

2010 Festival and Rally



The **BRITISH**
BMG
FEDERATION

Registered Charity No. SC038957

Syllabus

5th– 7th March 2010

**Edgbaston High School
Westbourne Road
Birmingham
B15 3TS**

Hosted by:

Midlands Fretted Orchestra

Sponsored by :





Welcome

On behalf of the committee of the British BMG Federation and hosts Midlands Fretted Orchestra, I would like to introduce to you the syllabus for the 2010 Rally.

As this is our biennial event, we look forward to welcoming friends old and new to what promises to be an exciting and enjoyable weekend.

We have endeavored to provide something for everyone at every stage of fretted instrument playing; including concerts, performances, a large range of workshops and our Sunday contests, held in the spirit of gentle and friendly competition in the tradition of the Federation going back almost a century.

The Rally is for everyone, so if you enjoy music as a player of fretted instruments, a competitor or a supporter, come along and take part in what promises to be a vibrant and enjoyable weekend.

Danielle Saxon Reeves

Chairman Midlands Fretted Orchestra
British BMG Federation Committee Member



The British BMG Federation

In 1929 at the Blackpool Rally of fretted instruments and orchestras the Federation of Banjoists, Mandolinists and Guitarists was created with two Sections (Southern & Northern). Their sole aim was for each Section to organise an Annual Festival and Rally at which a large number of cups and trophies were competed for by individuals and orchestras.

In 1988 there was a proposal to wind up the activities of the Southern Section of the Federation (the Northern Section disappeared without formality) but a counter proposal won the day and the independent regions formed the new amalgamated federation. In 2000 the regions voted to be one national group and by 2001 the organisation was renamed 'The British BMG Federation'.

The Federation's aims are to promote the performance and education of fretted instruments, in particular banjo, mandolin and guitar. It is committed to creating educational opportunities for players of all ages to learn and improve on their chosen instruments. There is more about the Federation and it's work at www.banjomandolinguitar.org

BMG Federation Summer School 11th – 13th June 2010

The venue for Summer School 2010 is Benslow Music Trust, Hitchin, Herts. There will be 4 courses: Baroque Mandolin with Frances Taylor, Classic Finger-Style 5-string Banjo with Chris Sands, Classical Guitar with Gerald Garcia and Mixed Instruments Folk with Robin Garside. Full details will be published in the BMG Federation winter newsletter and on www.banjomandolinguitar.org but in the meantime, for more information contact Henry Girvan email henry.girvan@btinternet.com or tel. 01592 630374. To book a place contact Benslow Music Trust tel. 01462 459446 or download a booking form from www.benslow.org



Midlands Fretted Orchestra

Midlands Fretted Orchestra was founded in 2001 by renowned musician Danielle Saxon Reeves, with the intention of giving players of fretted instruments the opportunity to play in an ensemble situation.

The orchestra is based on the principles of the many fretted ensembles which were at the height of their popularity from the early Victorian period through to the 1950's; with the intention of reintroducing audiences to the wide variety of repertoire and interesting instrumentation available to such an ensemble. Having begun with only three members in September 2001, the orchestra has grown into a fully fledged group and in 2006 elected a committee who help to share the workload.

MFO have played in venues across the Midlands and up and down the UK; some of their favourites have been Hall Green Stadium, The Waterhall Gallery, Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Brindley Place Bandstand. In 2006, they won a place on the 'Adopt a Composer' scheme organised through the PRS Foundation, SPNM and Making Music. This acted as a catalyst for an entire concert of pieces written especially for the orchestra which were premiered to a sell-out audience in Autumn 2007.

Midlands fretted Orchestra triumphed at the British BMG Federation Rally 2008, held on 2nd March in Glasgow. They beat some five other orchestras to First Place and were awarded the coveted and highly prized Federation Cup for Musicianship. In addition, a number of orchestra members were awarded Trophies in Individual Contests.

MFO also has two patrons, Craig Ogden and Gerald Garcia.

For more information on how to join MFO please see our website: www.m-f-o.co.uk



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Friday – Concert



Friday 5th March, 7.30pm

Midlands Fretted Orchestra &
British BMG Federation
presents:

Gordon Giltrap in Concert

At The Old Hall, EHS,
Westbourne Rd, Edgbaston. B15
3TS

Tickets £15 non members, £12 BMG Federation members
(discounted to £10 if booking before 30th September 2009),
£6 all under 18s

Available from 0121 422 7884
(or include on your rally application form)

“Giltrap's technical skill and wide ranging compositional output
make him one of the British guitar scene's foremost class acts
and one of the most able acoustic guitarists of our time.”

