



The Yehudi Menuhin School

The International Music School founded by Yehudi Menuhin

www.yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk — Registered Charity 312010 — Newsletter 61 — Summer 2015

Founder's Day Festival

Angela Stockbridge



Idil Biret with Leyla Cemilglu

— Idil Biret

Renowned Turkish pianist Idil Biret began our Founder's Day Festival (celebrating what would have been Yehudi Menuhin's 99th birthday) in thunderous fashion with a programme of Schumann and Scriabin on 21 April in The Menuhin Hall. The following morning Ms Biret gave a public masterclass involving several of the YMS piano students.

— Robert Masters Memorial Concert

This time last year Malcolm Singer Director of Music wrote in these pages that "It is extraordinary that Robert should have died on Lord Menuhin's birthday as the two men worked so closely together for so many years". This year's Founder's Day concert was given in memory to Robert Masters and was a particularly special and moving occasion. Two of the performers, Jamie Walton a close associate of Robert and Niall (Ted) Brown (1979), reflected on the day.

Jamie said that the Memorial Concert "was a particularly poignant day, held together by great camaraderie and life-affirming music making, just as it should be. That's what I call a successful school! I know it meant the world to Noël – and miraculous that she could be there." Niall concurs, adding that the concert was a "wonderful tribute to Robert Masters and a testament to the present health of the School that the students added to the very positive atmosphere both during and after the concert."

In the days leading up to the concert, students and Friends were given a special treat of two lectures. Damian leGassick, Head of Academic Music, spoke on the life and work of Scriabin and Boris Kucharsky, violin teacher, discussed Lord Menuhin's recordings of Bach, playing recordings and illustrating the finer points with his own playing. Boris developed his lecture from notes made by Robert Masters, a lecture that was never given in his lifetime. It was a fitting tribute to Robert, to his passion for music and his commitment to Menuhin's ideas and the School.



Angela Stockbridge

Pictured are, Left to Right, Ming-Feng Hsin (1978), Rosemary Warren-Green (1973), Jamie Walton, Noël, Leland Chen (1982), Carla Maria Rodrigues (1982) and Niall (Ted) Brown (1979).

Musical Notes

— Winners

Many congratulations to YMS student Damir Durmanovic (16) on winning first prize in the Junior Intercollegiate Competition organised by the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe (BPSE) and held in the Austrian Cultural Forum near London's Hyde Park. Part of Damir's prize will be to perform in the BPSE's 2015 recital season.

Cosima Soulez Larivière (18) and SongHa Choi (16) both had great successes this term in competitions. Cosima came 2nd in the junior section of the 22nd Jeunesses International Violin Competition 'Dinu Lipatti' in Bucharest and was also awarded the Bach prize and SongHa won the XXII International Violin Competition 'Andrea Postacchini'.

— Lifetime Achievement Award

We are delighted and very proud indeed that our Chair of Governors Richard Morris was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Music Teacher Awards for Excellence in March.



Richard Morris



Simon Larter-Evans

— Welcome Return

YMS pupils performed for the Oxted and Limpsfield Music Society, revisiting them for the first time in fourteen years.

The concert given at Hazelwood School comprised a Haydn quartet (Leonard Jaffe Barbosa (17), Katherine Yoon (16), Otoha Tabata (15) and Dilara Sahin (14)), violin concertos by Panufnik and Haydn (soloists Charlotte Saluste-Bridoux (19) and Qian Hui Ho (18) respectively), and Britten's *Simple Symphony*.

Many thanks also to Chairman of Governors Richard Morris and especially his wife Marian for so kindly and generously hosting the entire party for a delicious pre-concert supper at their home.



Richard and Marian Morris with pupils after the concert

Elaine Hillier



Simon Larter-Evans

Robert Levin

— Techne to Phronesis – thinking beyond the notes

The inspirational pianist and musicologist Robert Levin from Harvard University's Music Department gave an energetic and entertaining lecture, packed with sage advice to YMS pupils. He then coached pupils in a number of performances, from solos to quartets.

We are very grateful to Robert for fitting us into his European tour and hope very much that he will return again soon.

— Cam Belter

We were delighted to return to Clare Hall at Cambridge University after a gap of four years to perform in its Intimate Engagements series, curated by Abigail Dolan, wife of YMS Classical Improvisation teacher David Dolan. A full and appreciative house was treated not just to a programme of chamber music, with quartets by Haydn and Schubert and Enescu's wonderful and enthralling Octet, but also to a practical demonstration of the way in which David encourages the pupils to develop a deeper understanding of the music through improvisation.



