



CONDUCTOR: PAUL MCBRIDE

Paul McBride has been associated with music and music making in and around Belfast and throughout Ireland for all his adult life. First he studied at St. Malachy's College and then Queen's University, Belfast, before entering the teaching profession.

Paul's association with St. Malachy's College was renewed in 1995 when he was appointed Head of Music. As its director he continued to build upon the fine tradition of music making which he inherited and endeavoured to increase the popularity, level of participation and quality of performance throughout the College Music Department. Performances at the Waterfront Hall, Ulster Hall and the Royal Albert Hall, countless successes at local festivals and membership of local and national youth orchestras testify to his singular achievements there.

In 2000, Paul was appointed Vice Principal of Assumption Grammar School, Ballynahinch. Paul was subsequently appointed as Principal in April 2008. In September 2014, Paul's career turned full circle when he returned back home to St. Malachy's College, Belfast as Principal. Although most of his responsibilities are in curricular administration, Paul enjoys the opportunity of sharing his musical experiences with the students in one of Northern Ireland's leading grammar schools.

An experienced teacher of violin and chamber music, he has worked for the City of Belfast School of Music on a part time basis for nearly thirty years and has conducted the String and Training Orchestras. In 1999 he was appointed as an executive member of the Irish Association of Youth Orchestras. Having taken a year away from the School of Music in 2004-05, Paul returned as conductor of the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra in September 2005 joining forces again with Robert Briscoe who was appointed as orchestra manager at the same time. Since his appointment he has worked to further develop the CBYO building upon its previous success at home and abroad. He has taken the orchestra to the Royal Albert Hall 4 times, conducting the CBYO to great acclaim on the last night of the Schools Proms in 2006, 2009, 2012 and most recently in 2015. Further afield, he has conducted the orchestra on concert tours of Spain, Slovenia, France, Italy and the USA.

Paul is a firm believer in the strength of music as a vehicle for developing real leadership and excellence in young people, and he has presented extensively on this subject. He is delighted to have returned to North Belfast, and in particular, to Holy Cross to renew and build on his deep and strong friendships there. Paul frequently recalls his first inspirational meeting with Fr Myles when the former was Music Co-ordinator/Teacher in Holy Cross Boys' PS (1990-95). What was said during this meeting has shaped much of what Paul has done and continues to do in the world of education, and often using the great universal language of music to transcend all barriers and improve performance in so many areas of life.



ORLA MCCORMICK

Orla is 9 years old and attends St. Marys on the Hill Primary School. She has been with Fortwilliam Musical Society Youth for 2 years and has been fortunate to have many Principle roles including Jemima in Cats, Mrs Potts in Beauty and the Beast and Matilda. Orla played Little Cosette, in BSPA production of Les Miserables at the Grand Opera House during 2016. There is nothing that Orla enjoys more than performing on stage! She is thrilled to be playing the part of Little Cosette

in NSS production this summer at the Helix Theatre, Dublin. She has achieved Grade 5 Musical Theatre and is working towards Grade 2 Violin and Grade 1 Piano.



MEGAN MOONEY - SOPRANO

Megan Jane Mooney has been working as the Artistic Director of The Flax Trust since September 2015. She has studied with teachers such as Dr. Angela Feeney and Jenny Bourke at Queen's University Belfast and is currently studying with the world renowned Dr. Veronica Dunne at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. Megan was awarded a BMus (hons) from Queen's University Belfast in 2014 and a DipMus (hons) in Performance and Teaching from the Royal Irish Academy of Music in 2015. Megan has given critically acclaimed

performances in both the musical theatre and operatic worlds, playing roles such as Maria from Bernstein's West Side Story and The Sorceress in Purcell's Dido & Aeneas. Megan has given performances in Belfast's Grand Opera House, The Waterfront Hall, The Riverside Theatre, Theatre at the Mill and the Market Place Theatre. Megan is a multiple prize winner in all the major Northern Irish singing competitions and is a bursary recipient of the Flax Trust.

As the Artistic Director her role has allowed her to experience the different aspects of putting on concerts to running a sold out Christmas Gala Competition in Belfast City Hall, a competition that will take place again this year.

