

# S.U.Y.O. & S.U.Y.B. Friends Association

The Friends Association of the SUYO and SUYB help to support the presentation of public performances and concert tours by the orchestra and band, and to co-ordinate and plan fund raising activities.

Through our contributions we are able help to promote, enhance and develop the musical skills, opportunities, knowledge and self-confidence of the orchestra and band members. This year we were pleased to award 4 SELB music students new bursary awards for advanced tuition, in addition to the 3 continuing students receiving the advanced teaching bursaries awarded last year.

We warmly welcome any parents or friends of any SELB Music Service students who are interested in joining the Association - please contact a member of the Music Service or visit our website [www.friendsassociation.co.uk](http://www.friendsassociation.co.uk).

Our AGM will be held in Portadown Music Centre on Wednesday 19th November at 7:30 and this is great opportunity to find out more about the Association.

## Did you know? Highlights of 2007 - 2008

Throughout the Year: TUITION

Instrumental Tuition was delivered to over 4,500 pupils in 193 schools.

The total of pupils who were involved in activities organised by the Music Service was more than 5,500.

With access and opportunity in mind over 1500 young people were involved in 39 'Pathways projects' were offered in 34 schools

The 'My Music' project operated successfully in Lisanally and Rathore Special Schools

World Drumming projects were fully booked throughout the year.

Highlights of a successful year included performances by the Pathways String project and the South Ulster Brass Ensemble for President Mary McAleese at St Patrick's Primary School Ballymaghera, Hilltown.

**Editor - Krista Gallagher**

If you have any news items, photographs or information you would like to share with us, please do not hesitate to contact me at Newry Music Centre: 028 302 53169 or check out our websites: [www.selb.org/music](http://www.selb.org/music) [www.friendsassociation.co.uk](http://www.friendsassociation.co.uk) We welcome your comments and ideas for future issues. Thanks.

## THE SOUTH ULSTER YOUTH BAND CONCERT TOUR TO LAKE GARDA ITALY

2nd to 7th July, 2009

The band and their friends are busy raising funds to send them on their concert tour to Italy this summer!

The proposed Itinerary will include:

- Trips around beautiful Lake Garda
- A visit to Gardaland Theme Park
- Guided tour of Venice and/or Verona
- Sightseeing in Milan
- 3 Concerts
- Possible trip to the Opera

If you have any ideas or suggestions for fundraising please contact the conductor of the SUYB Mr Darren Canmore at Portadown Music Centre.



## SUCB Announcement!

The South Ulster Concert Band needs no introduction to music lovers. A band of immense talent and versatility who thoroughly enjoy playing together and entertaining others. Performances include church services, shopping malls, Christmas concerts, charity events and not forgetting an annual Musical evening in Portadown Town Hall in February.

I am delighted to have been asked to come on board as Musical Director and conduct the band and I am really looking forward to working as part of the SUCB team!

If you have any hidden musical talent - in any orchestral section, and you fancy coming along to experience "band life", rehearsals are on a Wednesday night in Bann House, Portadown from 8.00 - 9.45p.m. We would love to see you there!!

For further details please contact Patricia Mc Sherry (Secretary) on 07966142720

**Brian McMaster (Musical Director)**



## Dates for Your Diary

**Christmas Concert - South Ulster Youth Orchestra, South Ulster Youth Band, South Ulster Big Band.** Thurs. 18th December - Lagan Valley Island Lisburn - 8pm

**School Day Concert - South Ulster Academy Orchestra, South Ulster Academy Band, South Ulster String Orchestra.** Tuesday 24th February 09 - Lismore Comprehensive School

**Portadown Junior Ensembles.** Monday 2nd March 09 - Craigavon Civic Centre - 8pm

**Newry Junior Ensembles.** Wednesday 4th March 09 - St. Mark's HS, Warrenpoint - 8pm

**Dungannon Junior Ensembles.** Thursday 5th March 09 - Dungannon Leisure Centre - 8pm

**South Ulster String Orchestra, South Ulster Saxophone Ensemble, South Ulster Harp Ensemble, South Ulster Brass Ensemble, South Ulster Recorder Ensemble.** Friday 20th March 09 - Church of Ireland Cathedral, Armagh - 8pm

**South Ulster Academy Orchestra, South Ulster Academy Band, South Ulster Academy String Orchestra.** Fri. 27th March 09 - St. Mark's HS, Warrenpoint - 8pm

**South Ulster Youth Orchestra, South Ulster Youth Band.** Saturday 4th April 09 - Market Place Theatre, Armagh - 8pm

**South Ulster Youth Orchestra, South Ulster Big Band, students from Dundalk Institute of Technology.** Saturday 25th April 09 - Dundalk Institute of Technology - 8pm

**South Ulster Youth Band Tour Concert.** Saturday 27th June 09 - 8pm

# In Tune

Issue 14 • November 2008

[www.selb.org/music](http://www.selb.org/music)

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

## Prizenight Celebrations



The SELB Music Service held its Annual Prize Night Ceremony on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May in Craigavon Civic Centre. The awards were presented by Ms Catherine Milligan, (Miss Northern Ireland 2006-07), and the host was Mr Bob Crookes.