Elaine Hillier

Pictured are Dr Richard Hillier, David Horvat (17), Cosima Soulez Larivière, Andrew Samarasekara (18) and Bennet Ortmann (18).

— Giving Life on Earth

Pupils played at the Swiss Ambassador's Residence in Bryanston Square in London to launch the 2015 Gstaad Menuhin Festival (at which the School will be performing on 17 and 18 July) and in the evening at the Church of St John the Divine in Richmond upon Thames in aid of the Rainbow Fund for South Africa. The concert was introduced by naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough.



Elaine Hillier

Pictured with Sir David are Marcus Gaved (17), Joon Hurh (17), Breanainn O Mathuna (18), Misha Favis (18), Dorothea Schupelius (19) and Kevin Loh (17).

— Garsington Opera

The Cs enjoyed an evening at the opera as guests of Gail Getty and Nicola Creed, Executive Director of Garsington Opera. Set in the grounds of the glorious Wormsley Estate, pupils were among a select few watching a dress rehearsal of Benjamin Britten's 'Death in Venice', part of this summer's Garsington Opera season.



Simon Larter-Evans

Pictured are: Front Row: Leon Sturdee (12), Sebastian Banwell (12), Kingsley Lin (14), Eddie Mead (12), Back Row: Evie Calver (13), Viviane Plekhotkine (14), Coco Tomita (13), Will Duerden (14), Tai Luanghvisut (13), Alfie Leishman (12), Finlay Hay (13), Hugo Haag (13), Tianyou Ma (14), Darwin Chang (12), Kazusa Taniguchi (12), Tsubasa Muramatsu (13), Dawn Larter-Evans and Senior Nurse Ann Sweeney.

— Power Play

Violist Lawrence Power gave a captivating and enthralling recital with pianist Simon Crawford-Phillips and the audience swiftly realised, if they didn't know it before, why Power is described as one of the leading violists of his generation.

A programme consisting of York Bowen, Schumann, Shostakovich and Prokofiev also included Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Power Play*, written specially for Power and Crawford-Phillips. The evening was rounded off by two exquisite encores by Mussorgsky.

— End of Year Concerts

As we come to the end of the year, pupils are preparing for the glorious summer festival and orchestral 'picnic' concerts. Many of the senior pupils are also preparing for the biannual tour to the Menuhin Festival in Gstaad.

The leaving students will also perform on 8 July in the annual Wigmore Hall concert.

2015 Leavers as pictured are:

Dorothea Schupelius, Charlotte Saluste-Bridoux, Misha Favis, Lucia Polo Moreno (20), Qian Hui Ho, Cosima Soulez Larivière, Philip Nelson (19), and Sam Staples (18)



Simon Larler-Evans

— Leavers' destinations

Misha Favis

auditioning in Germany in June

Qian Hui Ho

studying at the National University of Singapore

Lucia Polo Moreno

continuing studies at RCM with Caroline Emery

Philip Nelson

continuing at RCM with Caroline Emery (ABRSM Scholarship)

Charlotte Saluste-Bridoux

continuing at RCM with Natasha Boyarsky

Dorothea Schupelius

studying at RCM with Itzhak Rashkovsky

Samuel Staples

continuing at GSMD with Boris Kucharsky

Cosima Soulez Larivière

auditioning in Hanover in June

And the rest

— Dressed for the weather?



Simon Larler-Evans

Governor Stuart Mitchell gave an inspirational talk to pupils about his trek to the South Pole last December in aid of our Anniversary Appeal – raising more than £70,000 in the process. It was a riveting and entertaining evening. There were many questions afterwards, some wonderful pictures and film sequences, and we very much enjoyed watching Jeff Wu (17) dress up in Stuart's expedition gear – designed to weather temperatures as low as minus 50 degrees C.

We are extremely grateful to Stuart, both for making space in his busy schedule to come and talk to us, and for his commitment to the School, not just through this wonderful and practical demonstration of his support but also through all the work he does as Chairman of our Appeal Committee.

— Duke of Edinburgh

Jenny Dexter writes: A large group of 11 students spent 3 days and 2 nights on their Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition in the South Downs. The terrain was tough and the backpacks heavy but the groups maintained great spirit whenever we met them. We camped in an idyllic spot in the Cuckmere Valley near the beach where there was not another person on the campsite, however we were joined by about a thousand sheep in the neighbouring fields! The next night was in Alfriston, where the groups cooked up all the noodles that they had carried there and enjoyed toasted marshmallows around a campfire. The students are now looking forward to their qualifying expedition in the New Forest.

