



The
Yehudi
Menuhin
School

The International
Music School founded
by Yehudi Menuhin

Registered Charity 312010

ISSUE
#71

Newsletter

Autumn 2018

Welcome

In early November, a film crew spent a few days at YMS shooting footage for a new 4 minute video for our website. It was time for a new film as the youngest pupils who featured in the previous one graduated from the School in the summer. Furthermore, our music facilities have been transformed over recent years and our boarding provision and grounds have been improved.

The difficulty was not deciding what to include in the new film, but working out how to paint an accurate picture of life at the School with so much unavoidably having to be omitted. Although many of the roses were still in bloom, the weather was no longer good enough for outdoor picnics and barbecues. The successful orchestral tour to Spain, though on everyone's lips, was just a memory, as were countless concerts, masterclasses, workshops, weekend outings, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and significant visits from musicians and delegations from abroad, most recently from Japan and China. And how about



those special and eagerly anticipated events that punctuate the YMS school year? Founder's Day, Junior School plant sale, primary schools' concerts, Summer Festival, Activities Day, Jazz Party, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, Christmas Concerts and Party: none of these got a look in.

I hope that the film will convey, through a series of interviews with staff and pupils, the essence of what it is like to live, work and study at the Menuhin School, a warm appreciation

of everything YMS gives us, and a strong sense of purpose and of community.

We should also all of us humbly acknowledge how privileged we are to be here, and understand the part we each play in ensuring the continued success of the School for generations to come.

Kate Clanchy
Head

SCHOOL LIFE	2
ALUMNI	12
STAFF	13
MENUHIN HALL	14
DEVELOPMENT	16
FRIENDS	17

Follow us!

If you are active on social media (or would like to be) please have a look at our various channels.

Please follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for news, events and images, but best of all is our YouTube channel which we keep updated with awe-inspiring videos of our pupils playing Schubert, Poulenc, Vaughan Williams, Howells and more. Through this channel you can watch and listen to our pupils in the comfort of your own home whenever you like.

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram [@menuhinschool](#)



Find us on Facebook [@yehudimenuhinschool](#)



Subscribe to our YouTube channel by searching for **The Yehudi Menuhin School**



We also update the news section of our website regularly, so please visit www.menuhinschool.co.uk/news to see what we are up to.

CONTACT US

The Yehudi Menuhin School
Stoke d'Abernon, Cobham, Surrey
KT11 3QQ
01932 864739

www.menuhinschool.co.uk

From the Chairman of Governors

As I write, we are approaching the end of 2018 and it's a good time to take stock of a momentous year in the history of our unique school.

The year began with the arrival of Kate Clanchy as our new Head, complementing the appointment of Òscar Colomina i Bosch as the School's new Director of Music which had taken effect from the start of the academic year. The pace of change amongst the leadership team has accelerated ever since with the arrivals of David Bruce (Director of Studies), Joanne Field (Housemistress and Head of Pastoral Care), Shelley Twitchin (Bursar) and Alix de Mauny (Director of Development). As a result we now have a completely fresh and highly qualified team to take us forward into 2019 and beyond.

Meanwhile, both musically and academically the School has continued to excel. While our remarkable successes in both the Menuhin Competition and the BBC Young Musician Competition hit the headlines, there has been a whole series of superb musical outcomes for all of our pupils. The major tour to Spain this term represented a highly successful expansion of our European presence. In both GCSEs and A Levels, the School achieved comfortably over 60% A-A* results.

Both the opportunities and the challenges ahead are considerable. Despite all the new building over recent years, and a major refurbishment programme this year, the School must continue to develop its estate to provide the quality of



facilities that it needs. To this end, a masterplan has already been created and approved in principle by Governors. We are also at the early stages of some exciting international developments.

Overhanging everything is the uncertainty of the UK's future relationship with Europe and thus with the world as a whole. As a small international community, these political and economic issues are of disproportionate importance. In navigating such turbulent waters, we will continue to be guided by the fundamental principles laid down by our Founder: bringing together the most talented young musicians from all over the world and educating them to emerge as rounded human beings with exceptional capacity to contribute to the common good.

Richard Morris
Chairman of Governors

Competitions

Once again, our pupils have had an impressive term of competition success.

SongHa Choi won the Grand Prize in the String section (ex aequo with a cellist) in the Berliner International Music Competition. As part of the prize, SongHa played in the Winner's Gala Concert in the Berliner Philharmonic Hall in September.

Will Duerden won 1st Prize in the Peter Morrison Concerto Competition - part of the Royal College of Music Junior Division's internal competition series.

Eddie Mead has won a place in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.

Gorka Plada Girón won 2nd Prize in the International Piano Competition for Young Musicians in Amsterdam.



Ezo Dem Sarici won 3rd prize in the Virtuoso and Belcanto Chamber Competition in Italy. She was also awarded the Paganini Prize and received a mention for being the youngest competitor.



Elřida Turan won 3rd Prize in the Ilona Fehér International Violin Competition in Budapest.

Claire Wells won 3rd Prize in the Mirecourt International Violin

Competition in France. As the competition is open to international violinists aged 26 years and younger, at 17, Claire was one of the youngest to earn a place in the Finals. She also won the Special Prize for best interpretation of a French sonata.

Claire was accompanied by **Svitlana Kosenko**, who was named as most outstanding accompanist.



