

# Gala concert will glitter!

The Gala Concert for the 8th Balerno Music Festival will be a glittering occasion as Jessica Leary and friends invite us to join them in a Night at the Opera.

Jessica graduated from the Alexander Gibson Opera Course (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland) with Distinction, and completed her training with English National Opera *Opera Works* Programme 2014/15, and she has just returned from a summer in Lohengrin at the Bayreuth Festival. Jessica appears with Jonathan Cook and Douglas Nairne, and they are accompanied by Christopher Baxter. Jessica is well known to Balerno audiences as she appears regularly with the Pentland Singers where she looks after the Junior Singers. Those of you who were there will remember the jewel of a concert which Jessica led in February 2013 and at which Jonathan, Douglas and Christopher also featured.

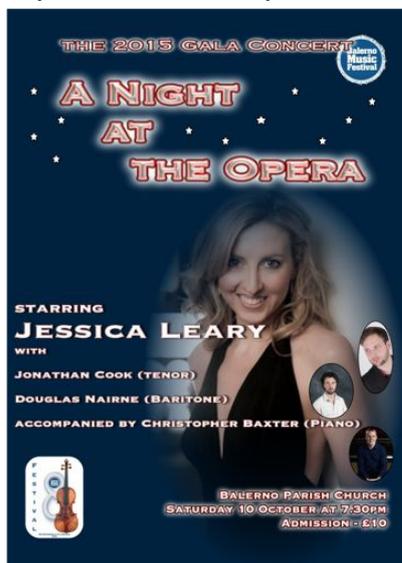
Jonathan Cooke, 28, is a versatile tenor, equally comfortable on the operatic stage, concert platform, and choral circuit. He recently completed the opera course at the renowned Alexander Gibson Opera School, studying with Amand Hekkers.

Born in Fife, Douglas Nairne also studied at the RSAMD, before winning a scholarship to study at the Guildhall School of Music where he gained an advanced Masters with distinction. Douglas is a co-founder of Opera Bohemia and he has worked with Scottish Opera.

Completing the line up is Christopher who began his musical studies in Aberdeen with Robert Howie at the Aberdeen City Music School. He then continued at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, where he

was tutored by Aaron Shorr, Graeme McNaught and Fali Pavri, as well as receiving regular coaching from the renowned pianist, Nigel Clayton. He is in constant demand both as a soloist and accompanist.

The Gala Concert is on Saturday 10 October at Balerno Parish Church, Tickets are £10,



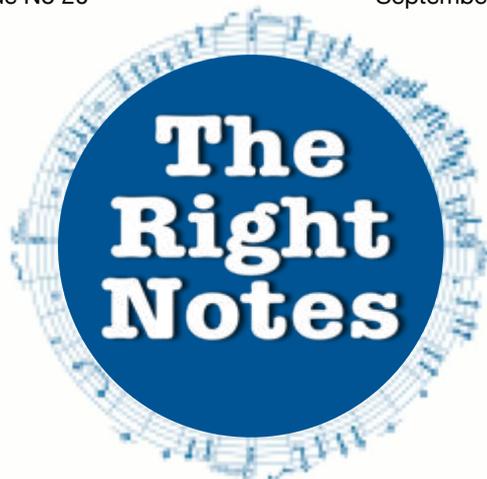
## Can you help?

In the spring of this year Balerno Music Festival Society made donations to the three schools in Balerno amounting to £750. It's part of the reason why we hold a Music Festival. The Festival relies on Friends to ensure that the Festival can happen.

Why not become a Friend of the Balerno Music Festival and help to ensure the future of the Scotland's Biggest Little Music festival, AND help to encourage music making in our community?

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[www.balernomusicfestival.org.uk](http://www.balernomusicfestival.org.uk)

## BIG BAND BLAST!

Expect a treat when the Borders Big Band swings into Balerno

Balerno Music Festival are delighted to have secured the Borders Big Band, directed by Chris Achenbach, for this year's Festival.

Big Band is associated with jazz and the swing era and traditionally comprises saxophone, trumpet, trombone and rhythm sections (drums, acoustic or electric bass, piano and guitar). Swing music began in the 1920s, flourishing in the 30s and going on to produce the great names like Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Buddy Rich and others.

The Borders Big Band was formed in 1978 and has performed in public over 200 times at concerts in the Borders, Edinburgh and Lothians, Fife and the North of England, and at many dances in aid of charities. During this period, it has raised many thousands of pounds for well-known causes, and has supported the promotion of live music whenever possible. Guest professionals like trombonists Don Lusher and Gordon Campbell, and the late trumpet legend Kenny Baker, have also appeared with the band.

