

SEDBERGH SCHOOL MEDIA AND PERFORMING ARTS TIMELINE

From the very first recorded OS to take up a career on the stage, EJR Laurence (E 1862-63), through the decades and into the 21st century, OSs have consistently chosen to pursue successful careers across all aspects of the performing arts. The list below provides an anecdotal snapshot of many of these, some of whom have reached national and international fame. Sedbergh is determined that this tradition should continue.

Pre 1940's
1940's
1950's
1960's
1970's
1980's
1990's
2000's



Marcus Davey
Sedgwick House 1981-85
Davey was appointed Director of Arts for Dartington Hall Trust and Director of concerts programming for Exeter University. In 1995 he became Artistic Director and Chief Executive of the Norfolk and Norwich Festival commissioning works in music, dance and the visual arts. He was appointed Chief Executive of The Roundhouse Trust where he managed the £30m re-development of the Roundhouse for which he was awarded an OBE in 2012.

John Mitchell
(John Kinderseley)
School House 1982-83



Adrian Gibson
Powell House 1982-89
Gained a music scholarship to Sedbergh. Studied at Leeds College of Music and won the brass prize and became a professional player and educator. In demand as a Geneva trumpet artist recording and playing worldwide.



Harry Jarman
Powell House 1979-1983
Jarman gained a position at the Moving Picture Company in London working in film and TV visual effects. He became senior visual effects artist at MPC and a supervisor on commercial film shoots. Some of his work won awards at the British Television Advertising Awards. Jarman then formed Golden Square Post Production providing services including online editing, commercials, TV visual effects and computer animation.



Ashtutosh Khandekar
Powell House 1978-83
Editor of Opera Now since 1997. He was born in India and after Sedbergh he honed his journalism in Hong Kong and London. While studying English at Oxford, he was a choral scholar with New College Choir. He is passionate about singing and is a keen tenor as well as an enthusiastic pianist.

Nick Seymour
Winder House 1978-1984
TV editor.

Paul Clay

Evans House 1979-84
After graduating in Theatre and Sociology Clay worked in a number of senior production management roles. He became Executive Director of The Royal Exchange Theatre Manchester after which he devised and delivered a leadership and management development programme for one of the largest cultural organisations in South East Asia.



Stan Ferguson
Powell House 1983-86
Radio producer.

Alexander Finch
School House 1981-86
Finch became organ scholar of Kettle College, Oxford and performs regularly across the world. He is also a choral conductor and was appointed Director of Music of St Catharine's College, Cambridge. He became Organist at Cheltenham College where he teaches, plays the organ and directs the Chamber Choir.



Jonny Wrather
Hart House 1982-87
After joining the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain and studying at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art Wrather worked extensively in TV and the theatre. His TV work includes *Coronation Street* (where he played Joe Carter) and other dramas. He has also worked on radio plays and voiced documentaries for TV.

Simon Beaufoy
Lapton House 1983-86
Beaufoy's first full-length feature *The Full Monty* was nominated for the Academy Awards for Best Original Screenplay and Best Film. The Golden Globe Best Picture award and for 11 BAFTAs. It won the Evening Standard Best Film award and was voted the Best English Film Ever by Empire Online readers. Beaufoy's other high profile success *Slumdog Millionaire* scooped 8 OSCAR wins at the Annual Academy Awards including Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Director and Best Film.

Hamish Beeston
Powell House 1983-88
Beeston spent 13 years in TV as a producer/director making BBC1 shows such as *Vets in Practice* and *Life of Gime* as well as history and wildlife documentaries. Filming *Superheroes* he was struck by how well video portrayed a property compared to the traditional printed brochure. He used this as a basis for his own business. The company now produces big budget property films using equipment normally associated with broadcast TV.



Thomas Alban
Powell House 1976-1982
Radio producer.

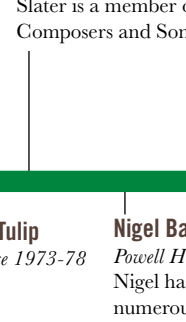
Paul Parker
Winder House 1975-78
Paul has composed and recorded music that has been published on TV including BBC, Sky, Channel 4, Channel 5, Universal, National Geographic and The History channel. He started Paul Parker Music in 2010 & has composed music for several publishers. He plays guitar, bass, piano, drums, vocals & programs orchestral & synthesised arrangements.