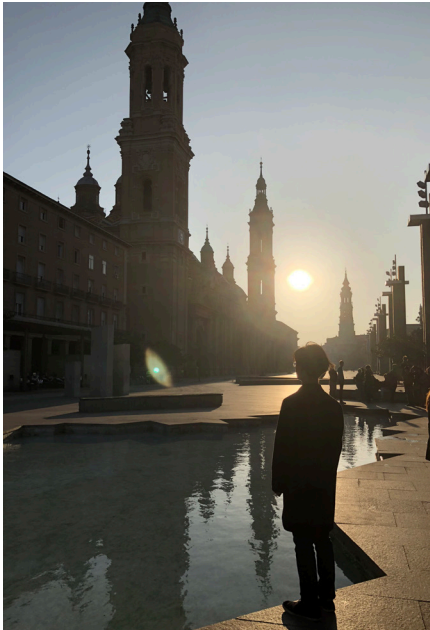
Pianoduo Festival Amsterdam 2018

Duru Erdogan and Stefaniya Nikolich travelled to Holland to perform in the Pianoduo Festival Amsterdam. They played a programme of Busoni and Schumann and were by far the youngest performers at the Festival.

After the performance they participated in a discussion panel and both girls distinguished themselves and the School by speaking articulately and with maturity.

The Spanish Tour

A music, cultural and gastronomical adventure for the orchestra



Thirty-three pupils and five members of staff set out on Sunday 21 October for a tour of concert halls in North-Eastern Spain. The programme had been planned by our (Spanish) Director of

Music, Òscar Colomina i Bosch, and he took care to make sure that everyone would learn something of Spanish culture as well as giving performances.

The tour really began in Richmond on Saturday 20 October, with a performance for the charity Rainbow Fund for South Africa which was warmly received by the audience. When the orchestra returned to the School, the instruments were carefully packed into one of the minibuses and Tamas Reti and Cathy Whitnall drove off into the night to get a head start on the pupils, who flew at a more civilised hour on Sunday. Everyone was reunited in the evening at Zaragoza for a good night's sleep.

On Monday the tour guide, Adriana Match, led the group on a walking tour

of Zaragoza which took in the Basilica de Nuestra Señora del Pilar, Catedral del Salvador and Palacio de Aljaferia. After lunch (and rest), the pupils went to the concert venue to be reunited with their instruments and to prepare for the evening concert at the Auditorio de Zaragoza. The audience was small but appreciative, and even during the rehearsal the Artistic Director of the venue was so impressed with the quality that he issued an invitation to return for further concerts.

On Tuesday we proceeded to Òscar's home city of Valencia, where we encountered paella for the first time. To the pupils' delight it was served as a help-yourself buffet. After a bit of rest, the meal was walked off during a tour of the central part of Valencia, including some very modern



architecture. We were delighted to see ex-pupil Margarita Canto Wolteche during this visit.

On Wednesday Òscar led a walking tour into the old city, giving us historical information to go with the buildings that we saw. These included the Museu Nacional de Ceràmica and some indoor markets. Lunch was at the distinctly non-Spanish Hard Rock Café (burgers, of course) – it was interesting to see how much of American food culture has invaded Spain. The evening's concert was at the Conservatorio Superior de Valencia - a large audience this time, including Òscar's former teachers and colleagues and some local fans. For supper we sampled another Spanish tradition – tapas – of which there was more than we could eat!

On Thursday, on the way to Coma-Ruga, we stopped at the beautiful seaside town of Peñíscola for a look at the castle. By the end of the afternoon we were at our next hotel, beside the beach at Coma-Ruga; this was probably the favourite hotel, partly because of its location, but also because all meals were buffet-style.

On Friday morning we went to the Pau Casals Museum (the former summer



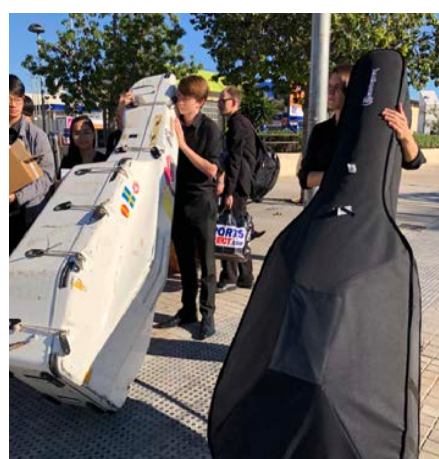
home of Spain's greatest cellist). After some free time in the afternoon, there was a rehearsal before the evening concert. A full and enthusiastic audience attended, including alumni Pau Codina and Judith Botanch. A camera crew from the Catalan public broadcaster filmed the first item in the programme (Turina: *Oración del Torero*).

Saturday saw our final transfer to Madrid, via the hillside town of Sigüenza where we filled up with the local speciality – migas and lamb shanks. The concerts on Sunday and Monday were both at the Juan March Foundation, and Sunday's concert was live-streamed. The auditorium was full, and the concert

was streamed to a secondary auditorium and the café-bar. Guest of honour at the first concert was Paloma O'Shea, a close friend of Zamira and co-founder of the Reina Sofia School in Madrid.

After a memorable visit to the Prado, it was time to pack up and leave. Once again the pupils flew while the minibus went on its 22-hour journey back through the Chunnel with the instruments.

It was a hugely successful and enjoyable tour, one that will be talked about for many years to come. Thank you to Kate, Òscar, Alice, Cathy and Tamas for making it possible.



