

LOCHABER MUSIC SCHOOL

21st Anniversary

CELEBRATION WEEKEND WORKSHOP

February 7th/8th, 2009

Lochaber Music School welcomes you all to this very special celebration concert, the culmination of a weekend of intense but thoroughly enjoyable orchestral and choral rehearsals.

We are delighted to welcome **Steve King**. Visiting tutors such as Steve have always played pivotal roles in the history of our Music School, inspiring so many young musicians from throughout the Highlands and Islands in orchestral workshops that have become very much our hallmark. We feel privileged that he has agreed to direct this celebration weekend of music making. We also thank our own tutors **Monica Das** and **Christopher Josey** for their vital generous participation as well, directing the Junior Strings and the Youth Choir in their weekend of activities. Not least, we welcome **Margaret Sargent**, well known to us all as a tireless supporter of LMS in its earlier days and indeed, mother of Clare, Music School's first student all those years ago! This weekend, she has been sharing her love of Music Action Drama with the Junior Strings players.

We also welcome all the participants, many having travelled from a great distance. Whether you are a friend from past workshops, an ex-student or a present pupil attending our weekly activities, we thank you for coming to support this unique celebration weekend. The participation of ex-students in particular speaks volumes for the family spirit and loyalty that has grown and developed in the Music School throughout the years. We really appreciate their valiant efforts to be with us at a quite inconvenient time of the year!

In celebrating this great milestone in our history, we must be sure also to turn our minds to the future! In a world so very different from 21 years ago, one in which so many varied and exciting activities and technologies continuously attract our children's attention, a group of eleven dedicated and highly skilled tutors, supported by a wonderful administration team, soldier on proudly, ensuring that Audrey Scott's original vision continues to shine brightly. As a result of their efforts and their profound belief in the value of music to every generation, our Music School presently supports and enriches the musical education of over 100 youngsters in our weekly centre at the **Camaghael Hostel**.

We are fortunate to enjoy a fine network of support, in particular from parents and friends and we appreciate the continued support of our Lochaber councillors and education officers. We gratefully acknowledge the considerable financial help of **Highland Council**, the **Scottish Arts Council** through their *Young Musicians Initiative* and more recently, **Lochaber College**. Their combined funding, along with our pupils' fees, concert proceeds, fund raising and a collection of smaller grants, allows us to continue to serve the Lochaber community so effectively. We thank our Management Committee and our magnificent Board of Trustees, in particular **Richard Chester**, who, despite his recent retirement as Director of **NYOS**, continues to be fully involved in the future development of our Music School.

Our regular concerts continue to illustrate vividly the breadth and depth of young musical talent in Lochaber. We shall continue to nurture that talent and support our young string players in every way possible. We shall continue to invest time and energy in the musical development of those wonderful 2-7 year olds who fill our Sound Start classes week after week. And our commitment to young singers and wind instrumentalists shall carry on undiminished.

Let us toast **Audrey Scott's** wonderful legacy and Lochaber Music School's first memorable 21 years; and let us also look forward with eager anticipation to an equally successful and exciting future.

Peter Rose (*LMS Music Director*)

LMS welcomes Steve King MBE and Duncan Strachan

Steve King, our workshop director, is Musician in Residence at **Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh**, looking after an ever-growing music facility. Life off campus sees Steve playing viola professionally with the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** and his exciting string quartet '**Quartz**', together with being a music educationalist, facilitator and composer. He has worked with some of the world's most famous and inspirational musicians, playing in Scotland and throughout the world.

Steve slipped over the Scottish border (he's English!) in 1984, having previously worked in the **Icelandic Symphony Orchestra** and as a music teacher in the Welsh borders. As a composer, Steve has had many of his works, both mainstream and light, played throughout the country, also on television and radio. He has won various awards to further his research and development in composition and its vital link into education and the community. Commissions have included: '**The Rhyne Man**' to celebrate the forming of the new *Aberdeenshire Youth Orchestra*; '**Prelude**' an electronically created piece to open the new *Petroleum Institute in Scotland*; '**Illuminating St. Columba**', a new commission for the choir and orchestra of *Heriot-Watt University* and a **Concerto for Clarinet, Percussion and Orchestra** for the *Banff Festival*.

