



March 2012

Welcome to The International Centre
for Music Studies Newsletter
School of Arts & Cultures
Newcastle University



SCHOOL OF ARTS & CULTURES

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

The International Centre for Music Studies

GAMELAN PROJECT

From Sarah Crossan, BMus Hons Music, stage 4

For one week in January, a group of students in ICMuS had a truly unique musical experience in Javanese Gamelan. This module, entitled Collective Performance, is run on an intensive basis and allows students to be immersed in a musical genre, often one they have no previous experience in, with the task of putting together a performance for the public. Personally, I had never played a gamelan instrument before, so being faced with a whole gamelan orchestra, made in Indonesia and transported to England by the Gamelan North project, and the task of putting on a public concert in just a week was daunting but also really exciting.



Our leaders, Chris Stones and Sarah Kekus, were fantastic in inspiring and enthusing us and helping us understand the concepts behind the music. Not only did I learn about a whole new style and culture, and the beginnings of completely unfamiliar

instrumental techniques, I made some great friends and got to know people from all music degree programmes. For me, the project has been invaluable to my personal and collective musical development and I think everyone in the group would agree that we are extremely lucky to have it available as a module; it is great to earn academic credit for such a unique and exciting experience.



DRUMMER OF TOMORROW - UK FINAL

Congratulations to Adam Stapleford, BMus Hons Music Stage 2, on reaching the final of the Drummer of Tomorrow Competition.

Read all about it at

<http://mapex.co.uk/news/uk-drummer-of-tomorrow>

Music Harvest

From Caitlin Procter who graduated from the BMus Hons Music in June 2011. She returned to the University in February 2012 to give a presentation to students taking the Music Enterprise module.

On Monday 13th February I presented a short film made in Palestine last summer where I worked for the NGO Music Harvest thanks to generous support from ICMuS and the NCL+ foundation. The film outlined the work of Music Harvest, who facilitate weekly instrumental lessons and week long summer workshops for children living in Nablus in the north of the West Bank. This was expanded upon in a presentation exploring the issues surrounding the need for such a project in an area so fraught with difficulties, what the successes of the project have been so far, and most importantly how students from Newcastle can get involved in their inspiring work.

I would like to express my most sincere thanks to Dawn Weatherston and Magnus Williamson for agreeing to support this project with funding from ICMuS. Working with Music Harvest was a life changing experience that has guided both my current Masters research and the start of my career immeasurably. Thanks to the NCL+ foundation I was able to buy a video camera which was used extensively in workshops to document and evaluate sessions with children.



International and Palestinian volunteers perform together in a Jazz band at the end of a student Concert.

The film made at the end of the project can be viewed at <http://vimeo.com/36684543>.

MUSSOC from Peter Wood, BA Hons Music, Stage 2

The Newcastle University Music Society is a way for anybody interested in music, whether they play an instrument or not, to socialise with like-minded people. The events held are varied, with something for anyone. We hold Ceilidhs through the year, which are a great way to get to know people. Our members are encouraged to participate in Open-Mic nights and our Freshly Baked evenings at a local bar are designed to promote musical talent on the Newcastle scene. Our African Drumming workshops have proven to be very popular as they allow people to experience music that they may not have encountered much before. Every year we have a wonderful Winter Formal and a Ball around Easter, which are great opportunities to dress to impress and enjoy and meal, drinks and dancing.

Mus Soc presents...
The Mus Soc Spring Ball

Join us at the Assembly Rooms in Newcastle for our most special event of the year! A masquerade theme ball with live music and a three course meal.

Sunday 11 March
7:30pm, sitting down for dinner at 8pm
£20 for Mus Soc members, £26 for non-members

Red carpet entrance
Photographer
Music from a live quartet
Disco

Don't forget to take a mask!

Newcastle Early Music Festival

The International Centre for Music Studies organised the Newcastle Early Music Festival which ran from February 22 until March 10 2012 with concerts being held in the University and at The Sage Gateshead. Students and staff performed in several concerts.



Newcastle University

Newcastle Early Music Festival

2012

Organised by the International Centre for Music Studies, Newcastle University

Newcastle Early Music Festival 2012

All concerts take place in the King's Hall, Armstrong Building, Newcastle University, unless otherwise stated.

For ticket information and enquiries please see the back panel

FEBRUARY

WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY, 7.30PM

THE SPLENDOUR OF VENICE

The International Centre for Music Studies' New Vocal Ensemble and Renaissance Band, together with members of His Majesty's Sagbuts & Cornetts, present a concert of polychoral music to mark 400 years since the death of Venetian composer Giovanni Gabrieli.

Tickets: £12 (£10 for senior citizens, £5 for students and unwaged). This includes admission to the 9.45pm performance in Culture Lab.

WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY, 9.45PM

Culture Lab, King's Walk
GABRIELI a 2(2)

Jamie Savan (cornett)

Adam Woolf (sackbut)

John Ayers (electronics)

Gabrieli's Sonata in 22 parts is performed by two of Europe's leading period instrumentalists, with the aid of live electronics. The Sonata will be multi-tracked in surround sound and real-time, creating part concert, part sound installation.

Tickets: £5 (£3 for senior citizens, students and unwaged)

THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY, 1.10PM

Music by Rameau, Marais, Forqueray and

MARCH

FRIDAY 2 MARCH, 7.30PM

SONGS FOR THE WHITE KING

Music from the Court of Maximilian I, by Heide, Senfl, Hofhaimer and others. This is the inaugural concert of the Northern Early Music Collective, which brings together some of the leading artists of the British Early Music scene based in the North East.

Faya Newton (soprano)

Jacob Hennigan (lute)

Suzanne Pell (rebec) da gamba

Jamie Savan (cornett)

Pamela Thorby (recorder)

Tickets: £12 (£10 for senior citizens, £5 for students and unwaged)

SATURDAY 3 MARCH, 7.30PM

Hall One, The Sage Gateshead
J.S. BACH: ST JOHN PASSION: BWV 245

Some of Europe's finest early music soloists and period instrumentalists join the Newcastle Bach Choir in Bach's great setting of the Passion story, including some rarely heard movements from the version Bach performed in 1725.

Newcastle Bach Choir

Thomas Walker (Evangelist)

Marcus Farnsworth (Jesus)

Mhairi Lawson (soprano)

Robin Blaze (alto)

Peter Harvey (baritone)

Eric Cross (conductor)

Festival of Contemporary and Experimental Music

From 13-16 March 2012 we hosted workshops by visiting artists from Stockholm followed by concerts showcasing their work and compositions from current students.

David Stackenäs : one of the leading guitarists and improvisers in Europe, David has visited Newcastle many times in the past, inspiring guitarists and composers both on and off campus.

Syntjuntan - a duo of Swedish composers/sound artists Ann Rosén and Lise-Lotte Norelius - perhaps one of the most unorthodox music projects you'll ever see, syntjuntan literally stitch synthesisers out of circuit boards, copper wire, and fabric, producing sound and noise-making devices that can be worn, carried, or whatever! They also presented some new Swedish electroacoustic music in a multichannel loudspeaker concert.