was a matter of building the dance festival from scratch. Our adjudicator in 2012 was Janice Blake who began her dancing career taking part in festivals from an early age. At thirteen she won a contract to perform in the Children's Ballet at Blackpool. From there she went on to appear in many pantomimes and summer seasons working with such entertainment legends as Bob Monkhouse and Harry Secombe. She was fantastic and supported us and the children in every possible way. The Festival was held at Taunton School, Somerset; during the two days we had over 100 children competing. Janice donated a trophy to the festival for Artistry and Performance.

2013 was the centenary year of Taunton Festival of the Arts, formerly known as Taunton & Somerset Music, Drama and Dance Festival. The Dance Festival was held at Kingsmead School, Wiveliscombe, Somerset on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June and was over two days with over 150 children taking part. Our adjudicator was Lynne Chilver, an examiner for the International Dance Teachers' Association (IDTA) and is the principal of a busy and successful dance school with former pupils appearing in West End shows. Lynne was very supportive whilst with us and was very encouraging towards the children. As this was a momentous year for us we had a centenary cup made to award to the overall highest solo mark of the festival.

In our third year, 2014, the festival was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June again at Kingsmead School, Wiveliscombe. These two days proved that the festival was expanding. We had over 180 entries with classes from Ballet, Tap, Song and Dance, Modern and Character dances, all in solos, duets, Trios and groups. Our adjudicator Jill Baldock was fantastic and again very supportive to the Festival and to the





Festival would not run as smoothly and be enjoyable as it is. We look forward to many years of the Dance Festival and to see the progression and success of our students.

### Now, what of the 2015 Dance Festival?

The festival will take at the Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June.



The adjudicator will be **Geoff Lucas** ALCM, FBATD (*left*). Over the past 30 years Geoff has had a varied career with highlights being in the musicals 'Cats', 'Heathcliff', 'A Chorus Line', 'Godspell', 'Divorce me Darling' and many more! As a singer he was a member of Stutz Bear Cats the international harmony group for several years and he regularly guest lectures for major dance associations. Geoff also runs the school Elwick Academy started by his mother 62 years ago. As an adjudicator, he works for both British Federation and All England Dance. He is based in London but also in the north east on a weekly basis.

Our current trophies are for:

- Highest mark in a Tap solo
  - Artistry and Performance
    - Most promising junior
      - Most promising senior
        - Highest mark in a group dance
          - Highest solo mark



Two new trophies are being introduced for 2015 festival:

- Highest mark in Ballet
  - Most effective costume



**Taunton Festival of the Arts** will now be awarding medals for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places.

New dance sections for 2015 will be added to the syllabus and these are:

- Lyrical dance - Age 11 and up
  - Hip-Hop Dance - All ages
    - Open Schools/Colleges - Primary/ Secondary/ Colleges 16+





**This, the Inaugural Film Festival, will run from 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

There are 5 categories of entry, with each having separate awards.



**A      YEARS 3-6      2 minutes length**

**B      YEARS 7-8      3 minutes length**

**C      YEARS 9-11      4 minutes length**

**All of the above to be 'PG rated' and with an entry fee of £10.00**

**D      OPEN STUDENT      5 minutes length**

**E      FULL OPEN      5 minutes length**

**Both rated '15' with a £15.00 entry fee for category D and £20.00 for category E**

## Festival Entries

Entries must fall within the stated classifications as listed for the classes. This is so divided as to enable the maximum viewing audience to enjoy the entries. All valid entries will be screened. Please refer to the guidelines issued by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) for a straightforward understanding of what is and what is not required for the creation of a project within a 'PG' or a '15' classification. If there are any uncertainties then please email The Festival for clarification or link: [www.bbfc.co.uk](http://www.bbfc.co.uk) and click on 'What is Classification?' From here you can download the **BFC Guidelines**.

All entries must be supplied in one of the three following formats, which will provide full scope for HD and non-HD productions edited on PC or AppleMac machines:

**.MOV**

**.MP4**

**.AVI**

They should be provided on a memory stick or SDHC card. Please be sure that your production runs properly from the memory stick/card before submitting.

Memory sticks/cards will not be returned. Therefore, be certain that you retain a safe copy of your production, **yourself**. Whilst every effort will be made by The Festival, no responsibility can be accepted for the loss of memory sticks/cards and related media.



**For an APPLICATION FORM apply on-line to the web address above and follow the red links.**

Information: [info@tauntonfestival.org.uk](mailto:info@tauntonfestival.org.uk)

Below are some useful 'Make a Movie' sites to explore. This is not exclusive (just a start) - you will find that browsing via Google will reveal a wealth of helpful information. Good luck.

