



The Yehudi Menuhin School

The International
Music School founded
by Yehudi Menuhin

Registered Charity 312010

ISSUE
#69

Newsletter *Spring 2018*

Welcome

Welcome to the Spring edition of the YMS newsletter. It has been a rich and busy term, and only a small selection of our activities has been captured in the following pages. The School has still been buzzing in the holidays, with pupils flying out to compete in the Paganini Competition in Genoa and the Menuhin Competition in Geneva; jazz ensembles rehearsing in the Music Studios; recordings in The Menuhin Hall; maintenance works being carried out on the estate; and, only a few weeks after the last snowfall, summer bedding plants being laid out for next season.

As the incoming Head this term, I realise that it is the atmosphere of the School rather than the one-off events which makes it so special: the commitment and collegiality of the staff; the openness of the pupils and the joy they communicate through their music; the engagement of the Friends, who regularly attend concerts and follow the pupils' progress through the School. An ordinary day here will include the sound of practice from



Kate Clanchy

dawn to dusk; the sight-reading of a Bach chorale at morning meeting; a delicious lunch prepared by our wonderful chef and his team; a game of football on our unique sloping pitch; and chamber music rehearsals after supper. Meanwhile, academic studies continue apace.

Whatever role we each play in the school community, we are united by

a love of music and an appreciation of what the School stands for. Yehudi Menuhin said, "The most blessed and privileged of all callings is that of the musician, who acts as interpreter, inspirer, teacher, healer, consoler and above all, as a humble servant...". It is both a privilege and a humbling experience to be part of this remarkable community.

BBC Young Musician 2018

For the 40th anniversary of BBC Young Musician, we were proud to have two students in the Strings Final – Will Duerden (17) playing the double bass and Max Calver (18) playing the cello.

Max and Will travelled to the Birmingham Conservatoire in March to compete against three other talented young string players. Both

boys performed incredibly well and we are pleased to report that Max won first place. The semi-final featuring all five category winners will be broadcast on BBC Four on 11 May, and the Grand Final from Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on 13 May.

The entire School is extremely proud of both boys for their achievements.



Max Calver



Will Duerden



Max being interviewed by the BBC

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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 the best part is our YouTube channel which we keep updated with awe-inspiring videos of our students playing Schubert, Vaughan Williams, Finzi, Wolf and much more. Through our YouTube channel you can watch and listen to our students 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 to see what we are up to.

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A fresh start to the New Year

Music House

Visitors to the School will have noticed the improvements that have recently been made to the site to make it even more beautiful. We have contracted landscaping firm The Surrey Garden to brighten



our flower beds with a gorgeous array of trees and plants, including hydrangeas, spiral bay trees, acers, weeping cherries, hellebores and primroses. The planters outside The Menuhin Hall have been rejuvenated



with a fresh coat of paint, drawing numerous compliments from concert-goers.

After consultation with Zamira Menuhin-Benthall, there has also been some new landscaping in the area of Yehudi's stela, including the addition of a special yellow rosebush called 'Sun'. Yellow roses have long been associated with friendship, joy, wisdom and optimism, making them an ideal choice to adorn the memorial site of our Founder.

There have also been some changes made to the Recital Room, including new lighting to perk up the seating area and a new collection of artwork on the walls. The bust of Yehudi stands proudly at the front.

There will be more enhancements made in the coming months in order to make our School an even more inspiring place to live, work and make music.

First Showcase

The Menuhin Hall was packed for our first Showcase of 2018. The concert was a very special one for many reasons, not least because it was the first concert under our new Head, Kate Clanchy.

Kate welcomed everyone and remarked how excited she was to be here at the School, and to see so many people in the audience, including students from Ripley Court School and Cobham Free School. Kate was followed by Director of Music, Óscar Colomina i Bosch, who gave the audience some insight into the pieces they were about to hear. Óscar then introduced pupil Katie Morgan, who had been raising money for the Starlight Children's Foundation as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. Through her fundraising efforts, Katie raised over £300 for Starlight, and presented the charity's representative, Rachel Marsh, with a cheque.

However, undoubtedly the most exciting part of the event was the incredible, hour-long performance by the School's Trio Pantoum of Katie Morgan, Max Calver and Songha Choi, playing Brahms *Piano Trio No 3 Op 101 in C minor* followed by Ravel *Piano Trio in A minor*, much to the delight of the audience.



