



The Yehudi Menuhin School

The International Music School founded by Yehudi Menuhin

www.yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk — Registered Charity 312010 — Newsletter 64 — Summer 2016



Menuhin 100 Gala Concert



Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra meets Nicola Benedetti and the orchestra

– A full report of our Menuhin 100 Festival will appear in the AutumnTerm issue



Looking forward to the evening ahead



Friends re-united: Melvyn Tan and the Hon Zamira Menuhin Benthall



Cherry Frizzell



HRH with Chairman Richard Morris and Lord-Lieutenant Michael More-Molyneux



The Headmaster Richard Hillier meeting guests at the reception



Guests enjoying the company and the evening sunshine



Margaret Lewisohn



Rose Gosney



Nicola and the pupils take a bow



HRH with Chairman Richard Morris



Nicola Benedetti and Natasha Boyarsky, her former teacher



Director of Music, Malcolm Singer introducing the concert



Guest book signing

Musical Notes

— Menuhin Competition

We are very proud of our three contestants SongHa Choi (16), Louisa Staples (16) and Coco Tomita (16) who performed so outstandingly throughout the ten days of concerts, masterclasses and competitive rounds that formed the final stages of the Menuhin Competition 2016.

To be accepted as a competitor was the first significant achievement – over 300 applications were received from young violinists under the age of 22 all around the world. Both Louisa and SongHa were accepted through to the semi-final – with Louisa being the first British contestant to have done so for 33 years. SongHa was selected as one of the four finalists to perform a full concerto with the Royal Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall on Saturday 16 April where she gave a stunning performance of Prokofiev's Violin Concerto in D minor to take second prize in the competition. In doing so, she won the hearts of the audience and received the Idagio Audience Award as a result.

Chief music critic for The Times Richard Morrison described her performance as “mesmerising: full of passion, imagination and daring.”

All contestants were required to be part of the publicity leading up to the event. Our pupils again showed great poise and professionalism, happy to busk at St Pancras, play live on Sky TV and appear on BBC 1's *The One Show*.

Following the Competition, SongHa appeared on BBC Radio 3's *In Tune* with staff pianist Svitlana Kosenko to perform three pieces live and talk with presenter Suzy Klein.

In the interview, SongHa described how much she enjoyed the competition and the opportunity to meet the other competitors. She also spoke about her choice of concerto for the final, her forthcoming GCSEs and her admiration for Yehudi Menuhin, the musician and the man.

She performed Enescu's *Impromptu Concertant*, the *Adagio* from JS Bach's Violin Sonata No 3 and Roxanna Panufnik's *Hora Bessarabia*.



SongHa

Simon Larter-Evans

— Joji Hattori

As part of the Menuhin Competition, jury member Joji Hattori gave a concert with pupils of the School. He conducted Mozart's Divertimento K138 in F Major and Elgar's Serenade Op 20. He then directed from the violin two pieces by J S Bach: the Violin Concerto in A Major and the Concerto for 2 Violins in D minor, for which he was joined by pupil Darwin Chang (12).

Earlier in the month, as part of the Menuhin Centenary, Darwin also played the Bach Double with YMS alumnus Leland Chen (1982) with the Sinfonia Varsovia in Warsaw.



Darwin Chang takes his applause with Joji

Simon Larter-Evans

— Homage to Yehudi

At the end of April, thirty senior pupils performed three concerts over three days at the prestigious Berlin Konzerthaus. This was part of a ten-day 'Homage to Yehudi Menuhin' which began on what would have been Lord Menuhin's 100th birthday on 22 April.

The trip to Berlin was a first for the School in that, unlike most of our overseas concerts tours, we decided to arrive early to allow ourselves time to see the sights of the city and visit places of historical significance. With our expert tour guides Didier Descamps and Sarah Howell (respectively the School's Modern Languages and History teachers), we spent the first two days walking around the city, tracing the line of the Berlin Wall (and visiting the informative Black Box Museum), passing the almost unmarked site of Hitler's bunker, visiting the memorable and moving Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, and the historic Brandenburg Gate. In the evening we climbed the glass dome of the Reichstag for a stunning night view of the city.

Sunday saw a visit to the Topographie des Terrors museum, on the site of the former Gestapo HQ, and to the site of the concentration camp at Sachsenhausen on the outskirts of the city: not an easy day and not one easily forgotten.



Elaine Hillier

Pupils in Berlin

On the remaining days smaller groups took part in visits to the SA prison, the Berlin Philharmonie, the Pergamon Museum, the museum at Wahnsee, where leading Nazis met for the 'Wahnsee Conference', and the Gemäldegalerie in the Kulturforum.

