

## **Celia Waterhouse BA LGSM CKME CPP**

After a degree in Scandinavian Languages at University College London, I began my career as a Piano Teacher in Private Practice in Soham in 1982, combining this with bringing up a family. At the same time I resumed my piano studies with Marion Raper, and related music studies at Cambridgeshire College of Arts and Technology in 1983, also studying singing with Amy Wickens from 1983-7. I gained my Piano Teachers' Licentiate (LGSM) in March 1985. My private practice as a piano teacher has continued to be a major part of my music teaching work. From 1991 - 2004 I also worked as a visiting piano teacher at St Faith's School Cambridge.

I was born into a home where singing was a regular and normal accompaniment to everyday life. Singing has therefore always been a very natural form of expression, and became an integral part of my piano teaching method. I became interested in class music and music for the very young through supporting my own children through Nursery and Primary School, and later in Practical Musicianship and Keyboard Harmony to broaden my pupils' skills. I was becoming increasingly aware of the shortcomings of the conventional approach to instrumental and music teaching in the UK.

In 1986, following a family tragedy, I founded Soham and District Concert Society, an organisation running large fund-raising charity concerts involving local amateur musicians of all ages. From 1986 - 1990 I took a major role as director and accompanist, and have continued to be involved in many local concerts and productions as Musical Director and Accompanist. After moving to Burwell I resumed singing studies with Pauline Byrne from 1993 - 1996, and took advantage of many opportunities to accompany her other pupils in performance.

Following my growing interest in holistic music education I started leading foundation musicianship classes for 5-7 year olds at Bottisham and Burwell Saturday Music School, and in 1989 I started Nursery Time classes for under-5s in Burwell which have continued to the present day. From 1990 -92 I was visiting music teacher at the Montessori School in Burwell and subsequently at the Little Gems Day Nursery in Cambridge, and I set up Nursery Time and Foundation classes in Soham and Cambridge. In 1993 I founded Burwell Summer Music School, designed to give keen musicians of

all ages, mainly children from age 8 - 14, creative, practical and broadening experiences with music, through singing, practical musicianship, instrumental playing, solo and ensemble performing opportunities, and new experiences such as percussion, jazz, improvisation. I ran Burwell Summer Music School for four seasons.

A lecture, given by Kodály specialist Gillian Earl to the Cambridge branch of the European Piano Teachers' Association, inspired me to begin my Kodály training at the British Kodály Academy Summer School in 1993. I was particularly interested in gaining repertoire and techniques for practical musicianship activities at Burwell Summer Music School. It was only after attending the BKA Summer School for the third time in 1998 that I began using Gillian Earl's Piano Tutor book "With Music In Mind" with all my new piano beginners. The same year I introduced Kodály Musicianship to a group of piano pupils, and have continued regular musicianship classes and activities for my pupils since that time, also seeking opportunities to begin this work also with pupils and groups of Pre-Prep children at St Faith's School.

During autumn 1998 I embarked on the BKA's Certificate of Kodály Music Education with David Vinden, gaining the CKME in June 1999. I continued my advanced Kodály training in 2001 with Sound Beginnings, a Certificate of Professional Practice for Early Years music practitioners, accredited jointly by the BKA and Roehampton Institute (University of Surrey), and attained the CPP in February 2002. During the last several years I have had opportunities to work as a music amateur and music consultant in Early Years settings, and give workshops and lectures on aspects of the Kodály approach to Music Education to Early Years professionals, parents and instrumental teachers and other organisations.

In autumn 1998, soon after joining the BKA management committee, I became leader of the Editorial team responsible for the BKA's Millennium Project, a songbook for Kodály practitioners. *How Can I Keep From Singing!*, published in August 2000, has proved a valuable resource for teachers in the UK, not only those following the Kodály approach but also class teachers looking for ways of fulfilling the National Curriculum for Music at KS1, 2 and 3. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition appeared in 2003, and I am currently steering a project to produce a CD to accompany the book. In recent years I have become interested in designing my own piano tutor books, early years music

collections, and teaching materials specialised in the Kodály approach. This is an area I am now looking forward to developing.

I served on the committee of the Cambridge Centre of the Incorporated Society of Musicians from 1997-2000, taking responsibility for running Sounding Board, an Instrumental and Singing Teachers' termly Discussion Forum, and co-organising a Kodály and Dalcroze training day for music teachers in Cambridge in autumn 1999. I joined the British Kodály Academy management committee in autumn 1998, serving as Chair from 2000-03, during which time I had the honour of representing the BKA at the International Kodály Society Anniversary Celebrations in Budapest in December 2002. I continue to be involved in running the BKA, with responsibility currently for the website, course literature and publicity. In 2001 I was a member of the committee which founded MusicJunction, the BKA here collaborating with the Dalcroze and Orff Societies to present innovative courses for music teachers. I am interested in the prospect of a new support organisation for Kodály-specialised instrumental teachers, and this may well be where I next turn my attention.

I am a keen choral singer. Since 1986 I have been a Soprano with the Cantilena Singers, an a cappella chamber choir meeting in a village near Cambridge. In 1993 together with Jagger Laycock, (Conductor), I founded The Phoenix Singers of Burwell, and became accompanist and deputy-conductor. I am an occasional singer with other a cappella choirs, notably the Oriana Singers and the Cambridge Voices. I have trained in choral conducting techniques at the BKA Summer School, and have occasional opportunities to conduct the Cantilena Singers. I am convinced by the advantages of Kodály techniques in choral training, and look forward to opportunities to make these more widely known.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

Incorporated Society of Musicians  
British Kodály Academy  
European Piano Teachers' Association  
International Kodály Society  
Pre-school Music Association (Associate)

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