



# friends of the martyndonaldson music trust

Newsletter 12 | Jan 2009

Happy New Year! By the time you read this newsletter, our newly-recruited volunteer teachers Barney and Rob will be settling into their new homes in Nairobi.

We will keep you in touch with all their activities in the coming year and you can read more about them in this issue of the newsletter. We'll also update you on forthcoming musical activities sponsored by MDMT nationally and locally. Happy reading!

**Stephanie Donaldson**  
Friends Co-ordinator

## Christmas Cards

For the first time this year, Linda Donaldson has organised the production of Christmas cards in aid of MDMT, with a design by our Friend and local artist Maggie Williamson.



These have been on sale in the Charity Christmas Card fair at Macclesfield Library, as well as other locations including Birmingham Conservatoire!

They have proved to be very popular and profitable for the Trust. We may re-print the card design as a blank card to be used for any purpose, so please let us know if you would be interested in purchasing any.

## Our new volunteers!

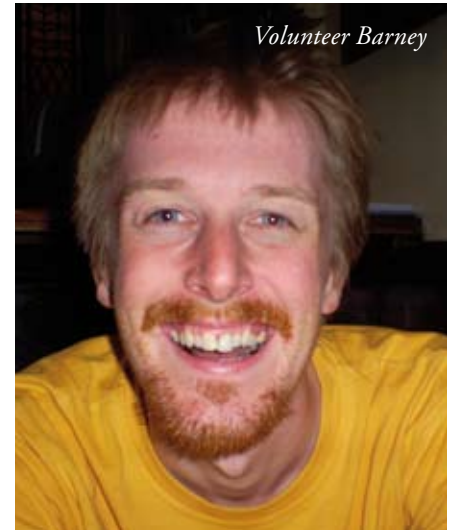
*An interview with Barney Everett and Rob Stewardson*

*For the past 4 years, the MDMT has organised and paid for volunteer music teachers from the UK to work at Starehe Boys' and Girls' Schools in Nairobi. On 2<sup>nd</sup> January, Barney Everett and Rob Stewardson fly out to continue the excellent work begun by Matthew Brooks, Chris Walters and Niamh Molloy. We asked them to tell us more about themselves and what they hope to achieve from the volunteer placement.*

**Q. Tell us a little about your musical background and interests.**

BE: I've been playing the trumpet since I was 10 years old and gained a lifelong interest in jazz from my first trumpet teacher, who ran a big band. By the time I was 15 I was playing in 2 big bands, wind bands, orchestras and any other playing opportunities I could get my hands on! After college I took the Bmus Jazz course at Birmingham Conservatoire. Jazz has always been my love but I've enjoyed playing in many different situations in the last few years including my brass quartet, The Brassketeers. My listening tastes are pretty wide, I really enjoy world music such as salsa from Cuba and folk music from the Balkans. On the classical side I'm into more contemporary composers such as Ravel and Samuel Barber. I've also been checking out African music, my current favorite being Congolese Soukous!

RS: I was born in Carlisle and was educated at Scotby Primary School and Austin Friars, rising to the positions of pencil monitor and Prefect of Music respectively. I began learning the piano aged 8 and the trumpet soon after. I first picked up a tuba when I received a letter telling me that I had been accepted to play the instrument in the National Scout and Guide Symphony Orchestra. Although I had not submitted the application (the work of an over-eager mother), heard of the orchestra and only began practising the tuba two weeks before the course, I battled my way through the music in a sufficiently acceptable way to be invited back year after year touring the Czech Republic and Estonia as well as playing in front of 15,000 people at the Millennium Dome



