



Ramsbottom Music Festival

Reg. Charity No.1102099

**... meet the
adjudicators
who will be
reviewing your
performances at
this year's
online Festival**

Jeremy Bleasdale BA LLCM

Jeremy Bleasdale has been the Director of Music at Bolton School Boys' Division since 2014. The Boys' Division Music Department has over 27 full-time and visiting music teachers and in collaboration with the Girls' Division, there are over 30 ensembles rehearsing weekly. Jeremy directs the Joint Senior Orchestra and the Senior Acoustic Guitar Ensemble and these, and other senior ensembles, feature regularly in Joint Gala Concerts held at venues such as the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, the Victoria Hall in Bolton and Hulme Hall in Port Sunlight. Recent joint musical productions with the Girls' Division have included 'Miss Saigon' and 'Into the Woods' and Jeremy has also led many concert tours to Europe including Spain, Italy, Holland, Belgium, the Czech Republic and Germany.

Before becoming Director of Music Jeremy was the 'Head of Community Music' across both the Boys' and the Girls' Divisions with responsibility to take school music into the local community and to invite the wider community to take part in the school's musical activities. He established effective links with local primary and secondary schools and organised regular workshops and concerts with the Northern Chamber Orchestra; Craig Ogden (who described Bolton School's Guitar Department as 'setting international standards'); Chris Difford – (Squeeze); Martin Taylor; and many others.

Since 2008, he has been a guitar tutor in the Junior Department of the Royal Northern College of Music. From here, his pupils often go on to study at the RNCM and the RCM. His JRNCM ensembles have taken part in numerous masterclasses and have performed in prestigious concerts such as the RNCM Chamber Music Festival.

Before Becoming a full-time teacher, Jeremy gave many recitals as part of the Bleasdale-Heywood Classical Guitar Duo. The Duo commissioned new works such as 'Impressions' by Mark Houghton and gave it its world premiere at Manchester Guitar Circle in 2004. This can be heard on one of their recordings, also entitled 'Impressions', which is available on Spotify.

He also teaches electric guitar and his most famous electric guitar pupil is Danny Jones of McFly, who began private lessons at the age of 6 and continued until he left Thornleigh Salesian College at the age of 16.

He has recently adjudicated music festivals at Bury Grammar School, Bolton School Junior Boys, and Stonyhurst College and believes that festivals play a very important part in encouraging musical talent. He is delighted to have been invited to adjudicate at the Ramsbottom Festival.

Philip Dewhurst BA Hons. PGCE

Philip Dewhurst was born and educated in Bolton, Lancashire. He read music at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne under Professor Denis Matthews where he specialised in performance on the oboe. After finishing his degree, he completed a Post Graduate Certificate of Education and went into teaching.

Philip gives occasional recitals and enjoys orchestral and chamber music playing on a freelance basis when his teaching commitments permit. Philip also has a passion for choral music and has conducted and directed choirs & choral societies throughout his career.

As well as adjudicating at music festivals around the country, Philip is an examiner for Trinity Guildhall and an experienced GCSE and A level moderator. At present he is Director of Music at Cheadle Hulme School, Cheshire.

Jason Hawkins ALCM LRSM MusB(Hons) PGCE

Jason is a full-time freelance musician based in Yorkshire and has worked for the UK's leading arts organisations including The Hallé, BBC Philharmonic, BBC Singers, The Armonico Consort, The Exon Singers and The Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM). As a Pianist and Organist, Jason's performances have been broadcast on ITV, Irish TV, BBC TV and on BBC Radio. Jason has performed extensively throughout the UK and Europe. This has included performances at major venues such as The Royal Albert Hall, The Bridgewater Hall, Symphony Hall (Birmingham), The Sage Gateshead, Mechalan Cathedral, The American Cathedral (Paris) and Disneyland (Paris).

Jason is in demand as a Choral Conductor, Choral Animator and Musical Director working throughout Yorkshire and was recently appointed Musical Director for Morley Music Society and Organist at Morley Central Methodist Church

As a Composer and Sound Artist, Jason's work has delighted audiences across the UK and has included works for Children's Choir, Male Voice Choir, Orchestra, AV Installations and Piano.

Initially, Jason studied with support from a scholarship at Chetham's School of Music receiving the Michael Abraham Piano Prize for Piano Sightreading and continued his musical studies at the Royal Northern College of Music. During this time Jason also became a Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music (LRSM). Following the RNCM, Jason graduated from The University of Manchester in 2014 with a first-class honours degree in Music, specialising in Piano and Composition. Recently, Jason became an Associate of the London College of Music (ALCM) in Music Composition and completed a PGCE in Primary Education at The University of Cumbria.

Currently, Jason is also an MA student of Education at University College London. He is married to Heather and they live in Pontefract, West Yorkshire.

Fiona McLean-Buechel BA(RSAMD), CertRAM

Fiona is Lead Tutor for Strings at Trinity Laban Junior Conservatoire in London and a member of the Royal Conservatoire Scotland Junior teaching staff. She is founder member of NYOS and an alumnus of St Mary's Music School, studying at the Royal Scottish Academy in Glasgow and the Royal Academy of Music in London.

She has a passion for music in all forms; combining a busy career as a performer with writing creative and collaborative national and international performance projects.

Whilst a specialist tutor of violin at the Junior Guildhall School of Music she became a proactive member of the school's external examination and development team. She has also held visiting tutor posts for Colchester Institute, Goldsmith's College, Dartington College, Cardiff University National Children's Orchestra and was Head of Strings for London Borough of Bexley

In 2005 Fiona co-founded and was course director for a collaborative venture with the Dartington International Summer School, the Dartington Plus Summer Youth Strings Programme. She subsequently founded and is Creative Director of South West Camerata and the registered charity JUTPMUSIC whose work was nominated for a Royal Philharmonic Society for Education and a cover story for ESTA. Her ensembles are frequent performers at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and make regular concert appearances across the UK.

Having practised Mindfulness for most of her professional life, Fiona has gained accreditation from the Youth Mindfulness Kids Training Programme and has developed a series of workshops and seminars for Musical Mindfulness. She has delivered seminars on Mindfulness for Performers and Educators on behalf of the British and International Federation of Festivals at Music EXPO and the Federation Conference in Edinburgh, Cardiff University, Trinity Laban Junior Conservatoire, Musicians Union, IAPS, Chipping Norton Festival and the 2020 Virtual International Suzuki Summer School

Her lockdown work has included developing online coaching methods for ensembles and orchestras and she has been a regular panel member and lecturer for the Music Education Partnership Group and European String Teachers Association

Steven Roberts – M.Ed, BA(Hons), Cert. Ed, BBCM, CMS

Steven Roberts has combined a career in education with his work as a conductor, musical director, teacher and adjudicator. His work in education has included training musicians, actors and dancers; he also worked extensively with partner schools as part of his previous educational responsibilities.

He is currently Music Director and Conductor with Altrincham Choral Society, Chesterfield Philharmonic Choir and Honley Male Voice Choir. Steven has also worked as musical director for a number of theatrical productions, and this diversity reflects his music and drama training. He is Musical Director for the Gary Clarke Contemporary Dance Company, having toured extensively throughout the UK with COAL and its sequel WASTELAND.

He studied piano, brass and voice and brings a wealth of experience to his role as an adjudicator.

Steven is an adjudicator member of the British and International Federation of Festivals and is also Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Federation; he is also a member of the Association of British Choral Directors, became a Life Member of the Royal Philharmonic Society in 2014 and is proud to be a member of The Lord's Taverners.