In the last few months Megan has performed in an array of different concerts, some of her highlights are performing with Barry Douglas and Camarata Ireland to finishing a tour with the Celtic Tenors. She is honoured to have been asked to sing the American National Anthem for the American Consul Generals Independence day celebrations.

Megan Has been looking forward to this concert at Girdwood Community Hub, Belfast. Megan will be performing in Concert in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast on Friday 24th March and a Sacred Concert on Tuesday 11th April in St. Vincent de Paul Church, Ligoniel.



BOYS' MODEL & MERCY COLLEGE

Boys' Model paired with Mercy College were so proud this year to win the category of Most Accomplished Senior Choir with the songs 'Starry Starry Night' and 'Africa'. The boys and girls have bonded well together both in preparation for FISCA competition

performances and in reward trips where they have enjoyed getting spoilt as a result of their commitment and dedication to choral events. The choir has also performed both at Mercy College and Belfast Boys' Model School at special musical events.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Friday 24th March
St. Anne's Cathedral

Tuesday 11th April
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Ligoniel

A Gala Concert in aid of

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

Megan Mooney

In Concert With

**CITY OF BELFAST
YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

MC: Wilfie Pyper

Friday 10th March 2017

7.30pm

**Concert Venue:
Girdwood Community Hub**

also presenting

**AWARD WINNING CHOIRS
MERCY COLLEGE AND BOYS' MODEL**



FIRST HALF

CBYO

Overture to *Ruslan and Lyudmila*
Glinka

Matilda Ensemble - T Minchin

Quiet - Soloist - Orla McCormick
When I Grow Up

CBYO

The Hebrides Overture
Mendelssohn

Megan Mooney

The Last Rose of Summer
T.Moore

I Could Have Danced All Night
F. Loewe

INTERVAL - SECOND HALF

CBYO

Overture to *Zampa*
Herold

**Mercy College and
Boys' Model School**

Starry Starry Night
D. McLean

Africa
D.Paich

Megan Mooney

Meine Lippen
F.Lehar

CBYO and Singers

Selections from *Les Miserables*
Boubil, Kretzmer, Michele-Schonberg

BIOS



THE CITY OF BELFAST YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Conductor: Paul McBride Manager: Robert Briscoe Leader: Justine Gormley

The City of Belfast Youth Orchestra (known as CBYO) is the most senior of the many ensembles in the City of Belfast School of Music, which is administered by the Education Authority's Belfast Region. Currently in its 62nd season, the CBYO is the oldest Youth Orchestra in Ireland. Every Saturday morning, the young people come together to rehearse under the direction of conductor Paul McBride at the City of Belfast School of Music's base on Fortwilliam Park, North Belfast.

Members of the orchestra are drawn from all sections of the community and on stage tonight, 24 Schools from the Greater Belfast area are represented. Musical ability being the only pre-requisite for membership, most of the members will have progressed through the various levels of the School of Music before gaining a place in the CBYO.

For over 60 years, the CBYO has been part of the cultural life of Belfast. Distinguished CBYO alumni include international flautist Sir James Galway and concert pianist Barry Douglas. Each year the orchestra presents a season of concerts throughout the City, bringing live performances right into the heart of communities. Every two years, the CBYO embarks on an international concert tour with our young people acting as excellent ambassadors, promoting a positive image of Belfast and Northern Ireland abroad. In July 2015, eighty members of the orchestra embarked on a Concert Tour of Boston and New York, kindly supported by the Flax Trust. In November of last year, the CBYO brought its 60th Anniversary celebrations to a close performing the final programme of the MFY Proms Concert Series in the Royal Albert Hall, London. In July 2017, the Orchestra will embark on a Concert Tour of Spain and Portugal culminating with a performance as part of the Lisbon International Music Festival. The invitations to perform in the USA and London and Portugal, are testimony to the formidable reputation the CBYO has gained, establishing itself as one of the foremost youth orchestras in the United Kingdom. The members of CBYO are delighted to be performing in the beautiful surroundings of Holy Cross this evening and would like to thank the Flax Trust for the invitation. For more information on the orchestra please visit www.cbyo.co.uk