



The  
Yehudi  
Menuhin  
School

# NEWS LETTER

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## AUTUMN 2016



## Natasha Boyarsky celebrates 50 years of teaching

Malcolm Singer, Director of Music, writes:  
'What a joy it was to be able to celebrate Natasha Boyarsky's 50 years of violin teaching with such a special concert. Her career - so far - divides with perfect symmetry into two halves: the first 25 years in Russia and the second 25 years here in England at the Yehudi Menuhin School and, for much of that time, also at the Royal College of Music. Hundreds of great violinists, performing and teaching across the world today, have benefited from her remarkable teaching.'

**Her students all seem to be at one with the instrument, making it an extension of their own bodies, expressing their own musical personalities with ease and grace.** I have learned so much watching her at work, making sure that even the youngest pupil is properly set physically at the instrument, with good posture and relaxed hands. Of course, Natasha is a perfectionist, expecting the very best both of her pupils and of herself. She personifies 'tough love' in her work. She is undoubtedly tough and very demanding of her students (and of herself), but they all know of the love, total dedication and commitment that she gives to each and every one of them.

We are all so grateful to Yehudi Menuhin for bringing Natasha and her family to England. In 1994 he wrote "I have known Natasha Boyarsky for a number of years and consider her one of the best teachers I have come across. She has an extraordinary gift of communicating with young children and I have had many opportunities to admire her ability in dealing with them."

Alumnae Alina Ibragimova and Nicola Benedetti led the evening of glorious music-making featuring current and former pupils Akiko Ono, Ben Baker, Benjamin Marquise Gilmour and Kostantin Boyarsky. Cellists and School alumni Thomas Carroll and Jamal Aliyev, staff pianists Nigel Hutchison and Svitlana Kosenko and our own pupils also performed in her honour. The highlight for many was, perhaps, the stunning performance by the entire cohort of YMS violinists from 8-19, the youngest as intent and focussed as the oldest.

[www.yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk](http://www.yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk)

The International Music School founded by Yehudi Menuhin  
Registered Charity 312010

# HEAD'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends

As I write, our first term in the new Music Studios is drawing to a close. And what a transformational effect the new Studios have had on the School – both in terms of the unrivalled facilities they offer to pupils and staff and with regard to the physical environment of the School: what was formerly an unloved area of wasteland has undergone a startling metamorphosis into an eye-catching piece of modern architecture.

As I said when we opened the building earlier this term, the plans for the Studios have been on the table in my study for the last five years. And there were many moments during that time when I feared we might never be able to build them. But, suddenly – or rather, after a lot of very hard work – here we were: and the Studios were certainly worth the wait. Many thanks to everyone who has made this possible, but especially to all of those whose donations, large and small, have enabled us to achieve such a wonderful result. We are all deeply appreciative of your support.

New also this term has been the extension to Harris House, which has provided additional common-room space and seven single study-bedrooms, all with ensuite shower rooms. Coupled with the extension to Music House which was completed the previous year, we now have some boarding accommodation which could rival that of any school in the country. The challenge for us now is to bring the rest of our boarding provision up to those same high standards over the coming years. There is always more to do!

You will by now know that Mrs Kate Clanchy, currently Senior Master at Westminster School, has been appointed as my successor as Head with effect from 1 January 2018. I hope that you will have a chance to meet Kate and her husband James over the coming year and I am sure that you will give them a very warm welcome when they eventually arrive.

In the meantime, Elaine joins me in sending you our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

*Richard Hillier*



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## New Music Studios

**Following an intense year of fundraising and event activity in the Centenary year, the School has successfully completed the Music Studios. An official opening was held in October and was attended by those who supported the Music Studios.**

They were opened officially by our alumnae, Nicola Benedetti and Alina Ibragimova, and this was followed by a performance of Bach and Sarasate. There was also a reception in November for our many supportive Friends and 'Buy a Brick' donors. All those who attended remarked on the impressiveness of the new facilities.

Richard Morris, Chairman of Governors, said: "These Music Studios set the very highest standards for our pupils and demonstrate the significance that the Governors and Leadership Team place on this School as a centre of musical excellence, now and in the future."