Pictured are: Margarita Cantó Woltèche (15), Natasha Petrovic (15), Kevin Loh, Jeff Wu, Nicole Petrus Barracks (17), Leonardo Barbosa, Ursula Perks (17), Qing Qing Ponok (15), Breannain O Mathuna, Katie Morgan (15), Joseph Pritchard.



Jenny Dexter

Ready for action

— First Gold Awards

Philip Nelson, Qian Hui Ho and Rosie Bennett (2014) (YMS alumna), received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award certificates at St James's Palace on Wednesday 25 March alongside other participants from the South East of England. Sharon Wong (2014) who also achieved her Gold Award sadly could not attend. The Duke of Edinburgh was there to congratulate all the award holders and we were lucky that he took the time to stop and chat to us. These are the first Gold Awards achieved by pupils at The Yehudi Menuhin School. A celebratory lunch with parents and guardians at the RAC Club on Pall Mall followed the presentation.



Jenny Dexter

Admiring their Gold Award

— Running Away

Breanainn O Mathuna and Daniel Penney (16) returned for another crack at the Marlow 5-mile road race, determined to better their times from last spring. They were joined by Sergio Bucheli (17) who whipped past and beat Breanainn by a whisker. Improving on their placing from last year, all three boys ran exceptionally well, winning 2nd (Sergio), 3rd (Breanainn) and 4th (Daniel) places in the Junior Category.



Simon Larter-Evans

Sergio doing his Roger Bannister impression

— From whence we came

Louisa Staples (15) writes: On 1 May, the B1s visited Down House in Kent, home to Charles Darwin and his family from 1842 to 1882. It was the place where he conducted many of his most acclaimed experiments. The Georgian manor is set in 20 acres of garden which was Darwin's laboratory and where he studied and recorded certain species and collected samples. In 1996, Down House was restored and, while the ground floor has been kept as close as possible to how it was when the Darwin family lived there, the second floor has been converted into a museum dedicated to Darwin's life, experiments, findings and voyages. With assistance from audio guides and very dedicated volunteers, the group made its way through the house and gardens and saw Darwin's original record books, preserved samples of birds and artefacts. One such is a bridge set with which Darwin and his wife would play every night in the drawing room. Pupils followed a walk round the back of the house which Darwin liked to take himself, so that he could think alone. It is possible that many of his most famous theories were formulated on those paths. Overall it was a very insightful day into the life and work of one of the world's most important scientists.

Pictured are: Qing Qing Ponek, Katie Morgan, Joseph Pritchard, Otoha Tabata (16), Can Arisoy (15), Louisa Staples, Natasha Petrovic, SongHa Choi, Margarita Cantó Woltèche, Pere Puertas Masferrer (15), Max Calver (15).



Jenny Dexter

— Ds Visit to the Lookout Discovery Centre

Tom Yang (10) writes: When we arrived at the Lookout Discovery Centre in Bracknell, I thought it looked magnificent. I immediately spotted the very tall Lookout Tower, high above the trees.

We spent the first part of the morning in the 'Forces and Movement' zone, where the favourite activity was trying to pump up a large model hot air balloon.

There is also an awesome piano – the keys are laid out on the floor and are huge. We could jump on and off it to make the notes and soon we were all working together as a group to make recognisable tunes.

In the 'Body and Perception Zone' there is a huge model of a human body which we had to put together so all the organs and bones were in the right place. There is also a computer which asks questions about your appearance and other questions like your ability to roll your tongue, smell freesias and how you fold your arms. The computer can then work out how many people like you had visited the Lookout Discovery Centre. There have only been about 80 people out of around 900,000 who answered the questions with the same answers that I did!

Then it was time to climb the 88 steps up the Lookout Tower. Many of us were a bit worried about how high we were climbing (warning- do not look down- I've learnt a lesson!). We kept going and it was fun when we got to the top. We could look out over all the trees below, and it was exciting when we spotted the adventure playgrounds.

After our delicious picnic lunch we spotted a large glass tank in the 'Woodlands and Water' Zone which contains a colony of South American ants. They are called leaf cutter ants. In the colony was a huge queen (but we couldn't see her), protected by soldier ants (all female) and working for her were hundreds of industrious worker ants (again all female). They can carry six



Pictured are: Top: Alex Keeley (11), Mika Petrovic (11), Jude Usborne (11), Kyota Kakiuchi (12); Bottom: Ignacy Stefanowicz (11), Tom Yang, Nathan Perry (11), Tonwyn Li (9).

times their own body mass and they were all very busy carrying bits of leaves across sticks acting as bridges. Although we could not see the queen ant, one of the people working at the centre – his badge said he was an 'Explainer' – showed us a dead one! The queen can produce 150 million daughters per year. Only a few males are produced once a year and they live for only a very short time – I'm glad I'm not an ant!



