

2022 ADJUDICATORS

DONAL MCCRISKEN

Donal McCrisken is a Belfast-based musician with many years' experience as a pianist, accompanist, conductor, examiner and adjudicator. He holds a BMus degree from Queen's University, Belfast and a Masters in Music Theory and Analysis from University of Ulster.



Since 1999 Donal has been conductor of Cappella Caeciliana, one of Ireland's most exciting chamber choirs. Under his direction Cappella has given concerts and sung liturgies all over Northern Ireland, in Dublin, Germany, Austria and Italy. The choir has recorded five highly successful CDs and has broadcast frequently on BBC Radio 3, Radio 4, Radio Ulster and RTE. In April 2011 Cappella toured the USA giving highly successful concerts in Philadelphia and singing a choral evensong at the National Cathedral in Washington DC. Cappella Caeciliana marked its 20th anniversary with the commission of a new work from Sir James Mac-Millan which incorporates parts for the highly successful trio 'The Priests' – three founder members of the choir. The work was performed in Edinburgh and Glasgow in November 2015 and had its Belfast premiere in March 2016, all under the direction of the composer.

Donal has studied singing with Russell Smythe and Kathryn Harries, two of Britain's leading vocal teachers. He has organised and delivered vocal workshops in Belfast and elsewhere, working with children, adults in the workplace and, most recently in conjunction with his wife Helena, coaching adult language students in France. He has worked with Northern Ireland Opera as répétiteur, accompanist and workshop facilitator and teaches classes in performance in the music department of Queen's University Belfast. In September 2019 he took over directorship of the Queen's Chamber Choir, a group whose membership comprises both staff and students at the university.

Donal was for six years, 2005 – 2011, head of music in St Malachy's College, Belfast - Northern Ireland's first specialist music school, whose students he led in concert tours to Washington DC, Philadelphia, England and Rome.

A qualified British and International Federation of Festivals adjudicator, Donal has adjudicated festivals throughout Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and the UK. In 2004 he visited Hungary to study at the renowned Kodaly School in Nyiregyaza under the tutelage of Denes Szabo. He founded the Cavehill Community Choir in February 2013, a non-audition choir which currently numbers 160. CCC is in great demand locally to sing at concerts and has already featured in the 2013 Belfast Festival at Queens and broadcast on Radio Ulster. Donal was the choral director and répétiteur for the exciting Belfast Opera project which culminated in performances in June 2016. For his work with this project he was awarded the Classic FM/ Musicians Union Inspiration Award and the whole project was nominated for the best Classical Music Education Initiative Award.

STEVEN ROBERTS

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.

BEN COSTELLO

Ben is a freelance musical director, adjudicator, singing coach and accompanist, working internationally. He is also Artistic Director of Thames Concerts, Founding Director of Kingston Chamber Singers, and Chorus Master for the Leith Hill Musical Festival. He is a generalist music adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals, having joined in 2009, and is happy to adjudicate online/virtual sessions when required.



A specialist in musical theatre, he has been musical director for numerous productions across the UK, and a reflective product of this has been his continuing work as a musical director and singing teacher in most of the major London performing-arts and music colleges (Arts Ed, Mountview Academy, Trinity Laban, Laine Theatre Arts, GSA, LAMDA, RAM, LCM, Drama Studio London). Countless of his former students enjoy successful careers in the West End and beyond.

Born and based in London, Ben trained initially as a flautist, and subsequently majored in piano, singing and conducting. He remains much sought-after as an accompanist in musical theatre repertoire but collaborates in a variety of genres with countless singers and instrumentalists in concerts and other performing environments.

Ben is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, organising and chairing the Company's annual musical direction scholarship. Outside of music, he is a keen motorcyclist.

For the Federation, in addition to his work as a generalist music adjudicator, he has been a Deputy on the Adjudicators' Council since 2014, is an adjudicator mentor, and is also a member of the interviewing panel for potential new music adjudicators.

ELEANOR MCLEOD

Eleanor McLeod comes from Swansea where she gained a love of performing and the spoken word through the LAMDA examinations, gaining her teaching diploma. She became a professional actress for more than twenty years, frequently presenting Shakespeare to schools all over the world and working in theatre, radio and television. She is currently a teacher of Speech and Drama, a member of the LAMDA Examining Board and a BIFF adjudicator, which again has been an opportunity to work overseas as well as in the UK. She still performs when she has time and as a writer, has had two books of her poems for children published and a selection of monologues and duologues for young performers. She is always pleased to share the talent of young Festival performers as their enthusiasm is a joy and she is passionate about nurturing the spoken word in this age of digital communication. Interaction with them is such a pleasure when praising their work. She loves hearing her own pieces performed!

