

# Limerick School of Music Alumni Newsletter September 2023

Greetings to all past LSOM students and teachers! Make sure you read the final page about our forthcoming LSOM Reunion event!

As part of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 2022, we resolved to make contact with you, our alumni, to mark the occasion, but also made a longer-term commitment to reconnect with you, our past students and teachers, in a more meaningful way. Music education is a gift for life and it is our sincere hope to find new ways to share the love of music with all of our LSOM community, wherever you may be!

## Highlights of 2022-2023

After the excitement of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert in May 2022, LSOM returned to a full schedule of lessons, concerts, exams, competitions and many other performance collaborations in a post-pandemic world. We describe a few of the highlights below ....

### Concerts & Masterclasses

In addition to our usual in-house concerts, our students performed a Christmas concert at TUS Millennium Theatre & a summer concert at St John's Cathedral. Advanced students performed lunchtime recitals at the Irish World Academy of Music & Dance at UL and also at St Mary's Cathedral.

Masterclasses have become a regular feature of the musical year for our students and this year's guest teachers included Katherine Hunka (violin) and Owen Lorigan (piano) among others. We also host intensive rehearsal days such as our annual "Blow Out" day for the Wind & Brass players. Keep an eye on our website and social media for details of all forthcoming recitals and masterclasses.

### Festivals

Founded as part of the 60<sup>th</sup> celebrations, our *LSOM Recital Festival* has gone from strength to strength in its second year with a great number of participants and expert feedback from our guest adjudicators Malachy Robinson, Maria McGarry, Kathryn Smith & Conor Palliser. A list of award recipients is available on the school website.

*LSOM Orchestra ....how it started...*



*....how it's going!*



*LSOM Recital Festival 2023*



LSOM students also continued to represent us to the highest level at *Feis Ceoil*, *Feis Maitiú* and of course at *Féile Luimnigh* with many awards achieved.

### *External Ensembles*

In 2023, LSOM is being proudly represented in the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland, the Ulster Youth Orchestra, the Irish Youth Training Choir and the Irish Youth Wind Ensemble by several students from all departments. Of course LSOM students are participants in many other musical organisations locally in Limerick and around Ireland.

### *Children's Opera February 2023*

LSOM was delighted to collaborate with *Limerick Opera Festival* to present a fully staged production of Irish composer Marian Ingoldsby's opera *Lily's Labyrinth*. LSOM students under the direction of Emma English were central as lead singers, chorus and also featured as orchestra members. A wonderful learning experience for everyone involved!

#### **Moments from *Lily's Labyrinth* 2023**

Pics: Keith Wiseman



Emily Heagney, Double Bass, is a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland, the Ulster Youth Orchestra, LSOM Orchestra and was runner-up in her Feis Ceoil Double Bass competition this year. (Pic: Limerick Post)



LSOM Trumpet Quartet: Winners of the Junior Brass Ensemble at Feis Ceoil 2023



*Cameo roles from some LSOM teachers!*



## Past Principal Honoured

Congratulations to David O'Connell who retired in May 2022 as Principal at Limerick School of Music. David was recently honoured in May 2023 by Mayor Francis Foley at a civic reception for his contribution to music education in Limerick city for his work both at LSOM and also as a leader in establishing the Music Generation programmes in Limerick City, County and in Clare on behalf of the Limerick & Clare Education & Training Board.

## Recent Retirements

Congratulations also go to Maria O' Brien who retired from LSOM in May 2022. This year, in May 2023, Noreen Mortell announced her retirement. We wish all recent and not-so-recent retirees a fulfilling next chapter!

## LSOM Alumni & Friends Fund

2022 also saw the launch of the *LSOM Alumni & Friends Fund* which was established to provide assistance with music education for deserving students. LSOM Alumni and world-renowned composers Bill Whelan and Patrick Cassidy helped to launch this fund as part of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

With the funding raised in 2022 – 2023, the *Alumni & Friends Fund* has provided support to LSOM students in a number of ways:

- purchase of instruments and sheet-music resources for our instrument bank and our partnership programmes;
- support for participation in the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland (New York Tour)
- purchase of a piano for long-term loan to a deserving family (funded by the Catherine Shinnors Scholarship donated by John Shinnors to the LSOM Alumni & Friends Fund).
- we were extremely honoured to have received a posthumous donation of a Steinway A grand piano from the estate of Hans Reddering which is available for use by all LSOM students.
- Discover Ireland Tours donated 6 full size cellos

Details of how the fund is managed and how to donate are available on our [website](#). All donations would be helpful, however small or large! Please consider making a contribution to help us make music education accessible for all.

## Partnership Programmes

We provide music lessons in partnership with three local primary schools: Our Lady Queen of Peace in Janesboro; Presentation Primary School & CBS Primary School, both nearby in Sexton Street. We are constantly working on finding ways to assist these and other students access music education without financial barriers: the *LSOM Alumni & Friends Fund* is a key component in helping us achieve this goal.

## Mayoral Reception May 2023



Maria O' Brien



Noreen Mortell

## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert May '22 with guest LSOM alumnus Patrick Cassidy



## Annual Awards Night October '22 with guest LSOM alumnus Bill Whelan



## Mark your calendar!

### Alumni Day

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

We are delighted to announce that we will be hosting a day of reunion at the Mulgrave Street Campus to which all past LSOM students and teachers are invited! The day-long event will include a chance to participate in chamber music groups, choir, piano performances (solos and duets!), as you feel comfortable and don't worry if you are feeling rusty!

If you are interested in participating, please fill in the form here at [this link](#).

- Registration 9:30 a.m.
- Morning Music-Making & Gatherings: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Lunch (provided): 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Afternoon Music-Making & Gatherings: 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Refreshments (Provided)
- Concert 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

A contribution of €20 will be collected on the day from participants and donated to the LSOM Alumni & Friends Fund. Those who don't want to play but would like to join us for refreshments and concert are also most welcome!

### Keep in touch

We hope that you will keep in touch with us at LSOM, even just by reading our newsletter! If there is some LSOM Alumni news we should know about then do send it along to us. We will be adding to our Alumni news on our website and would love to share stories of our past students.

Please do also share this newsletter with any of your LSOM alumni friends who may have missed it otherwise.

Maybe we will meet at the Alumni Day on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September!

Best wishes,

Cecilia Madden

(Principal)

& all at Limerick School of Music

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### Blow out day



### Instrument Making 2023



### Piano Masterclass



### LSOM Student Recital @ UL's Irish World Academy

