

## Premiere of "Musical Pathways" groups in Newry Feis

The SELB Music Service's "Musical Pathways" schemes were first introduced 5 years ago. There are currently well over 50 schools offering Pathways programmes and about 2500 young people participating in Primary and Post-Primary schools throughout the Southern Board. The enjoyment derived from these projects was never more evident than in Newry Feis when two classes proudly took to the stage in what was their first public performance... well done to all involved !!



Abbey Primary School P6 class who are currently involved in a "pathways" singing project with SELB tutor Mr. Danny O'Neill.

"Miss Patricia McCoy recognised a raw musical talent in her P.6 class at St. Colman's Abbey Primary School. Together with the expertise of Mr. Danny O'Neill (SELB Music Tutor) this was nurtured and disciplined into a performance worthy of Newry Feis.

Mr. Sweeney (Principal) commented that young fellows normally more interested in football showed the discipline pride and self-esteem necessary in any successful team. The choir look forward to other opportunities for Public performance."

Mrs Diane Russell (Vice Principal - Abbey Christian Brothers PS, Newry).

Congratulations to the P.6 String Project group of St. Mary's Primary School, Mullaghbawn, for also competing in Newry Musical Feis. The group entered the Primary Schools Orchestra section of the competition and received marks of Distinction.

SELB Music Service Tutor Clare McEvoy remarked. "During the short amount of time the children have been learning to play their instruments, they have made exceptional progress."



The P6 "Musical Pathways" project from St Mary's PS, Mullaghbawn rehearsing for their performance at Newry Feis

## Music Service students find the time for fundraisers!!



From busking to bag packing, the enthusiastic music service students gave up their time and their cash for a worthy cause.

Saturday 20th February saw some brave musicians from our orchestras, bands and ensembles parade their finest headgear for the Haiti earthquake appeal. From crazy dreadlocks to pink cowgirls no hat was too extreme. A fun morning was had by all and "Hats for Haiti" raised £338.15 so thank-you to all who took part.

Some of the Music Service small ensembles have also given their time this year to help raise funds for the Friends of the Music Service Association who assist us with lots of our fun activities like concert tours and the very memorable "Gullion Tales" which took place in the Ulster Hall in April.

The Celtic Ensemble and the Samba Band performed in Rushmere shopping centre in Craigavon in February and March raising approximately £200 and the Celtic Ensemble also braved the weather to perform at the Outlet in Banbridge in December.... the hot chocolate was much appreciated!

Members of the SUYO also did their bit and participated in some busking in the Quays in Newry in December, entertaining the masses with their beautiful Christmas carols, and on the 21st December some very dedicated members bag- packed in Tesco in Portadown. Niall Burke from the SUYO kindly put together a fireside quiz which was distributed in February, this will be re- issued in September to help raise much needed funds for next years ventures!

If you have any good ideas for fund-raising activities or would like to organise an event for your Band or Orchestra members please contact me in Portadown Music Centre on 028 3833 2371.

A big thank-you to all who took part this year and to the Orchestra and Band staff who helped out, I hope you will be as enthusiastic when the activities begin again in September!

Jan Lyttle

Contact us, or just get information about us, on our websites;  
[www.selb.org/music](http://www.selb.org/music)  
[www.friendsassociation.co.uk](http://www.friendsassociation.co.uk)

### EDITORIAL TEAM

Nuala Curran, Ann Speed, 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 53168 or email: [nualacurran@gmail.com](mailto:nualacurran@gmail.com).

## SELB MUSIC SERVICE Summer School 2010

Tuesday 29th June - Friday 2nd July

Portadown College and Portadown Music Centre



A member of the SUYO, Andrew Boyd, was selected to perform on violin in the 'Score' concert for CEA at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast. The concert, which took place on Friday 26th February, was a showcase of the best performances at GCSE and A-level from last year's Music pupils across Northern Ireland. Andrew is a pupil of Cookstown High School and hopes to study Music next year.



St. Colman's College students Cahal Masterson and Stephen Murphy performed at the Catherine Judge Awards held on the 24th April in "The Great Hall" in Queens University Belfast.

Designed and printed at Dunganon Teachers' Centre

# In Tune

Issue 17 • May 2010

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

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



On the 17th of April 2010, 300 young musicians took to the stage in the Ulster Hall Belfast for what was probably the most ambitious project ever undertaken by the SELB Music Service. The World Premier Performance of "Gullion Tales", an innovative composition by Belfast born composer, Brian Irvine, involved the South Ulster Youth Orchestra, the choir of Dundalk Institute and Pathways pupils from St Joseph's Boy's High School, Newry High School and St Paul's High School, Bessbrook.

The massive production in such a prestigious venue was everything we hoped it would be.... and a lot more besides! The buzz was amazing for both performers and audience as Brian led us through the "Gullion Tales" experience and the finale "rap" took no prisoners as young and old rocked the aisles!!