Volunteer Barney

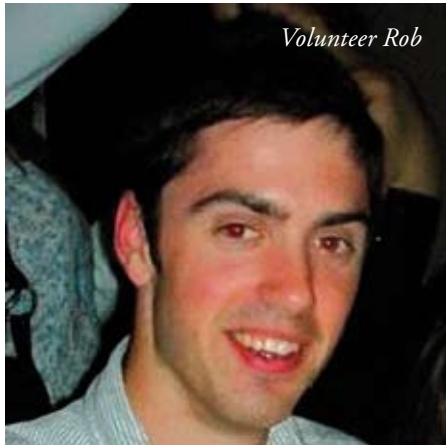
for the Scout centenary concert. In 2003 I was accepted as a student to read music at Manchester University, graduating with a 2:1 in July 2007. Between September 2007 and September 2008 I read for a MMus in Musicology principally studying the relationship between music and European society and politics in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

This culminated in a thesis about British music during World War I with a special focus on the Scottish composer Cecil Coles who died near the Somme in 1918 after writing some extraordinary music in the trenches. My musical tastes are wide and varied but favourites include Beethoven, Sibelius, Nielsen, Vaughan Williams, Stravinsky, Shostakovich and Hindemith.

**Q. What do you hope to achieve during your time at Starehe, both for the pupils and for yourself?**

...continued on page 2

## Interview with our new volunteers *(continued from page 1)*



*Volunteer Rob*

BE: I'd like to be able to inspire them to develop as musicians and explore types of music which may not be so familiar with. Mainly though, I hope to enable them to enjoy their music making. As for myself, I'm looking forward to proving that I can adapt and thrive in an unfamiliar situation.

RS: At Starehe I would like to think that I can enthuse the pupils to the same love of music that I enjoy. Music is such a joyful activity with an almost unique ability to cross any cultural divide and it is my hope and ambition that all the pupils will gain something from my time in Kenya. In return, as the best way to learn is surely to teach, I believe that through this experience I will become a much better all-round musician adding new strings to my bow (or new valves to my tuba!) with every step along the way.

**Q. You met some Starehe pupils at the concert in September - what was your first impression of the students and how did you feel after the experience of meeting so many people and being officially introduced to MDMT Friends and supporters?**

BE: I remember watching in amazement as the pupils performed for the band during rehearsal. Their energy and enthusiasm was infectious and this was confirmed in talking to them afterwards. They were incredibly open and friendly whilst also being impeccably polite! The whole experience of meeting everyone that evening was a little crazy but I left feeling inspired and exciting about going to Kenya.

RS: Meeting the pupils of Starehe School was wonderful. As well as being great kids, teasing each other when I revealed that Liverpool had beaten Manchester United, their maturity, intelligence and inherent

musical ability shone through and they were a credit to their country and their school. Meeting so many people was, naturally, a daunting prospect but the ever warm Donaldson welcome as well as meeting Franklyn Etyang and the indomitable David Kisiaky quickly broke-the-ice and the only fear I had was falling off my chair when introduced to the audience! It was only afterwards in the pub, however, that it sunk in what a close bunch of friends the MDMT is and how lucky I am to have been accepted as part of them.

**Q. What do you think you will find most difficult about living in Kenya for a year?**

BE: It's hard to think about what might be difficult living in Kenya as I'm so excited at the moment. I guess though it will take a while to get used to how things work and social norms. I'm sure there will be times when I'd like to talk to someone from home but hopefully I will make lots of friends out there which will make things easier.

RS: Being obsessively punctual (I hate being early or late), adjusting to Kenyan timekeeping and work ethics could be initially difficult and a challenge I may have to admit defeat in before I even take it up!

**Q. What else do you hope to do during your time in Kenya as well as your work at Starehe?**

BE: I'd like to see lots of the country, top of my list is going out to the coast, to Mombasa and Lamu Island, as well as climbing Mount Kenya! I'd also like to try and do some work with children from outside Starehe Boys School, maybe in some of the poorer areas of Nairobi.

