



# The Yehudi Menuhin School

The International Music School founded by Yehudi Menuhin

Registered Charity 312010

ISSUE #72

# Newsletter *Spring 2019*

## Welcome

This has been another action packed term, spanning a short snowy spell in January, an unseasonal 'heat-wave' in February and the daffodil and cherry blossom season in March. The following pages give a glimpse of our normal school routine and some of the memorable events that have punctuated it. Showcase and Celebrity Concerts are the lifeblood of the School. The eagerly anticipated Quiz night and Easter Egg hunt come around every Spring. Our concert at Effingham Golf Club was a long overdue return visit. The 1963 Society Musical Dinner was a successful new venture.

As usual, we welcomed visitors from all over the world: prospective pupils from three continents; alumni from the USA and Switzerland; parents - here for concerts or parent-staff consultation meetings - from Russia, China, Japan and Australia; musicians invited to give masterclasses from Spain, Germany and the USA; and guests from Israel and South Korea interested to see at first hand our unique educational model. We also celebrated various national traditions: haggis on Burns



Night, mooncakes at Chinese New Year, bara brith on St David's Day and pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Pictures of our ceilidh made it onto social media but not into this newsletter.

We continue to champion the merits of a first-rate specialist musical education for those with a particular talent and passion for music, regardless of their means. I spoke at an all-party parliamentary committee meeting in Westminster on the subject,

and we continue to work with our sister schools in the Music and Dance Scheme to lobby for more funding and a better appreciation amongst the public of our role and impact. Our community engagement continues to grow, with pupils and staff driving projects to help local school children fulfil their musical dreams.

Kate Clanchy  
Head

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### Follow us!

If you are active on social media (or would like to be) please have a look at our various channels.

Please follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for news, events and images, but best of all is our YouTube channel which we keep updated with awe-inspiring videos of our pupils playing Schubert, Poulenc, Vaughan Williams, Howells and more. Through this channel you can watch and listen to our pupils in the comfort of your own home whenever you like.

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @menuhinschool



Find us on Facebook @yehudimenuhinschool



Subscribe to our YouTube channel by searching for The Yehudi Menuhin School



We also update the news section of our website regularly, so please visit [www.menuhinschool.co.uk/news](http://www.menuhinschool.co.uk/news) to see what we are up to.



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## Competitions

It was a fabulous result for all three of our entrants in the International Arthur Grumiaux Competition for Young Violinists. **Kyota** won First Prize in Category C, **Emili** won Second Prize and **Seoyul** won Third Prize in Category B.

**Coco** was awarded a Gold Medal in the inaugural Vienna International Music Competition.

**Will** has proceeded to the Finals of the Haslemere String Competition, which will take place on 16 May at St Christopher's Church as part of the Haslemere Festival.

**Stefanija** was the youngest finalist in the IV Agustín Aponte International Music Competition in Tenerife in February.

**Richard** reached the Finals of the Aarhus International Piano Competition in Denmark.

### New School film



Last November, we welcomed a film crew on site for three days filming pupils and staff as they went about their daily routine. The production company, Digifish, together with the Marketing Department, then had the difficult task of sifting through all the fantastic footage to select the right



**Claire** was the youngest performer to reach the final six in the Robert Schumann Piano Competition in Düsseldorf.

clips for inclusion in the final cut of the film. If you were in the audience at the Showcase concert on 8 November, you might just catch a glimpse of yourself, so take a look at the finished product on our website. We think it captures the spirit of YMS and are thrilled to share it with you.

## External Concerts

Perhaps not as dramatic as the orchestral conquest of Spain or as bold as the series of Christmas Concerts, the Spring term is known for its more subtle crescendo of musical events.

Gorka started the term with a solo recital in Horsley for an audience of Friends and supporters of the School. Beethoven's *Les Adieux* was followed by the complete set of Rachmaninov's Op 39 *Études-Tableaux* - it was a truly astonishing performance that left the entire room mesmerised. It took an encore of elegantly improvised jazz to wake us from the spell.

A few weeks later a group of pupils visited one of Surrey's oldest churches, St Mary's in Stoke d'Abernon. Two works by Haydn were followed by a powerful rendition of Ravel's quartet.

Another quartet - Borodin's 2nd - finished off a concert of piano, violin and guitar solos in the magical setting of Winchester College's New Hall. The concert helped raise over £5,500

### Celebrating Hans Keller

The centenary of Hans Keller's birth was marked by several events in the music world, and The Yehudi Menuhin School (where Keller taught) was involved in two of them.

On 10 March we hosted a talk with Dr Alison Garnham (Keller's original



for Brendoncare, a charity dedicated to improving quality of life for older people in care homes and care facilities throughout South England.