*Nigel Cousins (left) – Secretary to the Film Festival*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C2YeFs0Vn6c>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ol51d7JekJ4>

<http://www.apple.com/ios/imovie/>

<http://www.wikihow.com/Create-a-Low-Budget-Movie>

<http://www.raindance.org/10-zero-budget-filmmaking-tips/>

## Unsung Heroes?

Excited performers entering any Festival, may not at first realise what very important people the Stewards are. They are an invaluable body of volunteers who probably work almost as hard as the performers and adjudicators when the Festival is in full swing. They are, also, probably the initial friendly face of the Festival, as well as being vital to the smooth running of the occasion. One will be at the side of the adjudicator, ensuring that the competitors' names are announced clearly, and with a reassuring smile; then he/she notes the results carefully on the Results Sheet, and takes it to the two other stewards for reproducing on their copy of the results.

These two stewards have a pretty busy time generally: one selling entrance stickers and programmes at the door and welcoming the 'support team' of friends and family of the competitors with a big friendly smile – and the other, usually the one with the best handwriting, writes each performer a certificate with their name and class, sticks a cheerful sticker thereon, showing the standard of their performance, then makes sure that each performer is given his/her certificate and the adjudicator's encouraging and constructive response to their performance. One lucky steward then chases after the class winner, gets her/him to fill in the Trophy receipt form and sign it (preferably in blood!) to ensure the return of the Cup/Shield in good condition to the Festival, rather than whizz home to foreign climes and forget all about it!



We inherited a splendid team of stewards from the redoubtable Pat Forrester-Bennett and are always thrilled that new stewards, whether accosted at a Keep fit class or when busily shopping at a supermarket seem happy to lend a hand at Festival time. We owe them an immense debt of gratitude.

There is always room for other willing helpers and to be part of the Festival, to hear and see our young people practising their performing skills in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere (not a bit like taking exams!) is always a joy.

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Open to woodwind, brass, strings, as well as singing, piano, guitar and bass, each student follows an individual programme across a range of genres from classical to jazz, folk and music theatre. A broad and comprehensive curriculum allows for the development of all areas of musicianship. This includes ensemble music-making, composition, history, theory, singing and aural perception. HCYM opened in March 2014, building on the longstanding success of the Centre for Young Musicians founded in London in 1970.

As a division of the Guildhall School, HCYM is committed to offering excellence in achievement as well as wider opportunities. Thanks to the Sound Foundation Somerset Hub, bursaries are available to families in Somerset who meet strict criteria.

To apply, please visit [www.hestercombe.com/cym](http://www.hestercombe.com/cym)  
Telephone for further information: 01823 410110.

Registered charity No: 100825



**FINZI CHORAL WORKSHOP**  
**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2015**  
**Church of St. John the Evangelist, Taunton**

**Conducted by Paul Spicer**



**COFFEE CONCERTS**  
**Castle Hotel Taunton, at 11:00 a.m.**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Lorna Anderson, soprano**



**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July**  
**Keith Tempest, 'Cello**



**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**  
**Lynn Carter, Oboe**

No  
Photo  
Available

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Rebecca Chambers, viola**

**Andrew Carter**  
**(Accompanist in residence)**



**FINZI CONCERT**  
**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July**  
**St. Mary Magdalene Church, Taunton**

**OrchestraWest (Orchestra in residence, Leader Barry Haskey)**



**Conducted by**  
**Oliver Gooch**



**The concert will include the beautiful cantata 'Dies Natalis', in which the soprano solo will be sung by Elizabeth Watts.**



# Taunton Live 2015

A summer celebration of the performing and creative arts  
Promoted in association with GoCreate



Taunton Live 2015  
A summer festival celebrating the performing and creative arts

[www.tauntonfestival.org.uk/events/summer-festival/](http://www.tauntonfestival.org.uk/events/summer-festival/)

## THE ORGAN - with Margaret Philips

Margaret was a member of Council of the Royal College of Organists for 20 years, and President of the Incorporated Association of Organists from 1997–99. Since 1996 she has been Professor of Organ at the Royal College of Music in London.

In 1994, she and her husband founded the English Organ School and Museum in former chapel premises in Milborne Port, Somerset, where they have a collection of organs by English organ builders from the eighteenth century to the present day. EOS aims to provide facilities for learning and playing the organ, to promote the understanding and appreciation of the organ as a musical instrument, and to preserve a modest part of Britain's organ heritage.

