



# The Yehudi Menuhin School

The International Music School founded by Yehudi Menuhin  
www.yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk — Registered Charity 312010 — Newsletter 62 — Autumn 2015

## Anniversary Appeal Update

Thanks to you, our Anniversary Appeal continues to go from strength to strength. Gifts and pledges from a wide range of supporters have enabled the School to reach just over £2.5 million of the £3.5 million required to build and equip our new Music Studios, leaving us only £920,000 to raise before the unveiling of the building in July 2016. We are also incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed towards the bursaries which help our students attend the School, irrespective of their financial position. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Stuart Mitchell (Chair of the Appeal Committee) and all the Governors for their ongoing financial support and involvement, our loyal and supportive Friends, and those individuals and Trusts who have been so considerate in their giving.

In particular, we acknowledge the generosity of The Oak Foundation, Sackler Trust, The Sir Siegmund Warburg Voluntary Settlement, the Foyle Foundation, and Michael and Hilary Cowan for their transformational giving. We are thankful, too, to Friends of the School for leaving gifts in their wills. The School will be delighted to recognise this within our new facilities.

Thanks to a small group of donors, the School is currently able to offer Matched Funding for every gift given between now and June 2016, up to a value of £500,000. That means for every £1 you donate, the School will double the value of your donation, pound for pound. Naming opportunities for bursaries, rooms and equipment are still available. So, if you would like to join us in our Appeal, please contact the Development Office on [development@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:development@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk) or telephone 01932 584797. We look forward to hearing from you.



# Musical Notes

## — Gstaad

The School made its biennial journey to Switzerland to take part in the Menuhin Festival in Gstaad at the start of July. Twenty-six students, accompanied by Headmaster Richard Hillier and his wife Elaine, Director of Music Malcolm Singer with his wife Sara, and Senior School Nurse Ann Sweeney and her husband Graham, as well as Chairman of Governors Richard Morris, travelled to the familiar and much-loved Hotel Saanerhof in Saanen, just outside the town of Gstaad.

Friday 17 July saw the orchestra performing in the picturesque and historic Saanen Church, along with former winner of the Menuhin Competition Junior Section Chad Hoopes, in a programme of Schnittke, Haydn, Panufnik, Arnold and Leroy Anderson. The following day, we travelled up the Wispile mountain by cable car to perform a programme of light music (including Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride) in the Berghaus restaurant at the top.

It was a very successful and memorable trip. The students were a great advertisement for the School and a credit to themselves, the School and their parents. Well done all!



YMS tour party in Gstaad.

## — World Premiere

Daniel Penney's (16) composition *Expansions*, specially commissioned by the BBC, had its world premiere broadcast live on BBC Radio 3's *Hear and Now*. Daniel was one of three winners of the 2015 BBC Proms Inspire Young Composers' Competition scheme, specially commissioned by BBC Radio 3 for the season.

His winning composition, *The Complications of Life in an Enclosed Space* was performed at the Royal College of Music on 28 August by the Aurora Orchestra and broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on 3 September. You can hear him in interview, and the performance, here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p031gfbz>

## — Wisdom from the wise

At the beginning of term, legendary violinist Shmuel Ashkenasi spent two days in the School. As well as teaching a number of pupils from both the senior and the junior ends of the School, in response to questions and answers from staff and pupils,



Shmuel Ashkenasi with pupils of the School.

Professor Ashkenasi gave an absorbing and inspirational account of his career and his thoughts on music and performing. Many thanks to Professor Ashkenasi for making time for us in his busy schedule. This was a visit which will be much remembered.



## — Hear and be afraid

Renowned trombonist and composer John Kenny visited the School for the first part of an exciting project that will see YMS pupils compose new works for John to perform and record. He began the visit with an inspiring, amusing and frequently theatrical recital that showed off the many facets and characteristics of the trombone. This was followed by an afternoon of workshops in which pupils had the chance to discover more about the history of the instrument and its repertoire and learn in greater detail about the practicalities of composing for trombone.