SongHa and Can performed a duo recital of Mozart, Brahms, Ravel and Bach at Clapham's Ominbus Theatre, hosted by alumna Sue Dorey. Duru and Richard performed a joint piano recital at Little Slyfield, and SongHa

wowed the audience at the Breinton Recital Society, this time with Gorka, who stepped in at the last minute to take over for an injured Svitlana.

Finally, at the end of term, the YMS Chamber Choir, directed by David

archivist, and author of several books on the subject), Óscar Colomina i Bosch and David Dolan using Mozart's *Quartet K421*, played by Coco, Viviane, SongHa and Caterina. The talk was followed by a Showcase concert in which the Mozart was performed along with other chamber works.

Condry, performed at Kingston's All Saints Church. They opened with Poulenc and closed with Frank Martin's *Mass for Double Choir*, setting a solemn tone for Easter. The Spring term's crescendo arrived at the final chorale of Martin's *Agnus Dei*, and as the closing chord still hung in the air almost searching for somewhere to go, we found ourselves - as we catch our breaths - looking ahead with excitement to what comes next.



The following weekend the quartet went to Clare Hall, Cambridge, where they worked with Levon Chilingirian before taking part in an illustrated talk on Keller's 'Functional Analysis' approach to chamber music with Malcolm Singer, David Dolan and Levon Chilingirian.

## Masterclasses



**Yulia Chaplina** as part of the Prokofiev Music Festival.

In early March we had a visit from alumna **Nicola Benedetti**, who spent the morning working with the pupils, before opening up the afternoon session to our Friends and other audience members. Everyone was struck not only by her musicality, but also by her warmth and easy-going manner, and we are all looking forward to her return.

Next there was a visit from **Barbara Doll**, Professor of Violin and Chamber Music at Hochschule für Musik, Basel, and President of ESTA, Switzerland. We were also treated to a lecture by the renowned pianist and musicologist, **Robert Levin**.

Finally, right at the end of term, Kingsley and Hugo participated in masterclasses in London with **Pierre Amoyal** and **Wolfram Christ** at the invitation of Sean Bishop of Bishop Instruments and Bows.

It has been a packed term of masterclasses for our pupils. Alumna **Alina Ibragimova** spent two days in January teaching in The Menuhin Hall before performing to a packed audience with longstanding duo partner Cédric Tiberghien.

Later that month, the guitarists had a day with the legendary Czech musician **Pavel Steidl**. Each of the guitarists played a solo work for him, and Martin,

Finlay, Kotone and Alfe played *Cuban Landscape with Rain*, Leo Brouwer's famous piece for four guitars. Here in particular Pavel opened up the pupils' imaginations, encouraging the use of extreme colours and effects. He also showed the pupils some unusual, and very advanced, technical exercises for both hands.

In February, Felicia participated in a masterclass in London with pianist



## Community Engagement

This year's Composition project culminated in a week of recording sessions with five secondary schools from the local area. Watching pieces grow from a few notes to several pages is always exciting, but it is even more encouraging to see some bold and truly imaginative works being written, works that may not have been possible without this project. It was a rewarding experience for pupils from both the external schools and ours, especially our Senior pupils who have worked tirelessly for many hours, rehearsing, workshopping and recording the compositions.

Our Junior pupils have once again been touring primary schools in and around Surrey, captivating audiences of all sizes and ages. An endless flow of questions followed each concert, showing just how powerful and important these experiences can be to young children whose chances of witnessing live music within a school setting seem ever slimmer.

Staff at the primary schools said:



*'When I was able to tear my eyes away, seeing the look on the faces of our children was just incredible. They were enthralled. Many of our children will not have had the chance to experience music performed live like this so it really was a thrilling experience for all.'*

**Leah Evans, Acting Assistant Head  
Mosaic Jewish Primary School**

*'I have heard nothing but brilliant feedback about how amazing and talented your students were, as well as the incredible responses from our own students. The awe and wonder our students experienced was so special to see!'*

**Lara Martin, Teacher  
Portesbery School**



## Spotlight on our Staff Pianists

**Nigel Hutchison** graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Music from the University of Glasgow, followed by postgraduate study at the Guildhall. He completed his studies at the Juilliard School in New York on a Fulbright Scholarship. In New York, he studied with the great American pianist Earl Wild.

Upon his return to the UK, Nigel embarked on a busy solo career as well as collaborating with many distinguished colleagues in duo and chamber concerts. An acclaimed Wigmore Hall début led

to appearances with the major UK orchestras including the London Philharmonic and the Royal Philharmonic. A commercial recording followed with the London Symphony Orchestra at Abbey Road Studios and also one with the British pianist John Ogdon. He continues to enjoy giving concerts at home and abroad outside the school calendar, including as official pianist for several international competitions such as the Menuhin Competition, the Britten Competition, and the All China Violin Competition held in Qingdao.



