



# The Yehudi Menuhin School

The International Music School founded by Yehudi Menuhin  
www.yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk — Registered Charity 312010 — Newsletter 63 — Spring 2016



## Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition 2016

YMS students Coco Tomita (14), Louisa Staples (15) and SongHa Choi (16) have been selected to compete in the final stages of the Menuhin International Violin Competition from a record 300 applicants. Coco will compete in the junior section and Louisa and SongHa in the senior. We were delighted, too, to learn that recent YMS alumna Juliette Roos has also won through to the senior final. Well done to them all.

School students, staff and alumni will feature prominently in this year's competition which will be held in London in April. Jeremy Menuhin and YMS alumna Tasmin Little are both on the competition jury and will perform in concerts in the competition venues throughout the week (on 7 and 9 April respectively). In addition, the School is delighted to be hosting a concert in



Simon Larter-Evans

Coco, Louisa and SongHa

The Menuhin Hall on Tuesday 12 April at 8.00pm, when juror Joji Hattori (violin) will perform with the School orchestra in a programme of Mozart, Bach and Elgar and Bartók.

YMS students will also form the orchestra which will play Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* with the competitors who reach the junior final on Friday 15 April. The concert takes place at the Duke's Hall at The Royal Academy of Music and also features the world premiere of a piece for solo violin specially commissioned from YMS music teacher Dr Oscar Colomina i Bosch. On 16 April Joseph Edwards (18) will play *The Lark Ascending* during the family day at the Clore Ballroom at the Southbank, London.

In addition YMS cello teacher Thomas Carroll will be conducting his Orpheus Sinfonia, along with the winner of the junior competition, in a Family Concert at 7.30pm on 16 April in the Royal Festival Hall.



Dave Greenwood

### — Whistle Stop

Louisa and Coco treated commuters to some inspiring duo violin playing when they staged a surprise performance at St Pancras Station as part of The Menuhin Competition's lead-up to the event in April.

Earlier in the day, the two competitors also performed on Sky News where they spoke about how music has shaped their lives.

Louisa and Coco on track

# Jungle Journey

*Richard Tanner writes:* The contents for 100 food parcels filled the Square Room and took pupils and staff the whole afternoon of 19 January to pack and load into the minibus. The Christmas concert goers had responded magnificently to an appeal for funds for food, both for the local Trussell Trust foodbank and for the camps at Calais, and over £1000 of tuna, sardines, oil, long-life milk, kidney beans, chickpeas, tinned potatoes and tomatoes, and fresh vegetables and fruit as well as bags of sugar, tea, flour, salt, and raisins were spread out on tables around the room. Groups of pupils divided the dried goods into smaller bags and sorted out toiletries kindly provided by student Aida Lahlou's (17) mother. Sarah Nathan, wife of YMS Director of Music Malcolm Singer, had done a massive online shop and bought some great value products, so that each bag cost just under £10 and Morrisons came up trumps with 100 free 'bags for life'. Each pupil went round the circuit of tables loading up a bag and closing it by tying on a helping hand created and decorated in the art room.

What to do about the refugees and migrants camped on the UK border in Calais? We offer no solutions here, but give a human response in the spirit of Yehudi Menuhin. He was among the first to perform classical music at the liberated camps of the Second World War. Following the liberation of the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen on 15 April 1945, British occupation forces established a Displaced Persons' camp for survivors in the nearby barracks of Belsen and on 27 July 1945 Yehudi Menuhin and Benjamin Britten gave a concert there.



Simon Larter-Evans

*Off they go*

Malcolm Singer felt it was most appropriate to take students from the school to give a concert in the Calais camp known as 'The Jungle' right at the start of Yehudi Menuhin's one hundredth anniversary year. Two Englishmen have set up a community theatre in a large dome tent called 'Good Chance', which is right in the middle of 'The Jungle', and that was where we were heading to give the first ever classical concert there.

Planning had to be rapid, flexible and risk-aware. Although only a small group of seven pupils and four adults were going, every pupil was to be involved in the journey, making it an educational as well as a humanitarian response to a critical issue of our time. The school gathered for a talk on Tuesday evening and pupils were deeply moved by the story of Ahmad, a young Syrian man who has just been given refugee status in the UK, who told us about his experiences of life in the chaos of the Syrian war and the dangers he faced in fleeing to safety.