Remembrance Day



Our Remembrance Day service this year was a special one, not only because it was the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1, but because we were joined by Governor Vanessa Richards who spoke about the charity Remembered, of which she is a Trustee.

Vanessa gave a moving speech about the There But Not There project, which aims to place a representative figure for every name on local war memorials around the country, into their place of worship, school, workplace or wherever their absence was keenly felt. Proceeds from the sale of the 'Tommy' figures go to various organisations dedicated to helping veterans and their families.

Poems were read by Natasha, Julius and Kate Clanchy, and trumpeter Freddie Meyers from Royal Academy of Music played *The Last Post* and *Reveille*. After two minutes of silence, the choir performed a moving rendition of *In Paradisum*, led by Choir Director David Condry.

Howard Goodall

It was an inspiring start to the new Academic year with a visit from award-winning composer and broadcaster Howard Goodall.

Howard spoke first to the whole school about the timelessness of music, and why he believed the perceived gap between classical and popular music was mostly an artificial one. We were taken on a journey from the birth of opera to Mr Bean sullenly repeating his single

note on the synthesiser with the LSO at the London 2012 Olympics, dreaming he was joining the runners on the beach in *Chariots of Fire*. The pupils were then treated to an extra hour during which they quizzed Howard on various topics from Rimsky-Korsakov's orchestration to contemporary film music.

Howard stayed for lunch with the pupils and staff and more spirited conversation.



Languages Day

A group of pupils from the High School connected to the Tokyo University of the Arts spent a sunny day in September at YMS making music, art and new friends. A joint effort by the Music and Modern Languages Departments, the day was filled with

a variety of activities ranging from masterclasses, calligraphy and sign language, to cooking, composition and creative writing. The day ended with a concert in The Menuhin Hall, which included piano pieces for four hands, a harmonised version of Auld Lang Syne, and Professor Sawa from Tokyo conducting an orchestra of pupils from both schools.



It was a great pleasure to host the visitors and we look forward to meeting them again.

Thank you to Akiko Ono, Òscar Colomina i Bosch, Didier Descamps, Tamas Reti, Jean Labourg, Cathy Whitnall, Marco Galvani and all of the staff who helped to make the day a success.

New pupils



Benedetta
Violin
Italy



Carmen
Piano
Spain



Ella
Cello
United Kingdom



Emma
Cello
Netherlands



Henry
Violin
United Kingdom



Jana
Violin
Serbia



Joanne
Cello
United Kingdom



Julius
Piano
Netherlands



Kasina
Violin
Thailand



Kate
Violin
United Kingdom



Kenza
Violin
United Kingdom



Kotone
Guitar
Japan



Lara
Cello
Italy



Luthando
Guitar
South Africa



Mariam
Violin
Georgia



Özgür
Cello
Turkey



Sasha
Violin
United Kingdom



Tim
Viola
Australia



Yamato
Violin
United Kingdom

Community Engagement

Tianyou was the special guest at the Spotlight on Strings series of Lunchtime Concerts for **Music for Youth** at the Royal Albert Hall on 6 November. The charity gives performance opportunities to more than 40,000 children across the UK in all genres of music, culminating in a three-day event at the Royal Albert Hall in November every year.

Can was the guest soloist with Dorking Chamber Orchestra for their concert in October at St Martin's Church, Dorking. He performed Beethoven *Piano Concerto No 5 'Emperor'*. The concert was part of the **Mole Valley Arts Alive Festival**. YMS pupils performed at the launch of the Festival in The Menuhin Hall in September.

Prior to setting off for Spain, the orchestra performed at **St John the Divine, Richmond**. It was a great opportunity to ease into the tour in front of an extremely supportive audience. The concert was in aid of **Rainbow Fund for South Africa**, a small charity that provides education and aid to children who are in desperate need of a quiet, safe place to do their homework and learn.

In November, a group of pupils, accompanied by staff pianist Nigel Hutchison, performed in **Arundel Cathedral in support of Sussex Snowdrop Trust**. The Trust provides nursing care at home to children with life-threatening or terminal illnesses. Di Levantine, co-founder and chair of the Sussex Snowdrop Trust, said: "We are so delighted to have these incredible students supporting the charity with this performance. We appreciate how busy their schedule is and it is an honour to see them perform. It is especially poignant on the eve of the Armistice Centenary for us to recognise the sacrifice of the 93 soldiers who gave their lives in Arundel as we sit in the pews alongside figures from the There But Not There campaign."

Our annual lunchtime concert for the **Wimbledon Festival** featured music with a Russian theme. We repeated the programme later in the month at a concert in Grosvenor Chapel, Mayfair, as part of a cultural project entitled **Russia: Royalty and the Romanovs**. This includes an exhibition at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace.



Our most local church, **St Mary's Stoke d'Abernon**, has launched a series of lunchtime concerts, and we were delighted to play Mozart and Shostakovich quartets and preludes for solo guitar by Manuel Ponce to a packed church hall.

We also performed in concerts for the **Gloucester Music Society, Thames Dining Club and Cobham Conservation and Heritage Trust**, and returned to the Young Artists' Platform at the **Foundling Museum** in Bloomsbury. This series is usually open only to post-graduate students.



Downtime

The pupils at YMS lead very busy lives, so when all the lessons, practising and performing are finished for the day, it is important that they have some time to unwind.