Nigel started working at YMS in September 2006 on the same day as Óscar Colomina i Bosch. They both remember it well as there were no taxis at the station, so they had to walk along the treacherous road – not the easiest start for a first day!

A typical week for the staff pianists is usually fairly hectic, as there is always a full schedule of concerts to prepare for, plus playing for pupils' lessons and sometimes a masterclass or auditions. The bulk of the work involves rehearsing with the pupils and teaching them how to integrate with the piano, especially in the duo sonata repertoire.



Each weekday is long and involves many hours of playing, but Nigel and Svitlana both say it is incredibly rewarding.

When asked what makes a great staff pianist, Nigel says, "...in the context of the job in the School I would say an ability to learn pieces quickly, to sight read well and to be clear

about what your musical role is at any given point. We need to be sensitive and listen well to what a particular string player is doing, but also have the ability to convey to them how important it is for them to understand what is happening in the piano part, and how that usually has a huge bearing on what they can or cannot do musically." Both pianists assert that one of the best things about YMS is the sense of being part of a community, of a family where we are all striving for a common goal.



**Svitlana Kosenko** studied at Kharkov University of Arts in Ukraine with Natalia Melnikova before undertaking a Masters Course at the Hochschule für Musik Saar with Tatevik Mokatsian.

Svitlana has won prizes at several international competitions, including the Smetana Piano Competition in the Czech Republic where she also received a prize for the best performance of 20th century music as well as the Audience and special EMCY

prizes. She won a special prize for the best interpretation of the Enescu Sonata with violinist Valeriy Sokolov at the George Enescu Competition, and was awarded the prize for best pianist at the Joseph Suder International Lied Competition in Germany. She is featured in Bruno Monsaingeon's film "A Natural Born Fiddler" and on the recording released by EMI Classics.

Svitlana joined YMS in 2014 as Staff Pianist.

## Alexander Technique

Alexander Technique has been a part of YMS since the very beginning. The technique teaches improved posture and movement, in order to help reduce and prevent problems caused by unhelpful habits. Yehudi Menuhin was a huge advocate and, recognising the many benefits it offered to musicians, felt it was important to offer lessons as part of the curriculum.

After all pupils were given the chance to trial a lesson, Angela Bradshaw now works with 65 of them, both individually and in pairs. About the lessons, the pupils say:

*"I have found my few weeks of Alexander Technique very helpful so far. It has improved my posture immensely for playing my instrument, and has got me to think a lot about my posture in general whenever I'm doing something."*

**Martin (16, guitar)**

*"I love Alexander Technique because it helps me to relax my whole entire body and I am able to focus on my breathing. When I get stressed, this helps me to understand how the body works and how we naturally move. I have learnt a lot from Alexander Technique. I would*

*highly recommend it to everyone. I am always thinking: stop, think, wait, move. Every lesson I do is so inspiring!"*

**Yume (11, violin)**

*"Alexander Technique has helped me with mindfulness, and with relaxation during performing and practice. I also love how weightless I feel after the lying, guided meditation. Angela also lets me express how I feel about my playing and helps me to feel more confident and content with it. It's a type of therapy for me."*

**Viviane (18, violin)**



## Miserere at Westminster Abbey

On Ash Wednesday, Kate took Senior and Junior pupils to hear Allegri's *Miserere* in Westminster Abbey. We arrived in good time for Sung Eucharist and took the opportunity to explore the Abbey and College Gardens. We saw the grave of Clementi, 'father of the pianoforte' in the south cloister, that of Handel in the south transept (Poets' Corner), the tombs of Purcell, Stanford, Vaughan Williams and Howells in the

north choir aisle ("Musicians' aisle"), as well as memorials to Walton, Britten and Elgar.

The *Miserere* itself, with its alternating verses for plainsong, full choir and a quartet of soloists positioned in the organ loft was hauntingly beautiful, the highlight being a lone treble soaring five times to top C during the course of the motet.



## Quiz night

Quiz night is always a spirited event and this year was no exception. All pupils were grouped into 10 random teams, with players from all year groups competing across several rounds of questions focussing on Maths, Music, English, Languages, Sports, General Knowledge and, of course, Yehudi Menuhin. As usual, the prize was a magnificent pile of sweets.

During the bonus round (pictured below), one member of each team was tasked with communicating a message to their teammates using a non-verbal, invented means of communication. Much hilarity ensued and everyone is already looking forward to next year's quiz.



## New pupils



**Tomomasa**  
Violin  
Age 10  
Japan



**Zheng Yuan (Zac)**  
Violin  
Age 12  
China



## Kenza meets Malala

In January, Kenza had the opportunity to meet activist and Nobel Laureate, Malala Yousafzai. In 2014, Malala became the youngest Nobel Laureate in recognition of her

efforts on behalf of



children's rights. She now studies at Oxford University.