Through his work at Heriot-Watt and many other music institutional settings in Scotland, Steve is sought after as a conductor, showing strong commitment to the community sector of music making, exploring both contemporary and mainstream repertoire.

As a music educationalist and facilitator, Steve has led numerous creative music projects throughout the UK, working in a multitude of environments. In 2005, he was awarded an MBE for services to music. In 2006 he was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship by the International Rotary Foundation in recognition of his dedicated service to music in the community. Lochaber Music School is delighted to welcome him back to direct this very special Weekend Workshop and Concert.

Duncan Strachan (*Composer of 'THIS SOUND' for Choir, String Quartet and String Orch.*)

Born in 1987, Duncan began learning the cello at the age of 5 with **Audrey Scott** at Lochaber Music School. From 2001 to 2005, he studied at Scotland's specialist music school, **St. Mary's Music School**, in Edinburgh.

He has performed all over Britain with his string quartet and piano trio and as a soloist, and was a finalist in the 2004 St. Mary's Director's Recital Prize. Duncan is now studying Music at Oxford University, where he holds both a Leask Music Scholarship and an Academic Scholarship. He is currently principle cello of **Ensemble ISIS** (Oxford's contemporary music ensemble) and a member of the **Kellas Quartet**.

In Edinburgh, as visiting music tutor and sound engineer, Duncan worked with children with learning difficulties. In 2007, he worked as voluntary carer in a Bulgarian orphanage with 60 children aged 3-18. And in 2008, he spent 3 weeks working with the charity **Scottish Love in Action** as a carer and music teacher in an Indian home-cum-school for 400 orphaned children.

Lochaber Music School is delighted to commission this celebration work from one of its own former pupils. We thank him for accepting the commission and wish him well during the coming year at the **RSAMD** where he has been awarded a prestigious post-graduate scholarship in Composition and Performing.

‘THIS SOUND’ : A note from the composer

‘This Sound’ is a short meditative piece composed for the 21st birthday celebration of Lochaber Music School. Keenly aware of the profound influence of both the school and the surroundings upon my own life, I wanted to write a work which reflected both the beauty of Lochaber and the social value in bringing young musicians together in an act of self-expression.

*Shortly after being asked to compose a piece for this occasion, I came across a poem, written by **Alice MacDonnell of Keppoch** in c. 1894, which expressed those romantic feelings towards the landscape which are familiar to us today - her vivid descriptions of the area regularly manifest themselves in allusions to music or sound.*

Whilst romantic descriptions of music and nature may be a little sweet for some tastes, they represent a significant perception: making music in these surroundings has a social profundity which, for me, surpasses making music anywhere else. I feel Lochaber Music School makes our romantic ideas of art and nature come alive – it brings us together as a community as it simultaneously makes us feel ‘at one’ with our natural surroundings.

I hope ‘This Sound’ to be a tribute to those ideas, and to the staff, parents and students who have enabled the school to thrive over the years.



‘THIS SOUND’ STRING QUARTET

Duncan Strachan (Cello) with:

Monica Das (*Leader*) took over the NYOS/Highland string tutor position for Lochaber in August 2007. A pupil of the great **Dr Suzuki** himself, Monica, American by birth, came to us from Holland, with a wealth of international performing, coaching and teaching experience. Committed to the ideals and goals of Music School, Monica has soon become a much valued friend and colleague.

Megan Henderson (*2nd violin and Orchestra Leader*) Very much influenced by Nigel Murray and legendary fiddler Angus Grant, Megan was a long-standing member of LMS before moving on to Glasgow’s **RSAMD** in September 2007, where she is studying for a BMus and is taught by Peter Lissauer. The youngest of a prodigiously musical family, Megan shares her love of classical music with that of traditional, reaching the finals of the **Radio 2 Folk Awards 2007** and twice winning first place in Oban Festival’s **Invitation Fiddle Masters** competition. A part-time tutor with Feis nan Gaidheal, Megan enjoys singing, and also plays piano, accordion and flute.