Classical Guitar Magazine

"Gordon's lyrical touch is as forthright and stunning as ever
every offering here demonstrates the touch of a master"

Guitarist Magazine

<http://www.giltrap.co.uk>

Supported by:

Malfunction

<http://malfunctionfolk.co.uk>



Saturday - Workshops

There will be 4 workshop sessions arranged through the day on Saturday each lasting an hour. The sessions and the options available are as follows:

Session A (9.30am)

- 1. Chord Melody on Plectrum Banjo with Howard Shepherd**
 - Intermediate/ Advanced Banjoists
 - Will include intros, endings and improvisations
- 2. Come and Try Mandola with Barbara Pommerenke-Steel**
 - Open to non-players and players of any instrument
 - Please bring a mandola with you if you are able; we have a limited number of instruments available to loan.
 - Please state on the form if you will be bringing a mandola to the workshop.
- 3. Introduction to Tremolo with Liz Lerner**
 - Intermediate / Advanced Guitarists.
 - All participants will work through the technical exercises; please state if you also wish to perform a tremolo piece in the mini-masterclass as part of the workshop.
- 4. Latin with Dave Griffiths**
 - Intermediate/Advanced players of any fretted instrument.
 - Players must have basic chord knowledge, ability to read notation or TAB in first position.
- 5. Instrument Care & Set Up with Phil Davidson**
 - Demonstration of how best to set up instruments properly, how to check for bridge placement, different strings, neck adjustment, replacing pegs, vellums etc.

Session B (10.45am)

- 1. The Art of the Zither-Banjo with David Wade**
 - Beginner/Intermediate Banjoists



- Introducing the zither-banjo, highlighting its history and the constructional differences from the ordinary open-backed banjo. The specific playing techniques of the zither-banjo will be demonstrated and taught with short musical examples and a piece by Cammeyer.
 - Please bring a zither- banjo with you if you are able; we have a limited number of instruments available to loan.
 - Please state on the form if you will be bringing a zither-banjo to the workshop..
2. **Jazz and Improvisation Techniques with Pete Hartley**
 - Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced Mandolinists
 - Players must know all the notes in first position
 3. **Extended Contemporary Techniques with Gordon Dunn**
 - Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced Guitarists
 4. **Bluegrass with Keith Kerans**
 - Intermediate/Advanced players of any fretted instrument
 5. **Composing for Fretted Instrument Ensemble with Richard Shearing and Robert Tong**
 - Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced players
 - Taking as a starting point the repertoire of the banjo and mandolin orchestras of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the workshop will explore the music of fretted instrument ensembles from the Renaissance to the present day.

Session C (12.30pm)

1. **Come and Try Bluegrass Banjo with Keith Kerans**
 - Open to non-players and players of any instrument
 - Please bring a 5 string banjo with you if you are able; we have a limited number of instruments available to loan.
 - Please state on the form if you will be bringing a 5 string banjo with you to the workshop.
2. **Mandolin Concerti with Frances Taylor and members of the CBSO**
 - Intermediate/Advanced Mandolinists
 - Please note this will be a two hour workshop and counts as two choices (Also 2x workshop fee)



3. **Fingerpicking with Gordon Giltrap**
 - Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced Guitarists
 - This will take the form of a question and answer session, with opportunities for workshop attendees to try out some of the techniques discussed.
4. **Duet Coaching with Liz Lerner**
 - Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced players.
 - Any combination of fretted instruments. Please bring an extra copy of your pieces with you to the workshop; 1 or 2 pieces per duet.
5. **Blues with Mark Willetts**
 - Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced players of any fretted instrument.

Session D (2.00pm)

1. **The Banjo Music of R.Tarrant Bailey Jnr with Elias Sibley**
 - Intermediate / Advanced Banjoists
2. **Mandolin Composers with Barbara Pommerenke-Steel**
 - Beginner/Intermediate/Advanced Mandolinists
3. **Come and Try Slide Guitar with Mark Willetts**
 - Open to non-players and players of any instrument
 - Please bring your own acoustic guitar and a slide with you if you are able; we have a limited number of slides and guitars available to loan.
 - Please state on the form if you will be bringing an acoustic guitar / slide to the workshop.
4. **British Folk with Nigel Gatherer**
 - Beginner/Intermediate players of any fretted instrument.
5. **Lutherie with Phil Davidson**
 - Discussion of how each instrument is made; methods of construction, tools used, woods involved, patterns etc

Massed orchestra 3.15-4.45pm (followed by short informal concert 5.00-6.00pm)

All players and all instruments encouraged to attend this free rehearsal, culminating in short public performance in conjunction with the participants of the MFYO sessions. Music will be available online from the autumn.



