



friends of the **martyn donaldson** music trust

Newsletter 3 | July 2004

Welcome...

...to our latest newsletter, giving you information about the activities of MDMT in the last 6 months and sharing some of our plans for the future. With your help we have purchased and shipped out a digital piano for **Starehe Boys Centre & School**, staged several successful fund-raising events, sponsored two awards at the **National Festival of Music for Youth**, sponsored the disabled young performers of **Friends for Leisure** and, perhaps most exciting of all, we have a music volunteer lined up ready to fly out to Starehe in September.

Read on to find out more!

Thank you for your continuing support of the Trust and Trustees.

Stephanie Donaldson & Jane Maric,
Friends Co-ordinators

New Piano for Starehe

On our trip to Nairobi in February, we became aware of the lack of good pianos in the Music Centre and resolved to look into purchasing a digital piano for the school. A Roland instrument was duly bought and shipped out to Nairobi over Easter.

Fittingly, the piano's first public performance took place on Founders Day, at which the two guests were Princess Anne and President Kibaki! Deputy Prefect Joshua Abaki has reported to us that the day went well and that both the singing and piano sounded beautiful! (However the highlight of the day, for Joshua anyway, was undoubtedly the fact that dinner was "real chicken made real good"!).

We will hear more from volunteer Matt Brooks about the use of the piano over the coming months.

INTRODUCING MATT! OUR VERY FIRST MUSIC VOLUNTEER...

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed **Matthew Brooks** to the post of Music Volunteer at Starehe School, Nairobi.



Adverts for the post were emailed to all the University Music Departments in the country and in June a group of Trustees interviewed several candidates. In fact, we selected two volunteers but sadly one has had to drop out for the time being, owing to family illness. Matthew has a First Class Honours degree from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and has been studying for an MMus in Composition at the University of Southampton. He plays piano and percussion and will be leaving for Nairobi on 17th September. We caught up with Matt as he prepares for his trip...

Q. Why were you interested in applying for the post?

A. I had been thinking for some time that, after completing my studies, I might like to try and go to a developing country doing

some kind of volunteer work for a year or so. These were just vague ideas and while I was thinking about what I could do I happened to get an email about this post. It seemed an ideal opportunity to combine the volunteer work with the subject I was actually studying, which I hadn't even considered previously. So I decided to apply. In addition to this I am very keen on travelling and always thoroughly enjoy the experience of meeting new people from different backgrounds and learning about different cultures, how people live and their ideas about the world.

Q. Tell us a little about your background...

A. After finishing school (in Ashbourne, Derbyshire) I went to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London to study composition. I studied with Diana Burrell and also kept up my piano playing. I went to Italy through the Erasmus exchange scheme, studying at the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatorio in Milan. Since October 2003 I have been studying for a Masters degree in music at Southampton University, studying composition with Michael Finnissy.

Q. How are you feeling about the trip - what are you looking forward to most?!

A. I think what I'm looking forward to most is simply seeing a different country and getting to know different people and a different way of life. I'm also slightly nervous about it - naturally, I think - having never been to Africa before. As much as I try to prepare myself for it I think it will still inevitably be something of a shock to the system - with the kind of poverty and problems that exist there. I also hope to travel around and see the country, which from what I've seen and heard should be an amazing experience!

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MDMT at the National Festival of Music for Youth

South Bank, London



CHORAL

This year for the first time MDMT sponsored the Highly Commended Award in the choral section of the National Festival. Of the twenty choirs singing at this year's festival Linda and I only had a chance to hear a selection in the afternoon session.

As always there were some brilliant groups and some less so but the variety of different styles and presentations are fascinating to see and hear. Unfortunately we couldn't stay to the end to present the award so had to rely on **Matthew Brown** (ex All Hallows student who fortuitously was there with his own choir from Edinburgh) letting us know that a Welsh choir from Bangor called *Ysgol Glanaethwy* had received the MDMT award. We had actually heard this choir and rated it very highly even though the programme was all in Welsh! There was also a wonderful chamber choir from *Egglescliffe School*, Stockton on Tees, as fine a young choir as I can remember hearing but apparently the adjudicators didn't think so! Finally special mention should be made of Matt's choir '*X-ite Youth Choir*' most of whom were under age for this section but nevertheless performed with real stage presence and sang with great sensitivity accompanied brilliantly on the piano by Matt himself.

The National Festival is a showcase of all that is best about our schools and music making in particular. It depends entirely on major sponsors like the Halifax, Norwich Union, Classic FM and so on. We hope with the help of our 'friends' that MDMT's work in this area can increase - it is one of the best investments in our young people's future.