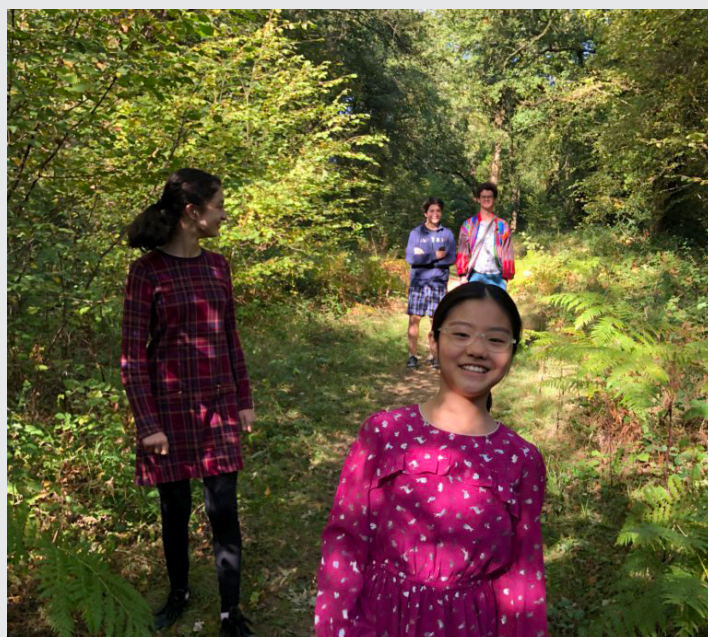
This term we have been offering a variety of activities for pupils to try in the evenings, including ballroom dancing, yoga, table tennis tournaments and extra swimming sessions.

At the weekends, there have been a variety of outings and activities, including walks in the beautiful Surrey countryside, a visit to the Crafty Cafe (a pottery painting studio in Surbiton) and a trip to Oxford. We have also attended fantastic concerts at Little Slyfield and in London.

Remember, remember...

After blustery November weather put the kybosh on our first attempt at Bonfire Night, we persevered the following week.

Armed with mini torches, pupils and staff headed outside where the Catering staff had prepared a delicious barbeque outside Music House. Afterwards, the whole school enjoyed a roaring bonfire and firework display on the meadow. Many thanks to Brian and Steve for a lovely display.



New Science facilities



This term we gained a brand new Science lab. The old teaching room now has laboratory benches, and is fully equipped with all the scientific apparatus we need. This enhances our teaching as we can do exciting practical work at any time, rather than waiting until we are in the main laboratory.

We also have a lovely new prep room to accommodate our ever-increasing volume of equipment and materials.



Junior Trip to the British Museum

On Wednesday 5 December, the Juniors went to the British Museum in London on a school trip, the culmination of their project on Ancient Greece. It was a lovely day for our walk from Tottenham Court Road Station to the Museum. When we got there, we thought it looked like a Greek temple because it had columns, a frieze and a pediment at the entrance.

Our first activity was 'Spot the Gods' by looking carefully at Ancient Greek pottery. It was quite difficult, but we found Apollo, Athena, Dionysus, Hermes,

Poseidon and Zeus. From this we learnt what skilful artists and potters the Greeks were. In addition, we found out what all the various shapes of pot were used for – for example, a *hydria* was for water, a *stamnos* was for wine and a *lekythos* for oil.

After lunch, we went to the Parthenon gallery to see the Elgin Marbles. We were given tablet computers on which we played a game called 'Athena's Gift', in which we had to walk around the gallery finding and scanning the

British Sign Language

Since Languages Day in September, the Juniors have been learning British Sign Language.

They have mastered basic phrases such as good morning, good night, thank you and what is your name. They have also been working on colours, animals, sports and food. Their teacher, Karen Parker, commended the pupils on their finger spelling, and said how much she had learned from them about what it is like to be a musician.

sculptures and doing puzzles which told the story in the Marbles. We then viewed some artefacts which helped us learn what children played with, what women used around the home, and what musical instruments the Greeks played.

It was fascinating to see real life examples of the things we had been learning about in class, and we thoroughly enjoyed our day.

By Yume, Laura, Magnus, Ella, Isla, Caitlin and Claire.



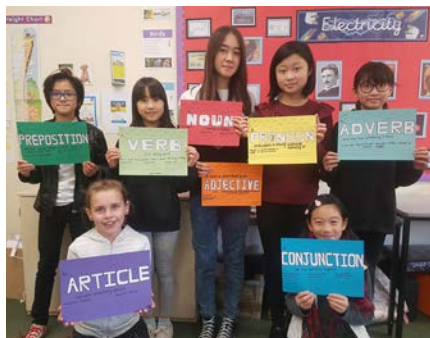
Duke of Edinburgh

This year we have had a record number of pupils - 21! - signing up for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme in the Gold, Silver and Bronze categories.

During our expeditions this term we have camped in both the North and South Downs, and had a very rainy weekend in the New Forest. The groups have walked a collective 140km over four weekends.

The pupils are required to do between three and twelve months of volunteering, and they have chosen a variety of

challenges. Hattie M has been supporting our Junior class with their English grammar, Martin has assisted our swimming coach, and Finlay has helped with the lighting in The Menuhin Hall. Kenza volunteers at a local nursery school and Ghofrane at Epsom Hospital. Many of the pupils have raised money for charity, including through a successful raffle in November, and others are volunteering in local charity shops such as QEF and Oxfam.



Cuckmere Haven

The Biology A level students took a trip to Cuckmere Haven in Sussex in September to study the ecology of the rocky shore.