Saturday – MFYO

Saturday 6th March 11.00–6.00pm Concert 5.00-6.00pm

During Saturday 6th March, we have planned a series of workshops for youth ensembles to come together as “Midlands Fretted Youth Orchestra”.



Craig Ogden
(photo Richard Kalina)

The afternoon will be tutored by world renowned Classical guitarist Craig Ogden, who is considered to be one of the most exciting artists of his generation. In addition to a busy performing and recording schedule he is also Principal Lecturer in Guitar at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

The workshops will culminate in a performance at the end of the afternoon in conjunction with the massed senior orchestras; to which supporters, family and friends will be invited.

The music for this special event will be available online from September 2009; participation in the workshops will be free. For more information about taking part in this event, please contact daniellesaxonreeves@yahoo.co.uk

Saturday – Evening

Dinner will be held at the Apollo Hotel at 7:30pm (Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 9RA.. Tel: 0121 455 0271).

After dinner there will be an open stage - a chance for anyone to get up and perform (sign up on the day or on the entry form).

This will be followed by a ceilidh with Witchazel Family Band “Great Little Dance Band” comprising Carolyn on melodeon, Isabel on fiddle and Dave on bouzouki. They have been active in W Yorks for over 20 yrs.



Sunday – Competitions

Competition Syllabus

Any instrument, age restricted

1	Morris Dolby Challenge Cup for players under 14 years on 7th March 2010	solo, any fretted instrument (3 mins)
2	Merit Challenge Cup for players from 14-17 years on 7th March 2010 who have not previously won a senior contest	any fretted instrument (3 mins)
13	H Lambert Veterans Cup for players over 60 years on 7th March 2010 [One half bonus mark awarded for every year over 60. Please state date of birth on entry form.]	solo, any fretted instrument(3 mins)

Banjo

8	George A Keeler Memorial Trophy for finger style banjo	solo (3 mins)
8a	David Miles Memorial Cup for finger-style banjo solo of 20th century popular music reflecting David Miles' books of banjo arrangements	solo (3 mins)
9	John Alvey Turner Cup for plectrum or tenor banjo	solo (3 mins)
10	Chris Sands Ragtime Banjo Trophy for finger style ragtime banjo	solo (3 mins)

Mandolin

3a	Astute Music Trophy mandolin solo for adult beginners aged 18 yrs and over on 7th March 2010 who have been learning less than 2 years. [Those placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd will receive Astute Music vouchers (£25, £15, £10)]	solo (3 mins)
5	Federation Challenge Cup for mandolin classical solo	solo (3 mins)

Guitar

4	Vera Ward Trophy for plectrum guitar solo for players under 18 years on 7th March 2010	solo (3 mins)
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6	Abbott Challenge Cup for plectrum guitar solo.	An accompanying unit of up to four players may be used (3 mins)
7	Federation Cup for classical guitar	solo (3 mins)

Other Contests

3	Sid Smith Memorial Cup for beginners who have been learning less than two years. [One half bonus mark added for every year under 18 years old. Please state date of birth on entry form]	solo, any fretted instrument (3 mins)
12	Gret Stott Challenge Cup for self-accompanied vocal solo, any style, any fretted instrument. This contest is to encourage solo fretted variety acts. Separate accompaniment not permitted. Music need not be submitted.	self-accompanied vocal solo (6 mins)
21	Fenton Weill Challenge Cup for folk, up to 9 fretted instruments playing folk music from any tradition. Music need not be submitted	Up to 9 fretted instruments (6 mins)
22	BMG Federation Fun Trophy Anything goes but at least 50% fretted; professionals are eligible. Music need not be submitted	At least 50% fretted (6 mins)
11	Marion Marlow Cup for any fretted instrument solo, not covered by any other contest	solo (3 mins)

