

Virtual conservatoire's StAMP of success

The University of St. Andrews will continue its StAMP Virtual Conservatoire programme on 20 March, from 2.00pm – 4.00pm, with a multifaceted session delivered by its renowned team of tutors, which includes the University's Ensemble-in-Residence – The Wallace Collection and special guests, Russell Gray, Tracey Redfern and Andrew Knight-Hill. The session is co-promoted with the Royal Irish Academy of Music and New Music Dublin, and is one of their launch events for the new initiative to support composers and brass players across the island of Ireland.

Participants of any age and ability are welcome to join the Virtual Conservatoire, no matter where they are from. The whole experience lasts just two hours and participants can join the parts that they are most interested in, or suited to. The session commences with a short yoga breathing session delivered by practitioner Shams Abu-Tayeh and jazz pianist, Richard Michael, who will teach everyone a tune to play by ear.

Music for playalong sessions will be drawn from the Cyfarthfa Band repertory, the 19th Century Welsh band whose music was rediscovered in the 1980s by musicologist, Trevor Herbert, plus The Wallace Collection, but remains relatively unknown. Stuart Harris-Logan, from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, will share what he does as the archivist for one of the most significant brass instrument collections in the UK, as well as some of the other historical manuscripts and gems from deep within the Conservatoire's archives. These historical insights will be complemented by a focus on contemporary playing techniques: members of The Wallace Collection will share some of the more 'adventurous' ways of playing brass instruments that are beyond traditional extended techniques, but in some cases some 200 years old. Joining the ensemble in this exploration of sonic possibilities will be Andrew Knight-Hill from the University of Greenwich, who will live in real-time use freely available, low-latency audio networking for electronic processing (again using freely-available software) of Wallace Collection players. John Wallace CBE will also share his thoughts about how socially-distanced and online music-making are a sonic adventure that we can all learn to enjoy.

A new feature of the Virtual Conservatoire will be the 'Ask Me Anything' session with Russell Gray and Tracey Redfern. Between them, Russell and Tracey have vast experience in brass bands and orchestral brass, so participants can ask questions about anything – conducting, teaching, adjudicating, as well as



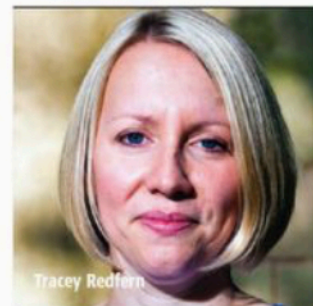
StAMP Director - Bede Williams



John Wallace CBE



Russell Gray



Tracey Redfern

playing historical music, new music and everything in-between.

StAMP Director, Bede Williams, commented: "We have now had well over 400 musicians from around the World join our Virtual Conservatoire. Everyone seems to really value the diversity of what we're offering and that it is all tightly-packed into two hours. I'm particularly excited, this time, to be partnering with the Royal Irish Academy of Music and New Music Dublin; we're going to be trying some adventurous things, including doing the virtual side-by-side with The Wallace Collection playing live over low-latency audio networking. The technology for doing this now is readily available and stable, but it is still a bit of an adventure!"

For more information, to register to attend and to submit questions for Russell Gray and Tracey Redfern, visit: www.stamp.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/virtual/

Black Dyke to stage 'high-octane' Virtual Brass Day

Black Dyke Band is looking forward to welcoming brass players from across the UK and the World for the 'high-octane adventure' of its Virtual Brass Day on 27 March, aimed at Grade 5 and equivalent-standard players, and above.

Said Black Dyke's Director of Music, Professor Nicholas Childs: "The tutor line-up comprises Black Dyke players Richard Marshall, Connor Lennon, Siobhan Bates, Brett Baker, Daniel Thomas, Matthew Routley and Gareth Hand. Delegates can enjoy musical challenges in sectional and full-band rehearsals, workshops on motivation and practice techniques, plus tips and performance techniques. There's also an opportunity to meet two of



Black Dyke's Director of Music - Professor Nicholas J. Childs

Black Dyke's legends, James Shepherd and John Clough.

"The aim is to balance a general improvement to overall playing standards with like-minded friends. Repertoire includes William Rimmer's *Punchinello*, Goff Richards' *Doyen* and cornets will enjoy *Bugler's Holiday*, along with the great classic *Journey into Freedom* by Eric Ball."

The day starts at 8.45am, followed by introductions and a warm-up led by Richard Marshall at 9.00am. No.1 sectionals are at 9.15am and No.1 full band rehearsal, led by Nicholas Childs, at 10.30am, followed by 'Motivation Practice Techniques' with Brett Baker at 11.30am. Matthew Routley will lead a fun quiz at midday and lunch at 12.30pm brings the opportunity to listen to British Bandsman's 125th Anniversary Concert. Sectionals and full band rehearsal No.2 happen at 1.15pm and 2.00pm respectively, while Richard Marshall leads 'Improving your Technique' at 2.45pm. There's a 'Soloist Spotlight,' featuring Daniel Thomas, Siobhan Bates, Brett Baker and Richard Marshall, at 3.15pm and delegates can 'Meet the Legends' at 4.00pm. The day rounds out with a virtual concert performance at 4.30pm before farewells at 5.00pm. Times quoted – UK GMT.

The cost is £35.00 per person, which includes a full Zoom recording of the day as a memento. To book, contact the Course Administrator, Alison Childs, at email: alison4horn@btinternet.com or call Alison on +44 (0) 7802 771735