On Monday to Wednesday the students performed in two afternoon 'espresso' concerts as soloists and chamber musicians and together as the senior orchestra on Tuesday evening. Two of the concerts were held in the Kleiner Saal of the nineteenth-century Konzerthaus and one in the impressive Grosser Saal. Walking out onto a grand stage as a soloist is a daunting experience for even seasoned performers, so we felt enormously proud to see our students rise confidently to the challenge and present some stunning performances to the very appreciative audiences. In addition Viviana-Zarah Baudis and Bennet Ortmann (as the German students on the tour) acted as able and witty interpreters for the audience, as Director of Music Malcolm Singer introduced the performances.

In the evening concert, the Senior Orchestra performed divertimenti by Mozart and Bartók, and Elgar's *Serenade for Strings*. The orchestra was joined by three of our very successful alumni, Valeriy Sokolov (2005), Alexander Sitkovetsky (1999) and Jagdish Mistry (1982) in performances of Bach's Concerto for Two Violins in D minor and the Violin Concerto in A minor.

Lord Menuhin's son, pianist Jeremy Menuhin, wrote afterwards: 'I loved your concert in the Konzerthaus. The children played beautifully: both divertimenti were finely interpreted and the ensemble was brilliant.'

— Madrid

In May YMS students David Horvat (18) and Damir Durmanovic (16) performed at a special concert at Madrid's Reina Sofia School of Music held to mark the centenary of Lord Menuhin's birth and to raise funds for the Red Cross in its efforts to care for the refugees stranded in Greece. Also performing were students from the Reina Sofia School taught by Professors Zakhar Bron and Anna Chumachenko. The concert was also attended by YMS Headmaster Dr Richard Hillier and Governor Zamira Menuhin Benthall with her husband Jonathan. Lord Menuhin made frequent visits to the Madrid School which has a room named after him and also makes a biennial award in his name to distinguished musicians who have 'integrated the arts and education'.

— Warsaw

Following Darwin Chang's performance in Warsaw at the beginning of April, the School made two further visits to the Polish capital. The second of these fell immediately after the European referendum vote at the end of June, when Richard and Elaine Hillier took Sergio Bucheli (18), Ursula Perks (19), Nicole Petrus Barracks (18) and Selina Buser (18) to perform a programme of European music (what else?) at the home of the Sinfonia Varsovia, the orchestra with which Lord Menuhin had such a close connection.

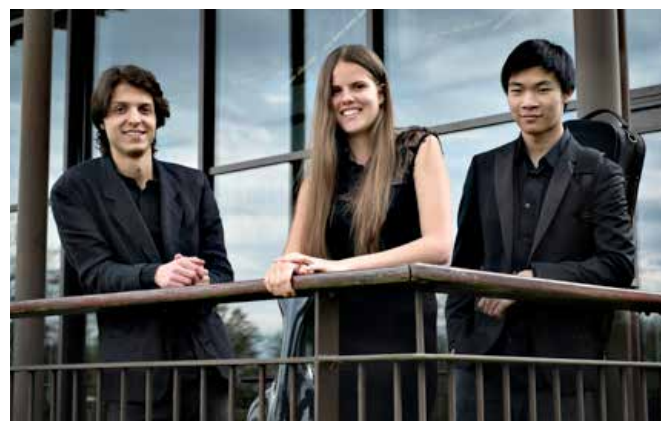
The first trip took place at the end of May and is described by **Jeff Wu** (17): I was very lucky to have had the opportunity to go to Warsaw with three of my friends, Frankie Carr (18), Viviana Baudis (17) and Ignacy Stefanowicz (12) to give a concert as part of an event to celebrate our founder's centenary. We arrived on Friday evening amidst a thunderstorm, but were blessed with sunshine for the rest of the weekend.

The concert venue for Saturday was originally a school in the 1900s, its polished limestone staircases naturally curved from the weathering over the years. It now belongs to our hosts the Sinfonia Varsovia, which regularly hold afternoon concerts. We performed in a large room on the second floor accommodating up to 200 people – the room was packed for our performance. The audience was attentive throughout and we were received with resounding applause and hearty congratulations.

We had dinner afterwards at a cosy, neat Mediterranean restaurant in the delightful company of Janusz Marynowski, the Director of Sinfonia Varsovia, Zamira and Jonathan Benthall, and Malcolm Singer. Zamira shared a few wonderful memories with us about her experiences and encounters with great musicians of the last century which were both inspiring and humorous – and at times an insight to the more human side of these masters of old.

