

ADJUDICATORS - 2026

SPEECH & DRAMA ADJUDICATORS

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 M.A. Degree in Drama and Theatre Studies and the Higher Diploma in Education; he holds the Post Graduate Certificate in Adjudicating.

In his professional life as a Speech and Drama practitioner, Timothy works in a number of spheres and capacities. He runs his own Speech & Drama Studio, where he teaches all aspects of the subject. He is a member of the examiners panel in Speech, Drama and Communication at Trinity College, London and is the Director of Cork Feis Maitiú – the Music and Drama Festival in his home City.

For 18 years he was the Drama Director at the annual International Youth Camp Festival of Music, Dance and Drama, Sri Lanka. He conducted Teacher Training Courses in Speech & Drama in Kuala Lumpur, Colombo and at his own Studio in Cork; led workshops for English teachers in Thailand, Malaysia and Sri Lanka using Speech & Drama pedagogy as a means of teaching English; and gave Choral Speaking Workshops for teachers in Hong Kong. He directed an Adult Drama Company for ten years. During the pandemic crises he worked extensively online and led teacher training webinars.

Timothy is an Adjudicator-Member and Adjudicators Honorary Vice-President of the British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech; the membership application secretary of the Society of Teachers of Speech and Drama and a member of Speech and Drama Teachers of Ireland. In 2011 he was awarded the Federation of Festivals Fellowship for services to the Festival Movement and in 2023 the Federation's 40 Years long term service award for his work at Cork Feis Maitiú.



Dr. Marian McCarthy: PhD, M Ed, BA, HDE, DETE, LTCL, ALAM, LTCL, IDTA (Artiste, Ballet), ISSoTL (Fellow)



Dr Marian McCarthy is former Vice President for Teaching and Learning at University College Cork (UCC), Ireland, and senior lecturer and retired director of its Centre for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning at UCC. She has lectured globally, including in South America, China, Asia, USA, Russia, Europe and the Middle East. She has won several awards for teaching in the field of higher education and is a Fellow of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSoTL).

Marian was privileged to have a well-rounded education in the arts, including ballet, speech, drama and music. She trained at the Cork School of Music and has several diplomas in Speech and Drama in the areas of performance, teaching and recital work. She also directed her own school of Speech and Drama for many years. She has an international profile in the field of educational drama and was invited to provide lectures and workshops at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, in the field of educational drama, working at Project Zero as summer faculty, from 1997-2007.

Dr McCarthy is particularly interested in the arts in education and in how they stimulate creativity and imagination. Her experience at Harvard led her to cutting edge research in the fields of Multiple Intelligences Theory and Teaching for Understanding which she used to inform innovative curriculum design for university teachers and for inclusive educational approaches. She supports the concept of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) which promotes equality, diversity and inclusion in all learning spaces and has contributed internationally to conferences and debates in this field. Such a philosophy is also important in encouraging all young people to develop their full potential through participation and performance in the arts.

Marian enjoys adjudicating and is very much looking forward to the Lanka Speech Festival 2026 and her first visit to Sri Lanka. She encourages all participants to relax and enjoy their performance and this very special occasion!

MUSIC ADJUDICATOR

Robert Marsh MA(Oxon) FRSA FRCO FISM ARCM



Formerly a Junior Exhibitioner at the Royal Manchester College of Music and the Royal Northern College of Music, studying the organ with Donald Mearns and Eric Chadwick, Robert Marsh won an Organ Scholarship to Keble College, Oxford, where he read for an Honours Degree in Music. At Oxford, he directed the music, broadcast on BBC Radio celebrating the centenary of the opening of Keble College Chapel.

Aged eighteen, he gave his first BBC broadcast as an organist, two years later becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. After a period of postgraduate study at Jesus College, Cambridge, he made his professional debut in 1978 at Winchester Cathedral, playing organ continuo in a performance of Bach's *St Matthew Passion* with the Choir of Winchester Cathedral directed by Martin Neary, noteworthy for being the first-ever complete British account of the work to use Baroque pitch and period instruments.

He has held a number of school, university, church and cathedral appointments. As Director of Music at Reigate Grammar School, he was responsible for launching a highly successful series of musical theatre productions, featuring among other students David Walliams and Keir Starmer. As a concert organist – appearing in venues from Westminster Abbey and York Minster to the Chapel of the West Point Military Academy in New York – he has made several recordings, including contributing to Priory's *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis* series. He has played the organ live on BBC Radio Three, on several occasions, and has been both Organist and Musical Director for the Daily Service on BBC Radio Four.

A number of composers have written pieces specially for him. As an award-winning conductor, associated particularly with the Leith Hill, Northern Cathedrals and Yorkshire Three Choirs Festivals, he has worked with the Northern Philharmonia and Manchester Camerata. He has been particularly associated with the music of J.S. Bach and Benjamin Britten, conducting notable performances of the *B Minor Mass*, *St John Passion*, *The Golden Vanity*, *A Ceremony of Carols*, *Saint Nicolas* and *Noye's Fludde*. As a composer, he has contributed to both *New English Praise* and the *Revised English Hymnal*. Robert has been an 'A' Level Music Examiner for many years, and in 2008 was elected to serve a term of office as Warden of the Incorporated Society of Musicians Music in Education Section. He is Senior Examiner at the London College of Music (University of West London), working in Turkey, Malta, Italy, India, Greece, Vietnam, China, Sri Lanka, Costa Rica, Kenya, Malaysia and Singapore, as well as in all parts of the United Kingdom. He was involved in the Northern Ireland integrated schools programme, and has received awards in India and Vietnam for his work in music education. He has contributed to the British Government's Curriculum and Assessment Review and serves as a school governor, drawing on his experience as Lead Practitioner in Music for Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council. He is an Adjudicator Member of the British and International Federation of Festivals for Music, Dance and Speech.

DANCE ADJUDICATOR

Patricia Snowdon B Phil (Hons) Dip LCCD LISTD (Dip) CDE

Patricia Snowdon was trained at the London College of Dance and Drama, having previously been an Imperial Ballet scholar. She then became principal of her own school, in addition to teaching in independent schools and adult education centers for twenty-five years. Subsequently, she set up and ran a Performing Arts department at an independent school in Sussex for nine years. This gained a superb reputation both nationally and abroad.

Many of her past pupils have progressed to leading vocational schools and are now performing in companies in this country and overseas or teaching dance and Musical Theatre. She has wide experience as a choreographer for both large-scale productions and fashion shows. In the recent past she has choreographed, 'Guys and Dolls', 'Kiss Me Kate', 'The Sound of Music', 'Fiddler on the Roof', 'OH What a Lovely War', 'Oliver', 'Half a Sixpence', 'The Boyfriend' and 'A Chorus Line'.



Patricia Snowdon has a Bachelor of Philosophy degree in Ballet and Contextual Studies from the Royal Academy of Dance, validated by the University of Durham. She is an adjudicator for the British and International Federation of Festivals and the All-England Dance Competition. She has adjudicated widely in this country and abroad, particularly in Sri Lanka, and in 2011 she was awarded a Fellowship by the British and International Federation of Festivals. Patricia is also a Life Member of the RAD and ISTD.