

# Notes

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Benevolent  
Fund

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Talented, dedicated, skilled – often brilliant, musicians inspire us with their performances.

In a demanding and unpredictable profession, musicians can need extra help with their career, their health, or just getting through life.

By supporting the Musicians Benevolent Fund, audiences can show their appreciation with more than applause.

## Letter from the Chief Executive - David Sulkin



David Sulkin, Chief Executive of Musicians Benevolent Fund  
Photograph by Kevin Joseph

One of the first changes that regular readers of this newsletter will notice is that the Musicians Benevolent Fund now has a striking new logo and the newsletter too has been given both a make-over and a brand-new name. We like to think that the all-embracing "phrase marks" cradling the name in the new logo, reflect both the supportive nature of our work and its intrinsically musical impulse, with a hint too of the legato-esque continuity we offer in caring for musicians at all stages of their careers. As for *Notes* (the key as was), we plan to bring you a bigger, better and bolder issue when we relaunch the magazine properly in the autumn. We trust that this interim early summer issue will, in the meantime, give you a taste of what we hope will be a consistently vibrant mix of news, ideas, issues, information and interesting insights into the world of the Fund and of music-making in general.

Change is afoot at the Fund. But, whatever else may change, our two key areas of concern – caring for musicians at both the outset and the close of their careers – will remain; and these twin aspects are wonderfully illustrated in the pages that follow.

While we celebrate the latest crop of brilliant young performers to scoop the annual songwriting, jazz and vocal awards, we also report on a major study that is currently being conducted at Cambridge University, looking into the long-term effects of injury on musicians' lives and attempting to identify strategies to cope with what can be career-wrecking changes: if your musical life has ever been affected by personal injury, do please take part in this vital survey (full details on page 5).

For any musician to have their career cut short by illness is a tragedy, but few such tragedies have touched the public heart as powerfully as that of the cellist Jacqueline du Pré. Thankfully, her legacy still lives on, not just in a wide-ranging catalogue of wonderful recordings, but in the Special Fund set up in her name to support fellow sufferers of Multiple Sclerosis and other degenerative diseases. The Musicians Benevolent Fund was fortunate to be chosen as the beneficiary of this year's Jacqueline du Pré Charity Concert and we report (on pages 4-5) on the real, practical help that we and the Special Fund have been able to provide to one particular musician in need.

As always, we would like to offer our most sincere thanks to all of our readers for continuing to support our work and for finding such unfailingly inventive ways of raising money on our behalf.

*David Sulkin joined the Musicians Benevolent Fund in January 2009 – before that he was Director of Programmes at Youth Music. His background is in music, opera and theatre. In the mid-1990s he was Associate Director of the Janáček Festival in the Czech Republic. He was co-founder and director of the Baylis Programme at English National Opera.*

# Awards and Professional Development

Encouraging the next generation of young musicians – and offering the vital funding to help their development – is a key part of the Musicians Benevolent Fund's work. In 2008 more than 230 young people benefited from awards totalling £340,000. Here is the latest news:

### SONGWRITING AWARD GOES TO BRAND-NEW BAND

At the Showcase Final held at The Bedford in London on Tuesday 25 November, a world-class jury chaired by songwriting legend Joan Armatrading unanimously voted to present the 2008 Songwriting Award to a brand-new band making its first ever public appearance. Specially formed by songwriter Michael Halls – Fables is a five-piece band from LIPA (Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts), which has previously fielded winners in both 2005 (The Wombats) and 2006 (Hannah Rei). Described by Armatrading as 'a fantastic

band' and by fellow jurors, platinum selling singer-songwriter Lucie Silvas and 1980s musical icon Nik Kershaw, as, respectively, 'captivating to watch' and 'having that little bit extra', Fables will be using the £5,000 award to cover the costs of recording, promoting and touring two EPs of original music. Also including David Stark, Editor/Publisher of SongLink International magazine, and Tony Moore, musician, presenter and Musical Director of The Bedford, the judging panel awarded an additional £2,000 Development Award to promising singer-songwriter Alex Lipinski from the University of Westminster, who will use the award to showcase his work in America.