With Malcolm in charge of the map-reading we did some sight-seeing on Sunday morning, walking a few kilometres North-East of the city centre to the area known as the "Old Town". Warsaw suffered almost-complete destruction during the Second World War, with just over twenty buildings left standing. The area we saw has been reconstructed in the style of the original medieval architecture and now serves as one of the main tourist attractions. We saw the old market place, the city walls and also St. John's Cathedral, where Chopin was said to have played the organ.

The trip was a huge success and I'd like to thank everyone who was involved in and/or helped organise the festival and the concerts, to Janusz and Magda for the lovely reception we were given and especially to Malcolm who took us there and looked after us through the weekend pastorally (in every sense of the word).



Frankie, Viviana and Jeff

Simon Larfer-Evans



Simon Larter-Evans

Humphrey Burton, Malcolm Singer and Jamie Beesley of Classic FM

— Birthday Lecture

On the centenary of the birth of our founder Lord Menuhin the School began the celebration of his birthday with an entertaining lecture *Yehudi Menuhin: Man and Music* by Humphrey Burton who shared memories of a friendship spanning forty years.

"I first met Yehudi Menuhin in 1959 when I directed him in a short film for BBC TV about his friendship with Béla Bartók, so I knew Menuhin for the last forty years of his life," says Burton. "I made a 20-part series with him for Classic FM in 1996 and then went on to write his biography."

"I am so happy to be able to share my memories with the pupils, staff and visitors to the School. They all know how important Yehudi was but there is nothing to match film for providing insight into the real person behind the legend. Thanks to the archive excerpts I wanted to show the audience what a gentle giant he was and what a lovely man!"

In this photograph, Humphrey shares a moment with our Music Director Malcolm Singer and Classic FM producer Jamie Beesley. Classic FM recorded parts of Humphrey's visit to the School for use in the 19th episode of his 20-part series *Yehudi Menuhin: The Master Musician* entitled *Utopia in Stoke d'Abernon*.

— Competition Successes

Kevin Loh (18) has had an extraordinary summer, winning 1st Prize in the 9th Andrés Segovia International Competition for Young Guitarists in Monheim am Rhein, Germany in the age group 3: 17-19, and went on to win 1st Prize in the Senior Division of the Youth Competition of the Guitar Foundation of America International Classical Guitar Competition. Both competitions are considered to be among the most prestigious in the world.

Paul Fowles writing in *Classical Guitar* magazine described Kevin's playing at the Segovia competition as "world class" and "positively explosive". Kevin was also chosen by the International Guitar Foundation UK as a Young Artist for 2016 and he will be featured in several of the guitar festivals in UK. In addition, Kevin has been chosen as one of Singapore's

Gifted Young Musicians and will be playing the *Concierto de Aranjuez* in September 2016.

Tianyou Ma (15) came second in his age group, category B, at this year's Competition Andrea Postacchini held in the Italian city of Fermo. Kingsley Lin (14) was also a finalist.

Will Duerden (15) was awarded second prize in the Marjorie Humby Memorial Competition for young musicians aged 13 or 14. This was held at the Royal College of Music.

Sao Soulez Larivière (17) won 2nd prize in the North London Festival of Music and Drama, and The President's Prize Competition.

Bennet Ortmann (19) and Ursula Perks were awarded a first prize in the last round of the Jugend Musiziert Competition 2016. The competition was founded in 1963 under the sponsorship of Deutscher Musikrat (German Music Board) and the patronage of the President of Germany.

— Compose yourself

It was Yehudi Menuhin's belief that musical creativity enhances musical interpretation, and composition tutor John Cooney works with all students to develop their composition skills.

John is an award-winning composer who has been commissioned and played by a wide range of performers including the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Allegri String Quartet, the London Sinfonietta and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. As well as his work here at the School, he also teaches composition at the Royal Academy of Music Junior Department and is in demand as a visiting lecturer.

John has the younger students working on projects of interest to them, sometimes related to the repertoire they are learning or composers they are studying. Meanwhile GCSE and A level students produce compositions which are eventually submitted as recordings for their exam portfolios.

The School also works with visiting performers who are specialists in instruments not offered at the school – such



Marcus Loh

Kevin Loh



Simon Larter-Evans

Musicians of Sub Twang Mustard

as wind and brass. This year it's been the turn of trombonist John Kenny, well known for his work on the Celtic trumpet, the Carnyx. John has been working with senior students to help them understand the capacities and character of the trombone, and recently returned to the School to record the pieces they've composed.

