



# The Wallace High School

# MUSIC TUITION GUIDE







**Bridget Benson**  
**L.T.C.L.**  
**Flute**

After early studies with Anne King and Colin Fleming (present and former Principal Flutes of the Ulster Orchestra) Bridget continued her studies in England. Since returning to Northern Ireland she has gained considerable teaching experience in a wide variety of schools including Glencraig Primary, Rockport Preparatory School as well as Bloomfield Collegiate, Dominican College and St. Dominic's in Belfast.

Bridget also teaches at the Belfast School of Music and The Ulster College of Music. She has taught the flute at The Wallace High School for over 18 years with pupils ranging from beginner to Grade 8 and Aural classes.



**Kathleen Benson**  
**G.R.N.C.M.**  
**Clarinet and Saxophone**

Kathleen is a graduate of The Royal Northern College of Music. She teaches clarinet, saxophone and theory. After studying with Chris King, Principal Clarinet in the Ulster Orchestra, she attended The Royal Northern College of Music where she studied with Sid Fell and Janet Hilton. From 1984-98 she lived in Hertfordshire teaching in many schools in Essex, London, Hertfordshire and Wiltshire whilst also performing in many concerts, operas and musicals as a freelance player.

Since returning to Northern Ireland she has taught both privately and for various schools including Belfast School of Music, Ulster College of Music, Glencraig Integrated Primary and The Wallace High School. Kathleen has been teaching clarinet and saxophone (beginner to Grade 8) at Wallace for 15 years. She also tutors some smaller instrumental groups.



## **Eleanor Eyre-Maunsell**

**Dip. Ed PGCE, A.T.C.L.**

### **Violin, Viola, Piano and String Quartet**

Eleanor has been tutoring for 2 years at The Wallace High School. For the last 40 years she taught at the Preparatory Department of Belfast Royal Academical Institute as well as in a number of primary schools in Lisburn. She has 10 years experience teaching violin to advanced pupils with the Education and Library Boards. She brings to her work a wide range of experience in playing both violin and piano. She was a member of the Ulster Orchestra, playing violin for some time and played with the Baroque Chamber Players led by Peter Mountain, who was leader of the Scottish National Orchestra and Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. For 10 years she was co-leader of Studio Symphony Orchestra under Havelock Nelson and currently plays violin with 3 string quartets giving performances ranging from charity concerts to special occasions such as Hilary Clinton's Belfast visit, City Hall dinners, the opening of Somme Hospital by the Duchess of Gloucester and events at National Trust venues.



# **Maeve Falconer**

**B.Mus, M.Mus (perf)**

**Voice**

Maeve is a highly acclaimed performer, she held the position of Principal Soprano with the Carl Rosa Opera company from 2002 until 2006. She has performed all over the world, including Ireland, France, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, New Zealand and Australia. Maeve stopped singing in order to raise her family. Prior to this she was the Principal Soprano with Anúna and featured on many of their tours and CDs. As a soloist, she has performed the soprano roles in opera and oratorio alike, from Verdi to Donizetti, Handel to Haydn as well as many solo song recital programmes. Maeve has been teaching singing alongside performing for 16 years. Initially working as voice coach for Sony records. She then moved on to teaching in Dublin Grammar schools. After returning to Northern Ireland, she has taught in the City of Belfast School of Music, St George's Church (training choral scholars and younger choristers) and in The Wallace High School.



## **Donald J A Hamilton**

**GLCM, ARCO, LTCL, ALCM**

### **Piano**

Donald has been a private teacher for over 25 years and a Director of Music in a number of churches. He has taught in Wallace for 3 years, where he also tutors advanced aural and accompany ABRSM exams. Donald has performed with choirs in cathedrals in Ireland, England, Holland and North America, also regularly accompanying soloists. He has experience working with players from the Ulster Orchestra at weddings and chamber concerts.



## **Mark McGrath**

### **Piano & Organ**

Mark McGrath is a sought after accompanist and teacher, himself a highly skilled organist and pianist, his ability to encourage and to develop these instruments in young students is excellent. An accompanist of great repute, Mr McGrath is the go-to répétiteur for major festivals and advanced examinations. As organist, Mr McGrath has performed on many occasions on BBC, and currently accompanies the choir of St. George's Parish, Belfast in their vast repertoire and also the school choirs and examination candidates.