— X-Men thrashed!

In an effort to prove that we can still play football, despite our defeat against Purcell earlier in the year, Bennet Ortmann cajoled the X-Men (aka former pupils) to return to our hallowed turf and then beat them roundly, winning 15-6. Ably refereed by Richard Tanner who commented on the good spirit and gentle tackling that was going on, the afternoon was a triumph. It was really wonderful to see everyone for a great afternoon. Let's do it again next year.

— Music House Developments

Work continues apace on the Music House roof development. Shown here are pictures of the staircase taking shape and the first glimpse of the roof. All very exciting.



Angela Stockbridge

First sight of the new roof



Angela Stockbridge

Music House Staircase

— Fit and Fun

Pupils returned after the spring break to find some new fitness equipment purchased with funds generously given by the Friends and by Malcolm Singer, Director of Music, who kindly donated his fee from a conducting engagement. Here is Sebastian Banwell enjoying the cross-trainer.



Angela Stockbridge

— The Annual Easter Egg Hunt



Angela Stockbridge

Selina Buser (17), Katherine Yoon, Elvina Auh (16) and Leonardo Jaffe Barbosa find a haul of eggs in the tree

Staff News

Bartholomew LaFollette (2007) has been busy curating the Marryat Players' new Chamber Music Festival held in June to great acclaim. Other alumni joining Bart in the festival were Vladimir Waltham (2007), and Tetsuumi Nagata (2006). In addition to the festival concerts, there were masterclasses for junior string ensembles.

Nathan Williamson is pleased to announce the launch of the new Southwold Music Trust, supporting concerts and education and community music-making in his hometown of Southwold, on the Suffolk coast. Although it is a new charity, evidence of their work can be seen through the Southwold Concert Series – www.southwoldconcertseries.co.uk – founded in 2008. Several former YMS students have performed in the series over the years, most recently Laura Snowden (2008). The trust has been chosen as one of the Southwold Town Mayor's supported charities for the year.



Rehearsals in Southwold

Commenting on **Oscar Colomina Bosch's** new work *Entfaltung*, the *El Diario De Valladolid-El Mundo* said: "What we heard made evident the facility of the composer to orchestrate: willingly dark, enigmatic interventions of the brass were interspersed amongst a balanced distribution of striking and subtle passages. The calls in the winds, a certain suspense, and a reference to the earth's pulse, emerged surprisingly in a clear piece that vanishes on the sound of the viola."

Simon Larter-Evans has been accepted onto the part-time Education Doctoral programme at the Institute of Education, University College London to research self-efficacy (the belief that you can do something) in young musicians and dancers studying at specialist vocational performance-arts schools in England. He will also become Head of Boarding from September 2015, responsible for ensuring that all boarding policies remain compliant with both the National Minimum Standards for Boarding and the ISI Regulatory Handbook, as well as for boarding staff induction and CPD.

Headmaster **Dr Richard Hillier** resumed his academic career briefly this term to deliver a paper entitled 'Arator and the unorthodox other' at the biennial conference of the International Society for Late Antique Literary Studies held in Oxford at the beginning of July.

— Leaving Staff

Zoe Mather, who has been teaching piano to our string players for 18 years, is leaving us this summer. An ex-pupil, she has been an excellent staff member, her skilful and sensitive approach has been much appreciated by pupils and staff alike. We shall miss her enormously and wish her all the very best. **Richard Hills**, our choral director, is also leaving after 5 years in the post to concentrate on his successful career as an organist. We have all enjoyed having him with us. **Foster Williams** (Maths and PE) is leaving at the end of the term to take up a full-time post at Elstree Prep School. He has had a great impact on the School in his short time with us – not least on the fitness levels of the pupils – and we wish him all the very best for his future career. We also say farewell this term, hopefully just for a short time, to our Outreach Officer **Nicola Darke** who begins her maternity leave in September. We look forward to hearing her happy news!

Vanessa Casey (Development Director) left us this term to become Campaign Director of Chichester Dementia. We are very grateful for all the work she did in setting up the Development Department and getting our Anniversary Appeal off to such an excellent start. **Julie Robinson** (Receptionist) also leaves us this term: we shall certainly miss her efficiency and friendliness in the School Office.

In The Menuhin Hall, **Tim McKeever** (Technical Assistant) leaves us to take up his placement with Sky TV: we hope very much to see him back with us in a year's time. **Wendy Gabriel** (Box-Office Assistant) is leaving at the end of the term after just over two years. We shall miss her friendly face in the Box Office and thank her for everything she has done.