As part of its outreach activity, the School also offers six local schools the opportunity for GCSE and A-level composition students to come along and have their pieces work-shopped in performance by our pupils and later recorded for their exam portfolios. Gordon's School Music Director Rachel Brazendale said "For Gordon's students, this is a perfect opportunity to hear their music played by live performers rather than relying on their imaginations or low quality soundcards in computers."

Pictured is John with the performers in the piece Sub-twang Mustard - a poem by the Canadian performance poet Peter Jaeger, set to music by YMS student Daniel Penney (17).

— Wigmore Hall

This year's Wigmore Hall 'leavers' concert' given by pupils of the Menuhin School paid special tribute to its founder. The programme included a performance of Bartók's Sonata for solo violin, which was commissioned by and premiered by Menuhin, and opened and closed with the music of J S Bach, whose music was so important to the great violinist throughout his career. The programme also included music by Fauré, Chopin as well as George Benjamin's wonderfully virtuosic *Viola, Viola*.



Simon Larter-Evans

Leavers 2016

— Marryat Players

Students from the School joined the Marryat Players for an evening of chamber music in Wimbledon Village. Playing Elgar's Piano Quintet in A minor Op 84, Esther Park (18), Lorena Cantó Woltèche (19) and Aleks Mladenova (18) joined alumni staff Boris Kucharsky (1989) and Bartholomew LaFollette (2003).

— Trumpets shall sound

Soloist Dr Simon Desbruslais, world expert on historical trumpets, is seen here rehearsing with pupils in preparation for Shakespeare and Music, the last in our commemorative Menuhin 100 Festival concerts. He performed the trumpet concerto *Shakespeare Scenes* written for him by Robert Saxton to great acclaim.



Simon Larter-Evans

Simon under Malcolm's baton

— Leavers' destinations

Berfin Aksu Guildhall School of Music and Drama, violin (Krystof Smietana)

Lorena Cantó Woltèche Guildhall School of Music and Drama, viola (Boris Kucharsky)

Jean-François Carrière Mozarteum, Salzburg, cello (Clemens Hagen)

Leyla Cemiloglu Guildhall School of Music and Drama, piano (Joan Havill)

David Horvat Royal College of Music, violin (Natasha Boyarsky)

Joon Hurh gap year

Sally Lee Royal College of Music, violin (Radu Blidar)

Ler Ler Ma Royal College of Music, violin (Jan Repko)

Yuriko Matsuda Guildhall School of Music and Drama, violin (Krystof Smietana)

Bennet Ortmann Musikhochschule, Lübeck, viola (Barbara Westphal)

Ursula Perks Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge (to read music)

Andrew Samarasekara New England Conservatory, Boston, violin (Paul Bliss)

Shizuku Tatsuno Royal College of Music, cello (Thomas Carroll)

In addition, we say farewell to **Sebastian Banwell**, **Alexandra Keeley**, **Qing Qing Ponek** and **Kazusa Taniguchi** and wish them every success at their new schools.

And the rest

— State Visit

Minister of State for Schools Nick Gibb visited YMS meeting staff and pupils. He enjoyed an excellent concert, praising the world-class work of the School.



Simon Larter-Evans

Minister for Schools, Nick Gibb talking to pupils

— Musical Lines

The A and D Gallery in London hosted Geraldine van Heemstra's Musical Lines exhibition, as well as performances of Bach's Partitas and Sonatas for solo violin by some of our pupils.

Geraldine has been a regular visitor to the school over the past few months, sketching pupils and teachers in their lessons and in performance. The resulting line drawings, etchings and oils were exhibited in London, and then moved to The Menuhin Hall for the duration of the Menuhin 100 Festival.

Regarding her inspiration for this work, Geraldine notes: "With these sketches I am trying to capture the energy of the musicians, their character and characteristics in their movements and posture with a few simple lines. In the studio I work from my sketches and memory to create new images in the etchings, monoprints and oils. In these works it is very much about the texture and the play of the different lines that one can create."



Julie Sperring

Malcolm at Musical Lines



Simon Larter-Evans

Geraldine sketching during John Williams' masterclass

Those lucky enough to purchase one of these unique art works at the same time helped our Anniversary Appeal, as the proceeds of all sales went directly to the School thanks to Geraldine's generosity. "I believe one should support charities or causes that mean something important to you. A 50/50 energy flows to and from that," says Geraldine. "In the case of the Yehudi Menuhin School, I love music and it is a real treat to be a 'fly on the wall' and listen to such young talent play whilst sketching".



Jenny Dexter

Finlay, Martin, Hugo and Tai

— Lost in mud

Evie Calver (14) writes: In June eight of us set out on our Bronze DofE practice expedition. We were split into two groups, four in each. After finally sorting out some problems with the weights of a couple of the backpacks, we drove to the North Downs and set off.