## **Jenny Leslie**

### **Brass**

Jenny began playing the trumpet at 12 and joined the County Antrim Youth Orchestra. Changing instruments to french horn, she went on to study at the Royal College of Music, London playing french horn under the tutelage of Douglas Moore, Principal Horn of the BBC Symphony Orchestra and piano with Timothy Salter. Jenny was awarded one of the two top brass prizes for performance in her final year. She has performed in many orchestras, and brass quintets during her career.

At present, Jenny teaches brass and piano with theory at several schools in the Belfast area, working too with the Senior Concert Band at the Belfast School of Music. In The Wallace High School Jenny offers tuition on brass and also piano, providing theory to the children in the Preparatory Department too.



## **Rory Nellis**

**B.A.(Mus)**  
**Guitar**

Rory has a degree in Music from the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts where he specialised in guitar performance and songwriting. He teaches a range of guitar styles to people of all ages, covering all classical and Rockschool grades.

In addition to teaching guitar and songwriting at The Wallace High School and Sullivan Upper School, Rory works with the Drake Music Project, a charity that makes music creation and performance accessible to people with a wide range of special needs. With his band, Seven Summits, Rory has played at Glastonbury Festival and continues to play gigs and festivals all over the U.K. and Ireland.





## **Michael Newman**

### **Guitar**

Michael teaches all styles of guitar, electric acoustic and bass in rock guitar style, following the Rockschool syllabus, which is a fully accredited examining body. He also offers tuition in Classical Guitar following the ABRSM syllabus.

Michael has 25 years of teaching experience, having previously worked as a professional musician for several years.



## **Alan Sykes**

### **Drums**

Alan Sykes is a freelance Drummer/Percussionist and Educator based in Belfast. He began playing drums at the age of 9 and by age 14 was playing for theatre musicals, shows and occasional session work. He studied classical percussion for 5 years at the Belfast School of Music, gaining an early reputation as a competent percussionist as well as an accomplished kit player. In the '80s he worked full-time throughout the UK for live radio & TV broadcasts plus recording on 3 studio albums and 3 live albums.

Now based back in Belfast he still plays regularly in the jazz & blues scene and has 18 years of teaching experience. Alan offers tuition, including graded exam entrants to students in his home studio, local recording studio and local schools including The Wallace High School. He has also worked for the SEELB as a percussion section tutor. He is a member of the National Association of Percussion Teachers, Percussive Arts Society and The Musicians Union. For further up-to-date information please visit : [www.drumschoolbelfast.co.uk](http://www.drumschoolbelfast.co.uk)



## **Malcolm Hamilton**

### **Reeds**

Mr Malcolm Hamilton has been teaching oboe and bassoon for over 30 years. Until recently, he was a full-time teacher at the Belfast School of Music and before that, was on the music staff of Campion International School in Athens. He has been a member of many ensembles and orchestras and most recently has enjoyed playing for local performances of musicals such as Les Miserables, West Side Story and Bugsy Malone.



## **Sherry Robinson**

**BA (Hons) PGCE**

### **Lower Strings**

Sherry has been teaching in Wallace since 2014. Based in London for many years she has a wide range of teaching experience across the age groups. Her background is predominantly in collaborative arts projects. She has improvised and devised music with performance Storytellers, poets and dancers in a wide range of venues, theatres and festivals throughout Britain. She has worked in a number of ensembles from classical to European traditional music. Sherry is currently a member of the Trio 'Seefin' , performing for ArtsCare NI.



## **Music Teacher Miss Chelsea Pascoe**

Miss Pascoe is a Teacher of Music and co-ordinates the instrumentalist ensembles within the school. As part of this role, she rehearses and conducts the School Orchestra. The School Orchestra is a group of instrumentalists from Years 8-14 who perform and showcase their talents in various concerts and events throughout the academic year including our annual Spring Concert. Miss Pascoe also leads the Chamber Orchestra which is made up of senior, more advanced musicians as well as other smaller groups such as the Strings Ensemble and Wind Band.



## **Head of Music Department Mr David Falconer**

Mr Falconer is the Head of the Music Department and is delighted to have the support of such a diverse and versatile team of tutors who bring a wealth of musical training and performance experience to the individual lessons. Teaching music is a demanding profession, requiring adaptable skills, motivational tools and excellent musicality. Our Music Department has all of these attributes.

# **Musical Bursaries**

A number of bursaries (Hadden Music Bursaries) are available to provide financial assistance to students who show great promise on instruments or vocally. Student who attain distinction in ABRSM exams may be offered a bursary, which pays for half the lessons each year.

In addition, the Celia Gourley Scholarship is awarded to the student with the highest mark at A Level who pursues a third level degree in music.

