

THE PETER DARRELL TRUST

NEWS

March 2025



Eve Musto in Five Rückert Songs
Photographer: Deborah Jaffe

We are delighted to welcome Rose Marie O'Donnell as our newest Trustee. Many of you will remember Rosie from her many years as a dancer with Scottish Ballet. Upon retiring from Scottish Ballet she studied law and now, having just retired from a very successful legal career, she is finally able to combine her formidable legal knowledge and expertise with her passion for Peter's legacy and work with us as we develop the Trust into a brighter future. She joins fellow Trustees Julie Bonnet, Jim Fletcher, Lorna Scott, Judy Spence and Chairman Rob Foxcroft. We are also delighted to welcome Preston Clare, former Scottish Ballet dancer and Director of Theatre Presto along with former Scottish Ballet principal William Long, as our Australasian Ambassador. Irving David, a renowned music and entertainment lawyer will also be joining us as our Legal Advisor. A strong team, I hope you will agree. Together with our recently appointed Patrons and other Advisors we are fortunate indeed to have such a range of competences, areas of expertise and influence to help move forward with confidence and excitement.

Roehampton

After the University of Roehampton's success performing Darrell's '**Economy in Straitjacket but Still Room for Movement**' in 2024 we are delighted to announce that this coming May a new year group will be performing the work again. However, we are thrilled to be able to let you know that this group will also be performing Darrell's poignant one act ballet '**O Caritas**' with its war message, so relevant today. If you would like to come along on either the 13th or 14th May, please drop us an email.

We hope that Steffi Carter who danced in '**Economy**' last year will be able to assist Kristin Johnson as assistant rehearsal director. Steffi this year has set up a **Go Fund Me page** and any donations received will go towards covering all her associated rehearsal costs. If you would like to help support Steffi and the Roehampton project please click on link: [HERE](#) Steffi, the Trust and Roehampton University would very much appreciate any support you can give and Kristin would really welcome Steffi's support as teaching these 2 pieces in a relatively short period is quite daunting!

Ballet Nights goes from strength to strength and on the 5th June we are delighted that the final solo from '**Five Rückert Songs**' will be performed again, this time at the Cadogan Hall in central London. More news on this and how to book your tickets in the next Newsletter.

We are also delighted to team up with **Ballet Grand Prix** in Scotland where this will be the first year that Peter Darrell's work will be offered to the students to perform as part of the annual competition. A special masterclass giving a taster of these works - solos from Peter Darrell's '**The Nutcracker**', will take place in London at the Lanterns Theatre in April. This is a unique opportunity to train with world-class artists:

Constance Devernay-Laurence – Former Principal Dancer with Scottish Ballet, Co-Director of Ballet Grand Prix, and an accomplished artist on both stage and screen and **Jordan James Bridge** a former Company Wayne McGregor dancer and multi-award-winning choreographer and acclaimed contemporary artist.

If you know anyone who might be interested in taking part do send them this link to sign up:

[HERE](#)



We were deeply saddened to report the passing in January of Eleanor Moore (Tyers) who gave a great deal to the ballet world. Eleanor started dancing at the age of 3, training at the Lilian McNeil School of Dancing in Glasgow. She was the Scottish Ballet's first Scottish Principal dancer. She was one of the earliest students to participate in The Scottish Ballet Scholarship Scheme, graduating into the main company in 1972. During her 15 years with Scottish Ballet Eleanor danced many major roles including the title roles in Giselle and Cinderella, The Sugar Plum Fairy in the Nutcracker, Desdemona in Othello, Olympia and Antonia in Tales of Hoffmann, Juliet in Romeo and Juliet and Odette in Swan Lake.

Photo: Eleanor as Statue Fairy in Cinderella; Photographer: Alan Crumlish

Peter Darrell created the role of Edmée for her in his 1980 production of '**Chéri**' for Edinburgh International Festival. She also appeared in most of his other modern works - '**Jeux**', '**Prisoners**', '**O Caritas**', and in '**Five Rückert Songs**' as the Woman.

In 1979 Eleanor married Paul Tyers and they have 2 children. After retiring from Scottish Ballet Eleanor worked at The Dance School of Scotland and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland where she was a tutor on the Modern Ballet BA course where she spread her love of dance and theatre experiences with the students. Eleanor will be greatly missed by us all.

We are also sad to report on the death of John Davidson who was a highly respected cellist and Music & Orchestral Services Manager at Scottish Ballet. He was widely known in the classical music scene in Scotland and in many countries throughout the world. A respected colleague and true friend to many.

"Matthew Bourne and his adventures in dance" - conversations with Alastair Macaulay is an updated edition of his book first published in 2000 which is out now. It looks fascinating and tells of his early life and influences and there are references to Peter's '**Swan Lake**' and the impact seeing Scottish Ballet's production had on him. Do buy it if you can!

A Call out!

If anyone has any photos of designs or indeed costumes from any of Peter's ballets could you send us an email saying what they are. We would love to be able to have an account of any of these things to enrich our archival work. Even if it means putting that ballet tutu on and taking a photo of yourself in it for us to see!

The Peter Darrell Circle

Many years ago we launched the **Peter Darrell Circle of Friends** and we are re-launching the Circle to help support the work of the Trust. For just £2.00 a month you will receive our Newsletters and updates on upcoming events and invites to special events and performances. We hope you might look at supporting us - it's not a great deal of money but it will make a big difference to the Trust's work. You can do this by setting up a direct debit (contact us at: peterdarrelltrust@gmail.com to set this up) or by donating directly through our Justgiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/thePeterdarrelltrust>

EMAIL AND DATA PROTECTION: The Peter Darrell Trust will only use your email or address to contact you with information about the Trust and will not release your details to any third parties. If you don't want to receive our Newsletters and updates, please email and we will remove you from our database.

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