Using various scientific instruments including a transect and quadrats, the pupils investigated the distribution of molluscs.

Famous for its sea life, Cuckmere Haven is home to a large variety of other wildlife, including adders, red foxes, woodpigeon, herons, kestrels and owls.



Alumni news

Daniel Blume (Penney) released his third track on renowned dance label Spinnin' Records in August. 'Balcony' can be found on Spotify alongside Daniel's first two tracks, 'Strangers' (released March 2018) and 'Tonight' (August 2017).

The premiere of **Cheryl Frances-Hoad's** *Last Man Standing* took place at the Barbican on 30 November with the BBC Symphony Orchestra as part of the Armistice commemorations. Her choral pieces *From the Beginning of the World*, *Gaude et Laetare*, *This time is born a child*, *Floodlight*, *Starlight* and *There is no rose*, were performed on the same day by the BBC Singers at St Giles', Cripplegate.

Kevin Loh was awarded the Goh Soon Tioe Centenary Award in July. The Award is given every year to a young



Kevin Loh



Cosima Soulez Larivière

string player with a strong track record of musicianship and performance. He performed recently at the Esplanade in Singapore with fellow alum **Helena Dawn Yah** (the first recipient of the Goh Soon Tioe Award). Kevin is currently serving as a combat engineer pioneer as part of his National Service in Singapore.

Alumna and current teacher **Akiko Ono** has released a new CD titled *Out of the Mist* with fellow alum **Melissa Gore**. It features British violin pieces by Walton, Finzi, Bridge, Scott, Elgar and Vaughan Williams and is available to purchase in The Menuhin Hall.

Cosima Soulez Larivière won the Prix APCAV at the Verbier Festival Academy this August. The award is given to an Academy musician who contributes to the spirit of the Verbier Festival through a commitment to community and public engagement. Her brother **Sao** was also studying at the Academy this year. Cosima took the 3rd Prize in the Joseph Joachim International Violin Competition in Hannover in October. Currently studying with Krzysztof Wegrzyn at the Hochschule für Musik, Hanover, she won an additional award for the best

interpretation of the commissioned work *Hauch*, by the Berlin-based British composer Rebecca Saunders.

Louisa Staples has been awarded 4th prize at the 2018 Long Thibaud Crespín International Violin Competition.

A group of pupils were fortunate to travel to London to hear **Charles Owen** perform in the Two Piano Marathon at King's Place, part of his London Piano Festival co-directed with Katya Apekisheva.

Recording in the Hall

The Menuhin Hall offers alumni and current teachers a **50% discount on Hall hire and piano hire for commercial recordings**. Recently, we have welcomed alumni **Charles Owen**, **Veronika Shoot**, **Lucy Parham** and **Irina Botan**, as well as teachers **Mariko Brown**, **Nathan Williamson**, **Oscar Perks** and **Amanda Hurton**.

For enquiries, please contact Alice Benzing on 01932 584408.

New staff



David Bruce is the new Director of Studies. He joins us from The Royal Ballet School, where he was Head of Maths and Assistant Housemaster. Outside the classroom, David enjoys playing tennis, badminton, walking in the countryside and visiting the theatre.



Tony Chipps is the new teacher for the Junior School. He taught at Auriol Junior School in Ewell prior to joining YMS. His interests include sport, woodwork and a wide range of musical genres.



Alix de Mauny, our new Development Director, has worked as a fundraiser in the Arts for nine years. Prior to that she worked in international development and humanitarian assistance in Kosovo, Colombia, Rwanda and the Middle East. She sings with the Bach Choir.



Joanne Field is the new Head of Pastoral Care, Housemistress, Senior Nurse, and Designated Safeguarding Lead. She has been the Lead Nurse in independent boarding schools for 16 years, and before that was a Neonatal Nurse and Midwife in the NHS.



Marco Galvani is the Assistant Housemaster in Harris House and teaches General Music. He is also a composer whose choral, operatic, and instrumental music has been performed throughout the UK, Europe and America.



Grace Gates has joined the General Music team after teaching at Kingston University for the last 10 years. A pianist with a special interest in French music at the turn of the 20th century, Grace is currently researching the performance practice of Erik Satie's music.



Pollyanna Richardson is the new School Nurse. She has worked as a Paediatric Nurse in A&E at local hospitals for 19 years, and continues to work part-time at Kingston Hospital.



Beth Quartermaine joined the Development Department in November as Head of Philanthropy. With seven years of arts and education fundraising experience, Beth will be managing the Friends, Legacies and Trusts programmes. She is also an amateur pianist and flautist.



Matthew Taylor, part of the new General Music team, was educated at Queen's College, Cambridge, and studied Conducting with Leonard Bernstein, Vilem Tausky and George Hurst, and Composition with Robin Holloway. His most recent commission is a 5th Symphony for the English Symphony Orchestra.



John Turville teaches Jazz piano, and is an accomplished composer, performer and conductor. He holds teaching posts at Birmingham Conservatoire and Royal Holloway University.



Shelley Twitchin is the School's new Bursar. A graduate of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music (USA), the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and the RCM, Shelley worked as a freelance clarinettist and music teacher until changing careers to accountancy in 2011. She was most recently Finance Director at King's Place.

Staff news

We were sorry to say goodbye to our Bursar, **Simon Browning**, for a second time. Simon had been helping us out for an interim period over the spring and summer and had been Bursar here previously for two years. Simon is a committed member of the Friends, so we are looking forward to seeing him in The Menuhin Hall.