Of the encounter, Kenza writes:

"Meeting Malala was an amazing experience that I will never forget. She spoke quietly and was very polite. This was in contrast to when she was on stage. There she spoke so confidently, without fear or anger, and in a way that engulfed everyone into her presence.

Malala's fight for girls' education inspires many. Millions of girls

around the world have no right to have an education because of the laws that terrorist groups or their governments enforce upon them. Many of us that live in peace and prosperity take school for granted. Listening to Malala made me think that we should be aware of this privilege.

Personally, it made me feel so grateful for the School and my parents who support and encourage me to pursue my dreams."

## Egg-cellent Easter

Cloudy, cold weather could not dampen the spirits of pupils and staff during our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Once again organised by Jenny Dexter and the Silver Duke of Edinburgh pupils, the event was a roaring success. The children raced around the grounds, hunting down both chocolate and wooden eggs, the latter to be exchanged for jumbo chocolate treats. The family spirit for which our pupils are known was evident throughout the afternoon, with many pupils sharing their haul with those who had been less successful in their search.



## Duke of Edinburgh



The Silver D of E group has been very busy with fundraising this term. Nathan, Pendo and Mika held a fantastic Valentine's Day cookie and rose sale in aid of the charity CRY (Children's Rights and You).

They also ran a raffle for a candlelit dinner for two in the Kentner Room, complete with chocolate fondue for dessert. As the winner, Finlay greatly enjoyed being waited upon by his friends. This was a really popular event and raised about £70.



*Valentine's Day Raffle*

This week the Silver DofE group will be doing a Valentine's Day Raffle. In tandem and in preparation for the Valentine's Day Sale on the 14<sup>th</sup> February, tickets will be available for sale every day from the 12<sup>th</sup> February until the draw on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be 20p each (£1 a strip). All proceeds will go to CRY (Children's Rights and You).

*Prizes*

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Candlelit Dinner**  
A nice candlelit dinner in the Long Room with you and a person of your choice. Enjoy great service from famous waiters Natasion Pérry, Pinto Grigio and Michel Pethovic and chocolate fondue for dessert.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: A box of chocolates**  
Pretty self-explanatory. Share them with your loved one or cry as you eat them alone.

## Junior Trip to Wisley Gardens

On 20 March the Juniors travelled to RHS Garden Wisley, and were immediately struck by the sight of a vibrant pink magnolia. Every flower on it was open and healthy looking. We followed the 'Winter Walk,' photographing lots of different types of narcissi and blossoms - there was even a white bergenia called 'Beethoven'! We visited the vegetable garden, and also saw many Bonsai trees, which were between 40 and 80 years old.

After lunch, we took part in a workshop called 'Plant Explorers', during which we took cuttings of peperomia, a rainforest plant, and crassula, a desert plant. We were taken on a tour of the beautiful Glasshouse, paying particular attention to the rainforest and desert areas, and learning how the plants have adapted to their environment. The bird of paradise flower was stunning.

Finally, we had a visit to the gift shop (of course!) before returning to school. We really enjoyed the trip to Wisley and it was a fantastic day out!



## YMS footballers bring home the Cup

On the first Sunday after half term, the YMS football team visited the Purcell School of Music to play in the annual Purcell's-Menuhin football match.

The boys went there with hopes of ending the six-year losing streak against our rivals. The rainy weather and an extremely muddy pitch did not discourage either side. The match started with the opposition taking control over the game, but our tireless defence did not let in any goals. Towards the end of the first half, our young striker Tom found an opportunity and bagged our first goal with a clean finish.

The second half started with a more balanced game where our boys seemed more confident. Not long after the start of the second half, Tom once again scored with a fantastic strike, this time from a more difficult angle. With the state of the pitch deteriorating as the game went on, our team sustained a few injuries, hence our first substitutions took place early in the game. Tom once again showed his skill with a beautiful assist to our team



captain Daniil, who found himself one-on-one with the goalkeeper and curled it in, taking the score to 3-0.

Purcell's, however, found life towards the end of the game and managed to score two goals in the last few minutes. Goalkeeper Ludwig made some crucial saves and the game ended with a 3-2 victory for our boys.

It was a great day out for all. Thank you to all our friends and staff who came to support us, and to the Purcell School for their hospitality.

YMS will now be the home for the Cup for the year to come, and we are all looking forward to defending our title next year.

## GCSE Science Live!



In February, the GCSE Science students took a trip into London to attend Science Live at the Apollo Victoria Theatre. They had the opportunity to hear five of Britain's top scientists, all working at the cutting edge of their specialisms: Professor Robert Winston, Professor Andrea Sella, Professor Jim Al-Khalili, Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock and Professor Alice Roberts.