Ensembles

4a	Stephens/Churchill Youth Ensemble Trophy for 2-6 performers under 21 years as at 7th March 2010	Any fretted instruments and up to 50% any other instruments (3 mins)
11a	Kaelberer Cup for ensembles consisting of 2-5 players of fretted instruments playing contemporary music composed for these instruments after 1970.	(no time limit but duration of piece to be stated on entry form)
14	Clifford Essex London Club Cup for duos on any two fretted instruments	duo (3 mins)



15	S F Waddington Cup for trios on any combination of fretted instruments	trio (3 mins)
16	Clifford Essex Challenge Cup for quartets and quintets on any combination of fretted instruments	quartet/quintet (3 mins)
<p><i>Contests 14, 15 and 16: It is recommended that care is taken to choose pieces suitable for the ensemble and adjudicators will take this into account. Parts may be adapted/arranged subject to approval of copyright owners</i></p>		

17	Francis Day & Hunter Trophy for ensembles of any combination of fretted instruments 6-9 players	6-9 players (6 mins)
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Orchestras

18	Nora Bland Trophy Junior Orchestra Contest for 7 or more players aged under 21 years on 7 th March 2010.	Any combination of fretted instruments (6 mins)
19	<p><u>Main Orchestra Contest</u> comprising three trophies</p> <p>The Federation Cup for musicianship</p> <p>The Coronation Trophy for entertainment</p> <p>The John Alvey Turner Shield for presentation, professionalism and performance</p>	<p><i>For details regarding rules and instrumentation, please see Conditions and Rules for Contests</i></p> <p>(16 mins total playing time)</p>

Composition

20	E J Tyrell Cup for fretted instrument composition. Please complete the declaration at the bottom of the entry form.	<i>Entries must be accompanied by a labelled CD with a performance of the piece</i>
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A photograph of the assembled cups and trophies supplied by Paul Tombs
www.ptgraphics.co.uk



CONDITIONS AND RULES FOR CONTESTS

- 1 **Eligibility:** All competitors shall be of amateur status (except Class 22, up to 10% of orchestras, and conductors). An amateur is considered to be someone who does not derive the majority of livelihood from performing or teaching music. Competitions are open to both members and non-members but there is a separate scale of fees (See Condition 9) for all competitions (except 18 and 19) where one or more entrants are non-members.
- 2 **Music:** Except where indicated in the syllabus, a copy of all music must be provided for the Adjudicator. The music, bearing an identifying name and contest number, must be handed to the Adjudicator or Adjudicator's secretary prior to each contest or when the competitor's name is called for the competition and will be available for collection by the end of the rally. Any changes to the music must be clearly marked on the Adjudicator's copy. The Adjudicator will take into account the complexity and suitability of the music.
- 3 **Arrangements:** Competitors wishing to make arrangements or adaptations of published music must seek permission of the copyright owner. All parts made must bear the copyright owner's stamp of authority.
- 4 **Accompaniment:** Unless otherwise stated, accompaniment on any one instrument is permitted in solo contests. Competitors must provide their own accompaniment.
- 5 **Double Entries:** No Person shall be allowed to enter more than once in any contest apart from the orchestra, ensemble, folk and fun contests.
- 6 **Programme:** Competitors will be informed of approximate times and must be present when their name is called.
- 7 **Adjudication:** Adjudicators' decisions will be supported by a result sheet with marks gained and comments on the performance. If there are less than 3 entries for a contest, the trophy will be



awarded at adjudicators' discretion.

8 **Trophies and Awards:** Winners will be required to return these to the organisers in time for presentation at the next Rally. Winners are responsible for having their names engraved on the trophies at their own expense, and are held responsible for the safekeeping of the trophies while in their possession. Winners will be required to fill in a 'loan form'.

9 **Special Conditions for Orchestras:**

- (a) At least 90% of orchestras to be of amateur status
- (b) Orchestras shall consist of 10 or more players of fretted instruments
- (c) Accompaniment may be provided by piano-accordion, English concertina, double-bass, acoustic or electric bass guitar or percussion

10 **Entries and Fees:**

- (a) The closing date for entries is **December 1st 2009**
- (b) Entries to be sent to: Richard Shearing
- (c) Remittances by way of cheque or postal order made payable to British BMG Federation must accompany entries
- (d) Fees for BMG Federation Members
(Those in brackets are the fees for entries with one or more non-BMG Federation members)

Junior (classes 1, 2, 4 and 4a)	2.00 (3.00)
Senior (classes 3, 3a, 5-13, and 20)	4.00 (5.50)
Duos (class 14)	8.00 (12.00)
Trios (class 15)	9.00 (15.00)
Quartets and Quintets (class 16)	12.00 (20.00)



Ensembles (class 17)	15.00 (25.00)
Orchestras (classes 18 and 19)	35.00 (35.00)
Folk (class 21) and Fun (class 22)	6.00 (9.00)

- 11 **Electrical Instruments:** Electric guitars may be used in Contests 6, 11, 12, 21 & 22. Electric bass guitars may be used as part of the orchestra. No other electric instruments are permitted.
- 12 **Time Limits:** Performances will be halted when the time-keeper indicates that the time is up.