Richard Tanner

*Quartet in the dome*

At 7.00am on Wednesday morning we set off with the food bags and instruments in a minibus bound for Calais via the Channel Tunnel and after a very smooth trip we arrived at the French border control: "What is the purpose of your visit?" "We are going to give a concert in Calais." "Are you going to the Jungle?" "Yes." "Have a good day."

First we drove to the warehouse on an industrial estate a few miles from the camp which is run as a food, clothing and shelter distribution centre by L'Auberge des Migrants. This is an amazing place – huge and wonderfully humane, workmanlike and delightfully welcoming. It is run by volunteers, many from the UK, who operate a kitchen producing over a thousand hot meals daily, and parcel up and distribute the donated supplies to the camps in Calais, and now also in Dunkirk. We unloaded our 100 food bags by trolley and wheelbarrow and were taken to see a large board that detailed the daily operations. Carefully the timetable was explained as a response to the different needs of the nationality groups within the camp. Our parcels would be delivered the next day to the Somalian section and we were set to work as part of the production line preparing vegetables for the kitchen and packing rice and tea from bulk supplies into smaller bags ready for distribution.

"What we would really like you to do is play for us." Let's have an impromptu concert in the warehouse then, "Get the instruments!" A corner cleared among the shelves, plastic tubs for piano stools, David Horvat (18) and Kevin Loh (18) tuned up and started to play. Very soon we had brought the place to a standstill as an audience gathered and work halted. Magical music in an unforgettable concert hall greeted with warm applause and a unique confetti-like shower of chopped celery and lettuce from the kitchen!

It was soon lunchtime and we had brought a packed meal but were invited to share a delicious rice and vegetable stew. "Come and join us, we cook a hot meal for all our volunteers." The day was cold and bright and we sat outside in the sunshine among pallets and industrial debris. Then the 'live link' by phone to Dr Hillier and the School gathered in the Recital Room – Paul, the cook, described the scale of the kitchen operation in a broad Scottish accent, "Menuhin rocks!" and we described what we had seen and done so far.

It was time to drive to the Jungle and a volunteer from the camp navigated the minibus by a circuitous route round the Calais ring roads, past a solitary police bus into the camp entrance. Gravel had been laid over the mud of the main track and flimsy tents had been replaced by stronger wooden-framed, plastic covered shelters. Brian Harris drove carefully up 'The Street' past a few pop-up shops selling tins or tea and a row of portaloos providing some very basic sanitation. School minibuses were not a common sight and we were greeted with stares and smiles and we waved back.

We turned a corner and parked next to the 'Good Chance' dome. Our hosts offered us a walking tour of the camp – no photos – and as we walked we advertised the concert in half understood English or French and Aida's more useful Arabic. It was a compact tour of the world's conflict zones, Afghanistan, Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Syria living in a shanty town a few hours away from Surrey. A church, a mosque, the 'Jungle Books' library, a First Aid caravan brought some community support into the sea of shacks and mainly displaced young men on the move. They had taken many risks to get this far. We met two twelve-year-old boys from Afghanistan who had got here on their own, sharing a tent and a blanket.



Packing

We walked past clean white stacks of containers that the French authorities had converted to provide warm and solid accommodation, but the surrounding fence was off-putting and most people were staying in their ramshackle shelters instead. Tea was taken in the 'Three Idiots Café', a wonderful shelter decorated with a Bengal Tiger and enlivened by Bollywood dance music.

Back to the 'Good Chance' dome and a hitch - the new generator was not working. Brian's engineering skills came to the rescue and the concert could begin. The acoustics of a dome tent are unconventional and the listeners had little knowledge of classical concert conventions either, but the audience grew from forty or fifty to a hundred and fifty.

Malcolm Singer commented that "our pupils are from Serbia, Spain, Morocco, Canada, Singapore and the UK - the audience cheered each of them - particularly the Canadian cellist - they obviously rate Canada as the place to go. Afghan musicians took over at the end of our concert, and they were playing and dancing when we left at about 7pm. The Metro newspaper claimed that there was trouble in the Jungle on that day - we certainly didn't see any of it - just an upbeat mood and a very welcoming environment - a great way to kick off Menuhin's centenary."

Dusk had fallen and with a lighter load we set off back across the channel. A pizza in Ashford brought us back to our normal lives and we were back in school by 10.45pm after a day trip to Calais that none of us would forget.

