

# STAFFING

## Classroom Teaching Staff

### **John Barker, BMus MMus (RCM) PGCE MTeach MISM**

#### **Director of Music**

*Saxophone and Piano*

- Studied as a Foundation Scholar at the Royal College of Music, completing a Masters with Distinction.
- Was a Woodwind Finalist in *BBC Young Musicians* 1998 and promoted by *Live Music Now!*, *Making Music*, the *Park Lane Group* and the *Kirckman Concert Society*, making his Wigmore Hall Debut in 2011.
- Recently completed his Masters of Teaching at the Institute of Education which focused on student engagement in composition work.
- Has previously taught at Bedales, Headington School and at Mill Hill County High School.
- As a Mountain Leader, enjoys being involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at LGS.

### **Amy McPherson, MA (Oxon) LRSM PGCE**

#### **Deputy Director of Music**

*Flute and Piano*

- Graduated from Oxford University with a first class degree in Music in 2010.
- Studied flute with Kate Hill (Royal Academy of Music) and performed regularly as soloist and orchestral player, holding the principal flute role with *the Oxford Philharmonia Orchestra* and *Ensemble Isis*.
- Awarded a concerto with the *Oxford String Ensemble*.
- Has previously taught at Felsted School and at Downe House School.

### **Eleanor Graff-Baker, MA (Oxon) ARCM PGCE**

#### **Class teacher**

*Violin, Piano, Composition*

- Read music at The Queen's College, Oxford, where she was a Choral Bursar.
- Career has combined performance (as a violinist and singer) with composition and musical direction.
- Has worked in music education at both primary and secondary levels and has been on the staff of the University of Leicester and Director of Music at St Margaret's, Leicester.
- Also teaches at Leicester Grammar Junior School and has previously taught at Leicester High School, Stoneygate, Dixie Grammar and Beauchamp College.

### **Mary Bloomfield**

*Music Department Administrator*

- Having worked for 18 years as a secretary at an insurance firm, followed by a 7-year stint at a sports travel company, Mary is now enjoying her time surrounded by the musicians at LGS.
- Coordinates ABRSM and Trinity instrumental exams each term, and manages ticket sales for the Concert Series along with a myriad of other tasks that enable the music department to run smoothly.

# Instrumental Teaching Staff

## **Andrew Ashwin, FRSM PGDip (RCM) BMus (Hons)**

### *Singing*

- Studied postgraduate singing at the Royal College of Music (awarded Distinction), then at the Gent Opera Studio (Belgium) and Zurich International Opera Studio (Switzerland).
- Worked as a principal singer at the Deutsche Oper (Berlin), then freelance across Europe and the Far East, singing many principal opera roles, gala concerts and recitals.
- Teaches singing at the Royal Academy of Music Junior Department, University of Nottingham and Stoneygate School, and was formerly at Repton School (Head of Singing) and Uppingham School.
- Was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal Schools of Music in 2018, in Music Education.

## **Lizzie Barker, BMus MMus**

### *Violin/Piano*

- Studied at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and has since worked with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic and BBC Symphony Orchestras and for English National Ballet.
- Has played for West End shows including *Wicked* as well as for stars such as Barbra Streisand and Vanessa Mae.
- Now plays freelance at weddings and Bollywood functions throughout the Midlands.

## **Darron Cleary-McHarg MISM**

### *Percussion*

- Studied with Trevor Tomkins; (Royal Academy of Music) Mal Garrett (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire) and Jim Chapin, one of America's top percussion educationalists.
- Freelance experience includes: three years working on cruise ships such as the QE2; 'Memphis Belle Big Band' tribute to Glenn Miller; four years in Jersey, C.I. backing a cabaret floor show; session work at the N.E.C Birmingham and the British Grand Prix, Silverstone; congas and timbales in the latin band *Alka Salsa*.
- Previous students include Josh Devine, Young drummer of the year and drummer with 'One Direction'. Ben Cullingworth who was playing the part of Ringo in the West End Musical 'Let it Be' and Lyle Burton runner up on two consecutive years for 'UK Young Drummer of the Year' 2018

## **Hannah Cresswell, BA PGDip**

### *Flute*

- Gained a first class music degree from The University of Nottingham and studied as a postgraduate Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance.
- Has won numerous awards and prizes for her playing including an EMI Music Sound Foundation and has played in masterclasses for top flute players including Wissam Boustany, Michael Cox, Ian Clarke, Julien Beaudiment and Mary Karen Clardy.
- Won a woodwind chair with the London Musical Theatre Orchestra and works with The Silver Pencils and Duo Serendipity.

## **Rosemary Curtis, BEd**

### *Oboe*

- Has played Principal Oboe with many local orchestras and is a founding member of the *Bardi* Orchestra. Rosie's musical career spans over 40 years of playing and teaching in Leicestershire.
- Previous teaching posts include Leicestershire Music Service, Stoneygate School, Ratcliffe College and Oakham School.
- Currently Music Director for Leicester Gilbert & Sullivan Society.
- Rosie continues to freelance with Orchestra da Camera, an association which goes back over 25 years.

