



# The Society of Recorder Players

is delighted to announce 2012 BBC Young Musician finalist

## Charlotte Barbour - Condini

as ambassador for their

## Schools Affiliation Programme



Photo: Benjamin Harte

Like many outstanding musicians, Charlotte's first experience of playing an instrument was at primary school. She went on to become the first recorder player to reach the category and concerto finals of BBC Young Musician. She inspired a whole generation of young players to explore this wonderful sound world, with Sophie Westbrooke following in her footsteps in 2014. This year's woodwind category finalist and recipient of the Walter Todds Bursary, Eliza Haskins, who at the age of 8 back in 2012, watched with awe and a determination to emulate them. Currently completing her studies at the Royal Academy of Music, Charlotte continues to develop and share her love for her instrument but has serious concerns regarding the lack of music making for all.

It was not surprising to hear that 2018 finalist, saxophonist Robert Burton had his first taste of musical excellence passing his Grade 8 recorder exam. Winners Martin James Bartlett and Laura van der Heijden proudly announced their recorder proficiency in their biographies.

Nick Daniels in a letter to the Guardian, signed by all the past winners of BBCYM, called on the government to reinstate music making as an intrinsic part of our young peoples education.

Learning the recorder at school, for a short period became a humorous thing — journalists wrote witty articles on the horror of their children bringing a recorder home and laughing at their own memories of playing London's Burning in school assembly. Such memories are looked back on with fondness and nostalgia now by most parents, grateful for their own opportunities and despairing at the lack of any musical education in their own children's school life.

The **Society of Recorder Players** is launching their **Schools Affiliation Programme**. With over 50 local branches nationwide, each one is undertaking to start by adopting one school, helping to motivate and instigate recorder playing, loan music and instruments, and helping talented students to pursue their playing further. With instruments ranging from sopranino down to contra basses, members groups can perform in the school, developing a joy of live and ensemble music making within.

All my early musical education was provided for free by my school and local music service. I went on to study with an inspirational individual whose own passion for music had been nurtured, for free, at school. This musical thread, passing through generations, enriching people's lives, is broken. As the proud teacher of Charlotte, Sophie and Eliza, I would love to think that the future was bright for recorder playing and musical excellence. Sadly, without intervention now, this is unlikely to be the case.

Barbara Law