Jungle crew were: Andrew Samarasekara (18), David Horvat, Lorena Cantó Woltèche (18), Jean-François Carriere (19), Ursula Perks (18), Kevin Loh, Aida Lahlou, Malcolm Singer, Sara Nathan, Brian Harris and Richard Tanner.



Warehouse concert with Andrew, David and Ursula

# Musical Notes

## — David Dolan's 60th Celebration Concert

David Dolan, an internationally renowned concert pianist and teacher at the School, played a 60th birthday concert at the Menuhin Hall. David is one of a few musicians in the world who has revived the art of classical improvisation. Yehudi Menuhin invited David to play and teach pupils at his school after hearing him in Paris over 25 years ago.

Acclaimed American soprano Claron McFadden also joined David on stage. Earlier in the day the Yehudi Menuhin School's pupils enjoyed lessons in classical improvisation. Some of them also had the opportunity to appear on stage with David in his evening performance.

David said visiting the school and playing on stage was a very special way to mark his birthday: "I have been coming to the Yehudi Menuhin School for over 25 years and wherever I go in the world I always think of the Yehudi Menuhin School as my 'sanctuary'. I chose to live in England because of the school's founder.

"He asked me to promise that I would teach at the school for as long as I have two legs to stand up. I am here to fulfil that promise but for me personally it is also a great source of energy and a privilege to be part of this school and its community."



Simon Larter-Evans

*Pictured is David working with pupil Frankie Carr (17)*

## — Yehudi Menuhin School Christmas Concerts raise over £2000 for charity

Pupils of The Yehudi Menuhin School performed in their Christmas Showcase Concerts raising an amazing £2,143.42.

The proceeds were split between two good causes, the Cobham Area Foodbank and to help the cold and hungry refugees in Calais.

Hugh Bryant, Cobham Area Foodbank Manager is very grateful for the generous donation and it serves as a lifeline for those in need: "People assume Cobham is wealthy but we actually have 1500 in the local area receiving food from us annually. That number is growing, so this donation makes a huge difference."

## — BBC Young Musician 2016

Louisa Staples has also won through to the String Category final of this year's BBC Young Musician competition, along with cellist Joe Pritchard (16). It has been some years since the School last had two representatives involved at this stage of the competition. They will be hoping to emulate the success of YMS alumnus William Dutton who won the string category final two years ago. Very many congratulations to Louisa and Joe: we are very proud of them.

The String Category final takes place on 10 March at the Dora Stoutzker Hall, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff.



Simon Larter-Evans

*Joe Pritchard*

## — London, Singapore, Calcutta

Kevin Loh represented Singapore as the youngest classical guitarist to be a featured artist at the Calcutta and New Delhi International Classical Guitar Competition and Festival 2015. "His concerts were one of the best in the history of our six-year-old festival!", said Arkopriya Chatterjee, Director of the Calcutta Classical Guitar Society. Kevin also gave several masterclasses to the young students and shared with them his experience as a student at the Yehudi Menuhin School. According to the Indian Guitar Federation, "Kevin displayed a mastery over his instrument, and proved to be an inspiration for the young guitarists of Calcutta, most of whom flocked for autographs after the concert was over!"



Marcus Loh

*Kevin in Calcutta*



*Leyla Cemiloglu with Jerome Rose*

## — Masterclasses

Pupils have enjoyed and benefited from the highest calibre masterclasses this term. András Keller, the great Hungarian violinist, and founder of the Keller Quartet, was with us at the beginning of the year. Professor Keller has recently joined the faculty of Guildhall School of Music and Drama as Professor of Violin. Before joining the GSMD, Professor Keller, a pupil of Sándor Végh, György Kurtág and Ferenc Rados, was head of the Chamber Music Department at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest.

Jerome Rose, professor of piano at Mannes College of Music in New York and founder of the International Keyboard Institute & Festival there, gave a masterclass to our piano

students, and we were delighted as ever to have cellist, alumnus and parent Colin Carr back at the School to give a masterclass to our cellists.

Before we broke for the Easter holidays, we welcomed back Lewis Kaplan, Co-founder and artistic director of the Bowdoin International Music Festival and founder and violinist of the Aeolian Chamber Players. Lewis has been on the faculty of The Juilliard School since 1976. It is always a pleasure to watch him teach our pupils.

At the time of going to press, we are looking forward to guitar masterclasses from John Williams and Tillman Hopstock.

