



The  
Yehudi  
Menuhin  
School

## PROFESSOR OF PIANO Candidate Information Pack



Closing date for applications:  
Friday 13 August, 9am

*(We reserve the right to close this vacancy early should a suitable candidate be found.)*

## A welcome from the Headmaster

Thank you for your interest in this role. I hope that this document tells you everything you need to know about working at our very special school - most importantly, whether it is the place for you.

The Yehudi Menuhin School is set in gorgeous grounds and we strive to promote a collegiate working environment with a strong sense of community. Staff and pupils are on first name terms, and all staff are encouraged to take an active part in the broader life of the school. Being a music school, we hope that everyone who works here has an appreciation and respect for the interests and creativity of our pupils, but we do not expect all staff to be musicians themselves (though over the years many have taken up an instrument as a result of working here!)

We are committed to the wellbeing of all our community, and strive to promote a healthy sense of balance in our pupils and staff. Ongoing professional development is very important to us, and all new staff are given an induction and the training necessary to fulfil their duties.

YMS is an exceptional place - I hope you will join us.

**Ben Gudgeon**  
Headmaster

## A short history of The Yehudi Menuhin School

The Yehudi Menuhin School was founded in 1963 by the celebrated violinist Yehudi Menuhin. A brilliant educator, he feared that the lack of specialist music provision for children at an early age would result in an irreversible decline in the provision of world-class instrumentalists.

Inspired by a visit to Moscow's Central School for Young Musicians, Menuhin set out to develop a specialist music school in the UK for extraordinarily gifted children. These boys and girls, aged between seven and nineteen, would come from all corners of the globe, regardless of their race, creed or parents' financial position. His vision was that the School would not only attract potentially the most outstanding performers of their generation in string instruments and piano, but that they would also become well-rounded and compassionate people as a result of the high quality academic activities and pastoral care provision. Menuhin was also passionate in his belief that the School should share its music with the local community.

In 1964 the School moved from London to its current location in Cobham, Surrey, and gradually expanded to include new teaching and boarding blocks. In 1973 the School was accorded special status as a 'Centre for Excellence for the Performing Arts' and was one of the first schools to receive support from the Department for Education's Music and Dance Scheme. January 2006 saw the opening of the 300-seat Menuhin Hall, greatly enhancing the performance opportunities for the pupils. In 2016, new Music Studios were opened, providing state-of-the-art teaching and practice facilities.

Starting with just 15 pupils in September 1963, the School has expanded significantly over the last five decades while remaining true to Menuhin's values and ethos, and currently hosts around 85 boys and girls between the ages of 11 and 19 from 22 nationalities.

## Purpose of the role:

The Yehudi Menuhin School is looking for a Professor of Piano to join a team of world-class musicians and educators working in a friendly, collaborative and collegiate atmosphere.

Acting as a passionate advocate for the instrument, the Professor of Piano will be expected to take an active role in the identification and recruitment of new pupils in order to help support the work of our existing teachers and develop the reputation of the School's piano department.

All Professors are allocated a Supporting Tutor who assists their work and provides additional guidance to the pupils. Each pupil at the School receives 2 hours of one-to-one Principal Study tuition per week, plus regular studio classes and weekly lessons with the assistant.

It is expected that the Professor of Piano should be available to visit the School on a weekly basis to ensure regularity and consistency of contact time with the pupils, with face-to-face lessons being delivered on non-consecutive days so that students have sufficient opportunity to practise in between.

The Professor of Piano will be required to attend mandatory INSET days as indicated by the Head, assessments three times per year (once per term) and may also be asked to participate in Open Days, auditions and other activities intended to promote the School. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to contribute to the wider School curriculum, depending on availability, whether through chamber music coaching, performances with YMS staff and visiting artists, outreach activities, workshops and seminars, or other creative initiatives. It might also be that support for the Virtual Menuhin School, our online learning resource for young pupils based overseas, is required.

Professors work under the supervision and direction of the Director of Music.



## Key points about the role:

### Contract type:

Permanent, part-time  
Term time only with no expectation to work during school holidays

### Probation Period

3 months

### Salary:

£43,470 FTE for 15 pupils per annum, depending on class size, plus additional pay for assessments and other ad hoc lessons

All members of staff are expected to commit to the wider life of this busy boarding school, including attendance at (or participation in) evening concerts as required.