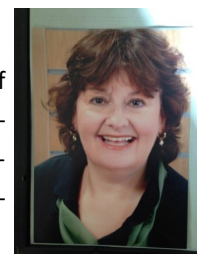


Having been returning to Cork as an examiner for more than 20 years, she is delighted to be invited to this very special place as a festival adjudicator.

ROSALIND TAYLOR

Rosalind trained at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and at The Laban Centre of Movement and Dance, London.

Rosalind has taught Speech and Drama for over thirty years and held Director level positions at a number of leading Performing Arts departments across South Wales. She continues to deliver workshops at leading vocational schools and universities, both in the United Kingdom and internationally. In addition to her teaching credits, Rosalind has extensive experience in directing and creating original devised material for vocational and community outreach projects.



Rosalind has spent over twenty years working alongside award-winning choreographers with the National Youth Ballet of Great Britain – as Drama Coach and *andrépétiteur*. She continues to support their Beyond Ballet initiative for new and aspiring young choreographers.

Rosalind is an adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals, as well as being a Senior Examiner and Team Leader for The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). Through her work Rosalind has travelled extensively, leading directorial workshops in China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bahrain, Australia, Sri Lanka, East Africa, California, Switzerland, Greece, Malta and Monte Carlo. Rosalind is delighted to be making her first visit to the Cork Feis.

SUSAN MACKAY

For 10 years, Susan ran The Fylde Stage School teaching levels of RAD and ISTD dance and LAMDA Speech and Drama before graduating from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

After seasons in Repertory Theatre, touring and T.V she decided that it was time to realise other dreams. She now directs Upstage Drama, teaching Speech and Drama, GCSE Drama, Upstage Young People's Theatre and Bare Boards Theatre Company.

Susan adjudicates at festivals all over the UK as well as Cork and Hong Kong. She is an adjudicator member of the British and International Federation of Festivals and has served as a deputy on the Adjudicators Council.

Susan sees her role as an adjudicator as a combination of bringing new ideas and approaches to text and performance as well as fresh encouragement to every participant. She feels that everyone should leave a festival with a sense of achievement.



MÁIRE NIC CHÁRTHAIGH

Máire Nic Chárthaigh was born in Cork and educated at St. Vincent's Convent, where her early interest in Verse-Speaking and Drama were nurtured, both in Irish and English. She then completed her Speech and Drama training with Mrs. Judy Eades at the Cork School of Music. Meanwhile, she continued her academic studies at UCC. In 1980, she founded the Crosshaven School of Speech and Drama and directed its work for over a decade. She has extensive acting, directing and teaching experience and taught English and Drama for many years in an all-Irish environment in Coláiste an Phiarsaigh, Glanmire.

She then taught at UCC for the remainder of her career, where she also served as a governor, and recently retired as vice president for teaching and learning. She continues to pursue her academic research and has a keen interest in diversity and inclusion in education and the role of the arts in furthering an education for all. Marian is a member of the advisory board of Feis Maitiú, the board of management of the North Monastery, Cork, and a member of the senate of the National University of Ireland.



Is as Chorcaigh í an moltóir seo. Bhí suim aici riamh í ndrámaíocht, bhéarslabhairt, rince agus mím. D'fhreastal sí ar Scoil San Uinseann, áit a raibh béim riamh ar amhránaíocht agus bhéarslabhairt san dá theanga. Ansin, lean sí lena cuid oideachas sa Cheol Scoil agus san Ollscoil, anseo i gCorcaigh. Bhun sí scoil drámaíochta i mBun an Tabhairne agus bhí sí ag muineadh Béarla agus Drámaíocht i gColáiste an Phiarsaigh, Gleann Maghair, le blianta. Chaith sí thar fiche bliana i UCC, mar léachtóir agus mar stiúrthóir ar an ionad teagaisc agus foghlama, go dtí gur eirigh sí as mar leasuachtarán. Bhí baint aici riamh le Feis Maitiú mar dhalta, mar mhúinteoir, mar thuismitheoir, agus anois, mar chuid den bhóird. Tá áthas uirthi bheith ag moltóireacht ann i mbliana, go mór mhór tar éis Covid 19.