Each speaker was carefully chosen for their ability to communicate with students of this age, helping to show the pupils that science really does offer solutions for many of the problems facing the world today. The pupils were also given top tips on examination success by an experienced science examiner, and were given the chance to raise and discuss issues with the scientists themselves.

## Alumni news

**Nicola Benedetti** was awarded a CBE in January for Services to Music. She has also released a series of instructional videos on YouTube. "With Nicky" intends to provide information, guidance, and support for young musicians.

**Max Calver** performed with Tianyou Ma at Cadogan Hall with the Doctors' Orchestra in March. The concert raised £43,400 in aid of the charity Freedom from Torture.

**Bobby Chen's** Overseas Masters Winter Piano Academy (OMWPA) was once again held at The Yehudi Menuhin School in December. The course is held every two years, and participants have individual piano lessons, group classes, lectures, evening recitals, and a 'London experience', complete with visits to museums and music shops, and tickets for concerts at the Royal Albert Hall and the Royal Festival Hall.



**Cheryl Frances Hoad's** new CD, *Magic Lantern Tales* was released in November.

It was described by BBC 3's Andrew MacGregor as a

"...showcase for a composer whose instincts as a songsmith are imaginative, confident and unerringly communicative..."

In January, **Tasmin Little** announced her retirement from the concert platform. She intends to focus on



Tasmin Little

education and other non-performing projects from 2020 after a career spanning more than 30 years.

**Veronika Shoot's** debut album, *Journey Through Childhood*, including words by Debussy, Takemitsu, Korngold, Shoot, Shostakovich, Liadov and Schumann will be released in April. The album was recorded in The Menuhin Hall.

**Sào Soulez Larivière** has received 2nd Prize in the International Max Rostal Competition, Berlin. He also won a prize for the best interpretation of the commissioned work.

### Recording in the Hall

The Menuhin Hall offers alumni and current teachers a **50% discount on Hall and piano hire for commercial recordings**. Recently, we have welcomed alumni **Charles Owen, Lucy Parham** and **Nicola Benedetti**, as well as teachers **Mariko Brown, Nathan Williamson** and **Oscar Perks**. For further information, please contact Alice Benzing on [alice.benzing@menuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:alice.benzing@menuhinschool.co.uk) or 01932 584408.



OMWPA participants

## New staff



**Angela Bradshaw** is our new Alexander Technique teacher. She also teaches Music Scholars at Wellington College and Medical Imaging professionals. Prior to teaching Alexander Technique, she was a sonographer and radiographer in the NHS. She grew up in Dubai, enjoys yoga and plays the piano.



**Laura Keen** joins the Science Department as Lab Technician. She has eight years' pharmaceutical experience specialising in unlicensed medications, and has a part time companionship role helping vulnerable adults to socialise and to keep their independence.



**Hannah Maitland** is the new Assistant Houseparent in Music House. Before coming to YMS, she worked at Ashford School in Kent. Her interests include film, ballet, comic books and swimming.



**Monika Wajnert-Forrester** recently joined our Catering Team. She came from Poland 16 years ago where she graduated from university as a teacher of Polish literature. She also worked in journalism and marketing, and now lives locally with her family.

## Staff leavers

We were sad to say goodbye to Thea Butterworth, who left us this term to pursue other opportunities. Amy Mitchell will also leave the School in early May.

We thank them for their work and wish them well.



## Staff news

**Mariko Brown** and duo partner Julian Jacobson recently performed at the Purcell Room at the Southbank Centre, and at St James's Church Piccadilly as part of the BPSE Lunchtime Series. They will perform next at Ripley Arts Centre on 18 May. Details available from [www.ripleyrecitals.info](http://www.ripleyrecitals.info).

**Elliott Perks** and The Maxwell Quartet received rave reviews for their new album *Joseph Hayden String Quartets Op 71*.

The Jubilee Quartet, led by **Tereza Privratska**, with alumna **Lorena Cantó Woltèche** on the viola, performed to great acclaim at Conway Hall in March. Their debut album, featuring three Haydn Quartets, is available

to stream and download on Spotify, Apple Music and Amazon.

For the fourth year running, **Clive Stevens** will be running his pop-up cinema, Legare Lumiere, in his garden in Spelthorne. The festival occurs in early May and all proceeds



will support local charities. More information is available at [www.legarelumiere.org](http://www.legarelumiere.org).

The world premiere of **Matthew Taylor's** *Symphony No 5* will take place at Cadogan Hall on Sunday 9 June with the English Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Ken Woods.

The programme will also include Mendelsohn *Violin Concerto* and Beethoven *Symphony No 5*. Tickets can be purchased from the Cadogan Hall website.

We are thrilled to announce that Bursar **Shelley Twitchin** and her husband are expecting triplets in the Autumn term.