## — Double Bass

Bassists have been especially successful this term. Will Duerden (15) and Ketan Curtis (16) opened a Showcase concert with Gareth Wood's duet for double bass in the Showcase Concert, the first time a double bass duet has been performed in this setting at the School. Will went on to be runner-up in the first ever Junior Concerto Competition at the Royal College of Music Junior Department in what is to be named the Barbara Boissard Competition. The competition was entered by some 35 students across the instruments and was adjudicated by the acclaimed clarinet player Michael Collins and the conductor Robert Hodge.

Marcus Gaved (18) also had success at the RCM, winning first prize in the The Angela Bull Memorial Competition, accompanied by Damir Durmanovic (16). The bassists at the School attend the RCM's Junior Department to play in the Symphony orchestra which is a very important part of the bassist's diet.



*Will, Ketan and Marcus*

## — Scottish Tour

YMS students have been performing for Music at Blair Atholl for twenty-four years and at the Royal Over-Seas League in Edinburgh for around fifteen. Last year they extended their annual Northern tour to include for the first time the World Heritage Site of New Lanark. This year saw two more new concerts at Berwick-upon-Tweed and Eyemouth. Pianists Ursula Perks, Leyla Cemiloglu (18), Damir Durmanovic and Aida Lahlou were joined by violinist David Horvat, cellist Shizuku Tatsuno (19) and guitarist Kevin Loh for the Berwick concert. The Eyemouth concert was given by just David, Shizuku and Kevin, whilst the pianists took the opportunity to walk the Elizabethan walls of Berwick in the bright winter sunshine. A big thank you to the people of Berwick and Eyemouth for making us so welcome and supporting in such numbers.

The concert party then travelled to the World Heritage Site of New Lanark. Our concert took place in the Musicians Room, built 200 years ago this year so that the workforce could have entertainment, dancing and education in their spare time. A revolutionary concept then, but one with which Yehudi Menuhin, born exactly one hundred years later, would have surely agreed. We were delighted to share the concert with the young pianist Ethan Loch from St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh.

On Friday the party moved on to the Royal Over-Seas League in Edinburgh for a concert in memory of Roderick Lakin, Director of ROSL Arts and great friend of the School, who died in a tragic accident last year. We were as well supported, fed and watered as ever. The same was true of the weekend's two concerts for Music at Blair Atholl, where the 'Northern' tour began all those years ago. Many thanks to everyone for making the tour so enjoyable and such a success.



Kevin O'Brien

Kevin, David Shizuku in Eyemouth

## — Purcell vs. YMS

In the annual fixture against The Purcell School, our boys fought hard but lost 5-2. The Headmaster described it as an exciting and close contest which was fabulous to watch: "We were fitter and faster, and kept pushing the opposition. Even the referee and Purcell's Director of Sport commented that the result was not a true reflection of the game."

Purcell keeps the trophy, but it wasn't an easy win. Daniel scored a cracking goal in the second half, set up nicely by Jo Edwards. Jo then scored our second goal shortly after. The Yehudi Menuhin School played with real attack and never lost their cool, even in the face of some fierce tackling. YMS remained gentlemen throughout.



Simon Larter-Evans

# And the rest

## — Official Opening of Music House Extension

The official opening ceremony for the School's Music House extension was presided over by Yehudi Menuhin's daughter, Zamira Menuhin Benthall.

The extension, which took some nine months to build between October 2014 and July 2015, provides our senior girls with six additional bedrooms, each one with their own ensuite bathroom and an all-important piano.



Angela Stockbridge

Zamira Opening Music House

## — Gangsta Granny

Tom Yang, (11) writes: The D group went to 'G Live' in Guildford to see a production of 'Gangsta Granny' based on a book written by David Walliams.

It tells the story of Ben who stays at his Granny's house every Friday night. He hates it there, until one day he finds out that his Granny has stolen rings, necklaces and all types of jewellery. Ben keeps this secret and then works out a plan for them both to steal the Crown Jewels from the Tower of London. This is a great, exciting, dangerous plan - will they succeed?

The actors were brilliant at portraying their characters: they were confident, funny, very clear and loud. I really liked watching them, (especially the actor who took the role of the Granny - she was very amusing!)

The scenery was clever, and I liked the props, especially the Crown Jewels. The best prop of all though was Granny's mobility scooter.

The sound effects were excellent, and we all giggled whenever we heard Granny passing wind!

It is a great show for children over 5 years and adults too of any age.