Simon Crone
Lapton House 1975-80
Crone began his career as a junior reporter with the Lancashire Evening Post in Preston. He then moved to Granada Television and also became involved in radio broadcasting. He is one of the best known personalities of broadcasting in the North West directing and presenting documentaries, running TV charity appeals and presenting news programmes.



Mark Smith
Evans House 1974-79
As a cameraman and film maker for over 20 years, Smith has worked across all genres and shot news, documentary and drama. Best known for his work on *Frozen Planet*, *Planet Earth II* and *Nature*.

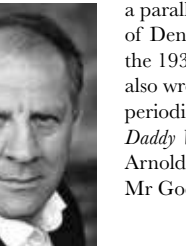


Simon Mallinson
Evans House 1974-78



Simon Slater
School House 1972-77
Slater plays the piano, double bass, saxophone, clarinet, guitar and the piano accordion. He is an award winning composer and has written original scores for over 150 productions in all mediums. Clients have included the Royal Shakespeare Company, BBC Radio 4, Channel 5 and West End Theatre productions. Slater is a member of the British Academy of Composers and Songwriters.

Winston Tulip
Hart House 1973-78



Nigel Barden
Powell House 1972-77
Nigel has combined a long career at BBC Radio with numerous TV appearances. He broadcast with Simon Mayo and Chris Evans on their *Dreadnought* BBC Radio 2 show for 12 years and now has a weekly cookery show on new station Scala Radio. He is the longest standing contributor to BBC Radio London (since 1990) with the last 25 years on the Robert Elms Show. Nigel is also a BBC rugby commentator and passionate flowery shirt advocate.



James Wilby
Evans House 1971-76
Attended the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and first appeared on screen in *Privileged* in 1982. Received Venice Film Festival's Best Actor award for *Maurice* in 1987. He has starred in film productions such as *Howards End* and *Gosford Park*, stage productions including *A Patriot for Me* by the Royal Shakespeare Company and most recently on TV in *Poldark*.



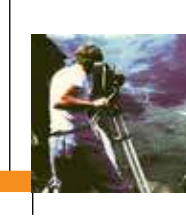
Mark Herman
Hart House 1968-1973
After a job with Channel 4 Herman worked a number of productions as screenwriter including *Blame it on the Bellboy*, *Brassed Off*, *Little Voice* and *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. He has won many awards and nominations – for *Brassed Off* in particular which was nominated for a Bafta 'Best Original Screenplay'.



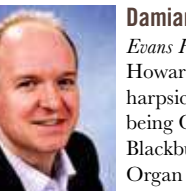
Clive Kerfoot
Hart House 1969-1974



Peter MacPherson
School House 1966-1971
Macpherson moved into TV in the 1980's after completing a film course in New York and has experienced a wide range of work as director, producer and cameraman working around the world on stories about the environment as well as action and adventure films. He has worked on broadcast documentaries ranging from *Lonely Planet* to *Panorama* and short aerial, underwater and mountain scenes for feature films and commercials.



Simon Rae
Powell House 1966-70
Wrote and presented a number of radio programmes and presented Radio 4's *Poetry Please* in the 90s. Won the Poetry Society's National Poetry Competition in 1999 and was awarded an Eric Gregory Award and a Southern Arts Literature Bursary and held Royal Literary Fund fellowships at Oxford Brookes and Warwick Universities. Simons has run the Top Edge Productions theatre company in Oxfordshire since 2002.



Damian Howard
Evans House 1988-1993
Howard studied organ, harpsichord and piano whilst being Organ scholar of Blackburn Cathedral. He became Organ scholar of Lincoln Cathedral and then studied at the Conservatoire Nationale Supérieure de Musique in Paris. He has since become acknowledged as a leading authority on composer-organist Jean Langlais. Howard is 'Titular-Organist and Director of Music at Lancaster Cathedral.

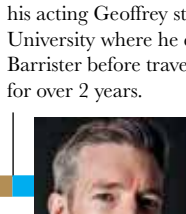


Geoffrey Newland
Winder House 1990-95
Geoffrey attended the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute (New York) and the Royal Shakespeare Company. Has appeared in film, with the RSC, BBC, ITV, Regent's Park Open Air Theatre and as a Carleton Hobbs BBC radio nominee. In addition to his acting Geoffrey studied law at University where he qualified as a Barrister before traveling the world for over 2 years.