— New Staff this term

We were delighted to welcome **Dr Anthony Medhurst** as our interim Development Director. Anthony has previously been in charge of Development Departments at Edith Cowan University, Western Australia and the University of Kent. We appreciate the help he is already giving us in our Anniversary Appeal. **Kendra Shute** has taken over as Resident Assistant Housemistress in Music House. We are very glad that she has agreed to stay on and help us until next summer. **Isabel Dawson** also joined us this term as Administrative Assistant in The Menuhin Hall. We extend a warm welcome to all our new staff.

— New Staff in September

Alexis White, former pupil and currently Head of Keyboard at St. Paul's Girl School, joins the music staff as Supporting Studies Piano Teacher. **David Young** also joins us as Choral Director.

In The Menuhin Hall we are delighted to welcome (back!) **Jamie Gamache** as Technical Assistant, **Katherine Peat** and **Clive Stevens** as Box Office Assistants, and **Cathy Mullins**, **Alex Chamberlain** and, another familiar face to many, **Alice Chivers** to the Bar Staff team. Welcome to them all.

Other News

Former Headmaster **Nicolas Chisholm** recently became Chairman of the Brighton Philharmonic Orchestra and President Elect of the Incorporated Society of Musicians.

— Marie MacGregor 1932-2015

The School is very sad to announce the death of **Marie MacGregor**. She taught piano to our string players from 1976 to 1997. Her contribution to school life was very considerable indeed, and she was much loved by the many generations of pupils whose musical development she guided. After retirement she regularly attended concerts in The Menuhin Hall, and her cheerful presence will be sorely missed.

Malcolm Singer writes: Marie MacGregor was a proud Scot who made her home in Surrey with her husband Ron. She was a very fine musician – both pianist and violinist, and a great teacher. She joined the staff at the Menuhin School in 1976 and for more than twenty years taught piano to our string players. Generations of pupils benefited from her inspiring, caring and nurturing approach to her work, and she was loved and appreciated by one and all – staff and pupils.

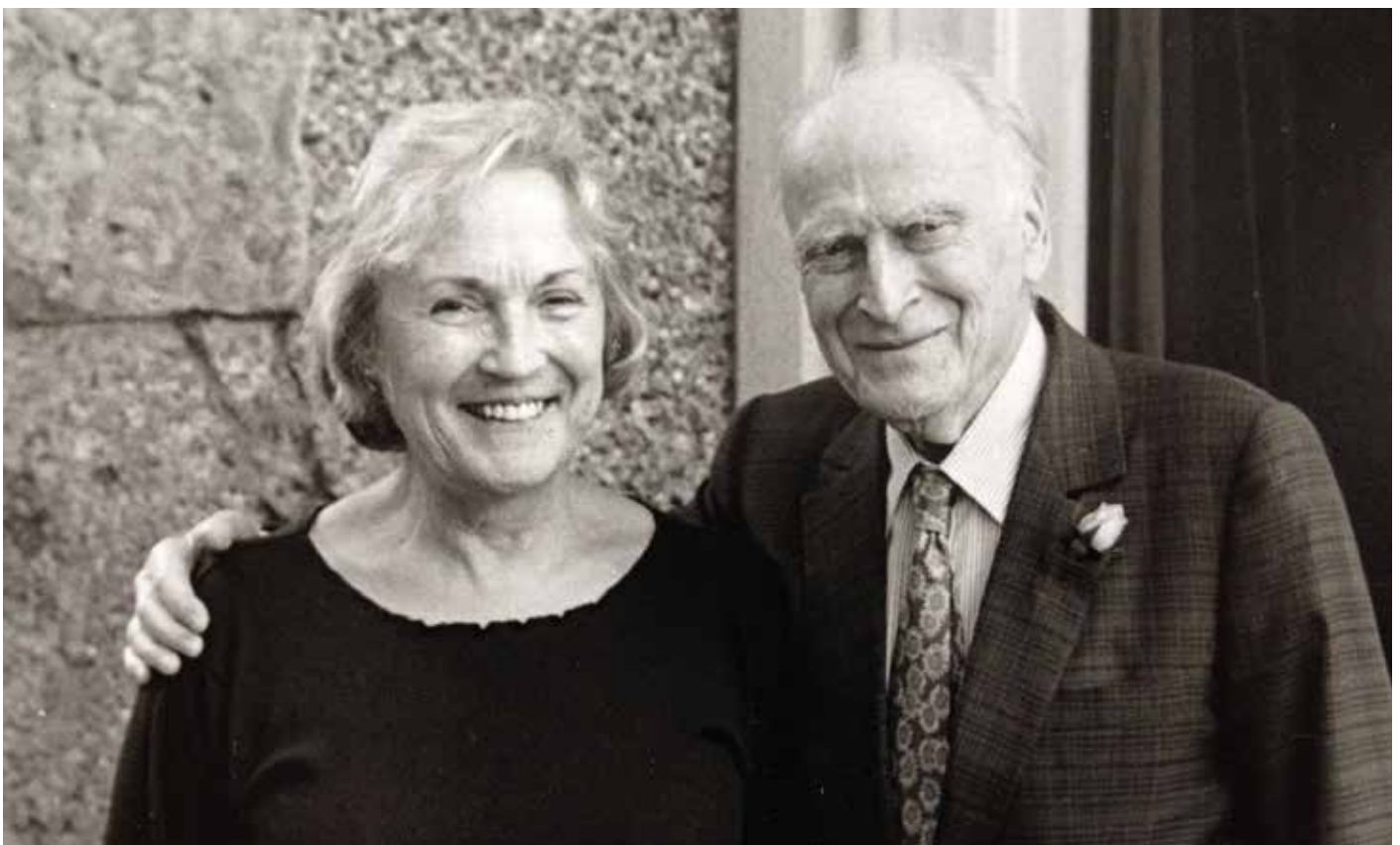
As well as her work at the School, she played the violin in the Surrey Philharmonic, and she was at the heart of the School's