## — C3 Science Museum Trip

Finlay Hay (13) writes: The C3s went to the London Science Museum to see the exhibition, Cosmonauts: Birth of the Space Age. It tells the story of Russian space travel, its role in the space race and showed different models of space rocket and suits. It was topical as we are studying that right now in science class. It was fascinating to see, up close, how small the capsules are in which people would live for several days. Not mentioning satellites the size of a football, and examples of how different systems work in rockets and space stations. The parachute system was very interesting, but the space station toilet did make you think that space travel might not be that luxurious!

We also had a great time looking at the inner works of combustion engines, and some of the first and smallest cars, including the PeelP50 and the 'Puffing Devil', the first active steam locomotive in Britain. There are also fascinating models of different ways engines could work, with examples of old canal boats.

We managed a very quick look in the Natural History Museum before heading back to school. The building is so immense and in the short time we had, we went through their top exhibits and had a look though the mammals section. The room has such a great design, filled with different animals hanging from the ceiling, as if somebody had combined the ocean, the jungle and the desert into one. We didn't just gaze in wonder, we quizzed each other about which animals were related and watched a rather fun video about the manatee, or the sea cow!



Jenny Decker

C3 Science Trip

## — The D Group visit to the British Museum

Tonwyn Li, (10) writes: The D group went to see the Roman section of the amazing British Museum. We have been studying Roman history since September. On the way through the museum we walked past the Egyptian section and we saw the large and famous Rosetta stone. We looked at it for a few minutes and discovered that it is transcribed in 3 languages - Egyptian Hieroglyphics, Egyptian demotic and Greek. On the stairs we saw some very interesting Roman mosaics, and they showed all kinds of animals. Some of the mosaics are very large.

We went to many galleries and in Room 49 we were asked if we would like to hold an actual replica of a piece of the Mildenhall treasure. We were also shown some replicas of Roman everyday objects and a few real Celtic 3000-year-old axe heads. Then she showed us a replica of a wax tablet and a stylus (which is a wooden frame with wax melted into it and a thick metal needle for writing on the wax). We saw many fascinating things including Roman instruments and music.

## — New Year Quiz

The annual New Year Quiz involves every pupil in the School answering questions on music (obviously!), history, geography, general knowledge, film and TV, literature, as well as being quizzed, as usual, on what they could remember of the Headmaster's morning meetings last term (answer: a surprising amount!). A new round this year was Richard Tanner's challenge which entailed building a tower from paper napkins. The scores were all incredibly close this year, with a storming performance on the tower-building challenge giving overall victory to the team which gave itself the name Boshua Jell.

Many thanks to Sarah Howell for organising another successful evening and to everyone who set questions.



Simon Larter-Evans

Quiz 2016

## — Stuart Lawson talks 'Successful Failure'

Stuart Lawson gave a lively and entertaining talk to the A and B pupils entitled "Successful Failure" arguing that failure is a great teacher and we should not be afraid of it.

His successful career in international banking as CEO and Chairman was punctuated by setbacks and he said that he was sacked five times. He declared that this developed his resilience and that now he lectures in universities and business schools around the world sharing his experiences with the encouragement to bounce back stronger and wiser.

He gave his talk directly after enjoying a lunchtime concert and recognised that by performing music the pupils regularly opened themselves up to the possibility of failure. The audience response give very direct feedback, so the cycle of learning for a performer could be very much faster than in most careers. His audience responded enthusiastically.



Simon Larter-Evans

Stuart Lawson with pupils

## Staff News

**Nathan Williamson** is the proud father of Clara Frances Beauclerk born 26 February at 10.32am by c-section, weighing 9lbs and 6oz. She and her mother are both very well.



The Southwold Music Trust, recently founded by Nathan Williamson to support musical activities in his hometown of Southwold, Suffolk, will stage a concert by the Southend Boys and Girls choirs in the town's beautiful St Edmund's Church on Saturday April 30th at 3.30pm. More information at [www.southwoldconcertseries.co.uk](http://www.southwoldconcertseries.co.uk)

The term started with a new pastoral team in Music House, with **Ann Sweeney** adding the role of Resident Housemistress to that of Senior School Nurse, **Kendra Shute** becoming her full-time resident assistant, and assistant violin teacher **Akerke Ospan** joining staff pianist Svittlana Kosenko as resident boarding tutors. On the musical front, alumna **Miho Kawashima** (2006) joined us as assistant piano teacher and **Mariana Izman** returned from maternity leave to resume her role as deputy piano teacher to Marcel Baudet.