## This term in The Menuhin Hall

As another term whizzes by and we look back at all the wonderful moments in The Menuhin Hall, it really has been a packed term with a wide range of events. We had visits from two alumnae, Alina Ibragimova in January, and Nicola Benedetti in March. In addition to performing an outstanding concert with pianist Cédric Tiberghien, Alina spent two days teaching our pupils, and the public masterclass with Nicola Benedetti was a fantastic snapshot of the musical education at the School. The Piccadilly Dance Orchestra provided us some much needed respite from the winter cold, with many audience members tapping their feet to jazz and swing from the 1920s and 30s. We also welcomed back virtuoso Nikolai Demidenko, for a momentous piano recital including works by Schubert and Prokofiev.

I think you will all agree the performances and programming of the Showcases this term have been outstanding, from the Valentine's Day concert in February, to the Hans Keller inspired programme at the beginning of March, and concluding with the whole School performing the



Nikolai Demidenko

choral work *Quatre Motets pour un temps de pénitence* by Poulenc a few weeks ago. We are so fortunate to have such talented youngsters on our doorstep.

It seems a long time ago now, but Peter Medhurst's Twelfth Night performance at the beginning of January was an absolute treat, and a great way to kick-start the term. In March, the National Youth Harp Orchestra returned with their usual

magical performance and, continuing their cycle of Beethoven Piano Concerti, Surrey Mozart Players performed a wonderful concert with pianist James Brawn.

Thank you to all our concertgoers for making this term such a success.

Alice Benzing  
Manager, The Menuhin Hall



Alina, Cédric, Zamira, David Dolan and pupils



The Piccadilly Dance Orchestra

## Next term

Summer term at The Yehudi Menuhin School would not be the same without the Summer Festival (and academic exams, of course!), but before then, we have a plethora of concerts over the coming months.

Alongside the two Showcases in May and another in June, we are holding a belated Founder's Day concert in April with alumnus Emmanuel Despax (sold out), Anthony Marwood performs

a wonderful programme including Schubert and Elgar in May, and Beethoven's life will be examined in a new concert drama performed by the Dante Quartet in June.

We are also looking forward to performances by alumna Wu Qian as part of the Investec International Music Festival in May, and some incredible choral programmes from Ember Choral and Farnham Youth Choir in June.



The Dante Quartet



Emmanuel Despax

## Coming up @ The Menuhin Hall

### APRIL

TUES 30 APR 7.30PM CHOPIN CONCERTI WITH EMMANUEL DESPAX

### MAY

MON 6 MAY 7.30PM SHOWCASE CONCERT

THURS 9 MAY 7.30PM AN AMERICAN IN PARIS

THURS 16 MAY 1.15PM LUNCHTIME SHOWCASE CONCERT

THURS 23 MAY 7.30PM ANTHONY MARWOOD AND ALEKSANDAR MADŽAR

### JUNE

FRI 7 JUNE 7.30PM SHOWCASE CONCERT

SAT 8 JUNE 7.30PM EMBER CHORAL PRESENTS AN EVENING OF BRAHMS

TUES 11 JUNE 7.30PM DANTE QUARTET

SUN 30 JUNE 5PM FARNHAM YOUTH CHOIR

## Summer Festival

This year we have introduced a second Orchestral Concert to try to accommodate the demand for tickets.

There are still a few seats left for the Orchestral Concerts, as well as for our six Summer Showcase Concerts, so book soon to avoid disappointment!

### Summer Festival Concert dates:

- 4 JUL @ 7.30pm - SHOWCASE 1
- 5 JUL @ 7.30pm - SHOWCASE 2
- 6 JUL @ 2pm & 7.30pm - SHOWCASES 3 & 4
- 7 JUL @ 2pm & 7.30pm - SHOWCASES 5 & 6
- 12 JUL @ 7.30pm - ORCHESTRAL SHOWCASE
- 13 JUL @ 5pm - ORCHESTRAL PICNIC

## Thank you

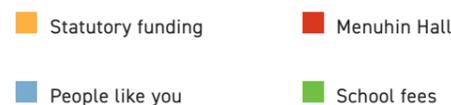
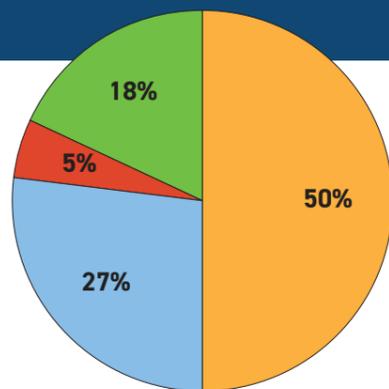
It has been a busy term for the Development Department and a fun one too, with two key events – The 1963 Society Dinner and Effingham Golf Club Concert – as well as lots of visits from donors old and new to the School.

Without people like you – our Friends and supporters – the School simply wouldn't exist, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your generosity.