Our Headmaster, Dr Richard Hillier, said: "Since the start of term, the studios have been allocated to principal teachers in piano, violin, double bass etc. and are being used continuously. Feedback from staff and pupils has been overwhelming. The specially designed acoustic walls prevent sound from transmitted between neighbouring studios and enables pupils to focus on their practising – a far cry from the previous facilities."

Thanks to gifts from many individuals, Friends and charitable trusts, as well as a very successful Gala Fundraising Dinner attended by HRH Princess Alexandra, we were able to achieve a very challenging fundraising target for such a small School. Our pupils, now and in the future, will be better equipped to fulfil their musical potential because of the high quality rehearsal and tuition facilities that you have helped to provide.



**Pictured is Kirsty, our daughter, on Monty, at Loughfreigh Farm in Surrey, where we have the Y.M.S. Pianists' Concert and BBQ each June.** The new studios are built on the site that used to be an indoor riding school, which was part of a large equestrian establishment.

I attended, with Ruth, the official opening of these wonderful new studios and back flooded the memory of my watching a horse being "put through its paces" before buying him for our London riding stables. That horse was Monty. We still own one of the two remaining stables situated on the north side of Hyde Park, which is now run by Kirsty. The Ross Nye stables has been teaching people to ride for the past 50 years – which is something of a contrast to my previous life on a cattle station in North Queensland. (The cattle station was the same size as Surrey!)

**ROSS NYE (HUSBAND OF RUTH)**





# Menuhin 100 Festival

This year's summer concert programme culminated in the Menuhin 100 Festival - ten days of wonderful music-making by pupils and visiting artists in honour of the centenary of our founder's birth.

All pupils performed in one of the six showcase concerts, which were linked by musical themes. All violin pieces performed had also been performed and recorded by Yehudi, including Bach's six Sonatas and Partitas for solo violin. The one exception was Elegy by Director of Music Malcolm Singer, which had been performed at Yehudi's funeral. Another of Malcolm's pieces, Chagall's Violin, was later premiered, contributing to the theme of music by contemporary British composers which also ran through the festival. Not to be outdone, theme-wise, all pianists performed a Hungarian Rhapsody by Liszt!

One of the events held outside of the School was an organ recital by James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey, at St Mary's Church, Stoke d'Abernon. This was an all-Bach concert and included Sonata No 6 in G for violin and obbligato keyboard, which was played by Louisa Staples. The church also hosted a Flower Festival on a musical theme in honour of Yehudi's title Lord Menuhin of Stoke d'Abernon.

In the middle of the festival there was a day of talking about music at the Music and Dance Scheme Family Day which featured discussions about the future of music education. That evening Bruno Monsaingeon presented his fascinating lecture 'Yehudi on Film'. Music was never far away of course, with performances by pupils at lunchtime and plenty of film clips of performances by Yehudi and friends during the lecture.

## SHAKESPEARE AND MUSIC

Simon Desbrulais in rehearsal

**Acclaimed actor Samuel West wrapped up our Menuhin 100 Festival in July with 'Shakespeare and Music'.**

Extracts from some of Shakespeare's greatest works were read by Samuel, and interspersed with a range of pieces inspired by the Bard and performed by pupils. A highlight was a performance by trumpet virtuoso Simon Desbrulais, who performed the trumpet concerto Shakespeare Scenes, written for him by Robert Saxton.

Following the performance, those leaving the School were presented with their 'leavers' scores', a tradition whereby the leavers choose a musical score which is then specially bound to recognise their attendance at the School. Headmaster Richard Hillier and Samuel West presented the scores in an emotional yet celebratory ceremony.



The Hon Zamira Menuhin Benthall unveiling the memorial fountain

Following the presentation, there was an unveiling of the Yehudi Menuhin Meditation Path, designed by the School's art teacher Patsy Belmonte.

A series of plaques made by pupils and set in a spiral pattern lead to a central water feature providing a 'calm and contemplative space that invites reflection on the spiritual and humanitarian values of Yehudi Menuhin.'