The Menuhin Hall now has a new manager in the form of **Alice Benzing**, whilst **Anna Larson** has joined the team behind the Hall Bar and **Jon Griffin** will be supervising both the Menuhin Hall bar and the residential holiday courses. Sadly **Isabel Dawson** has had to stand down from her post as Administrative Assistant in the Hall, but we are delighted that she will be staying with us, albeit on a less frequent basis, and returning to help us with preparations for the Menuhin 100 Festival in the summer. Publicity and communications concerning the Festival are all being handled by **Julie Sperring**, who also joined us just before Christmas. We are currently looking forward to the arrival of **Ben Wyithe** who is about to take over as Assistant to the Estates Manager.

We are delighted to welcome all our new staff and wish them a long and happy time with us.

# Alumni News

In BBC Radio 4's the Mastertape Series, John Wilson talked to **Nigel Kennedy** (1974) about his original recording of *The Four Seasons*, which sold over 2 million copies when it was released in 1989. In the programme, Nigel talks about his early influences and the impact of Yehudi Menuhin on his musicianship and the attitudes that have shaped him as a musician. He also performs extracts of the broad range of music for which he has become so well-known.

The programme was broadcast in two parts – The A Side on Monday 25 January 2016 at 11.00pm, and The B-side on Tuesday 26 January at 3.30pm in which he answers questions from the studio audience. Hear it here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06ybnh5>

**Tasmin Little OBE** (1983) has released a triple CD of all the Beethoven sonatas for piano and violin with Martin Roscoe on Chandos Records.

**Jacob Shaw's** (2005) 2CD Album *DEBUT* was released worldwide, attracting 5\* reviews in leading music magazines. From April 2016, the CD will be on the inflight entertainment audio selection on BA Long Haul flights.

**Wu Qian** (2002) and **Alexander Sitkovetsky** (1999) have won the Lincoln Centre Emerging Artist Awards 2016. Both have enjoyed great success with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center's CMS Two program, a three-season residency for exceptionally gifted young chamber music artists. Together they won first prize at the Trio di Trieste Duo Competition, and are founder members of the Sitkovetsky Piano Trio.

**Iva Nedeva** (2012), became a recipient of the Tokyo Foundation's 'Nippon' award and in January this year had her debut in the Musikverein Hall, Vienna.

**Luisa Marie Reichelt's** (2012) Guitar Duo Reichelt & Nissen has just released its first CD, *Debut* with their own arrangement of Schubert's Impromptu Op. 90. The duo has received a scholarship and will perform in festivals this year including Gitarre Forum in Vienna.

**Yume Fujise** (2013) gave a live performance on BBC Radio 3's programme, In Tune, performing Fritz Kreisler's Gipsy Dance with pianist Kumi Matsuo. Watch here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03knw8c>

**Tamaki Sugimoto** (2014) won the second prize in The 21st Kobe International Music Competition in Japan. The prize includes concert opportunities in Japan and also in Milan this Easter.

**Cosima Soulez Larivière** (2015) and **Rosalind Phang** (2013) have been awarded a Yehudi Menuhin Live Music Now e.V. scholarship. Cosima was also awarded an ESU Music Scholarship and has been invited onto the Tanglewood Music Center Fellowship Program this summer.

At the end of 2015, **Ben Baker** (2009) toured New Zealand with two good friends, Sam Armstrong and Jonathan Bloxham with the Royal Over-Seas League. On his return, he played Britten, Finzi and Elgar with Daniel Lehardt in the Wigmore Hall. Ben also featured in the 'Best of 2015' on the ArtsDesk: <http://www.theartsdesk.com/classical-music/best-2015-classical-concerts>

Ever busy, Ben also performed with the Maui Pops Orchestra in Hawaii in January. There is plenty coming up: 8 May: Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with Jonathan Bloxham and the London Firebird Orchestra in Kings Place, London, and on 11 June at the Salisbury Festival including Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with conductor Martyn Brabbins and The Philharmonia Orchestra, and again in October with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in Dartford.



Ben Baker

# Development News

## — Appeal update

Now that we are entering the final months of the Appeal, I'd like to thank you for responding so generously. The School has received a number of gifts from existing and new supporters – Friends, individuals and families, Trusts and Foundations. Amongst these were pledges of £200,000 from the Leverhulme Trust and £30,000 from the Weil-Bloch Foundation towards bursaries. One of our own Friends has shown incredible generosity by gifting £50,000 towards the new Music Studios; the Wolfson Foundation has pledged £40,000 towards the same purpose.