Classes 1 - 16 (excl 11a & 12)	3 minutes
Classes 12, 17, 18, 21, 22	6 minutes
Class 19	Total 16 minutes playing time
Class 11a	No limit but competitors should state duration of playing to assist in timetabling

13 **Enquiries:**

Rules: Sandra Woodruff

email: sandra.woodruff@virgin.net tel: 0117 967 2286

Competition Entry: Richard Shearing

address: Bredon, Chestnut Walk, Henley-in-Arden,
Warwickshire, B95 5JN

email: r.g.shearing@btinternet.com tel: 01564 793384

Timetabling: Elwyn Griffiths

email: elwyn.chezgriffiths@btinternet.com tel: 0121 445 4812

Other enquiries: Gethin Davies

email: gethin_davies@btinternet.com tel: 0121 472 7438

Danielle Saxon Reeves

email: daniellesaxonreeves@yahoo.co.uk tel: 01384 893 987



Tutors and Adjudicators

(T-Tutor A-Adjudicator)

Stephen Begley(A)

Stephen Begley, studied the guitar first with Neil Smith in his home county of Lancashire and then later, with Carlos Bonell in London. He studied composition and arranging while reading music at Norwich and conducting under the composer, Peter Aston. Apart from regular conducting, performing, arranging and composing commitments he is a member of the Kreutzer Trio and has been the music director of the Worcester Classical Guitar Society since 2004 and their New Artist's Scheme.



Guitar Duo and String Fellows cello and guitar duo.

Phil Davidson(T)

Phil has been handcrafting fine instruments for more than twenty-five years, beginning with banjos and diversifying into mandolins and guitars.



Difficulties in sourcing quality hardware have led him into making to his own design and operating his own nickel plating setup, to produce quality tailpieces for banjo mandolin and cello guitar and scalloped and top-tension banjo hoops and flanges. Learning the trade by repairing and restoring damaged and well-worn instruments, he is dedicated to producing instruments of superior quality while maintaining realistic price levels.

Nick Chamberlain(A)

Nick Chamberlain combines teaching composing and performing. He directs the Birmingham Schools' Guitar Ensemble and the award winning Plucked String Orchestra. He has recently been shortlisted for the Society of Promotion of New Music, and writes for all instrumental combinations. He performs in a The Well-Tempered





Gordon Dunn(T)

Gordon is one of the UK's leading and most versatile young guitarists who specialises in extended and percussive guitar techniques. He was a finalist in the 1999 Admira Young Guitarist of the Year and has a Master of Music (performance) from the Birmingham Conservatoire. Past performances and teaching positions have included Birmingham Symphony Hall, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Bath International Guitar Festival, Henley Festival, Royal Academy of Music, Jacqueline du Pre Centre, Guitar France, Lalinde International Guitar Festival, and on stage performances in *Hamlet* with the Royal Shakespeare Company.



regular tutor at the BMG Federation Summer Schools.

A recent venture has been the creation of the Edinburgh Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra.

Gordon Giltrap (T)

Over the past forty years, Gordon Giltrap has graced the music business with his dedication to his craft and his affection for his audience.



As one of the UK's most respected guitarists, he has developed an extraordinary repertoire while establishing a reputation for thrilling live performances.

He has released 25 original studio albums, plus numerous live albums and compilations.

Nigel Gatherer(T)

Nigel has been involved in traditional music for more than 25 years, collecting, publishing, teaching, and performing. His workshops have been very popular all over Britain, from Brighton to Ullapool.



Nigel's particular field of interest is in getting people to play music together and to bring it into the community, and he has been a



Dave Griffiths (A)(T)

Dave is a renowned blues, choro and jazz mandolin player and jazz bass player. He



has played with Blues men Eddie Martin and Dave Peabody and is a regular member of the duo SMILE with Jim Reynolds.