relationship with that local orchestra, which has given so many pupils opportunities to gain experience either as concerto soloists or playing within the string section.

Marie was great fun and a wonderful colleague. The contributions that she and Ron made to school parties will live long in the memory: her playing the violin in a quartet, backing the pupils singing carols round the Christmas tree, and, on other occasions Ron, in full tartan regalia, playing the bagpipes.

After her retirement in 1997, Marie became a regular member of the audience at concerts given by the pupils, and particularly enjoyed our 50th Anniversary Celebrity Concerts when she had a chance to meet up with so many past pupils. We were honoured to be asked to provide some music at her funeral. A group of current pupils played the slow movement of Haydn's String Quartet Op 33 No 4 at the service, and other pupils performed music by Bach and Mendelssohn at the gathering in The Menuhin Hall foyer afterwards. Marie loved the school and its pupils and she will be sorely missed by all who had the privilege of working or studying with her.

We are also very sorry to hear that Jenny Ward Clark, who taught cello at the School 1981 – 1988, died on 1 March.



Marie with Yehudi

Alumni News

Nick Logie (1967) has just started a post-doctoral research project into 'perceptions of gender in orchestral conducting'. The research element comprises an on-line survey gathering the views of anyone who encounters conductors and conducting. The research is being carried out under the auspices of the Open University. All responses are completely anonymous: <https://openuniversity.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/perceptions-of-gender-in-orchestral-conducting>

Clapham Omnibus Director of Music **Sue Dorey** (1975) welcomes three current pupils, Samuel Staples, Damir Durmanovic and Frankie Carr (17) for a programme of duos and trios in July. The Endellion Quartet which includes **Andrew Watkinson** (1968), **Garfield Jackson** (1975) and **Ralph de Souza** (1977). **Laura Snowden** (2008) and **Tom Ellis** (2009) will also be playing at the Omnibus in September.

Angela Rathjen-Munchow (1973) and **Niall Brown** (1979) both play in the Luxemburg Philharmonic and each have their own quartet, the Henri Pensis and the Kreisler Quartets respectively. Both came together for the Mendelsohn octet to great acclaim earlier this year.

Antonio Lysy (1979) announces an exciting programme of events in his Incontri in Terra di Siena where he is Direttore Artistico. The Daily Telegraph says "*Classical music insiders consider Incontri in Terra di Siena to be among the top three summer chamber music festivals in Italy – and the setting is breathtaking*".

Antonio is also busy touring his multi-media show Te Amo, Argentina, dedicated to his father Alberto, in Memphis and Pasadena, and Toronto in the summer. Next year his group will open the Piatigorsky International Cello Festival. To end the year, Antonio will be performing the 6 Bach Suites (for the first time in chronological order in one evening) in Santa Monica, CA on the beautiful Broad Stage on 20 December.

Daniel Hope (1983) has been named Music Director of the Zurich Chamber Orchestra. An exclusive Deutsche Grammophon artist since 2006, Daniel has a long association with the Zurich Chamber Orchestra. He made his first appearance with the ensemble in 2006.

Dr Jo Lowe (nee Steele) (1985) has recently qualified as a doctor of Medicine and is working at the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital. She also has two children and remembers the School with great fondness.