Katie presents the cheque

Tilman Hoppstock

On 9 March the guitarists were once again delighted to have a masterclass with the great German guitarist Tilman Hoppstock. He also listened to their assessments which was probably a little nerve-wracking! This was Tilman's third visit to YMS and he was as challenging and inspirational as ever. We are already looking forward to his next visit.



Tilman Hoppstock



Trio Pantoum performing on stage at The Menuhin Hall



Yume Tomita

Competitions

Trio Pantoum (Katie, SongHa and Max) won first prize in the inaugural Intercollegiate Piano Trio Competition at The Royal Conservatoire in Birmingham before embarking on a successful tour to the Netherlands, where they played at the Concertgebouw and received a standing ovation at The Conservatorium van Amsterdam for their performance of Ravel *Piano Trio*.

You can view the Trio's incredible performance of Schubert *Notturmo* recorded in The Menuhin Hall on our YouTube channel.

Yume Tomita (10) won third place at the International Grumiaux Competition for Young Violinists in Brussels. She played Fiocco *Allegro*, and Paganini *Caprice No.20* for her first round, and Sarasate *Zigeunerweisen* for the final round. Well done Yume!

Composition Project Update

We have just finished recording the 36th (and final) piece that had been composed by GCSE and A-level students at local schools as part of

this project. After an introductory lecture by Head of Composition, John Cooney in September, Tamas Reti, the School's Outreach Officer visited each participating school fortnightly to check on the progress of the compositions and to help the students put their ideas on

paper. Both the workshops in January and the recording sessions in March proved how even the simplest idea can turn into heartfelt music, elevated by an outstanding performance – YMS students benefitted hugely from this collaborative experience.

Concerts in the Community

One of the term's special events took place at Cossins House, Cobham, on 22 February when our students played at a surprise celebration of the 100th birthday of Sister Mary-Agnes. Residents and staff at the care home were amazed by the talent and professionalism of the six students who came to perform. A Haydn quartet was followed by Paganini which led to a selection of Scottish songs arranged for guitar – charmingly accompanied by a choir of delighted Cossins House residents.

As part of our regular series of concerts in primary schools, the C's and D's, led by Nathan Williamson, visited four schools, including Dysart, a school for pupils with severe and complex learning disabilities. Whether it was an intimate recital for 15-20 reception pupils or morning assembly for hundreds of children



Isla Schwarz plays at Wood Street Infant School

in Years 3–6, our musicians left a powerful impression on their audience, creating much excitement and bringing inspiration to many enthusiastic listeners.

Here are two 'testimonials' from Katherine Potter (Wood Street Infant School) and Claire Robins (Oakfield and St John's C of E).

Wood Street Infant School:

(...) all of our children and staff are in awe with how amazing your students are. The children haven't stopped talking about it. They listened so well, came back to class and were able to name the students, the instrument they played and which performance they liked best.

We have a violin tutor who comes into school once a week to work with some of our children. One of our girls said she had wanted to give up the violin because it was too hard and her mum had told her to keep practising as it will be worth it. She told her class teacher that after seeing your

students she knew her mum was right and wanted to keep on playing.

Oakfield Junior School:

Students from the Yehudi Menuhin School came to perform for the whole school. Children were so excited and engaged to see children of similar ages to themselves performing and demonstrating such high levels of performance skills, mastery of technique and confidence. Many of our students were keen to ask questions of the students and teachers during the session and had many further questions in lessons that followed. It has really helped children feel more confident exploring music that is from the classical genre. It has provided an excellent link into exploring some of the pieces from BBC Ten Pieces as part of our next module of work as they have recognised many of the instruments they have seen in the orchestral film clips. One of our students has moved to join The Yehudi Menuhin School to continue her studies as a violinist.



Pupils at Cossins House

Poetry Day

All the pupils had a day of poetry and creative writing in the first full week of term led by poet, writer and magician, Nick Toczec.

He began with a performance of his poems and writing interspersed with magic tricks, and then ran creative writing workshops throughout the day for all the pupils.

Nick began with a challenge to write a short story using exactly six words and told us about a reluctant teenager who refused to write anything. Eventually Nick persuaded him to compose his story – “Bald man made me write this”!



