

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

### **Director of Music: Chris Clarke. Mmus, Bmus (hons)**

Chris has been teaching at NGHS for 22 years, the majority of which she has spent as Head of Department. A graduate of Surrey University – BMus (hons) 1<sup>st</sup> class and MMus – Chris has made full use of her varied practical musical skills both in and outside the classroom.

As a first-study pianist, Chris excels in Repetiteur work although she has also performed locally as soloist in several Mozart piano concertos. She particularly enjoys piano accompaniment and studied this for her Master's degree. Chris is also an experienced percussionist, specialising in orchestral timpani and tuned percussion, and won the prize for Best Degree Recital for her undergraduate degree. She trained with James Blades and has performed with various orchestras in many of the top concert halls in the UK. Chris is also an accomplished conductor, specialising in musical theatre, and she has worked extensively with various companies both here and in America.

Chris loves her job at NGHS and is extremely proud to be working in such a fine and thriving Music Department.

### **Mark Rolfe: Coordinator of Extra Curricular Music/Teacher of Music. BA (hons), DipMUS, DipLCM (TD)**

Mark has been at NGHS since 1999 and has witnessed the Music Department go from strength to strength. He holds a First Class Honors Degree in Music and Sound, a Diploma in Music 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. A guitarist by trade Mark also plays a number of other instruments including Clarinet, Piano and 'Cello. At NGHS he is director of the extra curricular programme including roles such as conducting bands and organising concerts and tours.

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.

### **Emily Lawson: Teacher of Music. BA (hons)**

Emily has been teaching Music to Years 4 to 13 at NGHS for 12 years. She is a clarinettist and has played in chamber wind ensembles, wind orchestras and orchestras including the National Youth Wind Orchestra, Nottingham Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of the Restoration. Emily has a BA in Music from the University of Nottingham where she specialised in clarinet performance, and a PGCE in Music Education from Nottingham Trent University. She also plays the tenor saxophone and piano and has, more recently, taken up singing.

She teaches composition at GCSE and A Level and loves helping her students to experiment with different styles and techniques and realise their potential in this area. Outside of school Emily has set up a well-being choir for mums and sings in the Nottingham Playhouse Choir. Having become more involved in the musical direction of the productions at NGHS, Emily's ambition is to one day be on stage in a musical herself!

## ***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 lots 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 Nottingham Symphony Orchestra.

Paul is part of the management and is Principal Harpist with 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. Bmus (hons)**

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.

She enjoys performing in many orchestral groups such as 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. ATCL, BSI, Dip RAM**

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

She spent many years as the viola player for Icelandic star 'Bjork' and been the senior 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. BA (Open)**

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.

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

### **Tim Browne: Teacher of Saxophone and Clarinet. BA (hons)**

One of our longest serving members, Tim holds a degree in Music from Huddersfield University and qualifications in Clarinet and Sax. 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. LRAM, MISM**

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. LLCM TD, Cert Ed**

Jilly started playing the flute aged 13 and has never looked back. She turned down a university place to study sociology, to take music at a local college and classes this as "the best decision of her life". She 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. She is a former member of the London Flute Ensemble.

### **Jay Robertson: Teacher of Drum Kit and Percussion. BA (hons)**

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.

### **Gill Shaw: Teacher of Piano. Bmus (hons), PGCE, DipABRSM**

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!

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

### **Kevin Leese: Teacher of Piano. GRSM, ARCM, LTCL**

With over 30 years' 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. BA (hons), Dip ABRSM**

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. MA(hons), ATCL, PGCE, MISM**

Having graduated with an MA (Hons) in French & Music from the University of St.Andrews, Isla Keys studied singing in Switzerland with Hansia Gmur, John Duxbury and Sena Jurinac as well as piano accompaniment with Madeleine Depraz, and began to perform professionally.

She returned to the UK, married, had two daughters, and completed a PGCE, becoming Head of Music at a local prep school until its closure in 2014, in addition to teaching singing at Dagfa School. Throughout, she continued to sing solo soprano in many performances in the UK, France, Italy & Switzerland. She also ran several youth choirs, two of which gained 1<sup>st</sup> prizes in the Nottingham Music Festival.

Vocal coach to the choristers of St.Mary's Church in Nottingham, Isla has been a member of the Music Teachers' Association for some 25 years, and has served as a committee member since 2014. More recently, she became involved in the organisation of Nottingham Young Musician of the Year, and was appointed Chair in 2019.

### **Freya Hales: Teacher of Voice. Bmus (hons)**

Freya holds a Bmus in Music from Birmingham Conservatoire and a lifetime of experience of choral singing. She coaches the celebrated and award winning Cantamus Girls Choir alongside the training choir. In just 10 years of teaching at NGHS she has taken her Senior Choir on four international tours.