

OUR 2017 ADJUDICATORS



Benjamin Costello MA PGDip BMus FRSA

Ben is a freelance musical director, adjudicator, singing coach and accompanist, working internationally. He is also Artistic Director of Thames Concerts, Founding Director of Kingston Chamber Singers, Chorus Master for the Leith Hill Musical Festival combined choirs' concerts and Assistant Artistic Director of Thames Philharmonic Choir. Ben has been a musical director on numerous productions across the U.K. and remains a guest conductor with various choirs.

As an accompanist he collaborates with countless singers and instrumentalists. He judges at festivals internationally as an adjudicator member of the British and International Federation of Festivals and the Schools Music Association, with recent

visits to adjudicate or perform in Southern Africa, China, Sri Lanka, Italy, Poland and Ireland. He has formed particularly strong ties with Zimbabwe and Botswana, making regular working visits there since conducting the opening gala concert of the Harare International Festival of the Arts in 2010. A specialist in musical theatre, with his work in that field embracing musical direction, singing teaching, lecturing and dramaturgy, Ben has worked in many of the major colleges and often returns to these colleges in these capacities.

His permanent posts have included Arts Educational, Laine Theatre Arts, Guildford School of Acting and the London College of Music, whilst also working for the Royal Academy of Music, Mountview Academy, the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and Starquest Performers College.

He has also lectured for universities including London, Surrey, Kingston and Portsmouth. Countless of his former singing students enjoy successful careers in the West End and beyond.

Born and based in London, Ben trained initially as a flautist, and subsequently majored in piano, singing and conducting. His early career included répétiteur work with the London Symphony Orchestra and other London theatre and opera groups and he remains much sought-after as an outstanding accompanist in musical theatre repertoire.

Ben is a long-standing member of the Court of the Royal Society of Musicians, and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, organising and chairing the Company's annual musical direction scholarship. Outside of music he is a keen motorcyclist.



Richard Haslam

Richard studied at Sussex University for a degree in Education, specialising in Music and also at the Royal College of Music where he gained a Diploma in Pianoforte Teaching and a Distinction in Grade 8 singing. Richard was Director of Music at Burgess Hill School for Girls where he taught to A level as well as running extra-curricular activities and he has recently retired. Richard teaches piano and singing to Diploma standard and is also a Moderator for GCSE Music, an examiner for ABRSM and A Level Music, an adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals and recently became a Mentor for Music for Youth. He is an experienced accompanist, conductor and singer and works with a number of different groups in the community.