Prize night is an opportunity to celebrate and recognise the endeavours and achievements of some of the Music Service students. In all, 108 students were nominated for awards and all nominees received a medal along with the 26 winners who received the cup for their category.

The nominees and their parents were treated to performances from some of the senior Music Service students. There were also performances from two Musical Pathways projects, St Paul's Bessbrook (Wind and Brass) and Carrick PS Lurgan (Percussion project).

The Martin White Scholarship which is presented to exceptional students intending to study at music college was awarded to Carolyn Kelly an oboe student from Portadown College who will be studying at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and Peter Harris a percussion student also from Portadown College who will be studying Music at Oxford.

The Friends Association Advanced Teaching Bursary Awards were also presented at prize night. The winners of the awards this year were, Rebecca McCrory, Rachel McGarrity, Simon Neill and Nikki Magee. These hard working students will have their advanced tuition lessons paid for by the Friends Association Scholarship Fund. (for more information see [www.friendsassociation.co.uk](http://www.friendsassociation.co.uk))

Congratulations to all the winners, nominees and performers for all their hard work and a most enjoyable evening!

## Prize Winners 2007/2008



**The Florence Hamilton Cup**  
Phillip Coleman, St Anthony's PS, Craigavon

**The Annita Currie Cup**  
Hannah Henning, Newry HS

**The Grace Gallagher Cup**  
Kathryn Boyle, Dromintee PS, Newry

**The 'My Music' Cup**  
Brenda McGuigan, Lisanally School, Armagh  
Rian McGarvey, Rathore School, Newry

**The Multiple Sclerosis Cup**  
Bronagh Rafferty, Sacred Heart GS, Newry

**The S.U.A.O. Cup**  
Michael Dodds, Royal School, Dungannon

**The S.U.A.B. Cup**  
Jennifer Allen, Portadown College

**The Recorder Cup**  
Emma Byrne, Sacred Heart GS, Newry

**The S.U.S.O. Cup**  
Rachel Flynn, Sacred Heart GS, Newry  
Stephen Beattie, Christian Brothers' Abbey GS, Newry

**The Carlin Records Cup**  
Carolyn Kelly, Portadown College

**The Clarinet Concerto Cup**  
Alanah Heyburn, Portadown College

**The Averil Blake Memorial Cup**  
Carolyn Kelly, Portadown College

**The Percussion Cup**  
Peter Harris, Portadown College  
Óisín Kearney, St Colman's College, Newry

**The Aileen MacArdle Cup**  
Nikki Magee, St Louis GS, Kilkeel

**The S.U.B.E. Cup**  
David Clarke, St Colman's College, Newry

**The Friends of the South Ulster Youth Orchestra and Band Advanced Teaching Bursary Award**  
Rebecca McCrory & Rachel McGarrity  
St Joseph's Convent GS, Donaghmore  
Simon Neill, Portadown College  
Nikki Magee, St Louis GS, Kilkeel

**The Martin White Award**  
Carolyn Kelly & Peter Harris, Portadown College

**The S.U.Y.B Cup**  
Anthony Marsden, St Colman's College, Newry

**The Rex Blake Perpetual Cup**  
Danielle Rogan, Queen's University

## Ulster Youth Orchestra

In August, a number of past and present SELB students got the opportunity to play in the Ulster Youth Orchestra. Our excitement was greater this year than ever, due to the course concluding with a concert tour of Germany.

The course commenced with a ten day residential in Greenmount Agricultural College, Co. Antrim. Because of the challenging nature of our programme, we rehearsed for eight hours a day. The programme was made up of four pieces - a new modern commission from well-known local composer Deirdre McKay, 'Four Diversions on Ulster Airs' by Howard Ferguson, 'Rhapsodie on a theme of Paganini' by Rachmaninoff, and the ever impressive 'Symphony No.5' by Shostakovich. Professional tutors were brought over from London to assist us with the music and to give us tips on good orchestral playing. After three days with rehearsal conductor Mike Thompson, we were joined by piano soloist from the Rachmaninoff, Michael McHale, and professional conductor, Takuo Yuasa. Intense rehearsals resumed and the residential concluded with two concerts in Guildhall, Derry and Whitla Hall, Belfast, both of which were very successful.