## YEHUDI REMEMBERED

**One of the most significant occasions in the Menuhin 100 Festival was the Commemoration Event held on Saturday 9 July.**

Compiled by Director of Music, Malcolm Singer, this pupil-led presentation was an opportunity to reflect on the music and people who influenced Yehudi, helping to shape the man, his music-making and his many other endeavours.

Music performed by the pupils included George Enescu's Intermezzi Op 12, Bruce Adolph's Einstein's Light, Bartók's Chaconne for solo violin and the premiere of a new work by Music Director Malcolm Singer, Chagall's Violin for seven violins.

The Menuhin family generously supported this event. Guests included members of the Menuhin family, friends and past and present members of staff.



CELEBRATING YEHUDI MENUHIN'S CENTENARY

*Yehudi Menuhin*  
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## ALUMNI REUNION

As part of the Menuhin 100 Festival we were delighted that around 100 former students and staff (spanning the 53 years since the School opened in 1963) gathered together on 9 July for the School's second Alumni Reunion organised by Alumni Officer Elaine Hillier

As well as a welcome by Headmaster Richard Hillier and Director of Music Malcolm Singer, the Alumni were given a guided tour by current pupils of the School's new facilities, the Music and Harris House extensions and new Music Studios, before enjoying drinks and a barbecue in the sunshine on the lawns outside Music House.



Above, left to right: Alumnae Juliette Roos, Tamaki Sugimoto and Phoebe Goddard with Alumni Officer Elaine Hillier

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## ORCHESTRA TRIP TO BELGIUM

The Yehudi Menuhin School Orchestra ended the first half of term with a very successful trip to Belgium performing in Namur at L'Abbaye de Malonne on 18 October and in the 'Violins for Peace' concert in Brussels.

Organised by the International Yehudi Menuhin Foundation, 'Violins for Peace' reflected the humanitarian spirit and multicultural career of our founder through music and film. The orchestra accompanied soloists Valeriy Sokolov (YMS alumnus) and Kerson Leong in Bach's Double Violin Concerto and Vadim Repin in Mendelssohn's Concerto for Violin in D minor. World-renowned performers presented a mix of jazz, classical, Indian and gypsy music and the orchestra also accompanied virtuoso Hungarian gypsy violinist Roby Lakatos, together with Valeriy, in a performance of Vittorio Monti's folk-inspired piece Csárdás.



The concert at L'Abbaye de Malonne also included the Bach and Mendelssohn Concertos – this time with soloists from the School: Leonardo Jaffe Barbosa and Sophia Prodanova performed the Bach Double Violin Concerto, and SongHa Choi was soloist in the Mendelssohn. To open the concert, Esther Park, Dillon Jeffares, Katherine Yoon and Joseph Edwards led Vivaldi's Concerto for four violins in B minor, and Elvina Auh and Louisa-Rose Staples thrilled the audience with Sarasate's Navarra for two violins and orchestra.

"The pupils were very well looked after in Namur, and performed brilliantly," says Headmaster Richard Hillier. "The Brussels concert went on past midnight, but the pupils played and behaved in an exemplary fashion and particularly enjoyed playing with alumnus Valeriy Sokolov."



Katie Morgan performed Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor op 54 on 1 October with the Dorking Chamber Orchestra conducted by Peter Allwood.



# Outside Concerts

The School's commemoration of Yehudi Menuhin's centenary continued not just in Belgium (see separate report) but in the orchestra's participation in 'Celebrating Menuhin', a concert staged by the Jewish Music Institute at London's Kings Place back in September. In November the orchestra was joined by YMS violin teacher and alumna Akiko Ono (1996) for a performance of Vivaldi's Four Seasons at St Mary's Church, Byfleet, in a concert which also included a varied programme of chamber and solo music

# Celebrity Concerts

Pupils and Friends alike have thrilled to concerts this term from the Doric Quartet, the piano duo of Charles Owen and Katya Apekisheva, and renowned Chilean pianist Edith Fischer (pictured with YMS piano teacher Marcel Baudet and senior piano pupils above). In addition, Ms Fischer spent two days giving masterclasses for our pianists. Other visiting teachers this term were: Louise Lansdown (viola), Andras Keller (violin), and Jonathan Leathwood (guitar). Their teaching was much appreciated by all.