This high energy 15-piece band excels in using in many cases the original scores for the great hits, drawing its repertoire from the libraries of Big Band "greats" such as Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw, Tommy Dorsey, Charlie Barnet, Buddy Rich and Les Brown.

Chris Achenbach has been Musical Director of the Borders Big Band since 1993, and as well as being classically trained in piano, he is a jazz pianist and also Director of Music at Holy Trinity Church, Melrose. Separately, he directs Langlee Community Choir, formed in 2012 and currently over 60 strong, which performs regularly in Galashiels and around the Borders. He is also a Music Therapist with 30 years' professional experience.

We know there will be real demand for tickets for the Borders Big Band when they perform under the direction of Chris Achenbach at Balerno Parish Church on 9 October; so make sure of yours now!



# A great start for the Festival

St Mary's Music School Director of Music to open the Festival over dinner and a glass of wine

The 8th Balerno Music Festival starts with a star occasion when Paul Stubbings joins his audience at a dinner discussion session in St Joseph's Hall on Wednesday 23 September.

Brought up on the North Yorkshire coast Paul Stubbings was educated at Chetham's and Manchester University, studying organ with Francis Jackson and Gordon Stewart.

Countess of Munster and Dutch Government awards enabled him to pursue advanced organ studies with Bach Scholar Jacques van Oortmerssen at the Amsterdam Conservatoire, where he gained the Prix d'Excellence 'cum laude'.

His career began at the Royal Parish Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields where as Organist & Master of the Music he presided over one of the most vibrant choral and concert programmes in

the country. Later whilst Director of Music at St Lawrence College in Ramsgate he maintained an international profile as a recitalist, playing in churches, cathedrals and concert halls throughout Europe, and in Australia and Canada.

In 2012 he was appointed Director of Music at the prestigious St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh, one of the UK's five Specialist Music Schools and Choir School to St Mary's Cathedral.

Our speaker attended Manchester University where, he remembers, James MacMillan, as a young lecturer, introduced him to music by Scottish composers as diverse as Robert Carver and William Sweeney. "James's passion for this music really rubbed off on me, and I'm looking forward to learning more about Scottish music."

Dinner discussion is on 23 September at 7.30pm - advance booking essential

**DON'T FORGET  
FESTIVAL  
BUSK**

SATURDAY 12 SEPT  
AND  
SATURDAY 10 OCT  
AT  
BALERNO  
FARMERS MARKET,  
MAIN STREET,  
BALERNO  
9.00 TO 1.00



at Balerno Gala

# And a great way to wrap it all up 'til next time

**The Jazz Party is a Festival institution, much anticipated and hugely enjoyed by all who attend it.**

This year the party will once again welcome Ian Ewing, whose darkly energetic rendering of Mack the Knife at the 2014 Festival has gone down as one of the all time triumphs of the Balerno Music Festival.

Ian is one of Scotland's foremost big band and swing singers. He has performed at many major venues across the UK including the London Palladium and Her Majesty's Theatre in London's West End. He tells us that Balerno is his favourite venue and who are we to say it couldn't be.



Il and friends again, for another session the true aim of which is to allow everyone (including Ian, Roger and the band) to relax, wind down and savour the moment when the Festival curtain comes down, and thoughts can reflect on all the events which have gone to make up the 8th Festival at the Gateway to the Pentlands.

The Jazz Party is on Sunday 11 October at 7.30 at St Joseph's Hall; ticket price £10

## Festival out and about

If you've been out and about over the past few weeks then you're sure to have seen the familiar blue logo of the Balerno Music Festival. Members of the committee and supporters have been out spreading the word and telling as many people as we can about everything that's happening at this year's Festival.

We've been at Balerno Gala, Currie Show and Currie Fair, as well as Balerno Parish Church's Marie Curie event; and we've been at each of the Balerno Farmers Markets across the summer since June. We hope that by being there we've been able to bring the Festival to you and answer your questions, as well as enable you to buy tickets from our mobile Box Office.

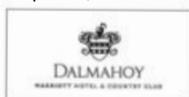
We hope to see you at this year's Festival ..... and when we're out and about getting ready for 2016 and the 9th Festival!



at Currie Show

### Our sponsors

The Festival costs a fair bit to put on, and we are forever grateful to our sponsors for their help and support. We thank them all on your behalf also for their continuing support.



[www.balernomusicfestival.org.uk](http://www.balernomusicfestival.org.uk)