Nathan Perry

Nick produced plenty of ideas to start the creative process: HOORAY / BOO poems start with a nice idea and then spoil it.

Everyone then had an hour to create their poems and stories and Nick

suggested ways to edit, improve and polish a rough draft.

The day ended very enjoyably back in the Recital Room with pupils reading their poems and stories accompanied by plenty of laughter and applause.



Nick Toczec discusses creative writing

Head's Presentations Spring Term 2018

UK Maths Trust Intermediate Maths Challenge 2018

Gold Certificate
Tai Luanghvisut

Silver Certificates
Gorka Plada Giron
Ezo Dem Sarici
Jude Usborne

Bronze Certificates
Judith Botanch
Molly McGregor

Commendations for Ten Merits

B2
Evie Calver
Molly McGregor

C3
Duru Erdogan
Kyota Kakiuchi
Pendo Masote
Stefanija Nikolich
Nathan Perry x 2
Mika Petrovic
Ignacy Stefanowicz
Eva Ter-Sarkisova
Jude Usborne

C2
Isla Forbes
Tom Yang
Richard Zhang

C1
Ilya Prieto Clynes
Clara-Sophia Wernig

D's
Caitlin Chan
Magnus Forbes
Seoyul Kim
Laura Lin
Yume Tomita
Claire Wang

Presentation of framed programmes to the cast of *The Two of Us*

Concert trips

To complement the Celebrity Concert Series in The Menuhin Hall, the School took pupils to concerts in London. The first was to hear YMS alumna Nicola Benedetti perform Beethoven *Violin Concerto* with The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under the

baton of Marin Alsop. At the concert, Marin Alsop was presented with the 2018 Association of British Orchestras award, which she dedicated “to the future generation of conductors, musicians and audiences.”

The next trip was to hear the Endellion Quartet at Wigmore Hall. Three of the Quartet’s members are

YMS alumni, and they invited us to the Green Room afterwards for a reception and a chat.

At the end of term, 14 pupils went to hear Daniil Trifonov perform Tchaikovsky *Piano Concerto No 1* at The Festival Hall. It was great fun meeting up with recent YMS alumni during the interval.

Pancake Day (by Nathan Perry)

Our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh group and I held a pancake sale on 21 February for charity, as part of the volunteering section of our award. We cooked pancakes to order and supplied a variety of delicious toppings. The sale was a complete success and we raised over £50. We were pleased to contribute to Action Medical Research for Children, a charity which can help young people like us have a future.



DofE group makes pancakes

X Men Match 2018

On 18 March the annual X Men football game took place. Despite the cold weather and last minute talk of cancelling the game due to snow on the pitch, the current students managed to snatch victory with a score of 7-6 in a very closely fought match. Max Calver

certainly deserved the Man of the Match title with a goal and great contribution to his team. With this result the current students managed to extend their winning streak. The reunion was celebrated in style with refreshment. It was great seeing everyone and we hope to have a keen team of alumni back next year.



The School team with the X Men

School Quiz

The School Quiz is an event that features high on the YMS entertainment calendar for both staff and students alike. The teachers love the challenge of finding that Golden Question that will ultimately stump the pupils. The pupils relish the chance to stock up on some tasty treats and the chance to win the Golden Prize in the form of a giant refined chocolate egg to share with the team.

Rumour has it some teachers have embedded this game night into their lesson plans to cram in the missing bits and pieces of their curricula. This year’s edition featured a new and particularly mystifying round, in which pupils had to scrutinise photographs of various members of staff in their younger days and guess who they were. There were roars of laughter as these strapping youngsters were finally identified.

After several rigorous rounds of mental activity it became clear there were two teams within inches of overall victory. However, in the end there was a clear winner securing eternal fame in the chronicles of YMS history and perhaps a tummy ache the next morning.

Bank of England Museum

Our C Group took a trip to the Square Mile, the historic financial centre of London, to visit The Bank of England Museum. The Museum displays a wealth of historical material drawn from the Bank's own



collections of books, documents, silver, prints, paintings, banknotes, coins and photographs. As part of their financial maths topic, they learned about the effects of inflation and the role of a central bank, and were shown the different security features on current banknotes. They were very interested to learn how George Frideric Handel played the stock market (he was reportedly a solid investor!) and the students had the opportunity to view his original account ledgers.