# COLLABORATION WITH THE HAGUE

Four pupils from the School for Young Talent at The Hague (the junior section of the Royal Conservatoire) joined us for a week in November. They joined in school life and took part in the Showcase Concert on 11 November, giving the audience the opportunity to delight in the unaccustomed (for us!) sounds of Mozart's Flute Quartet in D Major (K285) and Hauff's Horn Quintet. A quartet of YMS students will travel to Holland for the 'return leg' of the exchange in the spring."



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# A BUSY START FOR OUR GUITARISTS

The YMS guitarists had a busy first half to the term, with all of them involved in outside concerts. 25 September saw Kevin Loh return to Singapore for a performance of Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez. On 9 October Kevin, Sergio Bucheli and Daniel Penney gave an excellent recital at St Martha's-on-the-Hill, a beautiful old church on the Pilgrim's Way near Guildford. In addition to solos from each player, the capacity audience was treated to Cantigas de Santiago, a new work for three guitars by ex-YMS staff member Steve Goss (pictured, with Richard Wright and the boys) based on medieval Spanish songs about the age-old pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.

On 18 October Martin Keane and Finlay Hay represented the school at the Mole Valley DofE presentation evening at the Priory School, Dorking, where they played the Duo in A Op 55 No 1 by Fernando Sor. Last but not least, on 23 October Alfie Leishman gave a short recital at Duddingston Kirk in Edinburgh as part of 'Concerts in the Kirk'. The event raised £750 for the Richmond's Hope Charity for Bereaved Children. Well done Alfie!

# COMPETITIONS

Many congratulations to Aida Lahlou who won first prize in the 12th Concours International de Piano Son Altesse Royale la Princesse Lalla Meryem in Rabat, Morocco, as well as the prize for 'best Moroccan talent', the 'Coup de Coeur' prize, and the chance to give a concert next year in the Festival Printemps des Alizes in Essaouira, Morocco.

Well done, too, to Ketan Curtis (double bass) who reached the finals of the Peter Morrison Concerto Competition at the Royal College of Music Junior Department.





## BY ROYAL COMMAND

On the 17 September eight of our B1 students set out to complete their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition.

Will Duerden, Tianyou Ma, Evie Calver, Tsubasa Muramatsu, Hugo Haag, Finlay Hay, Martin Keane and Tai Luanghvisut were carrying all they needed for the two day trek, including tents, stoves, food and all their wet weather gear! They met their assessor and began their expedition just south of Dorking in Surrey.

The hike took them over the beautiful South Downs to a campsite on Box Hill, the site of the Olympic Cycle race. The group divided into two teams and were positive and full of enthusiasm whenever we met them. They remained full of energy despite the gruelling walk that they had planned for themselves. In the evening we toasted marshmallows and discussed politics around a lovely campfire.

Sarah Lee and I were very impressed with their map-reading skills and their ability to stick to their route plan. The assessor passed them all and most of them have now completed their Bronze D of E. This has been a very successful year for the Duke of Edinburgh Award group, with another six pupils completing their Silver Award (Breanainn O Mathuna, Nicole Petrus Barracks, Natasha Petrovic, Katie Morgan, Margarita Cantó Woltèche and Joe Pritchard). I would like to congratulate them on all the hard work that they have done to achieve this.

JENNY DEXTER



## HAMPTON COURT

12 October 2016

Dear Diary

Today we went to Hampton Court Palace. It was an amazing and fantastic trip. Plus, it was my first visit to a Tudor Palace. When we arrived I couldn't believe how gigantic it is!



Our entry tickets were stickers. If I had lost mine, I wouldn't have been able to go anywhere in the Palace, but luckily I didn't lose it! (By the way I still have it.) We all dressed up in Tudor robes, even Janet and Philippa! We all looked hilarious!! Ha,ha!! We visited the kitchen first. Some plates were made out of pastry because in the Tudor times, they didn't eat the pastry. (That's a bit weird.) There were also plates made out of pewter – a metal which was very strong but it's cheaper than silver. There were lots of servants working there. We were told how hot and very smoky the Tudor kitchens in the Palace were.