After one day of resting and getting clothes washed and repacked (thanks, mum!), we all met in Belfast to begin the concert tour of Germany. The journey was quite long, but worth it when we arrived. We were kept busy between touring and sightseeing, but the highlight of Berlin had to be playing in the Berlin Konzerthaus, (home of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra), as part of the 'Young Euro Classique Festival'. Here we performed to an audience of 2500 people, who received us greatly and rewarded us with a standing ovation, which gave many of us goosebumps! We then travelled to Kassel (about 5 hours away) where we got to do some shopping, but also performed another successful concert in Martinskirche, as part of the same festival. Our hard work was now complete, so the following evening we relaxed and went to see the French Youth Orchestra, who played an impressive concert, including Dvorak's 'New World Symphony'.

After a final night of partying, the tour was over and we began a long journey home, (further delayed by the delightful Irish weather). It was great to be home, but the UYO 2008 was an experience which greatly improved all our performance skills and will not soon be forgotten.

Orla Rice & David Clarke



## Marks of Distinction

Congratulations to all those who successfully passed their Associated Board examinations in June 2008. Distinctions were gained by 49 of the 625 students entered in this session. An additional there were 183 merits and 248 passes were also achieved. Unfortunately the list is too long to publish, but special mention must be made to the following students who passed with distinction!

Blaithin Rafferty Gd 1, Christopher Coulter Gd 6, Alana McCabe Gd 3, Catherine Holland Gd 1, Cormac McGirr Gd 3, Clare Irwin Gd 8, Louise Robertson Gd 1, Ellen McLean Gd 1, Bronagh Broderick Gd 4, Simon Hall Gd 4, Fergal Rafferty Gd 8, Sean Kelly Gd 3, Rachel Humphrey Gd 2, Victoria Maxwell Gd 2, Hannah McGarrity Gd 3, Kathryn Abraham Gd 1, Susan Baird Gd 4, Emma Cooney Gd 4, Kathryn Corr Gd 2, James Cunningham Gd 4, Rachel Develin Gd 1, John Gamble Gd 5, Rhianna Giffin Gd 2, Iarlaith Hendron Gd 1, Christopher Irwin Gd 7, David Kennedy Gd 3, Chloe McArdle Gd 1, Sean McConville Gd 6, Grace McCullough Gd 1, Cameron McDonald Gd 2, Emma McFetridge Gd 1, Rachel McGaffin Gd 1, Ronan McStravick Gd 1, Charlie Monaghan Gd 2, Jill Morrow Gd 1, Alicia Newton Gd 4, Jack Patience Gd 2, Christopher Staines Gd 4, Anna Tennyson Gd 1, Rayanne Turner Gd 2, Orla Ward Gd 1, Natasha White Gd 3, Kathryn Boyle Gd 1, David Clarke Gd 8, Laura Daly Gd 1, Caolan Kearns Gd 5, Orlagh Kimbley Gd 1, Lucy McLaughlin Gd 5

## Summer School

The annual SELB summer school took place this year in Lismore Comprehensive and Portadown music centre from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Apart from all the musical options available to students there were also games and activities for all the young musicians to meet and socialise!

We look forward to seeing returning members and lots of new students this summer from 30<sup>th</sup> June to the 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Application forms will be available from Music Centres and tutors shortly!



### ASSOCIATED BOARD MUSIC MEDALS

The following students completed their Music Medals examinations in 2008

**PLATINUM** - Alana Leslie, Lauren Millar

**GOLD** - Jill Bleakley, Eimear Casey, Kathryn Sloan, Joanna Scott, Emma-Lee Flack, Rachel Slaine, Alexandra Bell, Rachel Convery, Rory Chapman

**SILVER** - Kelsie Rogers, Fionnuala Donnelly, Kaitlin Holdsworth, Emma Kelly, Chantelle Mulgrew, Rakha-Jane Murty, Dearbhile O'Hagan, Aine Hamill, Kimberly Silveira, Cathal McCabe, Niamh Quinn, Paula O'Neill