Internationally renowned choir The Sixteen have just released their new album 'Star of Heaven', which features a work by **Marco Galvani** (General Music teacher and Assistant Houseparent) entitled 'Stella Caeli'. This piece was commissioned by the Genesis Foundation to celebrate the legacy of the Eton Choirbook.



Cello teacher **Thomas Carroll** has been appointed Professor of Cello at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz, Cologne.

This term in The Menuhin Hall

This term, The Menuhin Hall has produced many memorable experiences for audiences and pupils alike. Not only did José Ramón Mendez, The Endellion String Quartet and Artur Pizarro provide wonderful evenings of world-class music, from Britten's *String Quartet No 3* to Debussy and Ravel, but they all gave up their valuable time to pass on their wisdom and experience to our pupils through teaching and masterclasses.

Our pupils continue to dazzle audiences with their musicality and technique through their Showcase concerts, almost all of which this term were sold out. Thanks to the talent and hard work of the pupils and beautiful programming, this series of concerts is moving from strength to strength. The packed Christmas Showcases were especially enjoyable with a delightful combination of choral, orchestral and chamber music.

It is wonderful to welcome outside organisations into The Menuhin Hall, and Cobham Band returned for their annual autumn concert, which is always a great occasion and a real celebration of fantastic brass music.



The Endellion String Quartet

The Grange's Christmas Concert is an excellent way to get into the Christmas spirit and was even more special this year as they are celebrating their 80th Anniversary. The Study Day on Gilbert and Sullivan presented by Peter Medhurst, accompanied by some excellent musicians, was a real treat, and we are greatly looking forward to Peter's Twelfth Night concert on Sunday 6 January - a great way to conclude the festive period.

Alice Benzing
Menuhin Hall Manager



Artur Pizarro



Next Season



©Simon Fowler

We are looking forward to a packed Spring term, including a unique opportunity to witness alumna Nicola Benedetti teaching current YMS pupils in a masterclass on Monday 4 March. This masterclass is free for Young Friends, and only £10 for Friends.

We hope you are able to attend the special pre-concert talk on Sunday 10 March, where David Dolan and Òscar Colomina i Bosch will be analysing Mozart's *String Quartet in D minor K421*, before it is performed in its entirety during the Showcase at 5pm.

Our Founder's Day event this year will feature alumnus and YMS teacher Emmanuel Despax on 30 April, performing a programme of Chopin Concerti alongside some of our pupils.



©Luka Sapp

Emmanuel Despax

There are still a few tickets available for the Lunchtime Showcase on 25 January, and for the Piccadilly Dance Orchestra concert on 23 February.

Tickets for March events can be purchased in late January for Friends, or from mid-February for the general public. What's On brochures and Friends Priority Booking Forms will be posted early January.

Coming up @ The Menuhin Hall

JANUARY

SUN 6 JAN	3.00PM	TWELFTH NIGHT WITH PETER MEDHURST
TUES 15 JAN	7.30PM	ALINA IBRAGIMOVA AND CÉDRIC TIBERGHEN
FRI 25 JAN	1.15PM	LUNCHTIME SHOWCASE CONCERT

FEBRUARY

THURS 14 FEB	7.30PM	SHOWCASE CONCERT
SAT 23 FEB	7.30PM	MICHAEL LAW'S PICCADILLY DANCE ORCHESTRA
THURS 28 FEB	7.30PM	SHOWCASE CONCERT

MARCH

MON 4 MAR	2.45PM	NICOLA BENEDETTI MASTERCLASS
SUN 10 MAR	3.15PM	A CELEBRATION OF HANS KELLER
	5.00PM	SHOWCASE CONCERT
THURS 14 MAR	7.30PM	NIKOLAI DEMIDENKO
SUN 17 MAR	3.00PM	NATIONAL YOUTH HARP ORCHESTRA
TUES 26 MAR	7.30PM	SHOWCASE CONCERT



©Mercedes Sogut

Nikolai Demidenko

From Alix de Mauny, Development Director

"Oh, how lucky you are to be joining the Menuhin School! Your job should be easy enough – surely the School has plenty of money?" Such has been the universal reaction from friends and acquaintances on hearing of my recent appointment as Development Director at the School. And they are half right: I am extremely lucky to work with such talented people – from the pupils to the staff – and on something as life-enhancing as Yehudi Menuhin's transformative vision.

As to the School having plenty of money? Well, that's not so simple.

As a UK Centre of Excellence, the School benefits from the Government's Music and Dance Scheme, which provides financial assistance to 61 exceptionally talented pupils who would not otherwise be able to afford to attend the School. With 91% of pupils requiring a bursary however, the School needs to raise well over £600,000 per year from donations in order to continue to operate a needs-blind admission policy – so vital to the School's ethos. And that's for bursaries

Percentage of
pupils who require
a bursary:

91%

alone, never mind all of the other activities – from building projects to taking the orchestra on tour – that require significant gifts to come to fruition.

It was Menuhin's view that "the ultimate aim in life should be to fulfil to the utmost all that is within our ability and to share that which is good and beautiful." We are immensely grateful to the many donors – past, present and future – who allow the School to carry out Menuhin's mission.

Save the date: 1963 Society Musical Dinner

The 1963 Society brings together those of our supporters who have chosen to leave a gift to the School in their will.