Jennifer MacCallum (*Viola*) was a member of the Music School for 11 years, starting on violin and changing to viola when she was 15 years old. Jennifer played the violin in the **National Children’s Orchestra of Scotland**, and the viola with **NCOS String Ensemble**, during their tour of China. As a member of **NYOS** and **Camerata Scotland**, Jennifer has toured various parts of the UK and Europe. Now in her second year of study at the Cardiff’s **RWCMD** she is a member of the **Muse String Quartet** and plays with the College Symphony Orchestra and String Ensemble.

THIS SOUND

*Rocks resound
Glen Nevis rocks resound
Proud Ben, throned upon slow clouds*

*Spean and Roy eternal requiems sing
sing, and echo*

*Far off, birds:
fort glimmers
rich red afterglow*

*This sound
together -*

*This sound
is made true*

1st Movement from Concerto in G minor by George Matthias Monn.

Soloist: Martainn Skene

George Matthias Monn (b. Lower Austria 1717; d. Vienna 1750) Monn, organist of a Vienna church, composed symphonies, trio sonatas, quartets etc. in the style of *transition* from the old (Bach and Handel) to the modern school of instrumental composition (Mozart and Haydn) . His harpsichord concerto in G minor was transcribed for cello in 1932 by Schoenberg, who also edited a Symphony in A major and two harpsichord concertos.

*Soloist in this concerto movement is **Martainn Skene**. He has been a cello pupil of **Audrey Scott** since the age of 4 and is soon to sit his grade 8 exam. He was a member of the **National Children's Orchestra of Scotland** for 5 years, eventually becoming section leader. At the age of 11, he visited China with a small string ensemble, later to become the **NYOS String Ensemble**. Along with Jennifer (below), he was a member of the **Lochaber High School Quartet** which reached the finals of the **UK National Chamber Music for Schools** competition for a record 3 consecutive years under the tutelage of Nick Hadwen. Martainn also plays the piano and clarinet and is also an enthusiastic member of the **Lochaber Strathspey and Reel Society** and the newly formed **Brocken Spectre Ceilidh Band**.*

LMS ALWAYS WELCOMES NEW FACES!

LMS offers an exciting variety of musical activities designed to complement and enrich the string education of our Lochaber youngsters. Our weekly centre, staffed by 10 highly qualified and experienced

tutors, takes place every Tuesday in term time - from 4.00 pm to 6.30 pm at the **Camaghael Hostel**, situated opposite the new Health Centre, adjacent to Lochaber High School. Our weekly Choral Outreach programme brings young singers together twice a term from throughout the region to form **LOCHABER YOUTH CHOIR**

LMS proudly caters for **all abilities and ages**, offering weekly solo, ensemble and orchestral experience, supported by classes in musicianship, theory, aural, improvisation, singing and traditional music - and even hand bell ringing! There are also opportunities to have lessons on piano and clarsach, and in those cases where the instrument is not offered at the pupil's school, on woodwind too.

LMS is a charitable foundation, generously supported by grants from the Highland Council, the Scottish Arts Council (YMI), Foyle Foundation and Lochaber College. However, to help balance our books, we do need to make a small charge to pupils, the equivalent of £3.00 per full Tuesday session. Sound Start pupils and Choir members contribute £1 per session. Bursary funding is available in some cases.

LMS always welcomes new faces! Please inform **MISS DAS** if you would like to come to one or two sessions in order to try out the **LMS** activities! Alternatively, parents may like to ring Musical Director, Peter Rose. He will be only too pleased to offer further information and help.

LMS
Contacts

Peter Rose (Music Director)	01397712882
Hilary Earnshaw (Administration)	01631740322
Christopher Josey (Choral Director)	07793824425
Mary Brennan (Finance)	01397772950

www.lochabermusic.co.uk