**BRONZE** - Aine Cassidy, Aodhan Donnelly, Anna Hill, Charlotte Killen, Ursula Kinsella, Kelly-Anne McAteer, Victoria McConnell, Bebhinne Scott, Rebecca Shields, Maria Sloan, Carla Steel, Emily Walsh, Harry Lambert, Jessica Mulgrew, Canice McIlvenna, Kathryn O'Neill, Ian Brown, Jonathan Black, Anna Magennis, Keanu Heatherington, Ellen Corbett, Orla Fanthorpe, Matthew Hamill

**COPPER** - Rachel Borland, Ellen Fearon, Naomi Ferguson, Danielle Glenny, Laura Glenny, Niall Greer, James Johnston, Siobhan Lennon, Chloe Lindsay, Ellen Martin, Sarah McArdle, Catherine McGuinness, Cara Elise McKee, Conor McNamee, Francis McNamee, Georgia Monteith, Naoimh Murray, Kirsten Patterson, Sean Brannigan, Lauren Carnegie, Ross Carr, Gareth Castelli, Cliodhna Cowan, Michaela Doherty, Sarah Doran, Tara Duffy, Daisy Eccles, Clodagh Ennis, Caoimhe Fitzpatrick, Aoife Heaney, Christopher Hynes, Emily Keenan, Fergal Kerr, Abigail Larkin, Aoife Lundy, Ashlene Macanulty, Kate Magee, Hannah McAteer, Peter McDonald, Caoimhe McParland, Sarah McShane, Cain McConvey, Andrew McKnight, Danielle O'Callaghan, Katie O'Hare, Tiarna O'Hare, Natasha O'Reilly, Orlaith O'Reilly, Judith Quinn, Conor Woods, Ash McCord, James Gribben, Meabh Hamill



Pupils from St. Dallan's P.S who received their bronze medal for violin - Emily Walsh and Aodhan Donnelly, with tutor Catherine O'Leary. Also present in the photo are Daire Flett and Grainne O'Flaherty. Carla Steele, Ursula Kinsella and Maria Sloan, P7 pupils last year also received bronze medals for violin and viola.)

## Pupil Profile - Where are they now?

Hi, my name is Christopher Day and I have been playing the Trombone since I was 8 years old. My time with the SELB Music Service came to an end as I approached my final year in Queen's University Belfast, where I was studying Music and graduated with first class honours. In the final year I majored in Trombone Performance and Composition and was President of the Music Society, a post in which I oversaw many projects including conducting various ensembles and organising social events.

My composition Professor, the renowned British composer Piers Hellawell had just written both a double concerto for Trumpet and Trombone, and a Brass Quintet. The Solo Trombonist was to be the Swedish Virtuoso, Jonas Bylund, and the Quintet was his own ensemble, Stockholm Chamber Brass. Jonas and the ensemble came to Belfast to perform in the 2007 Belfast Festival and Piers arranged a private lesson for me with Jonas. A lesson which really was life changing! Jonas suggested that I come to the Hochschule für Musik und Theatre, Hannover, where he is Professor of Trombone, however, there was one condition, I had to pass the audition! At this stage I already had been offered places to study MA Performance in the Royal Northern College of Music and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music, where I was also offered a scholarship. I decided to take a chance and do the audition so I travelled in July 2007 to Hannover.

Full of nerves and with not one word of German, I passed the audition! Suddenly my life was to change. I had to find accommodation, finance, start to learn the language and most importantly, practice! The Trombone class that I was to enter included some of the worlds best players, many of whom have won first prize in competitions such as, The Conn - Lindberg International Trombone Competition, Aeolus International Wind Competition, ARD Munich International Competition and people who had performed with such orchestras as the Vienna Philharmonic! I was greeted by some of the most kind and friendly people I have ever met and who have become my best friends.

I was fortunate to attend Lieska International Trombone Competition in Finland in July. This was my first international competition and I reached the semi-final! I was extremely pleased to have got so far, beating players from all over the world. A lot of this is due to the very strict routine and practice schedule we must adhere to in Hannover. We warm up every morning as a class (including Saturday and Sunday!) at 8am. This lasts just over one hour and includes doing yoga and numerous Trombone exercises. After this we are each expected to practice approximately five hours daily.

I am now returning to Hannover for my next semester after spending part of the summer at home in Warrenpoint. When I get back to Hannover the first project I have is a nine-day tour with the college Orchestra to Moscow where we will play some concerts and visit the College of Music.

I would like to say that none of this would be possible without the hard work and expert tuition I received during my time in the SELB Music service and I will always remember the day Mr Luke Burke handed me my first trombone when I was eight years old. I will be forever indebted to him for introducing me to the world of the Trombone!