To find out more about Fables, visit [www.myspace.com/fablesgroup](http://www.myspace.com/fablesgroup) and to see clips from the night, visit our YouTube Channel - [www.youtube.com/mbfformusic](http://www.youtube.com/mbfformusic). To find out more about Alex Lipinski, visit [www.myspace.com/alexlipinski](http://www.myspace.com/alexlipinski)



Songwriting Award 2008 judging panel with Fables  
Photograph by Gareth Hacker

### PETER WHITTINGHAM JAZZ AWARD WON BY JOHN RANDALL AND HIS QUINTET FROM BIRMINGHAM CONSERVATOIRE

The 2008 Peter Whittingham Jazz Award went to The John Randall Quintet, formed in 2006 by fellow students at Birmingham Conservatoire. Led by multi-award-winning drummer/composer John Randall, the group – also comprising Tom Challenger (tenor sax), Tom Farmer (bass), George Fogel (keyboards) and Chris Montague (guitar) – will use the £4,000 award to fund the development of a multi-media website through which it will document and promote its music with live audio and video footage.



John Randall – recipient of Peter Whittingham Jazz Award 2008

The Peter Whittingham Jazz Award was set up in 1989 in memory of Peter Whittingham, by his family. Peter was an expert in survival medicine and a gifted pianist. Chaired by his son Chris – joined by saxophonist Dave O'Higgins, drummer/

composer Clark Tracey and Steve Rubie, owner of the 606 Jazz Club – the audition panel also awarded a Development Award of £3,000 to Belfast-based guitarist Mark McKnight, who will use the award to fund a regular performance programme for contemporary jazz musicians in Belfast.

To find out more about John Randall and the Quintet, visit [www.johnrandallmusic.com](http://www.johnrandallmusic.com) and [www.myspace.com/johnrandallmusic](http://www.myspace.com/johnrandallmusic)

### ANNA DEVIN IS A UNANIMOUS CHOICE AT VOCAL AWARDS

Soprano Anna Devin from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama has been awarded the Maggie Teyte Prize of £2,000 – and a Miriam Licette Scholarship of £1,500 – and will give this year's Maggie Teyte Prizewinner's Recital at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in June. Currently studying with Janice Chapman on the GSMD's opera course, Anna achieved a first-class honours degree in Music Performance at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and was a Young Artist with Opera Theatre Company in Ireland.

The Maggie Teyte Prize and Miriam Licette Scholarship – named after two great pre-war English sopranos who both specialised in French repertoire – have proved reliable heralds of outstanding vocal talent – Anna Devin was a finalist at

this year's Kathleen Ferrier Awards and last year's Maggie Teyte Prize winner, Sarah-Jane Brandon was awarded first place at the Ferriers. Chaired by the Royal Opera's Head of Music, David Syrus, with international opera stars Valerie Masterson, Philip Langridge and Joan Rodgers and Times music critic Hilary Finch, the judging panel awarded two further Miriam Licette Scholarships of £1,500 each to Sadhbh Denny from the Royal College of Music and Nina Lejderman, who studies privately, as well as a Development Award of £500 to accompanist Leo Nicholson, who studies at Trinity College.



Anna Devin – recipient of Maggie Teyte Prize and Miriam Licette Scholarship 2009

Tickets for the Maggie Teyte Prizewinner's Recital (1pm, Monday 22 June, ROH Crush Room) are free and bookable, from Saturday 13 June, via the Royal Opera House website: [www.roh.org.uk/whatson](http://www.roh.org.uk/whatson).

For full details of all Awards and Professional Development and to apply, please keep an eye on our website - [www.mbf.org.uk](http://www.mbf.org.uk) where all information will be posted.

# Care and Welfare

## JACQUELINE DU PRÉ – A FAR-REACHING LEGACY

This year the Musicians Benevolent Fund was honoured to be chosen as the recipient of the proceeds from the annual Jacqueline du Pré Charity Concert. It was the fourteenth of the annual charity concerts, held each March to commemorate Jacqueline's London debut concert, given at Wigmore Hall on 1 March 1961. This year's concert was in aid of the Jacqueline du Pré Special Fund, which provides vital support to musicians suffering from multiple sclerosis and other degenerative illnesses. The Special Fund was established in 1988 in memory of Jacqueline du Pré, whose own performing career was so tragically curtailed by MS, and offers musicians assistance with mobility aids, house adaptations, therapy, respite costs, residential care fees, computer equipment and other essential needs.

The concert included performances from the acclaimed cellist Gemma Rosefield,

who recently won the prestigious Pierre Fournier Award at Wigmore Hall, and the Wihan Quartet from Prague, which has rapidly established itself as one of the elite European quartets of its generation.