The Development Board which consists of Governors and other external members, continue to approach new supporters on behalf of the School. In January, we were pleased to welcome Erica Bolton to the Board as a new external member. Erica runs a leading London PR consultancy, Bolton Quinn, and will be helping the School to raise its profile locally, regionally and nationally. Others have offered very practical help. Rob Hill - nephew of our late YMS Friend Joan Davison – has pledged to produce signage in the new Music Studios through his company, Graphica Display. Our own YMS Friends have responded in great number to their own appeal towards a named Friends Music Studio. This includes a very generous gift of £5,000 from Anthony and Gay Hoare. Thank you to everyone who has supported the School to date.

## — You can still 'Buy a Brick'!

If you would like to leave a lasting impression within our Music Studios, we are fast approaching the final opportunity to 'Buy A Brick'! Some have left a personal message by way of their own name, that of a loved one past or present, or even their favourite composer. The choice is yours! Thank you to everybody who has joined in so far. If you have not had the opportunity to take part but would like to do so, please make contact at [development@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:development@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk) or call 01932 584797 before 31 May 2016. The builders will be laying the bricks soon afterwards.

A number of events are being organised as part of the Menuhin 100 programme. We are enjoying working with London-based artist Geraldine van Heemstra, who has created the wonderful line drawings used in the last Events brochure. Her works will be exhibited in London, and then at the School during the Summer Festival and she has generously requested that all proceeds from the sale of art go towards the fundraising appeal. You can read more about how to support our 'artist-in-residence' project in the story, Musical Lines, on page 11.

We have had a fantastic response to the Gala Fundraising Dinner and Concert sponsored by SW Mitchell Capital and featuring Nicola Benedetti. At the time of going to print, there are only three tables out of a potential thirty that remain available. If you would like to take a table or purchase individual tickets, please get in touch as soon as possible – they are selling quickly. Many thanks to Vanessa Richards for her enthusiasm, energy, commitment and skill in pulling this event together with such style and distinction.

## — Friends update

The Chairman, Sir John Baker, and Board of the Friends Management Committee were delighted that so many members were able to attend the AGM. Those present were pleased to hear that a donation of over £40k from the Friends had been made towards school bursaries during the 2014/2015 academic year. It was also the chance to hear about the launch of the Friends' own named Music Studio fundraising initiative. Since the official launch in January over £10,000 has been raised. Everyone who gives will be recognised individually within the Music Studio.

## — Becoming a Friend

Although spring is just a recent arrival, this will be the last reminder to join our Friends programme in time to take advantage of priority bookings for the autumn season. Details of the programme will be released in early August and will include the usual variety of outstanding Celebrity Concerts and inspiring pupil Showcase Concerts. Friends receive priority booking for many events and can even attend some free of charge. If you would like to support the School by becoming a Friend, you can find out more on our website at <http://www.yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk/friends> - send an email to [friends@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:friends@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk) or contact Sarah Barton on 01932 584797.



Audience arriving

# Musical Lines



Stuart Mitchell

*Geraldine at work*

Following a year-long residency at the School, artist Geraldine van Heemstra has sketched some of our pupils and teachers during rehearsals and lessons creating the delightful studies you will have seen in our season brochure. The oils, drawings and etchings will be exhibited for sale firstly in London and then at the school with all proceeds of the sale of her work going to the School's Centenary Appeal.

A limited edition boxed-set of 10 etchings will also be available via the School and at the exhibitions. All proceeds of the sale of the boxed-sets will also go to the Appeal in this generous gesture by Geraldine.

The exhibition opens at the A and D Gallery, 51 Chiltern Street, London W1U 6LY on Tuesday 21 June and runs till Saturday 25 June, after which the pieces will be exhibited and available to buy here at the School throughout the Menuhin 100 Festival.

See a selection of Geraldine's work at

[www.geraldinevanheemstra.com](http://www.geraldinevanheemstra.com)

Visit the Gallery's website at [www.AandDGallery.com](http://www.AandDGallery.com)

Opening hours are: Tuesday–Friday 10.30am–7.00pm,  
Saturday 10.30am–4.00pm.