His own quartet "Brejeiro" play the jazz based Samba music of Brazil called Choro. Dave was a regular tutor on the Bristol Jazz Workshops for over 10 years and now runs workshops at Festivals, the BMG Rally and in his home town of Bristol. He is also a regular tutor at the BMG Federation Summer Schools.

He has released over twenty records and DVDs and also composes and records backing tracks for other solo musicians. Pete is an accomplished teacher, and uses modern video conferencing technology to remotely teach students from all over the world, as well as teaching students in person.

Keith Kerans (T)

Keith has had a varied and vast musical and teaching life; at various times being a head of music in a Middle School,



performing as a member of Clifton Bluegrass Boys, The Right Mixture, as a Minstrel at Warwick Castle and as an accompanist to Medieval Banquets. He enjoys teaching people of all ages and has an enthusiastic approach to music making with people from all walks of life.

Pete Hartley(T)

Pete Hartley is an in-demand virtuoso musician, performer, teacher, session player and recording artist with a professional career spanning over 30 years. Pete is an accomplished electric violinist and mandolinist, as well as an experienced producer, arranger and composer.





Linda Kitto

Linda Kitto has performed as a soloist and accompanist in concerts and venues throughout Britain, has taught in schools in various parts of the West Midlands and is currently resident piano teacher at Edgbaston High School for Girls.



Linda also composes music for Christian worship, having written and produced Christian musicals for various churches in the region. She is married with two grown-up sons and order of importance loves her children, chocolate and shoes!

Liz Larner(A)(T)

Liz is a vibrant young musician who is gaining a reputation as a guitarist who performs with great musicality and panache. She teaches privately and also tutors for Edgbaston High School for Girls, King Edwards High School for Girls (Birmingham) and at The University of Warwick.



She is currently a tutor for the renowned Bath International Guitar Festival (IGF) and has recently been appointed as

Coordinator for the National Youth Guitar Ensemble of Great Britain (NYGE).

Barbara Pommerenke-Steel (A)(T)

Barbara studied guitar (Bachelor of Education) at the Universität der Künste (1985) Berlin, Germany and at Strathclyde University (PGCE). She also gained a diploma in mandolin teaching from the Bundesakademie / Trossingen, Germany. Barbara co-founded the Lanarkshire Guitar and Mandolin Association and has designed, developed and delivered a wide range of music courses for young people, adults and professional musicians and tutors.



Through her work with the BMG Federation she has become involved in the development of the new syllabus for mandolin, which has been published by Victoria College of Music. During 2008 she published her first book of music for mandolin music with Astute Music.



Danielle Saxon Reeves (A)(T)

Danielle studied the classical guitar at Birmingham Conservatoire and is also one of only a handful of professional classical banjoists worldwide. She directs the award winning Midlands Fretted Orchestra which she founded in 2001 and also plays in duets with Banjoist Douglas Back and in the Dodici Corde Guitar Duo with Mark Willetts.



Amongst many performances, some of her favourites have been appearances at The Royal Festival Hall at The South Bank; The Bolivar Hall, London; the CBSO centre in Birmingham and the Royal Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool.

As well as running a successful private teaching practice, she is also resident guitar teacher at Edgbaston High School for Girls.

Richard Shearing(T)

Richard has been a keen amateur classical guitarist for many years and has, over the years, composed and arranged many pieces for solo classical guitar, piano and classical guitar ensemble. More recently, as a member of the Midlands Fretted Orchestra since 2002, he has to date composed four pieces for them and has also made a number of arrangements for fretted orchestra. These have been performed extensively and have been well received. The MFO performed his composition "The Bearwood Jangle" at the 2006 BMG Federation Rally and "Synquento" at the 2008 Rally, where the piece was also awarded the EJTyrell Cup for composition.





Howard Shepherd(T)

Howard “Shep” Shepherd, encouraged by his father Will, took up the banjo at the age of 11



years. In 1967, Howard formed Shep’s Banjo Boys which became nationally known for their regular musical spots on the TV show “The Comedians” and made guest appearances on other TV shows and many radio broadcasts. Howard has played at several banjos festivals in the UK and has made many appearances in concerts and festivals all over the world.

He has also been a regular tutor at the BMG Federation Summer schools

Frances Taylor (A)(T)

Frances Taylor is Britain’s leading exponent of the Italian school of mandolin playing. For 25 years Frances



has worked tirelessly promoting the mandolin by giving concerts throughout Britain and abroad. She has played in high profile venues such as London’s South Bank as well as working with prestigious orchestras such as the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House.