Another highlight was the display of gold, including Roman and modern gold bars, alongside pikes and muskets once used to defend the Bank. Everyone had fun getting to handle real gold bars, which were surprisingly heavy at over 12kg in weight and valued at £380,000.

C's visit the Science Museum

On a snowy day in February, when Fetcham was at a standstill, the C3's travelled into London to visit the Science museum. There they spent time in the 'Wonderlab' having a hands on experience with experiments on sound, friction, static and centrifugal force. They took the opportunity to explore some other rooms in the vast museum, and the trip ended with a film at the IMAX cinema about the hidden universe. It was a great day out!



Old Operating Theatre Museum

14 March 2018

Dear Diary,
Today was the best day ever! D Group, together with Janet, Philippa, Jeanne, and three older pupils, Ezo, Evie and Molly, went to The Old Operating Theatre at London Bridge.

To enter the Old Operating Theatre Museum, we climbed a winding staircase which was extremely steep. Then, a man called Gareth welcomed us into a room which was dark and smelled of many herbs.

After we had looked around the room, Gareth took us to the operating theatre where in the Victorian times the patient was operated on. In the theatre there was a wooden table where the patient would have lain down and had a very painful operation. There was also a space where the people who were observing the operation could stand to watch. As many as 120 could squish into the observation area – that must have

been very stuffy and smelly as no windows could open.

Magnus had his leg amputated (not for real thankfully) and Gareth showed us all the tools that were needed for Victorian operations. Seoyul and Isla volunteered to be Magnus's nurses. They put the tourniquet around his leg so that blood wouldn't escape and had to be ready to hold him down (no anaesthetic in those days!)

We then moved to a herb garret where we all made pills with plasticine and herbs. But in the Victorian times, they would have used either bread or egg yolk instead of the plasticine.

Yume (age 10)



The Two of Us

Review by Richard Tanner

Wit and wisdom and the touching beauty of young people seeking out their independence captivated an enraptured audience in The Menuhin Hall. *The Two of Us*, an original musical with book written by Kendra Shute and songs and lyrics by Alan Humm received its world première by YMS students to great acclaim this term. The dialogue and dancing were spot on and the songs caught the mood and then, as good music always does, transformed it.

Mira Marton and Natasha Petrovic played the vulnerable twins Emily and Hannah at the centre of the action. Tied together by love and their shared life Hannah was all wide eyed eagerness, keen to take her chances despite her failing heart and looking for friends and fun on their belated first day of school. Emily held back initially but was dragged along by Natasha's impetuosity and the friendship with Jazz (Finlay Hay) and Sam (Nathan Perry) began.

Jazz's vulnerability was cloaked in a cocky self-assurance and leather jacket and Finlay was a suitably charismatic leading man. Sam, more reflective and introverted, was his mate and the pair formed a captivating counterpoint to our twins.

Dancing symbolised freedom for Emily, and Mira danced with poise and yearning, firstly on her own in her room, then with an imaginary Fred Astaire, Ben Whitnall, who danced and choreographed with consummate skill, and finally with Jazz.

The challenging roles of the parents were played by Martin Keane as a drunken and dysfunctional dad, "Dead drunk or just dog tired,



he spoils everything that he once inspired" and Katie Morgan who acted the stressed and isolated mum, "A lonely heart is like a landmine nestling inside the house I worked so hard to help to build".

Insight into character was nicely given by interviews with Dr Ainsworth, played with authority and assurance by Aida Lahlou, and the heartache was observed and filmed by documentary filmmaker Christina Phillipe (Alix Vaillot) with suitably cool calculation and detachment.

The quartet, on stage throughout, played elegant and stylish accompaniment for the singing and dancing. Playing quietly and musically they delighted



the audience with the effective orchestrations arranged by Joseph Pritchard and SongHa Choi.

Alan and Kendra have created a special musical and fully deserved the warm applause they received at the end of the production.