## Did you know...

**...that nearly 30% of the School's income comes from people like you? And that just 18% of our income comes from school fees?**

This academic year we need to raise £1.2 million through donations, grants and gifts in wills to support the young musicians of the future. At the time of printing, we have raised nearly 80% of our target, with another £260,000 to go before the end of August. This will enable us to provide bursaries to 17 pupils as well as fund other critical areas of the School's work.



**To hear more about how you can help us close the gap, please contact Alix de Mauny, Development Director on [alix.demauny@menuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:alix.demauny@menuhinschool.co.uk) or 01932 584746.**

## A new partnership

In February we were delighted to welcome to the School Richard Winter and Tamara Russell from Savills, to hear a concert and join pupils and staff over lunch. So impressed were they with what they saw and heard that they decided to help the School through making a very special offer to our Friends (details below). We are immensely grateful for their enthusiasm and support.



## 1963 Society Musical Dinner - celebrating your generosity

On 21 March Zamira Menuhin Benthall hosted a 'Musical Dinner' for members of The 1963 Society, the group that brings together those of our supporters who have pledged to leave a gift to the School in their will. After a private tour of the Music Studios, our guests were treated to a wonderful three course supper, prepared with infinite care by Head Chef Jean Labourg, and interspersed with performances by our pupils.



The theme for the evening, devised by Jean and Óscar, was music and food inspired by the Basque country, lying as it does between their two countries of origin. The evening was enjoyed by all, with guests waxing particularly lyrical about the Confit Rhubarb with Rhubarb and Prosecco Jelly, Rhubarb Chantilly and Lime Tuile!

**To learn more about joining The 1963 Society, please contact Beth Quartermaine on 01932 584744 or [beth.quartermaine@menuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:beth.quartermaine@menuhinschool.co.uk).**

## The Savills Surrey offices are proud to support The Yehudi Menuhin School.

We would like to invite you to accept the offer of a free market appraisal of your property. If, as a Friend, you sell your property through one of our Surrey offices we will donate £1,000 from our fee to the School.

Simply telephone to arrange an appointment.

Savills Cobham 01932 586200  
Savills Esher 01372 461900  
Savills Guildford 01483 796820  
Savills Weybridge 01932 838000

## From the Chairman

### Dear Friends

The Friends AGM was held on 27 March in the Music Studios and it was good to see so many familiar faces attending. All resolutions were carried unanimously and your Management Committee Members were all re-elected for another year.

After the end of formal business, Kate Clanchy talked animatedly about her enthusiasm for the School but touched on the financial challenges that are a feature of school life - in particular the need to raise over £1 million in gifts every year (in addition to fees paid by parents and Government support, which has barely increased in ten years) to enable the School to keep going and attract the very best students. She said she saw the Friends as being at the heart of the School through attending concerts and other events, volunteering and their

palpable enthusiasm for the pupils. I joined her in thanking all of you. Then Óscar Colomina i Bosch gave us an intriguing insight into how the programmes for the Showcase



Concerts are put together, quite often at the last minute when he feels a pupil has worked on a piece to the point where it is just right for performance.

We would like even more help from Friends, if possible. Of course, we hope you will continue to introduce new Friends. Then there are Friends who are unable to come to concerts because they can no longer drive or do not like driving in the dark. So we would like to set up a car share scheme if we can find some willing drivers. We are also planning to have a Friends' table at all events in The Menuhin Hall, and we need some

Friends to volunteer to man it. And it would be of great help in enabling us to recruit new Friends if we could find one or two volunteers to attend local events where the pupils are playing. If any of these activities appeal to you, please get in touch with Beth Quartermaine (01932 584744 / [beth.quartermaine@menuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:beth.quartermaine@menuhinschool.co.uk)).

The evening finished with Giorgio playing some Liszt with great finesse, followed by some exquisite violin playing by Viviane of *Chausson's Poème*, beautifully accompanied as usual by Svitlana Kosenko on the piano.

These wonderful players were a splendid reminder that the School is indeed all about its pupils and that is what inspires us to keep coming.

Best wishes,

**Sir John Baker**  
Chairman, The Friends of The Yehudi Menuhin School Management Committee

## Join us! Become a Friend today

Lord Menuhin founded the Friends in 1971 together with a few local supporters of the School. Since then the Friends have grown to over 750 supporters from all over the globe, offering financial assistance to the School and a warm, supportive presence at concerts. Many of our Friends enjoy following the journey of our pupils as they progress through the School and into the wider world as professional musicians.

Friends enjoy a range of benefits, including priority booking for performances in The Menuhin Hall, invitations to masterclasses and pre-concert receptions, and special offers from local businesses, including 20% off at The Old Plough in Cobham, 10% off at The Cobham Bookstore and half-price membership of Denbies Winery. Best Friends also receive

complimentary tickets to a Summer Festival Showcase Concert.

