

Music Scenario

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC & DRAMA

This City conservatoire first opened in September 1880 when it was housed in a disused warehouse in the City of London. Launched with a grant of £350 for one year only, the intention was to rival the three conservatoires in the West End. The Guildhall School moved to its present premises in the heart of the Barbican in 1977 and continues to be owned, funded and administered by the City of London Corporation. Today we play our part in the Corporation's strategy for a world-class city and make a contribution to the artistic and social life of London, the nation and the international community. Under the inspiring leadership of the eleventh Principal, Professor Barry Ife (late of King's College, London), the School numbers some seven hundred students, its enviable reputation continues to grow and it is fast approaching recognition as the foremost European conservatoire. Its international reputation is enhanced by the fact that in any year approximately 40% of students are from outside the UK and typically represent over 40 nationalities.

During the School's 125th celebrations in 2005/6 performance highlights were almost without number and included fantastic performances by the Jazz Department, Junior Guildhall, Opera, Drama, Musicals, Chamber Music, Master Classes, International Tours and our first ever Pantomime! In April 2005, Sir Simon Rattle invited thirty vocal students to join forces with the European Chorus in performing Britten's *Peter Grimes* with the Berlin Philharmonic and an all-star international cast in Salzburg and Berlin. That same month Sir Colin Davis organised a major international



Professor Barry Ife at Buckingham Palace

collaboration between the Guildhall School, the University of Music and Dramatic Arts in Vienna and the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki.

In February 2006 the School's well-established education and outreach programme, *Guildhall Connect*, was awarded a Queen's Anniversary Prize in a special ceremony in Buckingham Palace. Only twenty-one Queens Awards were made to Universities and Colleges for Higher Education throughout the UK, recognising excellence in every way. And as Professor Ife has said "the Arts are the most powerful agent for social change and for enabling young people to develop, to work creatively with others and to realise their full potential ... Anyone who has ever

seen the power which can be released through music cannot fail to appreciate the change which can be wrought on the life chances of disadvantaged young people."

What next? The School's future as an institution directly funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England has now been established and the governors are working closely with the government and the Corporation to strengthen our resource base. Furthermore, there is more than a rumour that exciting and imaginative new premises on a site near the Barbican complex may be built in the very near future.

Assistant Alderman Dr. Andrew Parmley
Former Chairman, Board of Governors GSMD

Barry Ife Court photographer

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Assistant Alderman Andrew Parmley has just celebrated his 25th Anniversary as Organist at the City Church, St James Garlickhythe.

Originally recruited to play at one Sunday Service in 1982 he immediately agreed to a commitment of playing at the regular once-a-month Sunday Service. After about four years (and a change of Rector) the Church began to hold services every Sunday (except in the month of August) and Andrew has been organist and Choir Master ever since. He has recently raised a £225,000 English Heritage Grant to add to funds of £100,000 raised by the



Church in order to restore the old Father Smith Organ and restoration should be complete in the early summer. It is appropriate that he is the current Master Parish Clerk.

Photo: Rector and PCC of St James Garlickhythe

Andrew represents Vintry Ward as their Alderman and his two Common Councilmen are also Masters of Livery Companies. Liveryman Bill Fraser is Master of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners and Tom Hoffman is Master of the Worshipful Company of Tyllers and Bricklayers.

To commemorate Bill Fraser's Mastership of the Gardeners' Company, Andrew has set to music Rudyard Kipling's *Glory of the Garden*. The inaugural performance was given a rapturous welcome at the recent Gardeners' Autumn Court Dinner in Vintners' Hall.

Liveryman William B. Fraser