The first day was pretty warm and we quickly realised that our water bottles would come in very handy! We headed to our first checkpoint with confidence (with only some minor map-reading troubles) where Jenny met us to refill our water bottles and point us in the right direction.

After passing a couple of other checkpoints, our next stop was for lunch, and obviously this was when we decided to get lost. We mistook field lines for paths a few times, and eventually ended up in a forest which we thought would be a shortcut to get us back to somewhere obvious on the map, but it turned out to be a deserted caravan park which was actually really creepy!

Tackling some absolutely killer hills we tried a few techniques, including walking backwards and using sticks to crawl up, which is when I realised that we very closely resembled that man who decided to live as a goat for a week. We got lost a lot but finally arrived at the campsite exhausted after walking over 15km since the morning in warm sun. We had to set up our tents and cook first before we could rest. I think not having our phones with us made us realise actually how much we do use them daily – Tsubasa and I didn't really know what to do for the majority of the evening. Of course we had fun in the end, but it was quite interesting to realise how much we depend on technology and how often.

The next day was a very late start for our group. We had lost both our compasses while the other group was, of course, right on schedule. We finally set off in pouring rain and were lost in the first fifteen minutes. Walking through a muddy forest, lost, while it was tipping it down with rain wasn't exactly jolly – but we got through it, by asking each other science questions to take the attention from our dead legs!

Around this time we started arguing. Don't forget we were carrying at least 11kgs on our backs. We finally knew where we were which was so close to our finishing point! Or it would have been, if we hadn't got lost. Again.

We ended up walking for ages through a field with no path by which point the other group were, of course, already finished. We decided to call Jenny who instructed us on where to go, and met us, kindly taking us to her house for jam and cream scones. Our real expedition is in September.

— Counterpoint

The Yehudi Menuhin School held a pre-referendum debate in which the issues of the economy, free movement of people in the EU, control of immigration, EU law and EU restructuring were discussed and debated. The vote was 47 to remain in the EU and 7 to leave.

— Research

Senior pupils participated in the Musical Impact study, the first national survey profiling musicians' physical and mental health. The study, running over four years, aims to improve the health and well-being of musicians studying and working in Britain. Students at the School took part in the *Fit to Perform* strand of the study, providing valuable data for the researchers. The survey is in two parts: an online questionnaire, followed by a physical assessment. The students all said that the experience was very interesting and prompted them to think about how they look after themselves. More information can be found here: <http://www.musicalimpact.org/>

Simon Larter-Evans, Head of Boarding and Head of English, also started his part-time doctoral research at the Institute of Education, UCL looking at the value and perception of autonomy in training young musicians and dancers. He will continue his work with the School next year.

Pictured is the research team from The Royal College of Music: Louise Atkins, Liliana Araujo, Michelle Marie Felipe and Gregory Windle.



RCM Research Team

Simon Larter-Evans

— X-Men trounced

Bennet Ortmann and Chance to Play co-ordinator (and alumnus) Elliot Perks (2010) organised a fantastic match against past pupils of the School, known as the 'X-Men'.

Last year the X-Men didn't stand a chance, but this year guitarist Tom Ellis (2009) returned, and things didn't look so easy for the home side.

In a much closer match, exciting and hard fought, YMS were victorious with a clear margin at 10-6. Marcus Gaved (18) and Bennet both scored hat-tricks, with three other goals slammed home by Daniel Penney, Daniil Margulis (15) in the most elegantly swift header to the net and Leonardo Jaffe Barbosa (18) clearing the final goal in style.

Tom Ellis, easily the most dangerous man on the pitch, scored 4 goals for the visitors, but also touched in a home goal. Double bassist Philip Nelson (2015) and cellist Ben Tarlton (2014), famous for their role in the 2014 victory against Purcell, took a goal each. A great afternoon, eagerly supported by pupils, staff, families and various dogs.