If you enjoy listening to outstanding music and supporting emerging talent, become a member today. Membership starts at only £35 per year. Just email [friends@menuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:friends@menuhinschool.co.uk) to request an information pack, or pick one up in The Menuhin Hall foyer.

## Friends Community

Those of you who come to The Menuhin Hall will no doubt have experienced the familial and supportive atmosphere amongst the Friends, pupils and staff. This is one of the areas of the School of which we are most proud, and we have some ideas around how we can make the most of this support.

### Become an Ambassador

We are looking for volunteers to run a brand new Friends desk at events at The Menuhin Hall, and to spread the word about the Friends at local concerts in the community.

As our most committed supporters, you are the best ambassadors for the School, and we hope you will help us share our music with as many local residents as possible.

### Give a Friend a lift

We are saddened to hear that some Friends can no longer join us for evening concerts at The Menuhin Hall as they are not able to drive in the dark. To address this we would like to help facilitate a car sharing scheme to link up local people who are able to help a neighbour by providing a lift to our concerts. This scheme will also have the benefit of reducing traffic in the area on concert days and improving the environment.

**If you think you can help in any of these ways or would like further information, please contact Beth Quartermaine on 01932 584744 or [beth.quartermaine@menuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:beth.quartermaine@menuhinschool.co.uk).**

## Effingham Golf Club



On Friday 15 March, we were honoured to be invited to give a charity concert at Effingham Golf Club. The event was organised by YMS Friend Lynn Aylward, who is also the Ladies' Captain at the Golf Club. Lynn had organised a similar event several years ago at Clandon Golf.

The evening was a huge success, with unforgettable performances by the

pupils and a delicious buffet by the Club. Tickets were sold out, and proceeds were split between YMS and The Wooden Spoon. Since the concert, we are pleased to report that we have welcomed new audience members and Friends to the School as a result.

If you are interested in organising an event for the School then we would love to hear from you. Please contact Beth Quartermaine on [beth.quartermaine@menuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:beth.quartermaine@menuhinschool.co.uk) or 01932 584744 to discuss your ideas.

## Bridge Tea

Back by popular demand, the Friends' Annual Bridge Tea event will be held on **Friday 10 May** in The Menuhin Hall.

Players will have the opportunity to play either Chicago or Rubber Bridge, and will be treated to a delicious afternoon tea. There will also be a raffle followed by a short concert by current YMS pupils.

Tickets are £36 per table and there are still a few tables left, so please contact Amy Mitchell at [friends@menuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:friends@menuhinschool.co.uk) or 01932 584409 to book.

The School would like to extend a special thank you to Sheila Rice-Smith and the Friends Events Committee for their hard work in organising this popular event.



### Are your details up to date?

Help us to ensure your *What's On* brochure, newsletter, concert tickets and other communications reach you by keeping us updated with your current contact details.

The quickest way to update your information is to send an email to [friends@menuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:friends@menuhinschool.co.uk).



# WIGMORE HALL 2019

Join us to hear our senior pupils perform in the iconic London concert hall

SUNDAY 30 JUNE  
7.30PM

**Concert ticket and coach offer exclusively for the Friends of The Yehudi Menuhin School**

**Full name:** .....  
**Address:** .....  
 .....  
**Postcode:** .....  
**Telephone:** .....  
**Email:** .....

**Concert tickets:**  
 Qty ..... @ £18.00 = £.....  
**Return coach:**  
 Qty ..... @ £15.00 = £.....  
**Total: £** .....

**Please make cheques payable to 'Friends of The Yehudi Menuhin School'**

The coach will depart from the School car park at 5pm and then depart from Wigmore Hall at 10pm to return to the School car park.

**Please complete this form and return with your payment no later than Friday 11 May to: Beth Quartermaine, The Yehudi Menuhin School, Stoke d'Abernon, Cobham, Surrey KT11 3QQ.**  
 For more information, please call 01932 584744 or email [friends@menuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:friends@menuhinschool.co.uk).

Tickets will be available for pick-up at the coach or in the foyer of Wigmore Hall on the evening of the concert.

**THIS OFFER IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO FRIENDS. DEADLINE TO RETURN THE BOOKING FORM IS FRIDAY 11 MAY. WE REQUIRE A MINIMUM NUMBER TO BE ABLE TO OFFER THE COACH. IF THIS NUMBER IS NOT REACHED, WE WILL CONTACT YOU TO OFFER A FULL REFUND.**





Photography by Caitlin Chan, Tony Chipps, Kate Clanchy, Jenny Dexter, Dave Greenwood, Nigel Luckhurst, Sarah McDonald, Tamas Reti and Cathy Whitnall. Edited by Sarah McDonald.