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July** - solo recital – King's College Chapel, Taunton

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July** - Millborne Port Visit

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July** - she will adjudicate at the **Young Organist Competition**



**Matthew Owens** is Organist and Master of the Choristers of Wells Cathedral, having previously been Organist and Master of the Music at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh (1999-2004), and Sub Organist of Manchester Cathedral. He is also Conductor of the Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society, and was President of the Cathedral Organists' Association from 2010-13.



Matthew will be the adjudicator at the **Young Choral Conductor competition (Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015)**, the winner of which will receive the **John Cole Trophy**.

## CHORAL EVENSONGS - 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July**      **St. John the Evangelist, Taunton**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July**      **Holy Trinity, Taunton**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**      **Wells Cathedral**



## ORGAN RECITAL

**Thursday July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 noon**

**St. John's Church, Wellington**

**John Young, organ.**



**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July, Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Taunton**  
**'Music from the Renaissance'**

## stile antico





## GEORGIAN ENGLAND



### "MISS AUSTEN INVITES"

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July

At Crowcombe Court



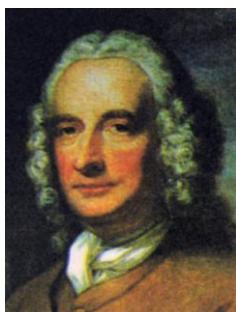
Narrator: KATE LITTLEWOOD



### HOGARTH

An illustrated Talk  
Monday July 20<sup>th</sup>

Dr. Jeremy Harvey.  
At the Taunton Conference Centre,  
Somerset College



### FIELDING

An illustrated talk

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July,

The Great Hall, Museum of Somerset

Tom Mayberry, Somerset Heritage Centre



### HANDEL – 'ACIS and GALATEA'

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July

Hestercombe Gardens



**Jack Lovell**  
Conductor



**Nic Fisher**  
Director



**Sasha Mani**  
Designer

We are delighted that the internationally acclaimed operatic baritone, Donald Maxwell, will be singing the role of Polyphemus in this production. Donald is the patron of Somerset Opera.



## INTRODUCTION



**GoCreate Taunton** is working alongside **Taunton Festival of the Arts** to bring about **Taunton Live 2015**, a summer festival celebrating the performing and creative arts.

**This exciting Festival will take place between 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and put simply, GoCreate will:**

1. *Organise a week of activities; events; gigs; exhibitions; demonstrations; workshops; schools' arts competition; schools' poetry competition; talks; performances and awareness raisers.*
2. *Curate a series of art exhibitions to accompany these events*

**For the first time, cultural organisations sharing a vision of Taunton as a cultural hub are working together on a programme to celebrate creativity in all its genres.**

**GoCreate Taunton** is a Community Interest Company based in Taunton Deane whose members are creative practitioners. Members represent Music; Visual Arts; Performance; Photography; Film; 3D Design; Ceramics; Writing and Poetry; Architecture; Publishing; Graphics; Advertising and more.

**GoCreate Taunton** was formed to bring to fruition collaborative ideas arising from discussions at the Taunton Deane Creatives Club which was set up by Creative Somerset and which meets monthly at CICCIC Taunton ([www.ciccic.co.uk](http://www.ciccic.co.uk)).

**GoCreate Taunton** has been, and will continue, working with other organisations in Taunton that share its vision to establish a vibrant creative scene in the town, centring on an annual Arts Festival with all the advantages to the town that this would bring - an economically viable proposition which is environmentally friendly, uplifting for the people of Taunton, fun and sustainable and which celebrates:

- the wonderful **architecture** of Taunton by using interesting buildings/areas as venues for events, such as Hammet Street; St. Mary Magdalene Church; Castle Square; The Castle Hotel; The Museum of Somerset, etc.
- the **musical talent** in the area, while raising awareness of shops and music outlets by using them as venues
- the **visual arts** through well curated exhibitions of a wide range of visual arts
- the **written word** through a Schools' Poetry Competition and literary events
- **drama and dance** involving The Brewhouse and Tacchi-Morris Centre
- **new talent** by holding a Schools' Art Competition; Schools' Poetry Competition; and Emerging Artists' Competition
- **accessibility** by taking events to those who can't get to them – e.g. storytellers working with patients on the wards; a musician going to a care home; workshops for the elderly and incapacitated
- **collaborative enterprises** – encouraging a variety of associations, for example painting to music; writing in response to the visual arts, etc

## SUMMARY

It is well documented that there is a direct benefit to the community at large when art becomes part of their lives, and this is particularly true in the case of the disadvantaged and disabled, the marginalised and minority groups. Art in all its genres enriches people's lives and creates a sense of well being, linking human beings and breaking down social and cultural barriers. Mankind does not need a common language, age, belief system or race to appreciate the arts. The arts enable people to connect at a more basic level.