X-Men and current pupils 2016

Simon Larter-Evans

Staff News

— Memories of 1966

In 1966 Zinka Savnik Jezernik spent a year as an au-pair at YMS. She visited the school again this summer, and recounted her fond memories of her time here 50 years ago. At that time she and her friend Tanja Zei were both studying English at the University of Maribor in Slovenia. Eager to improve their knowledge of English, they contacted a study-abroad agency and subsequently received a very kind letter from Mrs D V Happold (Dorothy, 1964-68), the Housekeeper at YMS inviting the girls to work as au-pairs at the School. At the time they did not know Yehudi Menuhin, but quickly came to know him as an "extremely kind man, grand, but simple". He spoke to them fondly of Slovenia where he had performed, and whenever he visited the School he would visit the girls and take them magazines that he had received from Yugoslavia. Zinka has kept the many signed gift tags made by Yehudi's wife Diana. Shortly before his passing away, Zinka had a chance to meet Yehudi again. This time in her own country after a concert he had conducted in Ljubljana. When the concert finished, Zinka greeted him and he had remembered their names, Tanja and Zinka. A signed a gramophone record, "To Zinka, many thanks for your great help. Yehudi Menuhin" is one of Zinka's most prized possessions.

Shortly after Zinka and Tanja's arrival as au-pairs when they were collected from Victoria station by Anthony Brackenbury and accompanied by another au-pair Isabel Ribeiro from Portugal, they were joined by Anna Lena Lindstroem and Annchi Warlenius from Sweden.

Zinka has returned several times, in 1975 and again in 1988 when she was looked after by Peter and Margaret Norris. It is always a happy experience visiting the School and Zinka is delighted to see how much the school has evolved, paying particular tribute to the "magnificent new concert hall – which speaks for the personal touch of the grand violin maestro".

Nathan Williamson (staff pianist) has recently joined the contemporary music ensemble Piano Circus, comprised of six pianos! Concerts this year include the Cambridge Festival, Adrian Boult Hall, and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Nathan is also recording contemporary music with Ensemble Continuum in France later this year.

— Birdfoot Festival Celebrates 5 Years

Founded by YMS assistant teacher **Jenna Sherry**, the Birdfoot Festival in New Orleans celebrated its fifth anniversary in May 2016. Named for the footprint of the Mississippi River Delta, Birdfoot is an international chamber music festival that has won praise for its pioneering collaborations, fresh approach to presenting chamber music, and its "youthful, rule-bending style." The Festival is more than a series of concerts, however—it opens with an artistic retreat, conceived as a forum for musical exploration, collaboration and dialogue between an international group of artists, and then culminates in five-days of concerts and events across the city. Birdfoot takes inspiration from the city's vibrant musical heritage and concerts are accordingly performed in some of the city's most atmospheric venues—think chamber music with a New Orleans flavour! The Festival additionally runs a Young Artist Program for local music students and has recently launched a series of artist residencies.

Birdfoot 2016 featured the world premiere of YMS alumnus Prach Boondiskulchok's chamber song-cycle *Goose Daughter* as well as a programme that interwove Bach's Musical Offering with Piazzolla Tangos and Borges short stories. Other YMS alumni who have taken part in the festival include Vladimir Waltham (2007), Ella Rundle (2006), Jihyun Kim (2001) and Dimitry Murrath (2001). www.birdfootfestival.org



— Leaving Staff

Hazel Brier retires this summer from her post as Teacher of English as a Foreign Language at the School which she has held for twenty-one years. In that time generations of overseas

pupils, some of whom arrived at the School with no English at all, have benefited from her patience, kindness and expertise. We are very grateful for all she has done over her time here and wish her all the best for her retirement.

Simon Browning who joined us as Bursar two years ago will be leaving at the end of August. He has inspired confidence in us all with his firm grasp of the School's complex financial circumstances (not least the Music and Dance Scheme) and his calm oversight of three major building projects – Music House roof, Harris House extension, and of course the new Music Studios, and has been an excellent and trusty colleague both as a member of the Leadership Team and of the staff in general. We wish him well in his retirement: he will be much missed.

Melanie Collins (Receptionist and Admin Assistant in the Development Department) left us in April. We wish her well in her decision to concentrate on other interests, including her expertise in graphic design.

Nicola Darke (Partnership and Outside Events Officer) has decided not to return to School after her maternity leave. We wish her and her family all the very best for the future.

Tom Kirby has been a constant presence in The Menuhin Hall since its opening in 2006. He was a long-standing member of the Friends Management Committee and for many years a member of the Front of House team. In a voluntary role he also made it his job to keep the Hall looking good, whether it was touching up the paintwork or maintaining the pots and planters. We are very grateful for his support and wish him all the best.

Simon Larter-Evans (Head of Boarding, Housemaster of Harris House, and Head of English and Drama) leaves us after just over three years to take up his post as Headmaster of St Paul's Cathedral School. Simon has had a huge impact on the School, his inspiring and entertaining morning meetings, his lively drama, and particularly his pastoral gifts have been much appreciated and will be greatly missed. We wish Simon and Dawn all the very best in their new adventure.

