



The  
Yehudi  
Menuhin  
School

PROFESSOR OF PIANO  
Candidate Information Pack



Closing date for applications:  
Wednesday 1 May 2024

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

## A welcome from the Head

Thank you for expressing an interest in this role. I hope you find this document informative, and it explains everything you need to know about working at our very special school and whether it is the place for you.

The Yehudi Menuhin School is a world-leading specialist music school set in beautiful rural Surrey. 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.

We are committed to the wellbeing of all our community and aspire 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 full of creative, talented people from all over the world. We would be delighted to receive your application, and we look forward to welcoming you to this unique school.

**Robin Harskin**  
Head

## The Yehudi Menuhin School

Founded in 1963 by the world-renowned violinist and educator Yehudi Menuhin, the school provides a place for musically gifted children from around the world to develop their talents to the highest level within a stimulating academic environment. It was accorded the status of Centre for Excellence in the Performing Arts in 1973 and has a global reputation as one of the world's leading music schools.

Today's school provides a holistic education for around 90 exceptional pupils aged from 9 to 19, with specialist tuition on the stringed instruments, piano, classical guitar, harp, and composition. Pupils split their time between their academic and musical studies and are given many opportunities to perform in front of an audience. Concerts take place regularly in The Menuhin Hall, but also in local state schools, care homes and churches, carrying on Menuhin's belief in the importance of giving back to the community.

The school also boasts a Virtual Menuhin School, which offers pupils not enrolled at the school the unique opportunity to receive specialist music education in a virtual environment, receiving musicianship, theory and instrumental training and the chance to connect with other young musicians across the globe.

Pupils are admitted based on talent, potential and passion for music, not on their ability to pay the fees. Today, around 90% of pupils require some level of financial assistance to attend YMS. The School is one of nine specialist UK schools that are supported by the Department for Education's Music and Dance Scheme.

YMS Alumni include renowned international soloists such as Nigel Kennedy, Nicola Benedetti CBE, Tasmin Little OBE, Alina Ibragimova, Valeriy Sokolov, Kathryn Stott and Melvyn Tan. Many other alumni are shaping the global cultural landscape through teaching at leading conservatoires and performing with world-class orchestras and chamber ensembles.

## Purpose of the role:

Following the retirement of Ruth Nye, 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 serve to inspire the School's growing cohort of talented young pianists. It should also be expected that the role will include taking an active role in the identification and recruitment of new pupils in order to help support the work of our existing teachers and further the reputation of the School's piano department.

Each pupil at the School receives 2 hours of one-to-one Principal Study tuition per week, plus regular studio classes and additional support as required. 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 and instrumental assessments (as agreed with the Director of Music) 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.

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



## Key points about the role:

### Contract Type & Salary:

This is a permanent, salaried position, paid as a percentage of a full-time equivalent of £43,470 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.

### Pension:

The School offers a very generous pension, contributing 13.5% every month, with the employee contributing at least 6%.

**Holiday:** Term Time Only

### Probation Period:

2 terms

### Reporting To:

Director of Music

### Location:

Stoke d'Abernon, Cobham, Surrey  
KT11 3QQ.

### Start Date:

September 2024

### Requirements:

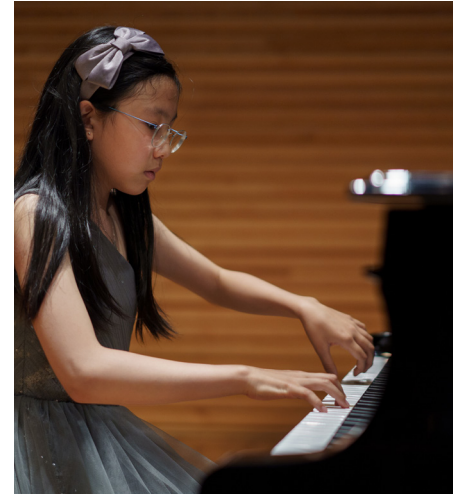
- A satisfactory enhanced Barred List check
- UK right to work check
- UK and EEA prohibited list checks
- Satisfactory references
- Medical declaration
- Verification of qualifications

### Key Benefits:

- Flexible working patterns by the agreement of all parties
- Free School lunches during term times
- Timetabling support
- Excellent teaching facilities
- Free parking
- Free lunchtime concerts
- Discounted tickets to other school events
- Use of the School's swimming pool (when available)
- 24/7 access to AXA Thrive app for mental wellbeing
- AXA Health telephone line access for medical support and advice
- 24/7 access to DAS counselling services
- Life Assurance
- A health cash plan provided by Medicash

## Key Duties and Responsibilities

- 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, relevant colleagues 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 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 well-being 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 Head.
- 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.

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.

## 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.
- Have appropriate 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 a 9-year-old full of potential, to a 19-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.



## How to apply

If you would like any more information about the post, or would like to discuss the job before applying, please contact our HR department either by email ([recruitment@menuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@menuhinschool.co.uk)) or call 01932 584790.

The deadline for applications is **Wednesday 1st May 2024** and auditions and interviews will take place the week commencing **6th May 2024**.

The audition requirements will consist of two 30 minute lessons, a 25-minute recital and interview.

Click [here](#) to fill out our [application form](#).

Your application form should be completed in full and submitted along with a CV and covering letter addressed to the Head, Mr Robin Harskin. 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 sectors of the community.



@menuhinschool



@yehudimenuhinschool



The Yehudi Menuhin School

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