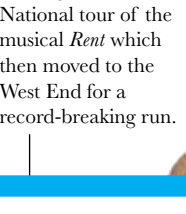
Justin Doyle
School House 1982-93
Chief Conductor and artistic director of the RIAS Chamber Choir. Has conducted most of the best-known oratorios and hundreds of a cappella chamber choir programmes and is in demand as a conductor of opera. Recently appointed Gastropfessor in Choral Conducting at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler (Berlin), he is also an 'International Visitor' at the Sibelius Academy, Helsinki.



Carl Partridge (Carter)
Powell House 1991-96
After writing and performing for BBC Radio 4 and Capital FM Carter moved into TV writing. He now works full-time in London as a TV comedy writer, mainly for the BBC on shows such as *Dead Ringers*, *The Armstrong and Miller Show*, children's shows and sitcoms. His partnership earned a nomination for a Sony Radio Award and was shortlisted for the BAFTA Breakthrough Talent Award.



Matthew Watts
Powell House 1992-97
Watts studied conducting and singing and won the Ricordi Conducting Prize. He attended the Advanced Conducting Course at Dartington International Summer School and then studied orchestral conducting with Denise Ham from the Royal Academy of Music. He studied singing with Lyndon Van Der Pump and was a Choral Scholar at St Martin-in-the-Fields.



Fraser Precious
Winder House 1999-2006
Gained a music scholarship to Sedbergh. Achieved a Licentiate Diploma in Music from Trinity College London and was a Solo Cornet in the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain. Gained a Bachelor of Music Performance degree at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music then moved to Stockholm where he worked as Head of Music at an International School. Studied at the New York Film Academy and then moved to Los Angeles to commence a One Year Acting Conservatory. He now resides in Hollywood where he continues to act professionally and produce independent projects.



Brian Rotheray
Hart House 1964-69
After an academic career in foreign languages/ literary tradition Rotheray joined the BBC serving for over 25 years at BBC Monitoring, gathering foreign news. He then developed foreign news services for the BBC's World and UK Services. He has been involved in numerous research projects, publications and broadcasts about social and media history including *News from a Far Country*.



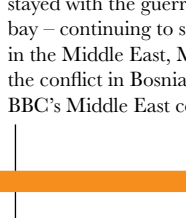
Ben Crosland
Hart House 1964-69
Having played guitar in rock and pop groups during the 1960s and 1970s, Crosland took up the electric bass in the 1980s and began to explore modern jazz. This led to a busy career working with leading American and UK soloists. His band 'Threadway' recorded two critically acclaimed albums and have toured nationally. Crosland was a nominee in the British Jazz Awards 2011 and the Jazz Yorkshire Awards in 2012. His current band 'Ben Crosland Quintet' played 'The Ray Davies Songbook' in 2016 to wide critical acclaim.



Ashley James
Robertson House 2001-05
Worked at BBC Radio Cumbria, and then went onto work on URN, the University of Nottingham's radio station. Now a DJ on Hoxton Radio. Has presented TV shows for such as *Hollyoaks*, *Style Stars* on PopGirlTV, *Clothes Show Live* and *X Factor*. Has columns in the *Huffington Post* and *Closer Magazine*.



Gary Mitchinson
Winder House 2002-08
A singer, musician and actor, Gary's roles have included Balthazar/ Angelo in *The Comedy of Errors*, Macduff's son/Sevton in *Macbeth* and Josef Topforn hind in *Wien House* in the West End. He was featured performer for the Perfect Pitch Awards 2014, winning the best new musical with *Odd* and sang in the choir for the Olivier Awards.

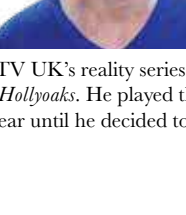


R (Joe) Paley
Winder House 1961-66
Muir studied Arabic and after five years in book publishing drove to Beirut in 1974 to cover the upheavals of a turbulent region. From 1975-90 Muir covered the conflict in Lebanon – probably the only western correspondent to cover it from start to finish. After Lebanon, the Gulf war erupted and Muir monitored Baghdad radio to provide news and analysis on Iraq. He joined the Kurds in northern Iraq and stayed with the guerrillas as they held Saddam's army at bay – continuing to send despatches. As peace took hold in the Middle East, Muir went to Sarajevo to report on the conflict in Bosnia. Since 1996 Muir has been the BBC's Middle East correspondent.



HOLLYOAKS

Stephen Beard
Hart House 2005-07
Beard appeared in MTV UK's reality series *Living on the Edge* and *Hollyoaks*. He played this role from 2008 for a year until he decided to resume his studies.