Lisa Parker has been in charge of swimming instruction at the School since the new indoor pool was opened in 2010. She leaves this summer with our thanks and best wishes.

Teresa Rumball, who retires in July as yoga instructor, studied in India with the great B K Iyengar himself, as did Lord Menuhin, and has taught a loyal band of yoga students on a Thursday evening for nineteen years. Her gentle enthusiasm will be much missed and she leaves with our warmest wishes.

Lyn Sahami is one of the longest-standing members of staff at the School, having joined us in 1995. Her job title of Practice Supervisor scarcely describes her role in School, where, as well as monitoring the practice of the youngest pupils, she has been of great assistance to successive nurses and housemistresses. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

Angela Stockbridge also retires at the end of term after eleven years as the Headmaster's PA. Her friendliness and quick response has been appreciated by parents and prospective parents alike, her loyalty and discretion have been greatly valued by the Headmaster, and she has been a central and much-loved member of the staff community. She leaves with the very best wishes of us all.

Duncan Willitts joined us for a term this summer as our Tennis Coach. We are very grateful for the help he has given us.

— New Staff

We have welcomed several new members of staff this term.

Poppy Telling is now Receptionist and Admin Assistant in the Development Department, **Angela Legg** joined us on a temporary basis to help with the Menuhin 100 Festival events, whilst **Donna Trout** joined as Registrar and Headmaster's PA in July.

Elsewhere, **Sian Gandhi** has taken over as Menuhin Hall Admin Assistant, whilst **Adrian Whyte** and **Suzie Bliss** have joined the Menuhin Hall Bar Staff team and **Paulo Trindade Fernandes** the catering team as kitchen porter.

Over the summer we shall be joined by our new Bursar **Melanie Smith**, who has worked as a Financial Director both abroad and in the UK, most recently at the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley.

Four new members of staff arrive in September. **Fraser Dewar** has been appointed as Resident Housemaster of Harris House. He will also be in charge of all sport and PE within the School. Fraser currently teaches at an Academy in Wiltshire and was previously a Housemaster at a SABIS International School in that county. His wife Amanda is an English Teacher and is expecting their first child in September. **Alan Humm**, currently Head of Year (and previously Head of English) at Blenheim High School, takes over as Head of English and Drama. **Sarah Lee**, a familiar face to many, will return as Maths Teacher, whilst **Naomi Roberts**, who also teaches at South Thames College, will be the new teacher of English as an Additional Language. We look forward to welcoming them all to the School after the summer.

Alumni News

Jacqueline Cole (1974) is the founder and artistic director of the Viktor Ullmann Foundation, established to honour and celebrate through performance of works, the life and artistry of the Austro-Hungarian composer Viktor Ullmann (1898 - 1944) and his contemporaries. www.viktorullmannfoundation.org.uk

Halli Cauthery (1994) has been nominated for an Emmy Award for her work on the Netflix/DreamWorks animated TV show 'Turbo Fast'. Halli was also on the staff at YMS 2001-2005.

Alina Ibragimova (2003) has been short listed for the Gramophone Artist of the Year.

Jacob Shaw (2005) has been appointed Pirastro Artist and is the brand ambassador for the new *Perpetual* cello strings. Jacob has also created a foundation for young cellists, the Scandinavian Cello School www.scandinaviancellschool.com

Jonathan Bloxham (2007) has been appointed the new Assistant Conductor of CBSO: <https://cbso.co.uk/news/cbso-assistant-conductor-announced>.

Andrew Power (2011) has started his masters at the Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen with Morten Zeuthen and has been accepted for Thomas Adés class at Prussia Cove.

Duo Decacordio, which comprises **Luisa Reichelt** (2012) together with the violinist Ilona Glas, won third prize at the international chamber music competition "Guitar + 1" in Schweinfurt.

Rosalind Phang (2013) won first prize at the 23rd Jeunesses International music competition Dinu Lipatti in Romania, playing Grieg's Piano Concerto with orchestra in the final round.

Ju Yeon Chae (2013) gave a thrilling and moving performance of the Saint-Saens' Cello Concerto with the Imperial College Symphony Orchestra in Holy Trinity Church, South Kensington. Ju Yeon is in her first year studying Biochemistry at Imperial while continuing to play and study the cello.

Philip Nelson (2015) was awarded 4th place at the IX. International J. M. Sperger Double bass Competition, Germany and was the recipient of a Pfretzschner bow.

Development News

— Appeal update

One of the greatest pleasures of doing fundraising is having the opportunity to meet people who want to better the lives of others. The School's Anniversary Appeal has provided countless acts of generosity from those who wish to give every pupil the opportunity to fulfil their musical talent.