Geraldine van Heemstra

*Violinist*

## — Joan Davison bequest

When the School learned about the death of Joan Davison and her subsequent intention to support pupils through an unrestricted gift in her Will, it was decided to mark this lasting legacy by naming a Music Studio in her honour. But what was it that inspired her to take this step? Her nephew, Rob Hill, explains:

“Naming a studio after Joan is an excellent way of recognising her life-long love of music, her long and happy association with the School, and the pleasure she obtained from seeing the fulfilment of the children's talent. Joan wanted them to have every opportunity to learn and perform to the very best of their ability. She loved listening to the pupils, seeing them progress at School and following them in their professional careers. Joan recognized that her greatest contribution to the School in her lifetime would probably not be financial - instead it was her time, enthusiasm and ability to bring new people to the School. However, her final gift made in her legacy will ensure that her love of music and support for its pupils will not only continue, but would be remembered always.”

Leaving an unrestricted gift in your Will can enable talented young students to achieve their musical potential for generations to come. If you would like further information about how to do this, please contact Anthony Medhurst on 01932 584787 or e-mail [anthony.medhurst@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:anthony.medhurst@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk).

## Hall News

### — 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 Sarah Barton: 01932 584791 or e-mail [sarah.barton@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:sarah.barton@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk).

## — Menuhin 100 Celebrity Series



In 2016 The Menuhin Hall is hosting a series of Celebrity Concerts given by outstanding musicians to our patrons and public, all of which our pupils are privileged to attend as part of their education.

The Menuhin 100 Celebrity series, celebrating Yehudi Menuhin's birth, began in the autumn of 2015 with unforgettable concerts from Angela Hewitt and the Emerson Quartet. The New Year started with a recital by Nikolai Demidenko on 9 January whose programme included a mouth-watering selection of pieces by Chopin, Prokofiev and Medtner. Jeremy & Mookie Menuhin were joined by violinist Sasha Rozhdestvensky for a trio on 27 January. This was swiftly followed on 8 February by Stephen Hough and Steven Isserlis performing Dvořák, Schubert and Grieg. The season continues on 12 April with Joji Hattori and our own School Orchestra, and then on 15 May Alina Ibragimova performs with her ensemble, the Chiaroscuro Quartet. The season ends on 14 June with a concert by the legendary guitarist John Williams performing with Richard Harvey in an unusual concert of music from round the world.

And there are many other events coming up in the Menuhin 100 Festival, running from 1-10 July. Following the opening Gala Concert which features alumna **Nicola Benedetti**, there will be a recital by **James O'Donnell**, Organist and Master of the Choristers of Westminster Abbey, and a fascinating presentation 'Yehudi on Film' by film-maker **Bruno Monsaingeon**. The Festival ends with an evening of Shakespeare in words and music, starring award-winning actor **Samuel West**. The students also feature of course, in six 'Showcase' Concerts spread throughout the ten days.

For full details of all these concerts please go to our website [www.yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk](http://www.yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk) or call the Box Office on 08700 842020 in order not to miss out.



Richard Lewisohn

## 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](mailto:development@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk)

# From the Headmaster

Dear Friends

As I write, the new buildings are well underway and right on target to be ready for the new academic year in September. The extension to Harris House is going to give the boys in that boarding house just a little more breathing space: rooms designed for two pupils will no longer have three, and those designed as single rooms will be exactly that. In addition, the new Music Studio complex will provide the School with, astonishingly, its first purpose-built instrumental teaching and practice rooms since the building of the two studios in Middle Block in the 1970s and the first ever to be built with any consideration for acoustic conditions and sound separation. Furthermore, the School has been able to acquire Millfield Lodge, the private house at the end of the football pitch on the Cobham Road, restoring it to its rightful place as part of the Millfield estate (for the first time in nearly a century). Preliminary works will start soon on vital refurbishment (heating, wiring etc) before it becomes available for school use, initially as visiting staff accommodation, in the next academic year.

These are very exciting developments and we would like to thank all our friends and benefactors who have made them possible. If you would like to know more about helping us with these projects, do contact our Development Director Anthony Medhurst ([development@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:development@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk)).

Please don't miss out on the opportunity to come to as much of our Menuhin 100 Festival as you can. It runs for the first ten days of July and I can tell you that tickets for all events are selling very quickly. We have a very busy summer term ahead of us as we prepare to celebrate the centenary of Lord Menuhin in fitting style. Do come and join us.

With best wishes 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](mailto:development@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk) and we will update your preferences.