After that we went to King Henry VIII's Apartment and we saw the huge dining room where the King ate his meals. Suddenly, we bumped into Catherine Parr and her sister. We were able to ask her many questions; her answers were fascinating. Finally we went to see the upstairs of the Chapel. King Henry VIII had ordered workmen to build it; the ceiling was blue and was covered with golden stars. There were words on the ceiling- DIEU MON DROIT!! But every single N in 'MON' was the other way round. This was because the builders couldn't read! There was only one N the right way round!

I cannot believe that such a very ancient building hasn't fallen down yet! It is so old! My eyes are getting sleepy – so sorry diary, I can't write any more, but that was a great school trip... Goodnight!!!

REBECCA YOU (AGE 10)

## Flying the flag

If you enter the School via the main drive, you will see fluttering over the main door to Music House our new School flag, resplendent in vivid yellow and blue.



The new flag was specially commissioned by alumnus Bennet Ortmann (2016) and presented to the School before he left in the summer to study in Lübeck. Bennet had the flag designed by the College of Arms who based it on the central element of Lord Menuhin of Stoke d'Abernon's coat of arms: the four violin strings and bridges.

Bennet then gave a number of fundraising concerts together with alumna Ursula Perks (2016) to cover the cost of the flag, as well as the rights to the design which he handed over to the School.

Many thanks to them both – and especially to Bennet for such an original and lasting thank-you to the School.





## BONFIRE NIGHT

YMS held a firework display on Friday 4 November, accompanied by a proper, old-fashioned bonfire. All were hugely impressed both by how well the fireworks were co-ordinated and by the size of the fire!

## SUMMER RESULTS 2016

At GCSE / IGCSE 75% of grades were A\* or A and at A level 64% of grades were A\* or A. Congratulations to all who took and passed their public exams in the summer.

Our results in the Key Stage two exams were outstanding with an average score of 117/120 in Reading and English and 113/120 in Maths.

**RICHARD TANNER**



Top: Alan Humm, Naomi Roberts.  
Below: Fraser Dewar and family

## Staff news

New to the teaching staff this term were Alan Humm (Head of English and Drama), Fraser Dewar (Head of PE and Housemaster of Harris House), Naomi Roberts (EAL) and Jen Garcia (Yoga): a warm welcome to them all. We were also joined by familiar faces in Sarah Lee (Maths), Nuria Lopez-Costa (Spanish) and former student Thea Butterworth (Harp); it is good to have them back with us. In addition Kate Hylands (already on the staff in the Menuhin Hall) has taken on the role of Accounts Assistant, in succession to Jane Sheppard, who left us this term, as did Sarah Barton (External Relations and Events Coordinator) and Katherine Peat (Box Office Assistant). Many thanks to all three.

At the end of the summer term we received the sad news of the death of Hazel Sheen, Headmaster's Secretary for a total of twenty-two years (1968-90). In his book Menuhin's Vision, former headmaster Nicolas Chisholm wrote: '[Hazel's] encyclopaedic knowledge of past staff and pupils and of the School's customs was legendary.'

Hazel died on 15 June 2016 and I am sure that countless former staff and pupils who remember her will join us in sending our sympathy and warmest wishes to her husband Derek and children David, Pippa and James.



## NEW PUPILS



We are pleased to welcome the following pupils this year:

Mira Marton (16) violin, Poland  
Molly McGregor (15) violin, UK  
Judith Botanch (14) piano, Spain  
Ezo Dem Sarici (14) violin, UK  
Gorka Plada Giron (14) piano, Spain  
Elfida Turan (14) violin, Turkey  
Ghofrane Miladi (13) violin, Tunisia  
Selina Staeheli (13) violin, Switzerland  
Felicia Tsai (13) violin, Taiwan  
Göcke Catakoglu (12) violin, Turkey  
Alasdair Howell (11) piano, UK  
Clara-Sophia Wernig (10) violin, UK  
Rebecca You (9) piano, UK  
Yume Tomita (8) violin, UK/Japan  
Laura Lin (8) cello, UK/Taiwan

# Alumni news

**CARLAMARIA RODRIGUES** (1982) has just been named the new Adjunct Professor at UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music. She is continuing with her present position of Principal Viola at the San Francisco Opera.