Since the last Newsletter, one such example has been Michael and Hilary Cowan who have chosen to make a further gift of £200,000 towards new Music Studios.

"We are so pleased to be able to support a project which will improve facilities dramatically for pupils and the community in Surrey. For us the School represents excellence and the pursuit of excellence, a place where every child can have the opportunity to be the best that they can be. Hilary and I - as well as my mother-in-law and YMS Friend, Margaret Slade - have enjoyed seeing so many pupils over the years develop into outstanding musicians and well-rounded, intelligent people. We want to see this to continue for years to come."

Thanks to them and many other loyal supporters of the pupils (including a Trust which also gave £200,000), the School is getting very close to its £3.5million target – just over £100,000 to go! If you would like a final opportunity to join them in raising the final sums, please contact me, Dr Anthony Medhurst, at development@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk.

— Thank you for the difference you make

As we reflect in this centenary year on the impact that Menuhin and his music-making had on the lives of so many people, we also want to celebrate and express our gratitude for the impact that your own involvement with the School has achieved.

Your support for the School, whether it is attending events, becoming a Friend, supporting our Appeal or leaving a gift in your Will – in some cases possibly all of these things – ensures that his ethos and values will continue long into the future. As we are unable to include the names of all our valued supporters in this publication, a full list of this year's donors will be provided on the School's website at the end of the Appeal.

The School was considered by Menuhin to be probably his most important legacy to the world. His vision was that the School would be a place to inspire, move and delight audiences in the UK and around the world; a place to nurture emerging talent; a place from which such young talent would go on to bring hope, comfort and joy to those who need it most.

Thanks to you, the School will continue to deliver these life-changing aspirations now and for generation to come.

— 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 sarah.barton@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk.

From the Headmaster

Dear Friends

What a wonderful, celebratory, centenary term this has been! It started with our participation – and SongHa Choi's wonderful second place – in the Menuhin Competition in April, continuing with concert trips to Berlin, Warsaw (three times) and Madrid, not forgetting our usual (though, being in May, unusually scheduled) Wigmore Hall Concert, and culminated in our highly successful Menuhin 100 Festival which dominated the last ten days of term at the start of July.

We are very grateful to all of those who helped make the Festival such a success: HRH Princess Alexandra who graced us with her presence at the opening Gala Concert and Dinner; alumna Nicola Benedetti who agreed to perform at that event; Westminster Abbey organist James O'Donnell who gave a sparkling organ recital to a packed house in St Mary's Church (rendered even more beautiful than ever by the parishioners who produced such a splendid Flower Festival); Bruno Monsaingeon who fascinated us with his films and reminiscences; all the alumni and former staff who returned for the Alumni Reunion, as well as our very special Commemoration Event; and actor Samuel West who slipped away from Noel Coward at the Theatre Royal in Bath to perform in an evening of Shakespeare-themed music with our pupils.

We must not, of course, forget the 'home team' of pupils and staff who worked so hard in preparation for such an important event. They are too many to mention individually, but we are very grateful to them all.

I must, however, give special thanks to two of our governors: Vanessa Richards, who gave up so much of her time to steer the organisation of the Gala Evening and Commemoration, and Stuart Mitchell who, as Chair of our Appeal Committee, has been so generous to the School and whose company S W Mitchell Capital was the Festival's main sponsor.

Thanks too must go to artist Geraldine van Heemstra for her beautiful exhibition Musical Lines which was appreciated by so many and the proceeds from which have all added to our Anniversary Appeal. We are now not much more than £100k away from our £3.5 million target for the new Music Studios, which are reaching completion and will open, along with the extension to Harris House, in September. Thank you to everyone who has supported us in our fundraising efforts so far. If you have not done so yet and are able to help us reach our target – or indeed wish to contribute to our Bursary Fund – then please do contact us. We would be delighted to hear from you.

'Normal' school life has, of course, continued apace, regardless of our centenary activities. We were visited by a team from the Independent Schools Inspectorate at the start of term who arrived to carry out one of the new Regulatory Compliance inspections. It is a simple pass or fail inspection and I am delighted to be able to tell you that the School was pronounced 'compliant' in all respects. And the months of May and June were full, as ever, with public examinations. We already know that the Year 6 pupils have done astonishingly well in their Key Stage 2 exams and I hope very much that the pupils will receive GCSE and A level results of which they can be proud when the grades are known in August.

I think you will agree with me that, after all of the above, we all deserve at least a little rest over the coming couple of months!

Elaine joins me in wishing you all the very best for the summer

Richard Hime



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