## **Emma Else, BMus (hons); PGCE**

### *Piano*

- Studied for a performance degree at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and gained a PGCE in Secondary Music at Homerton College, Cambridge.
- Has worked in primary and secondary schools as a visiting music teacher, class teacher, Head of Music and in leading extra-curricular groups.
- Has extensive experience as an accompanist, coach, répétiteur for musicals, piano and violin/viola teaching.
- Has performed in concerts and weddings with string quartets and orchestras.
- Has been a cocktail pianist at the Hyatt Hotel in Birmingham.
- Studied at the Royal Academy of Music (Junior Department).

## **Alison Gates, ALCM LTCL BSc(Hons) BMus(Hons) PGDip MMus**

### *Violin / Piano*

- Music scholar at LGS, then studied undergraduate, postgraduate, and instrumental teaching licentiate at Trinity College of Music, under Clare Thompson. Leader of the TCM Chamber Orchestra and soloist for numerous engagements.
- Orchestral work includes tours of China and Europe, film score studio recordings, artist with the London Gospel Choir, and various televised programmes.
- Teaching roles include visiting a number of schools, a thriving private practice, and leading workshops alongside other Philharmonia Orchestra members.

## **Karen Goss, BLib LTCL FTCL**

### *Bassoon*

- Gained both a joint honours degree in music and librarianship and a bassoon teacher's diploma from Trinity College of Music.
- Further postgraduate studies with Keith Rubach and Kim Walker led to the award of Fellow of Trinity College.
- Karen has nearly 30 years' orchestral experience gained around the East Midlands, including 23 years without a break in the *Bardi* Symphony Orchestra. More recently she has joined Leicester Symphony Orchestra and branched out into playing contrabassoon.

## **Kevin Hall, GRSM (Hons) FISM LRAM LTCL**

### *Clarinet/Saxophone*

- Studied at the Royal Academy of Music with John Davies, Anthony Pay and Karl Leister, having gained a Craxton Memorial Scholarship.
- Orchestra and chamber music experience include Glyndebourne Opera with the Bournemouth Sinfonietta, Opera North, The Melachrino Orchestra, Saxtet, Clarinetrix and The Brandner Ensemble.
- Recorded the Brahms Sonatas (HMPCD0695) and is the managing director of Ashview Recordings, with a large catalogue of recordings of live concerts and collaborations with The BBC.
- Instrument design consultant for Howarth of London.
- Has previously taught at Stowe, Bedford and Uppingham schools.
- Experienced orchestral and chamber musician devoting time now to teaching and coaching.

## **Christopher Jeans, LRAM Brass Coordinator**

### *Trombone, Trumpet, Horn, Tuba*

- Has been Principal Trombone with Desford Colliery, Grimethorpe Colliery and Black Dyke Mills bands, with which he won all the major awards, as well as holding the title of Champion Trombone Player of Great Britain.
- Has appeared with Sir Elton John, Lesley Garrett, BBC Concert Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra and most of the top brass bands in the world.
- Director of Music *Youth Brass 2000* and the World Famous GUS Band.
- Professor of Trombone for the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain.
- President of the Jury for the French Open Brass Festival.

## **Amanda Mainard, ABSM (Performance) ABSM (Teaching) ARCM BA (Hons) MA**

### *Cello and Double Bass*

- Studied the cello with Antonia Butler at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, graduating with Distinctions; studies continued with Douglas Cummings, (Principal Cellist of the London Symphony Orchestra).
- Early career comprised freelance playing with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Midland Radio Orchestra, Orchestra of the Welsh National Opera, Orchestra da Camera and various other ad hoc orchestras. Playing in the touring orchestra for Cameron Mackintosh theatre productions
- Piano trio work in Bristol.
- BA and MA at the University of Leicester
- Chamber performance and coaching is now a major focus of a varied career.

## **Jo Preston, BMus AdvPGDipMusic (Prof Perf)**

### *Flute*

- Gained a first class honours degree and a commended Advanced PGDip Music (Professional Performance) on completion of her studies at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Received the Principal's Prize for Outstanding Contribution.
- As a soloist, has performed the Liebermann *Flute Concerto* and Mozart's *Concerto in G* with orchestra. She performs with 'The Madison Duo' and 'Trio Capriccio' with whom she has played for members of the Royal Family and broadcast on the BBC.
- Has performed with the London Concert Orchestra, New England Concert Orchestra, National Festival Orchestra and as principal flute for the Queen's Park Sinfonia.

## **Gill Print, BA (Hons) FISM Strings Coordinator**

### *Violin/Viola*

- Studied with David Martin at RAM during Performing Arts degree at Leicester Polytechnic.
- Post-graduate studies at the Royal Academy of Music with Trevor Williams.
- Freelance experience includes Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the East of England Orchestra, the Orchestra da Camera and projects at Abbey Road.
- Experienced orchestral and chamber musician in UK and Europe, devoting time now to teaching and coaching.
- Has previously taught at Trent College, Wellingborough School, Bedford School and Dame Alice Harpur School.

## **Alan Thomas, MMus**

### *Guitar*

- Was born in Atlanta, and completed his studies at Indiana University and the University of California at San Diego.
- Based in the UK since 1997, he is much in demand as a recitalist and concerto soloist in music ranging from the Renaissance to the present day, having performed extensively throughout the UK, Europe, the United States and Asia.