**HANNAH ROBERTS** (1986) has recently been appointed as Professor of Cello at the Royal Academy of Music. She will combine this with her existing professorship at the RNCM in Manchester and her performing as soloist, chamber musician and principal cellist. Her annual summer course for advanced cellists is held at the YMS ([www.summercellocourse.co.uk](http://www.summercellocourse.co.uk)). Hannah's husband **SIMON PARKIN** (1974) has just been appointed Director of Concerts for the Manchester Midday Concerts Society. The Society is very well established, having just celebrated its centenary last year.

**ALEKSEY IGUESMAN** (1989) and **HYUNG-KI JOO** (1990) have brought out a CD together which also features John Malkovich. Aleksey has also released a solo CD with virtuoso violin pieces. They are performing a concert called 'Igudesman & Joo: And Now Mozart' on Saturday 29 April 2017 at 7.30pm in The Menuhin Hall.  
[www.igudesmanandjoo.com](http://www.igudesmanandjoo.com)

**EMMANUEL DESPAX** (2002) will be celebrating the New Year by performing at the Wigmore Hall on Thursday 5 January at 7.30pm. His upcoming Chopin Preludes album on Signum Classics will be available to buy at the concert as an exclusive pre-release.

We are excited to announce that, **BENJAMIN MARQUISE GILMORE** (2004) is the new leader of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, a job that he will share with **Stephanie Gonley**.

**LEANNE ALEXANDER** (2005) has qualified as a doctor and began work as a junior doctor in Scotland in August 2016, having completed her studies in Liverpool.

**BENJAMIN BAKER** (2009) has been named a first prize winner at the 2016 Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York.



**CORRIGENDUM** the editor apologises for an error made in the summer issue of the newsletter. The entry for Halli Cauthery (1994) should have recorded that he was nominated for an Emmy Award for his work on the TV show 'Turbo Fast'. We are very sorry for any upset this may have caused.

## WELCOME

The Governors of The Yehudi Menuhin School are delighted to announce the appointment of Kate Clanchy as Head with effect from January 2018. Kate is currently Senior Master at Westminster School, responsible for all extra-curricular activities, including music, and for the day-to-day smooth running of the School. She was previously Deputy Head and Director of Studies at St Paul's Girls' School

Kate is married to James, a solicitor and commercial arbitrator. They have a son at university and a daughter in her final year at school.

Chairman of Governors Richard Morris writes: 'My fellow Governors and I greatly look forward to welcoming Kate Clanchy in January 2018 as the next Head of our unique school to build upon the many achievements of our current Head, Richard Hillier. As a distinguished and caring teacher and a modern linguist, with deep musical interests and business experience, Kate is exceptionally well-qualified for this post.'

Kate comments: 'I am thrilled to have been chosen to lead this wonderful school which continues to live up to Yehudi Menuhin's musical, educational and internationalist ideals.'

I am looking forward to joining a very special community and getting to know all the pupils, staff, parents, and supporters of the school.'



## THANK YOU

Thank you to all our Friends for your incredible support throughout the 2016 centenary, a special year of celebration, commemoration and achievement in every regard. Even though it will be a hard year to follow, 2017 promises to continue the highest standards of musical and educational excellence for pupils with outstanding potential. None of this would be possible without the involvement and commitment of our Friends.

If you have yet to join but like to listen to outstanding music, watch emerging young talent from all over the world and obtain priority bookings for any performances at the Menuhin Hall, why not become a Friend and get all these benefits straight away? Simply call us on **01932 584791** or email [friends@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:friends@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk) and we will send out a joining pack with all the information you need.

At The Yehudi Menuhin School, our pupils are fortunate to be supported with such generosity by Friends leaving gifts in wills. Visitors to the new Music Studios will have seen just how important they have been.

In order to mark this special relationship, the School would like to introduce new ways to thank and acknowledge their unique contribution. All legacy pledgers will be invited to join a new Society, the details of which will be available shortly.

If you would like information about how you can help leave a gift in your will or any aspect of this programme, please contact the Development Director on **01932 584797** or [development@yehudimenuhin.co.uk](mailto:development@yehudimenuhin.co.uk).