### Requirements

- a satisfactory enhanced Barred List check
- UK right to work check
- UK and EEA prohibited list checks
- satisfactory references
- medical declaration
- verification of qualifications

### Pension:

Contributory stakeholder pension scheme (13.5% employer contribution) - currently The People's Pension

### Reporting to:

Director of Music

### Other benefits:

- Flexible working patterns by the agreement of all parties
- Travel/touring opportunities on behalf of the School
- Free School lunches during term times
- Timetabling support
- Excellent teaching facilities
- Staff accompanists available on rotation to support lessons
- Free parking
- Use of the School's swimming pool when available
- Discounted use of the Menuhin Hall as a recording facility

## Person specification

The successful candidate will be a musician (pianist) with the necessary skills to fulfil the responsibilities of this role and to command the respect of those studying and working in a world-renowned music school. A formal teaching qualification is not required, but a willingness to engage in continuous professional development as a teacher will be an expectation.

### Candidates must:

- Demonstrate understanding and engagement of safeguarding and child welfare.
- hold appropriate academic and musical qualifications and have prior experience of teaching to a high level.
- be an outstanding musician and instrumentalist and have experience as a performer, with ongoing international activity (concert and/or educational) being highly desirable.
- be willing to assist the School in its desire to develop the reputation of the piano department, and to be committed and proactive in the recruitment of new pupils.
- be a team player who is respectful of other's needs or opinions, who is able to see the bigger picture and is willing to contribute positively and efficiently to a culture based on a collaboration.
- understand and be able to engage with the individual and specific musical and pastoral needs of highly gifted/talented pupils to bring out the best in them.
- be proactive, open-minded and creative in supporting our aims to continually develop the musical life of the School and the pupils' musical education.
- be a skilful communicator, both orally and in writing, who is able to deal sensitively with the pupils, their parents, the music teachers and other staff, thereby contributing towards a harmonious,



forward-thinking department.

- have a passion for creative music making, to be able to speak and perform confidently in public, and to set professional standards to which the pupils can aspire.
- be able to work and remain calm under pressure, to have the stamina to work varying hours and the resilience to deal with setbacks.
- be comfortable working with a wide range of ages and ability - for example, from an 11 year-old full of potential, to an 18 year old preparing for an international competition.
- be understanding of the pressures and challenges which young performers face in a high-performance learning environment and to have the ability to support and engage with them through patience and empathy.
- be confident and proactive in proposing new ideas and initiatives to support the musical and pastoral development of the pupils.

## Job Specification:

- To work as a Principal Professor of Piano, delivering one-to-one lessons, under the direction of the Director of Music.
- To assist, and liaise closely and regularly with, a supporting tutor regarding the musical needs and development of the pupils allocated under your supervision and care.
- To assist in preparing pupils for concerts, both inside and outside the School, and to attend student concerts when requested by the Director of Music, including occasional evenings and weekends.
- To actively identify and help recruit potential pupils to the School, and to participate in recruitment initiatives when requested by the Director of Music.
- To contribute towards regular reports for each pupil under their supervision.
- To attend parent-teacher meetings as required by the Head.
- To attend instrumental assessments each Term and to provide feedback to pupils when requested by the Director of Music.
- To report any pastoral concerns through the appropriate channels and to place the wellbeing of the pupils as the main priority.
- To deliver chamber music coaching, and to collaborate, rehearse and perform alongside pupils and fellow staff members in chamber ensembles as directed by the Director of Music.
- To actively support the School's Outreach Officer in the creation and delivery of a successful outreach programme.

- To initiate and deliver additional educational workshops, classes and seminars as directed by the Director of Music, and, if required, to collaborate with the Marketing Manager in the filming or recording of such content for promotional purposes.
- To deliver consultation lessons to prospective pupils during the application process as directed by the Director of Music.
- To attend auditions as directed by the Director of Music.
- To deliver lessons for the Virtual Menuhin School and/or our Little Menuhin provision as directed by the Director of Music.
- To undertake all necessary administration required to fulfil the role and its duties, and to be a flexible, efficient, creative and proactive member of the School's community.
- To participate in professional development as required by the School, and to engage with an annual appraisal process.
- To attend all Music Staff and Full Staff Meetings, as well as all statutory training sessions at which attendance is required by the School's Headmaster.
- To assist the Head, Director of music and other staff in the supervision of the pupils. To undertake such other duties as the Head or the Director of Music may reasonably require.



## How to apply

To request an application form please contact Lucy Flower at [recruitment@menuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@menuhinschool.co.uk).

Your application form should be completed in full and returned, along with a covering letter outlining your reasons for applying and suitability for the position, to Lucy Flower by **9am on Friday 13 August**. Early applications are encouraged and the School reserves the right to close the application process early should a suitable candidate be found.

The Yehudi Menuhin School is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children. The School is registered with the DBS and successful applicants will be required to complete successfully the Disclosure Procedure at Enhanced level. It is an offence for a person barred from working with children to apply for this post.

The Yehudi Menuhin School is an Equal Opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.



@menuhinschool



@yehudimenuhinschool



The Yehudi Menuhin School

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