RS: Although most of my time will be spent teaching at Starehe and the Nairobi Conservatoire, to go halfway around the world and see little of the country would be such a shame as to almost be criminally negligent! I am sure I strike a common chord in praising the BBC's wildlife programmes over the years but to see the animals in the wild would be amazing and I hope in school holidays to be able to see as much of Kenya as possible. Being born and raised near the Lake District, hills are in my blood and so I hope to get the opportunity to climb Mount Kenya and/or Kilimanjaro. Although lessons are taught in English in Kenya I have already started to learn a small amount of Swahili which I hope to be able to expand upon during my time in Africa. For now, Kwa heri.

# Martyn's Music 4

In September we welcomed 7 visitors from Nairobi plus 4 of our music volunteers, not to mention the massed ranks of choir and orchestra, to present our most successful Martyn's Music event yet! A packed audience enjoyed music ranging from Monteverdi and Rachmaninov to Queen and 'Oliver!', alongside traditional music and tribal dancing from our Kenyan visitors, Eddie, Dan, Eliazaro, Isaac, David, Clement and their music teacher Franklin Etyan'g.



With sponsorship from Gusto Restaurant in Alderley Edge, the concert raised around £3k for the Trust and was a really unforgettable evening. The boys from Starehe stayed for a week in Macclesfield and their own accounts of the time spent in the UK (the first trip outside Kenya for most of them) are available in a separate report, to be circulated to our Friends.

If you weren't able to attend or would like to re-live the occasion, why not order a professionally-produced DVD or CD of the evening? They are both priced at £5 and can be ordered via any Trustee or phoning 01625 433187.



# Track the Trumpet!

We were delighted to introduce the youngsters of Macclesfield Youth Brass Band (MYBB) to the boys from Nairobi during their time in Macclesfield. The Brass Band has generously selected MDMT to be their chosen charity during 08/09 and are already planning fund-raising activities. The boys were invited to sing and perform with MYBB during their appearance at the Bollington Transport Extravaganza, on which occasion they were also presented with a trumpet from the members of MYBB. The instrument has been taken back to Starehe Boys' School and is now in the deserving hands of student John Wamithi Wachira. John has sent this account of his plans for his future musical career with the MYBB trumpet!



*My name is John Wamithi Wachira and I'll be turning 16 this year. I am the second born in a Family of three. My home is precisely located at the middle of the center of the country; Nyeri (on Mount Kenya slopes) in Central Province. I started my schooling at the age of six at a local school in the vicinity. It took me eight years to finish my Primary education before I got an opportunity to join Starehe Boys' Centre in Nairobi.*

*When I was a year old, a very painful thing happened to me. It still haunts me. Accidentally, I fell on hot charcoal. My forehead and three of my fingers on my left hand were thoroughly burnt. As I grew up, it was a big challenge doing my daily chores using my right hand. I felt an outcast. With time, I have come to be myself. Fighting everyday wars with much zeal and confidence; I will live my dream. At Starehe, I fell in love with music. The challenge was that most instruments require double coordination using both hands. Now, that was a challenge... only two strong fingers on my left hand! My ever encouraging music teacher Mr. Etyang' noted my hardships. We settled for a trumpet... Wow! This is my destiny! Recently, Mr Etyang' brought back from the UK a very beautiful trumpet. I was honoured to use it. It was really moving playing a few tunes in the Assembly hall; I commanded attention from the entire school as they listened. Yes, I can do it!*

*I am determined to take Music as my future career. I truly thank the MYBB through the MDMT for the trumpet and I assure them one thing... I will be the BEST. I have great hopes to study abroad luckily if I get a sponsor. This will enable me develop my skills and many perspectives in life. May the Almighty shower His blessings to the Macclesfield Youth Brass Band, the Martyn Donaldson Music Trust and Mr. Etyang' for all the kindness and love shown to me. Please accept my heartfelt thanksgiving.*

## Musical Youth at Music for Youth

MDMT was well-represented again at the world's largest youth music festival, the National Festival of Music for Youth, which took place in Birmingham in July. MDMT sponsored awards in two categories: choirs and jazz.