Students and staff involved in the project share their "Gullion" Tale with us....



"Gullion Tales" was the strangest, weirdest and most amazing piece I have been a part of! It was completely different from anything I had played before! When playing the pieces, we had to watch very carefully for Brian's directions, but also concentrate on hitting every note at the right time. But when it came to the improvisational parts, we had completely to forget about music and following it and just play what we wanted. He would move in a certain way and we would interpret his movement with our instruments. As a musician, this helped to expand my way of thinking about music and how it's played. I was one of the lucky people that got to be a part of this fantastic project, and I will cherish it always. Thank you Brian Irvine. Clíodhna McAteer (SUYO, Cello)



## Reflecting on "Gullion Tales" Brian Irvine, Composer

I can honestly say that working on this new piece with the SELB was a delight. The team of tutors at SELB are unique in their energy, commitment and musicianship and Eithne Benson's vision and belief in the importance of music and its relevance to young people's lives is simply inspirational.

Working with such talented young players in the orchestra was fantastic fun. In order to truly advance as a musician I feel it is important to constantly take risks and to go musically where you may not have been before. The SELB orchestra, DKIT Choir and Pathways groups in this regard jumped in with both feet, embraced everything that I could throw at them and at all times strived to make music of exceptional quality. In my mind their open, happy, creative attitude and adventurous spirit stands out as a shining example of how all orchestras or choirs can and should be.

There were so many people involved in the different strands of the project: from the magnificent Pathways children and tutors, the wonderful DKIT choir, the young composers, the co-ordinators, the funders, the list goes on. It would be impossible to name all the individuals who drove this project forward with such passion but to all of that gang (you know who you are!) I want to express my sincerest thanks for all your belief and commitment.

This was a remarkable project, produced and performed by a very special group of people and I cannot thank you enough for making the experience so truly magnificent.

Big love and respect to you all.  
 Brian



*What a triumph!* The 'Gullion Tales' experience was absolutely extraordinary. Exceeding all expectations, we were lifted beyond normal horizons and transported to a place that we could never have dreamt of.

Many thanks and congratulations to everyone whose energy, determination and enthusiasm made it happen and to Brian Irvine whose imagination, creativity, exuberance and musical genius were gifts so willingly shared.

With the participating schools and the support of Music Service staff, DKIT, the SELB, Extended Schools, our Friends Association and Dumbworld productions, we worked hard to put the finance and resources together, to manage the project and to rise to the many challenges of the amazing music and its inspirational composer-conductor.

In the end there is no price tag big enough to cover the experience of a lifetime! Well done and many congratulations to an amazing team, well rewarded by a 'rap'turous finale!

*Eithne Benson - Head of Music Service*

*What a huge, powerful sound! Brian's conducting was stunning. His enthusiasm and energy were infectious, keeping a choir and orchestra of three hundred focused and keen. Luke Bermingham (DKIT Choir)*

*The first time we met Brian I think we all thought he was a bit of a nutter.. but none the less a genius! Brian's different techniques of how to get everyone involved and using every part of your instrument were great fun. Speaking as a percussionist, I thoroughly enjoyed the Gullion Tales experience! Lucy Mc Grath (SUYO, Percussion)*

*" BRILLIANT. It was really fun! The music was AWESOME!" Aaron Hughes (St Paul's HS, Musical Pathways Project)*

## Tutti Trombone Day

On the 21st March 2010, Portadown Town Hall played host to the now well established Tutti Trombone day organised by SELB Tutor Mr William McLean and British Trombone Society Representative, Steven Cairns.

2010 saw the seventh Tutti Trombone day in Portadown with the turn out being higher than ever. This was my fifth Tutti Trombone day and it was great to be able to meet up again and chat with such a wide range of players from so many areas, across a wide age range and from so many different parts of the country. This year there were more activities to take part in than ever.

The day started out with a rehearsal for the massed trombone choir directed by Mr William McLean. Here we got to play through a number of pieces that were specially written for mass gatherings of trombone players. One of the best sights of the day was a group huddled over to the side consisting solely of SELB tutors with a mixture of trumpet, French horn and tuba players (and even a woodwind tutor!) all holding trombones and all making a sound although I don't think they are completely converted to trombones... yet.

Just before lunch we met the special guest of the day Brett Baker. He is principal trombone of Black Dyke band and vice-president of the BTS itself. He gave a stunning performance of a range of different pieces that you wouldn't normally hear, published by companies you will never have heard of. It was even more impressive in that he was playing it all on a borrowed trombone that he hadn't played before all thanks to Easyjet's baggage policy (all of his equipment going missing en route)!!

After lunch there was another practice of the massed choir followed by Brett taking a rehearsal of the famed trombone trio 'Year of the Dragon.' Here he asked members of the audience to offer suggestions of how to improve the performance thus making it a great interactive experience.