Andy Donaldson

JAZZ

Building on last year's success, once again MDMT sponsored the Outstanding Performance Award in the Jazz (Schools) section. Unfortunately Katie and I didn't arrive in time to hear last year's winner, *Abraham Darby School*, but we enjoyed some fantastically varied and exciting music from very diverse groups. As usual, the atmosphere in the Queen Elizabeth Hall was electric.

At the end of the performances an adjudication is given by the chair of the panel and each group receives a certificate, before the recipients of the two awards (Highly Commended and Outstanding Performance) are announced. Katie and I had been invited on stage to present our award, so decided to be something of a double act - I made the speech and Katie did the presenting! The MDMT award went to *St Aidan's Swing Band*, from Harrogate - a very popular choice. We hope to invite St Aidan's to Macclesfield to demonstrate their undoubted musical talent sometime next year.

A footnote: the 2005 National Festival of Music for Youth is moving to Birmingham (owing to the refurbishment of the South Bank Centre), to be held at Symphony Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire and the CBSO Centre. We hope some of you may be able to join us next year at this unique celebration of music-making.

Stephanie Donaldson



INTRODUCING MATT BROOKS! Our new Music Volunteer

(from page 1)

Q. Do you have any plans yet for the sort of musical activities you'd like to do with the boys?

A. I haven't had a great deal of time to think about this yet. But I think that to start with I will basically be giving piano tuition to whoever wants it and we'll build up other things from there. Teaching Western music in the classroom is something else I'm sure I'll be doing, but I don't want to make this too academic or just like a musical history lesson - so I'll be looking up and thinking about lots of practical activities that we can do, things like group singing, group playing improvisation... I also believe it shouldn't be a one-way process and I'm very keen to see what experiences of music the boys have from their own diverse backgrounds and how we can incorporate these ideas into lessons.



Q. What sort of music do you enjoy playing/listening to in your spare time?

A. I'll listen to pretty much anything really - I always try to keep an open mind. Being first and foremost a composer I naturally tend towards contemporary music. This is just my area of special interest though and I also love all the usual 'greats' from past centuries as well as enjoying a lot of contemporary pop/rock/dance/jazz music. I have also been listening to an amazing CD of traditional Kenyan music and also some Kenyan pop music and am looking forward to finding out more about all of it!

Q. What do you personally hope to get out of your time in Kenya?

A. In addition to everything already mentioned, I am hoping to be able to investigate traditional Kenyan music through Kenyatta University in Nairobi, where I hope to sit in on lectures and study research in this area, and perhaps try to learn a traditional Kenyan instrument...

In general though, I simply hope that I will have new and interesting experiences there, which will broaden my mind and expand my horizons for the future.



Mountaineer Man

Congratulations to **Simon Campbell**, who raised £300 for MDMT on a challenge to climb the 15 mountain peaks over 3000 feet in under 24 hours. Starting at 4am, Simon's group managed 8 peaks in 18 hours, until the weather finally made continuing impossible. The weather was a big factor over the first peaks (including Snowdon) - with visibility at only 3 metres the group missed several paths and the going was hard, knowing that a thousand foot drop was only a slip away.

Continuing to attack the next peaks, the group finished with a scramble up Tryfan and a long descent that coincided with a beautiful sunset, finishing at 10.30pm in darkness, and graciously having to admit defeat! However the group intend to return in September to finish the job and not only raised very welcome funds for MDMT but also £3000 for Diabetes UK.



Above: The view from Snowdon on the day of the walk.



Left: The same view a day later (via train!).

Sax Appeal

Stop Press: in accordance with the aim of the Trust to support young musicians in the Macc area, we approached local schools last month to enquire about any particular needs in terms of instruments. *Tytherington High School* (which by happy coincidence was the secondary school that Martyn attended) replied to tell us about their need for a baritone saxophone, to be played in the school jazz band, their current instrument being in poor repair. We have therefore purchased a baritone saxophone, which will remain the property of the Trust and will be on loan to Tytherington High School while they have a need for it. The current baritone sax player (not to mention the rest of the band!) will benefit considerably from this instrument and we hope to bring you reports about its use in the future.

Jazz on a Summer's night

Our most recent fund-raising event featured *Abraham Darby Jazz Band*, from Abraham Darby School, Telford, winners of the 2003 Outstanding Performance Award at the National Festival of Music for Youth. These amazing young performers delighted the capacity audience with a great mixture of jazz standards, popular songs and swing numbers, demonstrating exactly why they deserve the accolade of one of the top youth jazz bands in the country. Thanks to Director of Music **Simon Platford** and the band for giving their time and talent to the Trust.



