

Adjudicators of the Sri Lanka Festival of Music, Dance & Speech 2023 Speech & Drama Adjudicator 2023

Timothy McCarthy

MA, HDE, FTCL, LGSMD, FLCM, ALAM, PGCA



Timothy McCarthy studied Speech & Drama at the Cork School of Music; graduated from the National University of Ireland with an MA Degree in Drama and Theatre Studies and the Higher Diploma in Education; he holds the Post Graduate Certificate in Adjudicating.

He is a member of the Examiners' panel in Speech, Drama, Musical Theatre and Communication at Trinity College, London. He was originally a member of the examiners panel at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London. He runs his own Speech & Drama Studio, where he teaches all aspects of the subject. He is the Drama Director at the annual International Youth Camp Festival of Music, Dance and Drama, Sri Lanka. He works closely with the Irish National Council for the Blind, recording audio books for its members. He conducted Teacher Training Courses in Speech & Drama in

Kuala Lumpur, Colombo and at his own Studio in Cork. He led a number of workshops for English teachers in Bangkok, Malacca and Sri Lanka using Speech & Drama pedagogy as a means of teaching English. He has given training courses for Church Ministers and directed an Adult Drama Company for ten years, specializing in One Act Play Productions.

Timothy is an Adjudicator-Member, Fellow and Vice-Chairman of The British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech and a member of The Society of Teachers of Speech and Drama. He is the Director of Cork Feis Maitiú - the Music and Drama Festival in his home City; has adjudicated at Festivals in Ireland, the United Kingdom, Isle of Man, Isle of Wight, Jersey, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong. In 2011 he was awarded a Fellowship of The Federation of Festivals for services to the Festival Movement.

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Music Adjudicator 2023

Benjamin Costello

MA, PGDip, BMus, FRSA



Ben is a freelance Musical Director, Artistic Director, Adjudicator, Singing Coach and Accompanist, working internationally. He is also Artistic Director of Thames Concerts, Musical Director of Southampton Choral Society, Founding Director of Kingston Chamber Singers, Chorus Master for the Leith Hill Musical Festival, on the faculty at Laine Theatre Arts, and on the visiting staff at Mountview Academy and Trinity Laban. He is a busy Generalist Music adjudicator member of the British and International Federation of Festivals, make regular visits to adjudicate throughout the UK and overseas.

As an accompanist and coach Ben collaborates with numerous singers and instrumentalists. His early career included répétiteur work for London opera companies,

and ensembles including the London Symphony Orchestra. He is a specialist in Musical Theatre, with his work in that field embracing Musical direction, Singing teaching, Accompanying and Dramaturgy. Ben has worked extensively for almost all of the leading London Performing Arts Colleges, together with the Royal Academy of Music, and the London College of Music (where he was resident MD for seven years). Countless of his former students enjoy successful careers in London's West End and beyond.

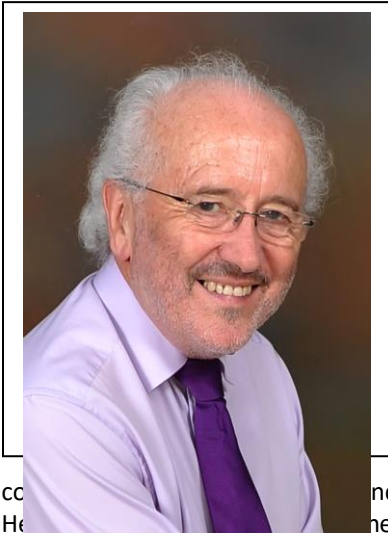
Born and based in London, Ben trained initially as a Flautist, before majoring in Piano, Singing and Conducting. He is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, organising and chairing the Company's annual Musical direction scholarship. He is also a Freeman of the City of London, and a Life Member of the Royal Society of Musicians. Outside of music he is a keen motorcyclist.

Ben is delighted to be returning to adjudicate in Sri Lanka following his visits in 2015 and 2019.

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Richard Deering

FTCL, GTCL, LRAM, ARCM, PGCA



Richard Deering studied with Frank Merrick (piano) – and subsequently with Peter Wallfisch and Clifford Curzon - and trumpet/cornet with Norman Burgess. He has given piano recitals and broadcasts in over 90 countries worldwide, and has also made several commercial recordings – including an arrangement of the Beatles music as a piano concerto with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra. Many leading composers have written works especially for him, and in 1981 he was elected a member of the Royal Philharmonic Society for “distinguished services to British music”.

As an accompanist he has worked with Robert Tear, Brian Rayner Cook, James Blades and others – including popular singers such as Martine McCutcheon - while for many years he worked as a cabaret performer on cruise liners and as Musical Director for television programmes. Currently, he is the director of the unique performing and recording group of 4 pianists known as Grimoire.

His interest in contemporary music – especially by British composers – has led to many commissions and a series of albums of new music for young musicians published by Bosworths/Music Sales. He has served on the London Arts Board on aspects of contemporary music and jazz, and is involved with the setting, and examining, of the higher grade and diploma levels of the Trinity piano syllabus. In 2006 he was given the Chairman’s Award by Trinity College London for services to musical assessment.

His adjudicating and examining work has taken him throughout the British Isles as well as to Australasia, North America, Africa, Orient and Caribbean and he has served on the juries for several national and international competitions, often as Chairman of the Jury. Until 2002 he was the Vice-Chairman of the British and International Federation of Festivals’ Adjudicator’s Council as well as being a Federation Trustee, and he also held the position of Chief Assessor for the adjudicator’s qualification – PGCA – when validated by the University of Leeds, and was the co-writer of the adjudication criteria used by all Federation festivals and adjudicators. In 2012 he was honoured by being elected a Fellow of the Federation, and, until 2015 served as Chairman of Croydon Performing Arts Festival.

As a teacher Richard has held positions at the London College of Music and Middlesex University as well as visiting positions at Trinity College of Music, Trinity College Dublin, Christ’s College Cambridge University, Hong Kong’s Academy of Performing Arts, Auckland University and the State University of New York.

Additionally he is busy as a cricket umpire both in England and overseas.

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Dance Adjudicator 2023

Laura Symonds

PGCA



Laura Symonds trained as a dancer with the late Letty Littlewood, and went on to become a student at the Royal Ballet School. A Musical Theatre course followed at the Arts Educational School and she attended private drama lessons at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama throughout her youth.

Her first work in theatre was as a dancer appearing in many West End musicals and television shows for both BBC and ITV.

She has worked with choreographers such as Paddy Stone, Irving Davies, Norman Maen, Lionel Blair and others. She gradually turned from just dancing to taking

solo roles in Musicals - understudying Judi Dench in the show "Cabaret", at the Palace Theatre - playing Princess in "Aladdin" with Bruce Forsyth, and taking other roles such as Cinderella, Beauty in "Beauty and the Beast", and many other musicals in various theatres around the country.

Laura was the resident singer on the Roy Castle Show for two years with BBC I and made several records for the Philips label.

Her teaching experience is wide and varied - working for Letty Littlewood at the Associated Arts School for five years, mainly teaching work for festivals. During this time she won the Choreographic Cup in the All England Competition.

Since then Laura has been a freelance teacher and choreographer. She is a full member of British Actors Equity and on the panel of All England Dance. Recently she has been awarded a Postgraduate Certification in Adjudication from Bretton Hall, affiliated to Leeds University.