Birthday celebrations with Lourdes Samarasekara

Winter news

It has been a packed programme in The Menuhin Hall this term. We welcomed the vibrant quintet, ZRI (with past pupil Max Baillie) for an evening of Schubert and gypsy music, which certainly helped to shake off those winter blues. In February, Paul Roberts gave a wonderful performance of Debussy *Images* and *Preludes* preceded by a special talk on Debussy's music. Former pupil and current YMS teacher Bartholomew LaFollette,

along with pianist Caroline Palmer, showcased works by Brahms, Stravinsky and Poulenc to an incredibly appreciative audience (some of whom Bartholomew teaches on a weekly basis). We were thrilled that the world première of Óscar Colomina i Bosch's *Rotten Wood and Damaged Iron* was performed here in The Menuhin Hall by the Linos Piano Trio. Their rehearsal of Dukas *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* was filmed by Classic FM – you can find it on our Facebook page. The entire

programme that evening was truly magical, and was a fitting way to finish this term.

YMS pupils have performed in four incredibly well attended, and beautifully programmed Showcase concerts, and we have also welcomed outside organisations including Surrey Mozart Players, National Youth Harp Orchestra and Stagecoach Cobham. Our pupils also performed in a charity concert organised by the Fundraising Friends in aid of Sight for Surrey.

Coming up at the Hall

In the Summer term, The Menuhin Duo (Jeremy and Mookie) return for a sold-out Founder's Day concert, the Castalian String Quartet are performing a beautiful programme, and we welcome back the incredible Imogen Cooper. Alongside our pupils' Showcase Concert Series, we are also hosting a lecture day presented by Peter Medhurst, The Belcea Quartet are here as part of the Investec International Music Festival, and Watermill Jazz are presenting Evelyn Glennie and Trio HLK.



Jeremy and Mookie Menuhin

New lighting installation in The Menuhin Hall

Recent visitors to The Menuhin Hall will have found the Hall looking fresh and bright since the installation of a new chandelier lighting system by the wonderful team of White Light Ltd, Anne Minors Performance Consultants and Sound Space Vision.

With the old fluorescent system having been in place in the Hall since it opened in 2006, it was definitely time for an upgrade, so Hall Manager Alice Benzing went back to the experts at White Light.

Installation Manager Stuart Bourne said, "Due to the acoustic requirements of the Hall, the ceiling is extremely high. What this meant was the chandeliers were hung roughly 12m in the air. The DMX and power were run through this cable and we wanted to create a system where we didn't need to re-cable." To achieve this, White Light decided on a brand-new ArchPro Wireless GDS lighting system. This is driven via a wireless transmitter that sits near the control room and communicates to a driver

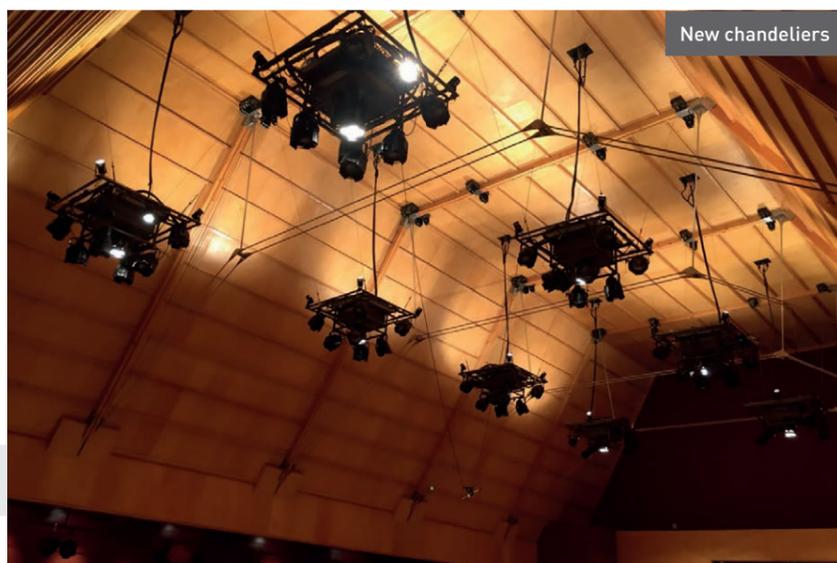
installed in each chandelier. The high-efficiency LEDs will reduce the Hall's energy use by 70-90% and also have a reduced CO2 output. White Light also installed new emergency lighting fittings which integrated with the new lighting system. Each unit features two LED lamps with independent horizontal and vertical adjustability and are designed to activate only when there is a loss of mains power.