The programme featured Haydn's Quartet in G major, op.54 no.1, Arensky's Quartet in A minor for two cellos and the great Schubert Quintet in C major, D956.



Gemma Rosefield – cellist



The Wihan Quartet  
Photograph by Wolf Marloh

Through the Jacqueline du Pré Special Fund Michael has been supported in a variety of ways, enabling him to live as full and comfortable a life as possible. Michael says, 'Thanks to the fund, I have a motability car adjusted to my needs.

Thanks to the fund, I also have a fancy electric wheelchair, again perfectly adjusted to my needs, in which I happily whizz around my neighbourhood doing my shopping and chatting with my neighbours.' Michael is also offered help with a range of household bills, including his heating, telephone, television licence and insurance. In addition to this, over the past couple of years, Michael has enjoyed holidays with other disabled musicians at a specially adapted hotel.

Michael also receives regular visits from Visitor Eileen Bowler, during which they discuss Michael's current care needs and any other ways we might be able to help. The visits are also a vital way of keeping in touch with our beneficiaries. As Michael says, 'It is this combination of financial help and face-to-face contact that is so effective.'

*To enable us to continue this vital lifeline to musicians, please consider making a donation to our work. Visit [www.mbf.org.uk](http://www.mbf.org.uk), call 020 7239 9100 or send a cheque to 7-11 Britannia Street, London WC1X 9JS to make a donation today. As Michael says, 'I can truly say that every day I thank, with good reason, Jacqueline and all who contribute to her fund.'*



## WHEN MUSICIANS CAN'T PLAY ON

*Injury can prevent musicians from playing as they once did – or even from performing at all. Finding ways for them to cope with such life-changing situations has always been central to the work of the Musicians Benevolent Fund and is currently the subject of a study being conducted at Cambridge University.*

A new study, designed to discover the most effective ways of dealing with the impact of injury on musicians' well-being and psychological health, is currently being carried out by Dr Sally Maitlis, Associate Professor of Organizational Behavior at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, and currently Visiting Professor at Judge Business School, Cambridge University. Dr Maitlis has studied creative organisations and their members for over 15 years, both in Britain and North America. In her present study, she is carrying out confidential interviews with musicians whose lives have been affected by injury in order to understand how they cope and come to terms with what has happened to

them. Musicians can experience many kinds of injuries. Recent studies suggest that the incidence of playing related musculoskeletal disorders in musicians is somewhere between 39 and 87 per cent. Other injuries that often force musicians to stop performing include hearing loss, orthopedic problems and vocal damage. Such injuries not only affect individuals' abilities to make a living, but can also fundamentally affect their understanding of and belief in themselves. This is the focus of the current research study.

Dr Maitlis is keen to hear from musicians or former musicians who are interested in participating in her study. She would like to talk to people who:

- Are or previously were a professional musician.
- Have or have had an injury that prevents/prevented them from playing or singing as they did before.
- Because of injury, are currently considering or have previously considered changing the kind of work they do.

**If you think that you fit this profile and are interested in being part of this study, please contact Dr Sally Maitlis at [maitlis@sauder.ubc.ca](mailto:maitlis@sauder.ubc.ca) for further information.**



Michael Lea – Orchestral double bass player  
Photograph by Kevin Joseph

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE – MICHAEL LEA

One musician who feels a special connection to Jacqueline du Pré is orchestral double bass player Michael Lea. Michael (61) became a student at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama a year after Jacqueline left. As he now recalls:

*'Her name was prominently displayed on the Guildhall board of Gold Medal winners – she was an example for us to emulate. I heard her play many times and she had a profound influence on my life.'*

Michael got in touch with the Musicians Benevolent Fund in 2000 after having been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and receives help through the Jacqueline du Pré Special Fund. Michael says, 'I have been most fortunate to have been a beneficiary and the generous help of this fund has made a huge difference to my life. As a result of this help, although it is now a few years since I last walked, and over five since I last was able to play the double bass, I live a fulfilling and independent life in my own flat. I now have the time to explore interests such as composing music, and writing on dyslexia and music.'

## Fundraising

The Musicians Benevolent Fund relies solely on music-lovers who year after year raise money for the charity through donations and legacies.

Every year we spend over £2 million, helping around 1,500 music professionals and their dependants in need, and a further £435,424 through awards for outstanding young musicians. We are very grateful to all those who help us raise these funds, which not only ensure that we maintain our commitments but enable us continually to develop the help that we offer.