Legacy gifts are transformational for the School. They help ensure that Menuhin's vision to offer extraordinarily gifted pupils an exceptional music education, regardless of their financial background, will be protected in perpetuity.

We will be hosting a very special musical dinner at the School for members of the Society on Thursday 21 March 2019. Contact Beth Quartermaine on beth.quartermaine@menuhinschool.co.uk for further details.



Donate to the Annual Fund

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a school of a certain age must be in want of investment. Donations to the School's Annual Fund allow us to spend money on those areas of greatest need, be it to make emergency repairs to the School's valiant minibus, upgrade bathrooms in the boarding house or replace one of our ageing pianos.

Pupils' hand-painted baubles, alongside the Christmas raffle and bucket collections, raised £2,280.33 towards the 2018/19 Annual Fund. A huge thank you to all who took part.

To make a donation to our Bursary Fund, Annual Fund or to discuss leaving a gift to the school in your will, please contact Beth Quartermaine, Head of Philanthropy, on beth.quartermaine@menuhinschool.co.uk or call 01932 584 744

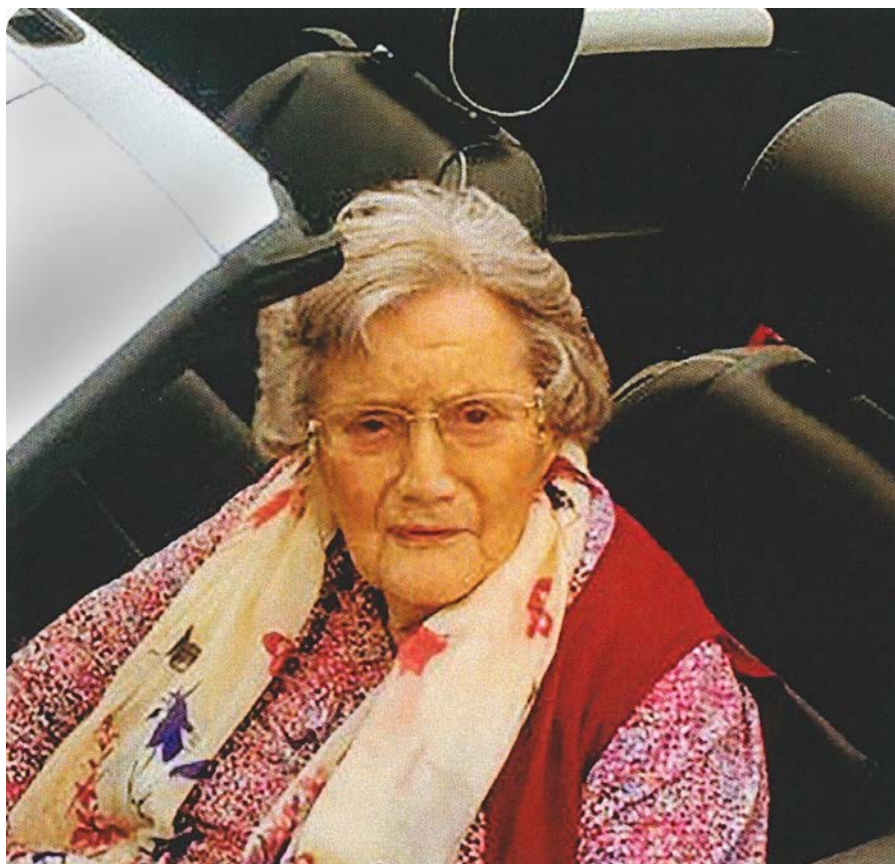


Sophie Badcock - In memoriam

Sophie Badcock who, together with Lord Menuhin, was one of the Founder members of the Friends in 1971, died peacefully aged 97 in August.

Born in Thessalonika to a British father and Greek mother, Sophie was brought up in Athens. She attended the Académie française, the British Council and Athens University, and retained her fluency in the three languages all her life, never quite losing her Greek accent. As British subjects, with her mother and sisters she was obliged to flee Athens in 1941 at the time of the German invasion. They went first to Crete then, once again forced to move on, they survived a submarine attack on their way to Cairo. Life in Cairo was good fun for a while with much partying but as the war caught up with them again, the family was evacuated to South Africa where Sophie worked for the British Electric Company in charge of stores and as a translator. This final wartime move proved to be an important one in Sophie's life, as it was in South Africa that she met Julian who was in the RAF. They were married within six weeks of meeting in 1944 – a marriage which was to last 53 years until Julian's death 20 years ago.

At the end of the war Julian and Sophie settled in Cobham where Sophie became an active part of the community as a member of the WI, Chairman of Cobham Infants' School, a Governor of St Andrew's Secondary Modern School, on the Committee of Silverwood Polio Home and the Schiff Home, and a District Councillor. She also taught French to, among others, my husband, at Moleside School. She was devoted to her children



- Ashley, Jane and Alice, and her seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Sophie's love of music, her support of the Friends and of the School lasted right until her last months. She was fiercely independent and only gave up driving shortly before her death. She gaily told me that "These days I only drive to Waitrose and The Old Plough!" Many of her friends of all generations benefited from generous pub lunches and lively conversation interspersed with peals of laughter. She was interested in everything and everybody, and anyone who met her could not fail to love her. I would describe her as a life-enhancer. One always came away from talking to Sophie feeling uplifted.

