

## ***Nottingham Girls' High School Instrumental Department***

### **Paul Skinner: Teacher of Cello, Double Bass, Harp and Oboe**

Paul has been teaching at NGHS for 16 years and has a wealth of experience as both a teacher and professional musician. In Nottingham he has been a judge for The Nottingham Young Musician of the Year, is the Senior Cello tutor for Nottingham Youth Orchestra and has been the Principal Cellist in the Nottingham Symphony Orchestra.

Paul is part of the management and is Principal Harpist with the Jersey Symphony Orchestra and has appeared in Proms Concerts with the British Police Symphony Orchestra, played in string quartets at the Royal Albert Hall, in shows at The Bloomsbury Theatre in Sloane Square, been Principal in St John's Smith Square, in the Gilbert and Sullivan Festival at Buxton Opera House and been the Cellist on the children's television programme 'The Worst Witch'.

Paul hopes to further widen his teaching experience with more pupils at NGHS.

### **Claire Seedhouse: Teacher of Violin**

After gaining her music degree, Claire went on to build her reputation as a violin teacher, teaching both privately and across various schools in Nottinghamshire. She joined the NGHS peripatetic staff in 2015.

Claire enjoys performing in many orchestral groups such as the Nottingham Philharmonic Orchestra, The Helix ensemble, the Orchestra of the Restoration, The Bach Society ensemble, and the Music for Everyone ensemble. She also plays with the Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

She has been a tutor for the Nottingham Youth Orchestra since 2000, tutoring in all three orchestras, but is currently a violin tutor for the Senior Orchestra who have recently performed with Sheku Kanneh-Mason.

### **Anna Maguire: Teacher of Viola**

Anna is an experienced violin and viola teacher with over 30 years in teaching and performing. Anna trained at the Royal Academy of Music, London, and holds the music graduation in both strings and music.

She spent many years as the viola player for Icelandic star 'Bjork' and been the viola tutor for the Nottingham Youth Orchestra for 25 years. Along with Mrs Seedhouse she coaches the school string quartets, many of whom are often asked to perform at prestigious events in the county.

### **Tim Harris: Teacher of Guitar**

Tim joined the Music Department in 2006 and has guided countless young guitarists into careers in music. He holds a BA in Music alongside qualifications in guitar, music technology and piano. He is a celebrated composer of children's songs and his original songs and music videos are known across the globe.

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### **Mark Rolfe: Teacher of Guitar**

Mark has been at NGHS since 1999 and has witnessed the Music Department go from strength to strength. He holds a BA in Music and Sound, a Diploma in Musicology and a Diploma in Electric Guitar. He is the songwriter and producer of the band 'Lorna' who have toured across the continent and in the USA and have shared the stage with Echo and the Bunnymen, The Wedding Present and The Lemonheads. He also releases music on his own record label 'Winnetka Records'. Alongside Isla Keys he is on the committee of Nottingham Young Musician of the Year which has launched many musical careers including that of Sheku Kanneh-Mason.

### **Tim Browne: Teacher of Saxophone and Clarinet**

One of our longest serving members, Tim holds a Degree in Music from Huddersfield University and qualifications in clarinet and saxophone. Also a keen flautist, Tim has inspired many woodwind players throughout his time at NGHS. He has a keen interest in Mozart and the classical period and is a huge fan of Bob Dylan.

### **Gordon Truman: Teacher of Brass**

Following studies at The Royal Academy of Music, Gordon has always made music his career. A respected performer in many Midlands based theatre orchestras, Gordon also plays trumpet for the nationally renowned orchestra 'Viva'. With over 30 years at NGHS, Gordon continues to inspire and guide many of our young musicians.

### **Jilly Quine: Teacher of Flute**

Jilly started playing the flute aged 13 and has never looked back. She turned down a university place to study sociology, and opted to take music at a local college - she considers this "the best decision of her life". Jilly has studied with the likes of Russell Parry, John Francis, Kate Hill and Chris Hankin. She has been instrumental in the success of music at NGHS and her flute choirs have performed in many international tours and taken part in masterclasses with world-class tutors such as Janna Huneke and Krzysztof Kaczka.

### **Jay Robertson: Teacher of Drum Kit and Percussion**

Jay began playing percussion at the age of 11 and passed his Grade 8 Drum Kit with distinction in 1999. He then went on to graduate from the Leeds College of Music with a BA Hons Jazz Degree in July 2004 majoring in Drum Kit performance while studying under Tony Mann (Chet Baker, Miles Davis). He also studied with guest lecturers Dave Hassell (Cuban percussion), Jim Chapin (Moeller technique) and Omar Puente (Latin percussion studies). Jay continues to have a busy performance schedule alongside his percussion and drum kit teaching including his long standing work with Dan Swana (Swing Out Sister) – an internationally acclaimed bassist, pianist, vocalist, composer and educator.

He joined the Music Department in 2015 and has been instrumental in the school's music excellence ever since.

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### **Gill Shaw: Teacher of Piano**

Gill is a piano teacher and accompanist at NGHS. Since graduating, she has gained over 20 years' experience working in varied roles and settings within music education, as both an instrumental and classroom teacher. She is currently studying for a Masters in Music Education at the Royal College of Music. As a strong advocate of the wide-ranging benefits of positive musical experiences and participation, Gill aims to provide a fun, supportive and creative learning environment which is tailored to each student.

Gill is a professional member of EPTA, a student member of RAM and a founding member of the Curious Piano Teachers. When she's not teaching, Gill most enjoys live music, spending time outdoors with family and friends and great food!

### **Kevin Leese: Teacher of Piano**

With over 30 year's teaching experience at NGHS, Kevin is a departmental institution. Known for his gentle nature, Kevin has inspired a love of piano playing in musicians over the years and continues to develop young pianists at NGHS.

### **Emily Fox: Teacher of Bassoon**

Emily is the latest addition to our team, joining in January 2020! She has a First Class Honours Degree in Music from the University of Nottingham, where she specialised in contemporary flute performance. She performs regularly with a variety of ensembles across Nottingham and Derbyshire, as well as giving solo recitals where she really loves to play new and exciting repertoire.

### **Isla Keys: Teacher of Voice**

Isla holds a Master's Degree in Music, an Associate Diploma in Voice and a PGCE. She has a wealth of experience in coaching professional singers both nationally and internationally. Outside of NGHS she is on the committee of the Music Teachers Association and is Chair of The Nottingham Young Musician. Since arriving at NGHS in 2015 she has started three Junior School choirs who have gone on to perform both in school, at prestigious out of school functions and at Disneyland Paris.

### **Freya Hales: Teacher of Voice (Senior School Only)**

Freya holds a BA in Music and has a lifetime of experience of choral singing. She coaches the celebrated and award winning Cantamus Girls' Choir. She was raised in a musical family and followed in the footsteps of her mother Ann Irons who was the long-standing popular vocal coach at NGHS before her. In just 10 years of teaching at NGHS she has taken her Senior Choir on four international tours.