One of the ways to help us raise funds is to hold an event and donate the money to the Fund, and many such events have been held all over the country since the last edition of *the key*. These have ranged from auctions and birthday lunches to song contests, recitals and concerts. For the more daring, supporters in the past have been known to partake in parachute jumps, and you may remember Carol and John Davies from the last edition of *the key* who embarked upon an epic bike ride from Land's End to John o'Groats. For the more faint-hearted, coffee mornings may be a safer alternative and have proved to be just as successful!

We are truly amazed at the lengths people will go to in order to help us in this way and are extremely grateful to our dedicated supporters. Below is a list of individuals and organisations who have recently held fundraising events for us - thank you to all those involved.

*Blain Weller: Unsigned Song Contest, Dillie Keane: A benefit concert in memory of outstanding musician and accompanist Russell Churney featuring Julian Clary, Sandi Toksvig and Fascinating Aida, ENO, Caroline De'Criuz, Buy Once Give Twice: Sarah Connolly Auction Wiggonholt Association: Young Musicians Concert*

For other ways to help us or make a donation please visit: [www.mbf.org.uk/supportus](http://www.mbf.org.uk/supportus)

## Become a Friend

Another way to show your support for the Musicians Benevolent Fund is to become a Friend – a group of dedicated supporters who give regularly to the work of the Fund through an annual subscription. Friends receive many benefits such as discounted tickets for a wide range of concerts and events all over the UK, discounted subscriptions for selected music magazines published in the UK including Gramophone, The Strad, Gig, Dazed and Confused and NME, discounted tickets to selected Musicians Benevolent Fund events, details of our Christmas cards and the Christmas card catalogue as well as reserved seats at the annual Festival of Saint Cecilia Service.

**Anyone can become a Friend and there are several categories:**

Friend: **£20**

Musician Friend: **£10** (for professional musicians)

Joint Friend: **£35** (for two people at the same address)

Life Friend: **£600** (one-off payment)

For more information on how to become a Friend please see our website [www.mbf.org.uk/supportus](http://www.mbf.org.uk/supportus) - Please don't miss out on this fantastic offer!

## Remembering the Fund

Since the last edition of *the key*, the Musicians Benevolent Fund has received donations in memory of the people listed below. We offer our condolences to all their loved ones and thank them for their donations.

Alan Graham Hazeldine

Albert Henry Stokes

Angus Pilton

Barbara Errington

Barbara Sidwell

Barbara Wendy Burman-Grohnert

Brian Richards

Brian Wightman

Celia Moss

Christine Mary Downer

Christopher Benson

Cliff Arnold Jones

Dennis Charles Murdoch

Derek Rosser Powell

Dick Wakefield

Dion James Butterworth

Dorothy Frances Raymond

Douglas Milne

Dr Archie Erskine

Eleanor Mary Suffolk

Elizabeth Lenton

Elizabeth Wade

Enid Hartle

Ethel Ada Leah Taylor

Francesca Klaschka

Frank Charles Stevens

George Heath

George Oag

Helen Youngman

Herbert Campling

Hussain Mohamed

Ivan D. Packman

James Haswell OBE

Janet Cook

Jean Cox

Jeanne Higgins

Joan Briggs

John F. Swift

John Marshall

John White

Joy Kershaw

Julian Boby

Lady Gertrude Bliss

Madge Ryan

Marjorie Thomas FRMCM, Hon RAM

Mary MacDonagh

Melbourne Alec Boxall

Mr & Mrs Alan Hamer

Muriel Harris

Myra Roe

Nigel Taylor

Norman Edward Goddard

Olive Capron

Pamela Herbertson

Pamela J.Gibson

Pat Crumly

Pearl Barber (Keiller)

Peggy Elvin

Peter Verity

Philip Palmer

Phyllis Norbrook

Phyllis Page

Reverend David Rhodes

Richard Hickox

Roger Varian

Roy Duncan Stewart

Roy Whiteford

Russell Churney

Susan Hawkins

Sylvia Grason



# Note for the diary

## Festival of St Cecilia

This year's Festival of St Cecilia will be held on Wednesday 18 November.

The service will take place at St Paul's Cathedral and the lunch will be held at the historic Guildhall.

Further details will be announced shortly on our website – [www.mbf.org.uk](http://www.mbf.org.uk)

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