Her funeral took place in a packed St Mary's Church, and the School and the Friends were represented by Kate Clanchy (Head) and Penny Wright (Box Office Manager), who had done so much for Sophie over the years in arranging her visits to concerts. At the request of the Badcock family Penny created a flower arrangement for the table at the post-funeral reception, including in it flowers taken from the garden of the School. I think Sophie would have been touched by this tribute from the Friends whom she had supported for so many years.

Vanessa Richards

From the Chairman

Dear Friends

Here we are, well into another academic year and enjoying some vibrant Showcase concerts again with some extraordinary performances from our pupils on The Menuhin Hall stage.

There's a real buzz about the School: Kate Clanchy and Óscar Colomina i Bosch are putting their own stamp on things and giving us the invigoration one looks to new leadership to bring to any organisation, no matter how good. As part of all this, we welcomed a new team in the Development Department this autumn. Alix de Mauny has arrived as the new Development Director and will spearhead the fundraising effort needed to finance the School's ambitious plans for the future. She is supported by another new arrival, Beth Quartermaine, who, as Head of Philanthropy, will also be the

lead support for the Friends now that Sarah McDonald has moved on to focus on Marketing and Communications. Both Alix and Beth are real live-wires with bags of experience - and both are passionate about music. So a double welcome to them both. Amy Mitchell will continue to assist as Friends Administrator.

Meanwhile, the Friends Management Committee is focussed on maximising the support Friends can give to our pupils. As an audience, your tangible enthusiastic and warm backing for each student who performs in a Showcase concert is hugely appreciated by them. And the



donations we make to support student bursaries, and to enable pupils to undertake musical tours or enter competitions and other such activities, are absolutely vital. So thank you: keep coming; dig deep!

Best wishes,

Sir John Baker

Chairman, The Friends of
The Yehudi Menuhin School
Management Committee

Join us!

Lord Menuhin founded the Friends in 1971 together with a few local supporters of the School. Since then the Friends have grown to over 750 supporters from all over the globe, offering financial assistance to the School and a warm, supportive presence at concerts. Many of our Friends enjoy following the journey of our pupils as they progress through the School and into the wider world as professional musicians.

Friends enjoy a range of benefits, including priority booking for performances in The Menuhin Hall, invitations to masterclasses and pre-

concert receptions, and special offers from local businesses, including 20% off at The Old Plough in Cobham, 10% off at The Cobham Bookstore and half-price membership of Denbies Winery. Best Friends also receive complimentary tickets to a Summer Festival Showcase Concert.

If you enjoy listening to outstanding music and supporting emerging talent, become a member today. Membership starts at only £35 per year. Just email friends@menuhinschool.co.uk to request an information pack, or pick one up in The Menuhin Hall foyer.

Bridge Tea

Back by popular demand, the Friends' Annual Bridge Tea event will be held on Friday 10 May in The Menuhin Hall.

Players will have the opportunity to play either Chicago or Rubber Bridge and will be treated to a delicious afternoon tea. There will be a raffle followed by a short concert.

Tickets are £36 per table and were sold out very quickly last year! To book, please contact Amy Mitchell at friends@menuhinschool.co.uk or 01932 584409.

A special thank you to Sheila Rice-Smith and the Friends Events Committee for their hard work in organising this popular event.

A tree to commemorate the life of Hazel Mary Sheen (Wright) 1928 - 2016

On a damp, windy and rather chilly Sunday afternoon in spring, members of our families gathered outside the Music Studios to dedicate a Korean Lilac, planted in memory of our beloved Hazel, wife and mother. The Revd Andrew Smith, Rector of St Mary's, Fetcham, conducted a short religious ceremony, and four pupils played an excerpt from Haydn



Hazel and Derek Sheen

String Quartet Opus 76 No 5, which had been played at our wedding and at Hazel's funeral.

Hazel was the School Secretary for 22 years (1968-1990) during which time she served five Heads. Hazel's appointment came at a difficult time in her life, and it was in effect, to prove her salvation. She had joined a community in which she found friendship, affection and respect. Hazel enjoyed a close relationship with Yehudi, not least because they shared the same birthday, 22 April. On one such occasion he was appearing at Fairfield Halls, Croydon for a birthday celebration, and Hazel and I attended the concert. Meeting Yehudi during the interval, I reminded him that it was also Hazel's birthday, and he immediately dashed away to return with a magnificent bouquet of roses



which he graciously presented with his good wishes.

It is entirely fitting that Hazel's ashes should be interred here at the School in a location which brought her fulfillment and so much satisfaction.

Derek Sheen



Nicola Benedetti Masterclass

We are hugely excited to welcome back alumna Nicola Benedetti in March. Nicola is fiercely committed to music education and to developing young talent. This masterclass is a wonderful occasion to witness a world-leading musician imparting her knowledge and experience, as well as understand more about how

our current pupils prepare for their forthcoming concerts.

Friends can book discounted tickets priced at £10 during the Priority Booking period. More information will be available in the next *What's On* brochure in early January.

Friends AGM



The Friends AGM will be held on 27 March in The Menuhin Benthall Room in the Music Studios. We hope to see many of you there.

The formal notice and papers will be posted to all members in the New Year.

In the meantime, please contact us at friends@menuhinschool.co.uk or 01932 584409 if you require more information.



Photography by Tony Chipps, Kate Clanchy, Òscar Colomina I Bosch, Jenny Dexter, Dave Greenwood, Sarah Lee, Nigel Luckhurst, Sarah McDonald, Tamas Reti and Cathy Whitnall.
Edited by Sarah McDonald.