Alice Benzing comments, "The entire WL team was friendly, efficient and professional throughout this installation. The new LEDs provide even coverage and

are fully dimmable. It has given the Hall a new lease of life, and visitors have commented on how beautiful it looks now when lit. We cannot thank WL enough!"

Brian Fifield, the Hall's Technical Manager, couldn't be more pleased with the new system. "The installation of the new LED houselights in the Hall is the most welcome project for me since I became Technical Manager. The WL team has done an amazing job – the new lights have given the auditorium that freshly-built look all over again".

We look forward to welcoming you to the Hall to see for yourself!



New chandeliers



The Castalian String Quartet



Evelyn Glennie

Spring @ The Menuhin Hall

APRIL

MON 16 APRIL	10.30am	MOZART IN VIENNA 1781-1791
SUN 22 APRIL	7.30pm	JEREMY MENUHIN FOUNDER'S DAY CONCERT
MON 30 APRIL	7.30pm	SHOWCASE CONCERT

MAY

THURS 3 MAY	7.30pm	THE BELCEA QUARTET
FRI 11 MAY	1.20pm	LUNCHTIME SHOWCASE CONCERT
THURS 24 MAY	7.30pm	CASTALIAN STRING QUARTET

For further details please see The Menuhin Hall *What's On* guide or visit www.themenuhinhall.co.uk

Summer Festival

Our Orchestral Picnic Concert on 1 July is now sold out but there are still seats left for our ever-popular Summer Festival from 5-8 July. Book your tickets now to avoid disappointment.

Summer Festival dates:

- 5 July 7.30pm
- 6 July 7.30pm
- 7 July 2pm & 7.30pm
- 8 July 2pm & 7.30pm

Staff News

This term, we were pleased to welcome new staff to our family:

Kate Clanchy is our new Head. Before taking over from Richard Hillier at the start of term, Kate was Senior Master at Westminster School. She was previously Deputy Head and Director of Studies at St Paul's Girls' School. She has an MA in Modern Languages from Cambridge, an MBA from Insead and an MA in Education from London, and has had a life-long love of music.



Lisa Guy

She worked in publishing, consulting and industry in Moscow, Paris and London before a career in education.



Stephen Foden

Stephen Foden replaces Ben Wythie as Assistant Estates Manager. Stephen lived in France for 16 years and worked at Downsend and St Theresa's Schools. He will be working with Brian Harris to keep the site looking smart and functioning well.

Lisa Guy replaces Poppy Telling in Reception. Lisa comes to us from Surrey County Council and has a BA in Early Childhood Studies from Roehampton University. Hers is the very cheerful voice you will hear when you call the School, so please join us in making her feel welcome.



Kate Clanchy and Oscar Colomina i Bosch

Alumni news

Ben Baker made his New York City recital debut at Merkin Concert Hall in January. You can view the performance by searching for Ben Baker on The Violin Channel.

Nicola Benedetti returned to the School early in the term to film a TV documentary. Keep an eye on our Twitter feed for more information and the airing date!

Marcus Gaved has won a full Fellowship to attend Aspen this summer.

Igudesman & Joo recently made appearances with the New York



São Soulez Larivière

Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, London Philharmonic and the Tonhalle Orchester Zürich.

There is a full-page spread on Tasmin Little in the March issue of *BBC Music Magazine* where she discusses her time at the School. Tasmin has just returned from performing in Australia.

São Soulez Larivière won both Third Prize and Bach Prize at the Aronowitz Competition in Manchester.

If you are an alum and have some news or a story that you would like to share, please contact Sarah McDonald, Marketing and Communications Manager, at sarah.mcdonald@menuhinschool.co.uk or 01932 584791.