MDMT supports Friends for Leisure

The local aim of MDMT is to support music/drama projects in Macclesfield and district. This year it has been a great pleasure to help finance such a project organised by the local group **Friends for Leisure**. The disabled young people and their able bodied volunteer partners worked together over a 20 week period at Fallibroome High School to devise and produce an original show of their own called *I'm a Celebrity Survivor Pop Idol - get me out of here!!*

The workshops were led by Kathy Lewis from the Friends team and Laura Rutherford from Cheshire Dance. Each member of the 20 strong cast chose his/her own character to impersonate, forming into Team Elvis led by Chis Kirkham's E.Presley and Team Tina led by Danielle Lewis's T. Turner!

The grand finale was reached on Thursday 17th June when the show was staged in front of an invited audience on stage at Fallibroome with set, lighting, make up, costumes and the works. MDMT trustees were treated to Victoria Beckham, Charlie from Busted, Les Battersby, Shrek, Harry Potter and many more all there before our very eyes! It all got too much for Mrs Beckham towards the end and she gracefully left the stage to sit the rest of the show out with Mum and Dad but the indefatigable Charlie from Busted maintained his energy levels to the bitter end as he covered every inch of the stage exhorting the audience, sometimes in the wrong place, to applaud!

A really enjoyable evening ended with tea and biscuits and the chance to meet members of the cast and production team. To see these disabled young people, some with severe problems, working together with obvious pleasure and increasing self confidence and awareness was wonderful. Thanks to MDMT friends for making this possible.

Marathon Man

Congratulations to **Andy Donaldson** who completed the London Marathon on Sun 19th April, in a time of 3 hours, 53 minutes, 2 seconds (the seconds are very important!), raising £1700 for MDMT.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Celebrity Auction!

Saturday 20th November, 2004

Put Sat 20th November in your diary now - it's a date not to be missed. MDMT will be holding an auction of various items donated by a whole plethora of celebrities! Just a selection of what will be on offer:

- a signed video from the *Master of Mirth*, Ken Dodd
 - 'Music for the Garden' CD, compiled and signed by Alan Titchmarsh
 - signed photos from Ant and Dec, Bill Bailey, Sir Bobby Charlton, Alan Davies
 - a tie worn on 'Have I Got News For You' and greetings from Ian Hislop
 - signed t-shirt and accompanying letter from a host of sporting celebrities from BBC's 'A Question of Sport', including Sir Steve Redgrave and Colin Jackson, plus 2 tickets to attend a live studio recording of the show
 - a complete set of Harry Potter cassette recordings, read and donated by Stephen Fry
 - an authentic "Howler" letter from the Harry Potter films, plus an Industrial Light and Magic t-shirt
 - a visit to Coronation Street studios and the opportunity to meet the cast
 - signed Manchester City shirt
 - signed Manchester United shirt
- and much more!

And if that's not enough, we are delighted that Coronation Street actors **Jennie McAlpine** (Fiz), **Sally Lindsay** (Shelley) and **Julia Howarth** (Claire) have agreed to come along to lead the auction proceedings!

We will send you more info about the Auction during the autumn.

Chetham's School of Music

Saturday 4th December, 2004 - Macclesfield Methodist Church

Musicians from the world-famous Chetham's School of Music in Manchester will be performing at Macclesfield Methodist Church on Sat 4th December. We hope this concert will have a Christmas flavour, with singing from the Chamber Choir interspersed with instrumental soloists. We expect this event to be very popular, so book early and encourage all your friends to come! Look out for further details about tickets in the autumn.

The Organist Entertains!

Our first fund-raising event of the year took place in February, when **Phil Kelsall**, the Organist of the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool, visited Macclesfield to delight the audience with popular tunes old and new. Phil's skill and versatility made for a thoroughly entertaining evening, complete with audience requests! Thank you to Phil for donating his services for the Trust.

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Maccstock 2004

Following on from last year's success, Maccstock II hit the town on Sunday 30th May. Cuban Knights hosted the marathon event, which featured numerous local bands including *The Hot Bananas*, *Rambo & Leroy*, *Label* and the wonderfully titled Led Zeppelin tribute, *Ezily Led*. A string of local DJs including *Otis B Driftwood*, *Bride of Funkenstein* and *Concrete Jim* kept the entertainment flowing between sets with their varied slant on things.

The event went one better than last year and raised over £2000 for the MDMT. So a big thanks is due to all who contributed their time and effort and to all who turned up to support on the day. Here's to Maccstock III. See you there.

Cow