An enthusiastic teacher of the mandolin, Frances runs workshops throughout the country and has created a unique teaching project in London to introduce school children to the mandolin. In 2007 she was tutor for the European Guitar and Mandolin Youth Orchestra in Ferrara, Italy.

Elias Sibley(A)(T)

Elias Sibley BMus (Hons) is a recent graduate of the Royal College of Music where he studied classical guitar with Gary Ryan and Charles Ramirez.



In addition to his studies as a guitarist, Elias has established himself as one of the finest young exponents of the Classical Banjo, having studied the instrument from the age of 10 with James Allgrove and continues to make regular guest appearances at concerts and festivals throughout the UK.



Robert Tong(T)

Robert has long been interested in promoting the inclusion



of fretted instruments in musical ensembles, at first from the perspective of a guitarist and, more recently, playing mandolin and arranging for MFO.

David Wade (T)

David originally studied classical guitar with legendary Eric Kershaw.



Through Morris Dancing and Ceilidh Bands he became interested in the classical banjo and was introduced to Bradford banjoist and composer Harry Everett. A strong bond developed between them and with Harry's coaching he learned not just the playing style but also much banjo lore and legend. In 2002 he met Nick Bamber, a fellow Oakley admirer and together they created the zither-banjo.org website.

Recently he has been furthering the cause of the zither-banjo with his "road-show" stall at Banjo Rallies. In 2008 he became involved in the newly reformed Clifford Essex Music Co.

Mark Willetts (T)

With over 20 years playing experience, Mark is an experienced performer across a broad spectrum of styles



including popular, rock, classical and blues. He also has the distinction of having twice been the recipient of the David Riley Memorial Prize for his classical performances. Based in the Dudley area, Mark teaches at Colbecks Music Academy and is a member of the Dodici Corde guitar duo.



Sara Wilson (A)

Sara Wilson moved to the Midlands in 1991 to study flute at Birmingham Conservatoire.



Since graduating she has taught in a variety of schools, including Edgbaston High School where she is director of both the junior and senior school flute ensembles.

Currently, as well as her work at Edgbaston High School, Sara teaches at King Edward VI Five Ways and Aston School, where she runs the school flute choir and tutors the Birmingham Schools Flute Choir. She has also adjudicated at the Alcester Music Festival and the King Edward VI Aston Boys Music Festival.



Travel Directions:

From M6 South or West

Leave the M6 at Junction 6 and follow the A38(M). Follow signs to City Centre and South – A38(M). Do not take any exit to the left. Go over the flyover and through **only 1** Queensway tunnel. On leaving the tunnel, indicate left, keep in the nearside lane and drive up the parallel running slip road (Gt Charles St) to the Paradise Circus Island. Take the 2nd exit (A456 Kidderminster), drive along Broad Street to the Five Ways Island (avoiding the underpass) and take the 2nd exit (Calthorpe Road – B4217). Turn right at the traffic lights and drive along Westbourne Road and Edgbaston High School is on your left just before the Botanical Gardens.

From M5 South West

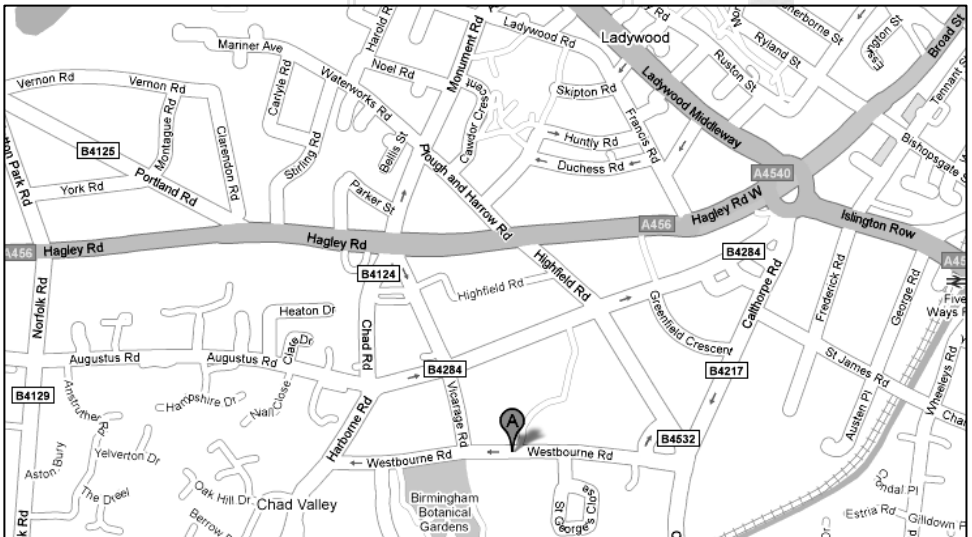
Leave the M5 at Junction 3 and travel towards Birmingham City Centre along the A456 (Hagley Road) for 4 miles. Turn right at Norfolk Road (B4129), first left along Augustus Road and then right down Vicarage Road.