Both categories were held for the first time in the newly-refurbished Town Hall, a wonderful and historic venue having welcomed Edward Elgar and Charles Dickens onto its stage, amongst many other luminaries! Farnham Youth Choir were presented with the MDMT award for the Highly Commended performance by Trustee Stephanie Donaldson, while David Kisiaky presented the Outstanding Performance Award in the jazz category to Norton's Dixie Kings – a toe-tapping traditional jazz band from Ashford in Kent.



## A Yee-Ha! Barn Dance!

Our autumnal fund-raiser was a fabulous fun Barn Dance! Around 70 keen dancers twirled, promenaded and swung their partners to the music of The Jolly Machine, before and after partaking of a delicious hotpot supper, very ably served by Trustee Julie Johnson and her efficient team of helpers.

With the expert assistance of Marc Hough on the bar, we raised funds for MDMT and a great night was had by all!

*Left: Trustee Steve Smith and Rachel Griffiths make a new friend...*

# Kenya Music Festival

In August we were happy to pay the travelling expenses for a visit to the Kenya Music Festival by the choir of Coulson School in Gilgil. You may remember that we are sponsoring the work of an ex-Starehe boy, Joseph Wasonga, who has a placement as a volunteer music assistant before going to University. Joseph has worked extremely hard to bring the choir to the standard required to sing in the national music festival and we are very proud of his achievement.

Student Maurine Magero writes: *It was a marvellous experience and we were all happy about the whole event. We really appreciate everyone who made it such a success including my colleagues who represented the school at the festivals, the rest of the school for the support they gave us and our staff for being there for us. Thank you one and all!!*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

### Bollington Festival: Royal Northern College of Music Big Band

**Saturday 16th May 2009**

MDMT is sponsoring an event in the Bollington Festival for the first time in 2009. We have chosen the RNCM Big Band to support and intend to bring the Trust to the notice of many more people, resulting in signing up some new Friends, as well as supporting this vibrant local musical event! The event takes place on Sat 16<sup>th</sup> May and further details will be available in the Festival literature.

### Macclesfield Youth Band and Bollington Brass Band

**Summer 2009**

Our friends in these two well-respected local bands are joining forces to present a special fund-raising concert in the summer. More details to follow.

### Summer Soirée

**Summer 2009**

2009 will mark the fifth anniversary of the Martydn Donaldson Music Trust and to celebrate and thank all our loyal Friends and supporters, we will be inviting you to be our guests at a musical soiree in the summer. More information to follow.

### Martydn's Music 5

**Saturday 12th September 2009**

Put the date in your diaries now! We hope this concert will feature visitors from Starehe Girls' School under the tutelage of Rob Stewardson.

## Donations

*Our grateful thanks to all those who have donated to MDMT in the last six months, including:*

- Macclesfield Methodist Church Ladies' Circle
- Glen Noble
- Rosemary and Peter Moore
- Judith Foden
- Barbara Healy and Margaret Henshall
- Margaret Metcalf
- Monica Gent
- Jolanta Starsiak.

Katie Muncaster ran the 'Race for Life' in aid of MDMT and Marc Hough asked for donations instead of presents on the occasion of his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday (happy birthday from all of us Marc!).

Congratulations also to Trustee Christopher Brown who married our good friend Claire Willis on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

## Your Friendly Trustees

**Chairman:**  
**Andy Donaldson**

**Vice-Chairman and Friends Co-ordinator:**  
**Stephanie Donaldson**

**Secretary:**  
**Linda Donaldson**

**Treasurer:**  
**Matthew Berry**

**Publicity:**  
**Chris Brown**

**Fund-raiser:**  
**Katie Muncaster**

**Fund-raiser:**  
**Julie Johnson**

**MDMT Trustee:**  
**Colin North**

**Friends Co-ordinator:**  
**Steve Smith**