Freddie Hogan
Powell House 2003-06
Hogan's first acting role was with The National Youth Theatre in Cymbeline. He has appeared on TV in *Emmerdale*, *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell* and *Coronation Street*. He has appeared in the films *Fighting Heart* and *Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows Part II*. In the theatre he played Elliott in *Extra Virgin* and received his first nomination for an Off West End Award for Best Actor.

James McLeod
Sedgwick House 2005-09
In 2004 McLeod was principal euphonium with the Inaugural National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain and was then invited to play in the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain. He was offered a place at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and the opportunity to play with the National Wind Orchestra of Great Britain. In 2010 he joined the Cory Band and in 2011 was one of the finalists in the BBC Young Brass Soloist competition.



2011
Thornely Studio opens at Sedbergh.

Roger Vignoles

Lapton House 1958-62
Vignoles joined the Royal Opera House as a leading répétiteur. He has collaborated with many leading singers such as Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and performed at major venues across the world. He is frequently invited to devise and direct programmes and festivals and has created several series at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London. He was artistic director of the Nagaoka Winter Festival in Japan. His extensive discography includes some of Britten's works on Harmonia Mundi which received the prestigious Diapason d'Or and Prix Caecilia awards. Vignoles is recognised internationally as an outstanding teacher and has given master classes across the world. He is Prince Consort Professor of Accompaniment at the Royal College of Music in London and has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship of Magdalene College, Cambridge.



Mike Ross
Evans House 1960-65
Mike has had a long and successful career as a graphic designer, photographer and film director specialising in the music and entertainment industry both in the UK and the US, for some very high-profile clients including Paul McCartney, Elton John, Sting, Neil Diamond and The Beach Boys.

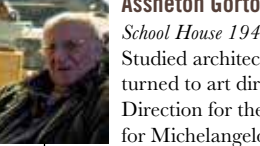
Robert Hopper
Powell House 1960-64
Studied art history at Manchester university. Assistant keeper and deputy principal keeper in fine art at Manchester's Whitworth art gallery. In 1979, he joined the Yorkshire Sculpture Park's management committee and, in 1981, became director of Bradford art galleries and museums. 1988, the Henry Moore Sculpture Trust in Leeds was established with Robert as the Founding Director. His biggest project was *ArtTranspennine* in 1998; the largest exhibition of contemporary art held in this country.



Timothy Birdsall
School House 1949-55
Birdsall received his school colours for Art, and won the Murray Craigmile Art Prize and Sterling English Verse Prize. After graduating from Cambridge, he appeared on BBC's *That Was The Week That Was* and contributed to *The Sunday Times*, *Private Eye* and *The Spectator*. He regularly caricatured the then prime minister Harold Macmillan, Harold Wilson, and Lord Beaverbrook, who issued a writ against him. Sadly he succumbed to leukaemia, aged 27. After his death the BBC made a tribute programme and Bamber Gascoigne organised a posthumous exhibition of his works in London.



Professor David Gwilt
Powell House 1946-51
Gwilt studied music at Cambridge University and was the leader of the viola section of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. He was a free-lance musician in the fifties and sixties. Became Professor of Music at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he taught since 1970. He has written music for the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra and has conducted that orchestra as well as the Hong Kong Philharmonic and the Hong Kong Sinfonietta. Awarded a Fellowship of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts after he retired.



Assheton Gorton
School House 1947-49
Studied architecture at Cambridge and fine art at the Slade. After designing about 50 TV plays he turned to art directing films. He was nominated for an Academy Award in the category Best Art Direction for the film *The French Lieutenant's Woman* and was the BAFTA nominated art director for Michelangelo Antonioni's 1966 film *Blowup*. After his retirement he wrote and illustrated children's books. Gorton credited his inspiration for design to the time he spent in Sedbergh and the Lake District as a child. His father was Winder housemaster and chaplain at Sedbergh.



Jeremy Hardwick
Lapton House 1951-56
Actor.

Sir Christopher Bland

Lapton House 1951-56
Bland was both Deputy Chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority from 1972-1979 and Chairman of its Complaints Review Board. In 1982 he was appointed non-executive director of LWT plc and became Chairman in 1983 turning it into one of ITV's most profitable companies. As Chairman of the BBC Board of Governors from 1996 he led the negotiations which secured the funding of the BBC through the licence fee and oversaw the creation of BBC Online. After joining BT in 2001 he transformed the organisation by increasing revenues from their new wave services such as broadband. Sir Christopher was knighted for his work in the NHS in 1993.



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