Tatiana Berman (1998) who runs the Constella Festival was featured in The Huffington Post. A quick search on The Huffington Post web site for "The Ohio Festival That's Challenging The Misconceptions Of Classical Music" will also reveal her video.

Cheryl Frances Hoad's (1998) cello concerto, Katharthis, commissioned by **David Cohen** (1998) and performed with the Rambert Orchestra in Henry Wood Hall, will be released in September. Cheryl will also have a piece performed in the Proms on 20 July at Cadogan Hall. It is a new piece for the Cardinal's Musick, written as a homage to Tallis.

Anna Harpham (2002) gave birth to a beautiful baby boy William George on 14 April weighing 7lb 1 oz. Mum says he is absolutely perfect and Ellie loves being a big sister!

Qian Wu (2002) has been awarded a highly sought-after three-year residency with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Qian was selected from 237 applicants, 41 of whom competed for eight places in a vigorous live competition.

Vlad Maistorovici (2004) launched a new chamber music festival in Romania which took place in June in the gorgeous medieval town Brasov. Former pupils **Valeriy Sokolov** (2005), **Natalie Klouda (Dick)** (2002), **Pau Codina** (2006) and **Irina Botan** (2000) performed at the first edition of "vibrate!festival", set up by Vlad Maistorovici and pianist Diana Ionescu to explore ways of refreshing the listening experience of classical music.

Jacob Shaw (2005) made his Carnegie Hall debut and, following the concert, was approached by Roven Records to record a double CD called #DEBUT to be released at the end of the summer. Jacob has recorded the Brahms cello sonatas with José Gallardo and the Britten solo cello suite plus world music from China, Persia, folk and other delights. You can pre-order here www.jacobshaw.de where the discount code YMS2015 will be valid until 1 August.

Jonathan Bloxham (2007) Artistic Director and founder of Northern Chords, the rapidly growing international music festival, has enjoyed another sparkling year. See more here: www.northernchords.com. Jonathan has also launched another special project www.100faces.uk which brings together music and photography, celebrating art as a language common to all.

Agata Daraškaitė (2008) graduated from the RCM last year winning two special prizes: the Jacqueline Ward Memorial Prize for strings and the Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Rosebowl which she received from HRH Prince Charles in March this year.

Jun Sasaki (2008) has been appointed Co-principal cello at the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, the National Orchestra of Sweden.

Tanja Roos (2012) has been accepted into the Verbier Festival Academy this summer, and also received a Presidential Distinction Award in order to attend the New England Conservatory with Miriam Fried starting in September.

Jamal Aliyev (2013) won the RCM concerto competition performing Tchaikovsky's Rococo Variations with the RCM Philharmonic in December, and in March recorded his debut CD with Anna Fedorova on a Russian theme with Champs Hill Records. In April Jamal won First Prize at the Bromsgrove International Competition.

Leo Plashinov-Johnson (2014) was awarded joint second place at the 'Young Virtuosos' international competition in Bulgaria. No first prize was awarded. Leo was also successful in his ambition to study with Kim Kashkashian at the New England Conservatory, Boston starting this autumn.

Anas Romdhani (2014) played Tchaikovsky's violin Concerto with the Tunisian Symphony Orchestra at the Municipal Theatre of Tunis on the 14 April, 9 years after his debut with the same orchestra on the same stage.

Friends & Hall News

— Friends Bridge Tea

The Friends Events Committee hosted their third bridge tea this term in The Menuhin Hall foyer. Forty-eight bridge players attended the event and raised an impressive £498. We are very grateful to everyone who attended the event and donated raffle prizes.

We would like to thank the Friends Events Committee for organising another fantastic event, especially Jean and Jo in the School kitchen for producing some more wonderful sandwiches and cakes.

We hope to hold another bridge tea next year. If you would like to register your interest in attending, please contact The Friends Office on 01932 584791 or friends@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk

— Free Friends Event

Following the success of the talk *A Day in the Life of The Yehudi Menuhin School* last spring, we decided to organise another free event exclusively for the Friends of the School. On 14 May the Headmaster, Dr Richard Hillier, interviewed alumni and now teachers at the School, Bartholomew LaFollette and Thomas Carroll. Dr Hillier asked them about their first day at the School, their memories of teachers and fellow pupils, and how they juggle their professional career with teaching at the School. The pair also performed a short concert with YMS pupil, Jean-François Carrière (18).

This enjoyable and entertaining event was attended by around fifty Friends, with many choosing to enjoy a delicious lunch beforehand.

Thank you to Bartholomew and Thomas for taking part in the event. We hope you enjoyed it as much as the Friends did!