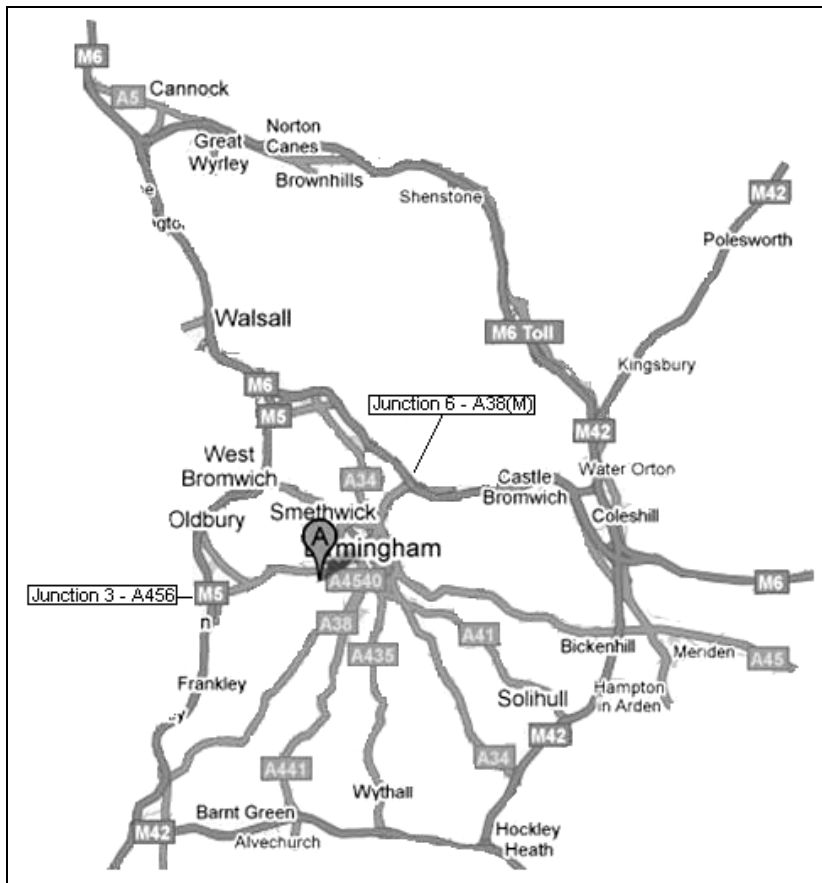
From M40 Oxford and South

Arrive on the M42 and travel west towards the M5. Then travel north on the M5 leaving at Junction 3 (see above).

By Train: Five Ways Station on the cross city line – Approx. 10 minutes walk.

By Bus: From St Philips (Cathedral) – No's 10, 21, 22, 23, 29, & 103







The Mint Cuisine

Indian and Bangladeshi Cuisine

The award winning Mint Restaurant is located 10 minutes away from the NEC, off the A45, with ample car parking.

Indian & Bangladeshi Cuisine

The menu is refreshing with signature dishes that range from Lamb Shank Pumpkin to Sea Bass Biran. The wide range of salads provides a light and tasty option. Of course, no Indian restaurant is complete without its traditional favourites and there is no exception at the Mint.

The restaurant has a spacious lobby area ideal for taking drinks. The ground floor is laid out spaciouly and the first floor lends itself to corporate hospitality events or large parties. A take away service is available with a 10% discount on collection and a free delivery service for orders over £10.00 within a three mile radius.

Offers: Take advantage of the 2 for 1 meal offer on Tuesdays and Wednesday, or a 10% discount when you dine in on Sunday, Monday or Thursday to qualify simply present this advert.

Leverton & Halls Deli & Cafe

**218 Mary Vale Road
Bournville
West Midlands
B30 1PJ**

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Email: deniseleverton@aol.com

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Saturday 8:00-4:00

Deli

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