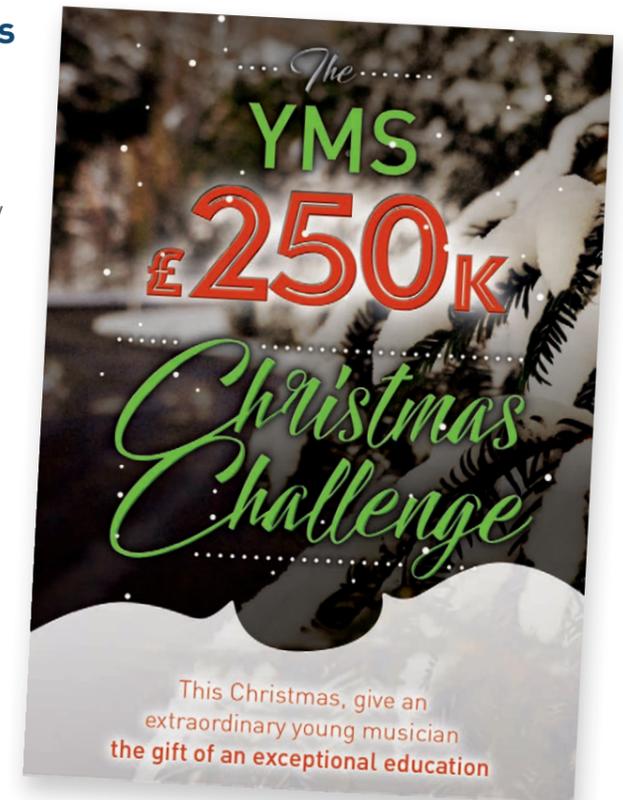
YMS £250k Christmas Challenge Results

Thank you to everyone who supported The YMS 250K Christmas Challenge. We are delighted to announce that we raised an incredible £111,504.79.

Every pound of this is being matched by our extraordinarily generous anonymous donors. Once Gift Aid and match funding has been added, the total comes to a truly stunning £270,000 (£20,000 more than our original 250K target!)

We can now reveal that our anonymous donors are a local Surrey family who have been devoted supporters of the School since its creation in 1963. They have asked us to thank everyone for joining them in the campaign, and they are thrilled to see how our community have risen to this challenge and come together to raise such an incredible amount.

The School would like to thank all who donated and offer a special thanks to our anonymous donors, without whom we could not have run this match-funding campaign. Every penny will go to our Bursary Fund, which enables us to admit students on the basis of talent alone, regardless of their social or economic circumstances.



The Foundling Museum

The end of March saw a very special evening where we played a concert in a unique setting in London. We had been looking for a London venue to perform for some potential new patrons and thought the Foundling Museum was a fitting choice as their ethos is very much in line with ours. Their tagline is 'Where artists and children have inspired each other since 1740'.

The Foundling Hospital was established in 1739 by Thomas Coram to care for and educate some of London's most vulnerable inhabitants. Instrumental in helping Coram realise his vision were the artist William Hogarth and the composer George Frideric Handel, whose archives are on display as part of the permanent collection. Hogarth and Handel's contributions created the template

for the relationship between the arts and philanthropy. Yehudi Menuhin believed very strongly in this idea and, in addition to the organisations that he founded or was actively involved with, he was a sponsor, patron or board member for hundreds of cultural and charitable organisations.

As a registered charity, the School is dependent on the generosity of a wide range of patrons and benefactors to carry out Menuhin's vision. All donations, no matter the size, make a difference in the lives of our young musicians.

For more information about how you can help, please contact the Development Department on development@menuhinschool.co.uk or 01932 584409.



From the Chairman

Dear Friends

Spring brings with it an undeniable sense of renewal, and indeed this can be felt around the School community in a myriad of ways. The new Head, Kate Clanchy, hit the ground running at the start of term and received a warm welcome from the Friends at the AGM on 19 March. She thanked the Friends for the many ways in which they provide support, including regular attendance at concerts and much-needed financial help through bursaries



John Baker

and student aid, a sentiment later echoed by Susan Mitchell during the report on the Annual Accounts. Kate also praised the family atmosphere at the School, which can be felt throughout the entire community from the youngest students to the longest-standing Friends, and made a plea for all Friends to help widen our family by ensuring that everyone in the local area knows that we are here and ready to welcome them, so please do continue to spread the word. And speaking of spreading the word, as you can

see the Friends news has been incorporated into the wider School newsletter, as part of the School's efforts to streamline communications. In addition to saving on costs and reinforcing the connection between Friends and the wider School community, the hope is that this will encourage those supporters who are not yet Friends to join.

Looking forward to the Summer term, there are many wonderful concerts on the calendar, including the annual Summer Festival. I hope to see many of you there.

Best wishes

John Baker, Chairman

Rodney Friend Masterclass

The School held its first open masterclass in February with virtuoso violinist Rodney Friend. It was open only to Friends, many of whom found it interesting to be a fly on the wall and see how guest teachers work with the students. More open masterclasses will be held in the future, so watch out for those in the next newsletter and on your booking form and please come along.