Simon Larter-Evans

Bart



Simon Larter-Evans

Tommy



Penny Wright

Tom Kirby puts on a fresh lick of paint

— Best Friend and Concert sponsorship opportunities

We recently launched a new membership – Best Friend. In addition to the benefits already currently received by Friends, Best Friends also receive for just £100 per year:

- Two complimentary tickets to a Summer Festival concert and an invitation to the pre-concert reception as part of the Summer Festival
- Priority booking for 4 tickets during booking period for concerts and events in The Menuhin Hall
- Priority invitations to pre-concert drinks receptions
- Exclusive Best Friend Pin Badge

We are also offering Friends the opportunity to sponsor a Showcase concert. Sponsors will have the chance to host a post-concert reception where you and up to twenty of your guests can meet and chat to the pupils who have performed. One concert a term will be available for sponsorship, at a cost of £850 which includes refreshments and four complimentary tickets to the concert. We can also reserve up to sixteen additional tickets for you to purchase for your guests. If you would like to become a Best Friend or are interested in sponsoring a Showcase concert, please contact the Development Department on 01932 584797 or development@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk

— Hall Hire

The Hall may be hired for any kind of celebration or memorial occasion at any time of year depending on availability. With menus to suit all budgets and tastes and we can recommend florists, entertainers and give you all the help you may require. For certain occasions it is also possible to request a performance from pupils of The Yehudi Menuhin School. Income from events goes directly into our student aid fund.

Visit www.yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk for more details or call the Hall Manager Ambrosine Desoutter on 01932 584408 to discuss your requirements.

— Anniversary Appeal Update

As another academic year draws to a close, we are delighted to announce that we have raised over half of our £6 million target! Over the past year we have received some incredibly generous gifts and pledges from individuals, as well as trusts and foundations, who share our desire to develop the potential of gifted young musicians, irrespective of their background. These include the Friends of The Yehudi Menuhin School, The Sackler Trust, The Oak Foundation and the Blavatnik Family Foundation amongst others.

The transformational impact of leaving a gift in your will to the School has also been demonstrated time and time again. For example, an unrestricted legacy left by Joan Davison, who was a long-standing Friend of the School and a familiar face at concerts, will provide students with access to much-needed first-rate facilities. It has been decided with Joan's family that one of the music studios in the next phase of capital development will be named the *Joan Davison Studio* in her memory. We feel this is a very fitting tribute to such a dedicated Friend and steward at The Menuhin Hall.

If you would like to find out more about our appeal or if you would like to make a donation, please contact the Development Department on 01932 584797 or development@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk. Thank you.



Buy a Brick Campaign

Don't forget to buy your brick paver, available for £50 each and engraved with a personal message of your choice. These bricks will form part of the external courtyard of the new music studios, and will be a lasting reminder of your support for the School.

For more information and to request an order form please contact 01932 584797 or development@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk

Buy a brick — Photo Credit: Richard Lewisohn

From the Headmaster

Dear Friends

It seems just a moment ago that I was writing to you at the beginning of the academic year to let you know that work had – at last, having re-housed our bats! – started on the Music House roof. The ensuing months have been accompanied by a soundtrack of scraping scaffolding, bellowing builders, and deafening drilling. A lot of disturbance for the School to endure – not least the students and staff resident in Music House for whose patience and forbearance I am very grateful.

And then, suddenly, earlier this term the plastic curtaining was torn away, the scaffolding dismantled and the new roof revealed in all its glory. And it has definitely been worth the wait. As I write, work is still continuing on the new wooden staircase up to the second floor, and the newly-created rooms are being plastered and painted, with completion due, as I wrote in the autumn, by the end of the term. The six new rooms (five single and one double, all with en-suite shower rooms) will be furnished and ready for occupancy at the start of the Autumn Term.

I am also delighted to tell you that the Governors at their Council meeting on 25 June gave the go-ahead for the building both of the new music studios and of an extension to Harris House (the boys' boarding house). We are just finalising contracts with the contractors, but work is due to start on both projects over the coming summer holidays. You can be sure that I will keep you updated with progress reports over the coming months. Exciting news!

Many thanks to you all for the help which you give the School, both in your generous donations towards our Anniversary Appeal – which enable us to plan for the future – and in your support of our pupils in their concerts and in everything else which they do. It is very much appreciated. And in September, we prepare to celebrate the centenary of Lord Menuhin's birth which falls in 2016. It is going to be an exciting year and we look forward to sharing it with you.

With very best wishes for the summer from Elaine and me

Richard Hilder



If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email please drop us a line at development@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk and we will update your preferences.