**GoCreate Taunton** is committed to spreading this philosophy, actively bringing the arts to the people of Taunton Deane, making them accessible to all in as many interesting and innovative ways possible . . . and making them **FUN**.

[www.gocreate.org.uk](http://www.gocreate.org.uk)



# TAUNTON FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

## The Year At A Glance

2014 NOVEMBER	15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>	Film Festival	
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Preliminary rounds of Taunton Young Musician & Taunton Young Singer <i>Both competitions at Taunton School</i>	
2015 JANUARY	17 <sup>th</sup>	Taunton Young Music Theatre Singer – two competitions <i>The Space, Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre</i>	
FEBRUARY	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Music Festival – Piano Classes <i>Taunton School</i>	
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Music Festival – Wind Classes <i>Temple Methodist Church</i>	
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Music Festival – String Classes <i>Temple Methodist Church</i> Junior Vocal Classes <i>Queen's College</i>	
	6 <sup>th</sup>	Music Festival – Senior Vocal Classes <i>Queen's College</i>	
	7 <sup>th</sup>	Music Festival – Adult Vocal Classes <i>Temple Methodist Church Hall</i> Final of Taunton Junior Young Musician <i>Temple Methodist Church</i>	
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Final of Taunton Young Singer <i>The Castle Hotel</i>	
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Final of Taunton Young Musician <i>The Castle Hotel</i>	
MARCH	9 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup>	Drama Festival <i>Temple Methodist Church</i>	
	11 <sup>th</sup>	Taunton Young Theatre Performer <i>Temple Methodist Church</i>	
	21 <sup>st</sup>	National Competition for Young Bassists Two competitions <i>Both competitions at Taunton School</i>	
MAY	16 <sup>th</sup>	Preliminary round of Somerset Song Prize <i>Temple Methodist Church</i>	
	17 <sup>th</sup>	Final of Somerset Song Prize <i>The Castle Hotel</i>	
JUNE	12 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup>	Dance Festival <i>The Brewhouse Theatre</i>	
JULY	18 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>	'Taunton Live 2015' (Summer Festival) <b>(A comprehensive supplementary brochure giving full details of all the events in Taunton Live 2015 will be available early in the New Year)</b>	

All dates and venues are correct at going to press. However the Festival reserves the right to make alterations.  
Please refer to [www.tauntonfestival.org.uk](http://www.tauntonfestival.org.uk) for the most up-to-date information

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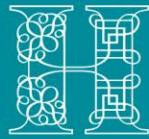
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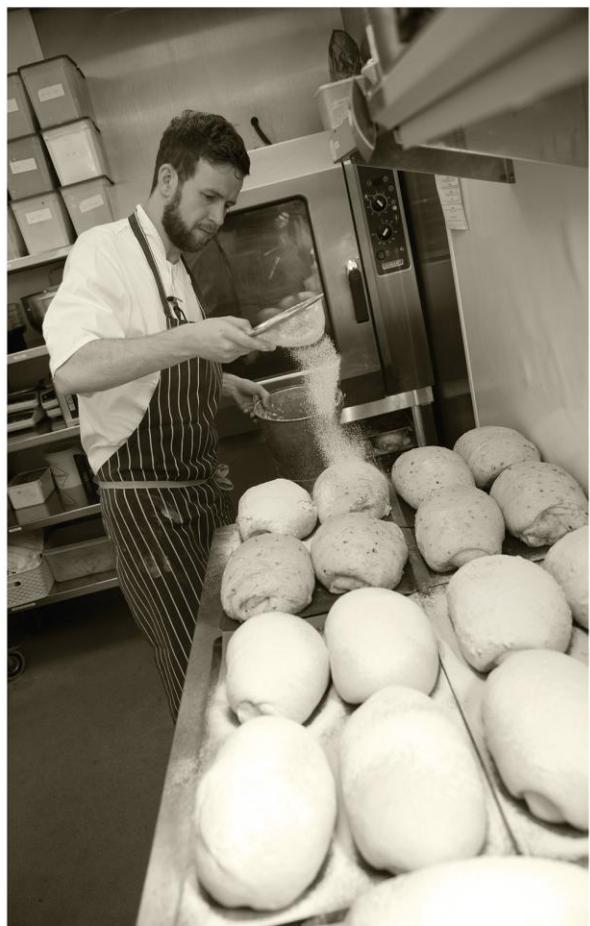
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