Rodney Friend on stage with pupils

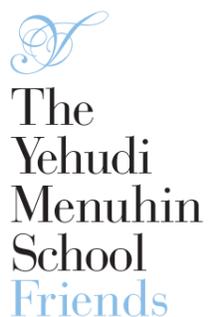
JOIN US – BECOME A FRIEND TODAY

Lord Menuhin founded the Friends of The Yehudi Menuhin School 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 to 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 from around the world, become a member today. Membership starts at only £35 per year. Simply get in touch with the Development Department to request an information pack, or pick one up in The Menuhin Hall foyer.

friends@menuhinschool.co.uk or 01932 584409



Friends Recruitment

This term we have been working on growing our Friends membership.

The Art Society and U3A were kind enough to allow us to have a few minutes of their time during their lectures this term in The Menuhin Hall for the purpose of spreading the word about the Friends. D group pupil Magnus

spoke (much to the delight of both audiences!) about the benefits of being a Friend and was followed by Coco with a short Paganini Caprice for the Art Society, and by Viviane, Molly, Natasha and Joe with Beethoven *Quartet Op 18 No 6*.

We very much appreciate the organisers of both the Art Society

and U3A for giving us this time. If you are a member of a similar group whom you feel would be interested in what we do here at the School, please get in touch with Sarah McDonald, Marketing and Communications Manager, on sarah.mcdonald@menuhinschool.co.uk or 01932 584791.



Magnus Forbes (left) with Viviane Plekhotkine, Natasha Petrovic and Molly McGregor.

Young Friends

We are developing a new programme to encourage local young music lovers to visit The Menuhin Hall and discover all that we have to offer.

YMS Young Friends will be open to anyone under the age of 30. The membership itself is free and will offer members the chance to attend concerts at a reduced price, and also to take advantage of last-minute free ticket offers when we have seats available in the Hall.

Further details will be included with the next newsletter and Menuhin Hall Events brochure in



July, but if you know of any young music lovers, please ask them to get in touch on friends@menuhinschool.co.uk to register their interest.

Friends Annual General Meeting

Despite the icy weather, many of our Friends were able to attend our AGM in March. After some brief refreshments, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Sir John Baker. Sir John welcomed Kate Clanchy, who said a few words about her first term here and what a joy it was to be part of such a wonderful family.

During the meeting, previous minutes and the yearly accounts were approved unanimously and the Friends Management Committee was re-elected for another year. Honorary Treasurer Susan Mitchell thanked the Friends for their financial assistance and reported that over the past five years, the Friends had donated £158,800 which is an average of around £32k each year – an impressive sum – and urged members to think about remembering the School in their will with a legacy gift.

After a rousing speech by Richard Morris, Chairman of the Governors, piano pupil Katie Morgan thanked the Friends for their continued support over the years, and said that it was always comforting to see familiar faces in the audience at concerts. Katie was followed by an inspiring concert by Alfie, Trina, Caterina and Elfida.

Thank you to all Friends who attended.

TICKET AND COACH OFFER FOR FRIENDS OF THE YEHUDI MENUHIN SCHOOL



WIGMORE HALL 29 JUNE 2018

Join us on 29 June at 7.00pm to watch our students perform in the iconic London concert hall.

Full name: _____	Concert ticket: £18.00	Qty _____	Total _____
Address: _____ _____	Return coach: £15.00	_____	_____
Postcode: _____	TOTAL:	_____	_____
Telephone: _____	Please make cheques payable to: 'Friends of The Yehudi Menuhin School'		
Email: _____			

The coach will depart from The Menuhin Hall car park at 4.30pm and then depart from Wigmore Hall at 9.30pm to return to The Menuhin Hall car park.

Please complete this form and return with your payment **no later than Friday 11 May** to:

Amy Mitchell, The Yehudi Menuhin School, Stoke d'Abernon, Cobham, Surrey KT11 3QQ.
For more information, please call 01932 584409 or email friends@menuhinschool.co.uk.

Tickets will be posted to you in due course.

This offer is only available to Friends. Deadline to return the booking form is Friday 11 May.
We require a minimum number of people to be able to offer the coach.
If this number is not reached we will contact you to offer a full refund.