The penultimate event of the day was a masterclass taken by Brett and two young trombonists bravely stepped forward to have a go. Andrew McCoy from Belfast was first playing 'Ballade' by Bozza. With SELB student, John Gamble, playing Saint-Saens' 'Cavatine' second. In both instances Brett commented on the maturity of the playing by the two young musicians both in their breathing, control and their uncanny ability in being able to make it look a lot easier than it was.

The day came to a rousing end with a final performance by the Massed trombone choir. Every body agreed that it was another fantastic day and I would like to thank the BTS, Steven Cairns and of course William McLean and the SELB brass tutors for a great experience. Bring on Tutti Trombones eight!!

### Nathan Cantley



*Trombone enthusiasts having a blast! .... Spot the odd one out!*

## Masterclass & Workshops

Pupils from strings, brass and woodwind were all lucky to have been given the opportunity to benefit from the many masterclasses and workshops on offer this year. Thanks to all who were involved in organizing and publicizing the many activities that benefitted so many of our young musicians.

### Flute Day

The Flute Day was a great day of learning for everyone who attended. It reminded me what I liked about being a flautist. Ian and Eimear were both excellent!! Entertaining, fun and educational all at the same time while teaching us lots of different aspects of being a flute player. Their performances were inspiring. I've only ever heard that sort of playing on a CD recording and this first hand experience was what made the day. Brilliant!!

*Ciaran Martin (School?)*



### Tasmin Little



*It was exciting to meet a well established violinist and interesting to hear her experiences as a young player. From Tasmin I got several useful tips about string crossing, double stopping and bow strokes, all which have proved useful.*

*Conor Masterson, St Colman's College, Newry*

*I found Tasmin's performance very inspirational and overall felt the entire workshop was a great experience that inspired me to work a lot harder when it comes to practicing. I would like to thank the SELB Music Service and Tasmin Little for such a good opportunity and allowing me to take part in the workshop.*

*Jenna Mackle, Sacred Heart Grammar School, Newry*



# GULLION TALES



I feel very fortunate to have been involved with the "Gullion Tales" project from the very start. I took great pride in charting the whole journey alongside the Pathways projects and Orchestra in particular - seeing their enthusiasm for the music grow on a daily basis - right through to their realisation of the magnitude of the project when they finally took to the stage in the Ulster Hall.

Brian's energy was so infectious and personally I learned a lot from his effortless ability to lead such huge numbers at differing musical stages - he would be correcting intricate dissonances with the Orchestra one minute and making up songs to help the Pathways groups the next.

The greatest buzz I got was seeing the Pathways groups after the performance. These young pupils had been playing musical instruments for less than a year; that night, they became Musicians in a very real sense and the pride and enjoyment they obviously got from that will stay with me for a very long time.  
**Daniel O'Neill (Pianist)**



## Marks of Distinction

Congratulations to all those who successfully passed their Associated Board examinations on November 2009 and March 2010. Unfortunately the list is too long to publish but special mention must be made to the following students who passed with distinction:

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Emily Agnew (Cornet Gr 2)         | Alanna Brown (Violin Gr 1)                      |
| Kate Allen (Tenor Horn Gr 1)      | Ian Brown (Trumpet Gr 5)                        |
| Joel Atkinson (Clarinet Gr 1)     | Michael John Dodds (Clarinet Gr 8)              |
| Rebecca Blayney (Doublebass Gr 3) | Emer Gates (Violin Gr 6)                        |
| Amy Boyce (Violin Gr 1)           | Ben McHugh (Recorder Gr 2)                      |
| Ruby Dowds (Violin Gr 1)          | Ellen McLean (Trumpet Gr 3)                     |
| Paul Ferris (Trumpet Gr 1)        | Ronan Burke (Clarinet Gr 1)                     |
| Ava Fields (Trumpet Gr 3)         | Rachel Flynn (Violin Gr 7)                      |
| John Gary Gamble (Trombone Gr 8)  | Christopher Goss (Violin Gr 4)                  |
| Marcus Greenfield (Violin Gr 1)   | Conor Masterson (Violin Gr 8)                   |
| Miriam Henry (French Horn Gr 2)   | Maire McHugh (Violin Gr 7)                      |
| Faith Jenkinson (Oboe Gr 1)       | Judith Quinn (Violin Gr 1)                      |
| Emma Johnston (Clarinet Gr 1)     | Rebecca Stevenson (Clarinet Gr 1)               |
| Sarah McAlpine (Harp Gr 1)        | Aoife Trainor (Oboe Gr 3).                      |
| Chloe Rogers (Trombone Gr 2)      | Michael Mallon (Drumkit Gr 8) Trinity Guildhall |
| Jack Toner (Violin Gr 5)          |   |