A highlight of the day was John's performance on the carnyx, a two-thousand-year-old Celtic war trumpet. Crafted from a mixture of brass and bronze, and shaped to resemble the head of a wild boar, John's carnyx is a reconstruction based on remains discovered buried at a farm in Banffshire in 1816. Held aloft when played, so the sound would carry over the heads of an advancing army, this astonishing instrument produces a powerful and intense sound, brought vividly to life by John's performance of his own piece, *The Voice of the Carnyx*.



Simon Larter-Evans

Pupil Eddie Mead (13) playing the carnyx.

## — Angela Hewitt Concert

Pianist Angela Hewitt launched the 2015-16 Celebrity Series, celebrating the centenary of Yehudi Menuhin's birth, in fine and memorable style, with a recital of Bach, Scarlatti, Beethoven, Albeniz and Falla. It was truly a succession of highlights, with delighted audience members leaving the auditorium to discuss their favourite moments and queuing to purchase signed CDs from the performer.



Angela Hewitt

## — YMS represented at first Mozart Competition in China

Many congratulations to Elvina Auh (16) on winning fourth prize in her age group in the 1st Zhuhai International Mozart Competition for Young Musicians in China.

## — Weybridge Male Voice Choir

The School has a long association with Weybridge Male Voice Choir, dating back to the 1970s when YMS Director of Music Malcolm Singer was their musical director - he is still the choir's Honorary President.

We were delighted to renew connections once more at WMVC's autumn concert in Weybridge Catholic Church on 3 October when Louisa Staples (15) and Kingsley Lin (14) provided instrumental interludes by Sarasate and Ravel respectively, accompanied by YMS staff pianist Svitlana Kosenko. Our Weybridge friends always seem glad to have us and we are certainly very happy to be there.





Simon Larter-Evans

Members of the choir waiting to perform.

## — Tchaikovsky Showcase Concert Goes With A Bang

The Yehudi Menuhin School celebrated 5 November with its very own Guy Fawkes Night firework display in the school grounds before The Menuhin Hall opened its doors for an 175th anniversary concert to commemorate the anniversary of Tchaikovsky's birth.

The audience was treated to a full programme of music in honour of the Russian composer. Malcolm Singer, Director of Music, said it was an exciting evening, showcasing the School's talented pupils: "Mounting an all-Tchaikovsky concert was, educationally, a great project for the pupils. Preparing the rarely-heard early String Quartet movement, as well as the beautiful choral pieces alongside the better-known pieces for violin, cello and piano, made it an attractive line-up which the pupils performed stunningly. The audience seemed to enjoy it too."

## Emerson Quartet

We were delighted to welcome the Emerson Quartet, featuring alumnus Paul Watkins (1988), for an afternoon of chamber-music coaching, followed by a sell-out Celebrity Concert in the Hall in the evening. What a day!



Simon Larter-Evans

## — New pupils

Ten new pupils joined the School this term: Emma Demetriades (10, violin, Leicestershire), Viviana Baudis (16, piano, Germany), Isla Forbes (9, violin, Cheshire), Hattie McGregor (12, cello, Scotland), Claire Wang (7, piano, Surrey), Daniil Margulis (14, bass, Turkey), Rose Gosney (9, violin, Hampshire), Martin Keane (13, guitar, Ireland), Jelena Horvat (12, violin, Serbia/Holland), and Juliet Wolff (16, cello, Germany/London).



Simon Larter-Evans





Simon Larter-Evans

*Brahms Trio*

## — World Ambassadors

The Young Pianist Festival takes place every two years in Amsterdam, and a piano competition for young pianists who have to be either Dutch or studying in Holland is at the heart of the Festival. Marcel Baudet, who teaches piano at YMS, is Founder, Director and guiding light of the Festival, and the School has been involved in its events down the years.

As part of the Festival young musicians studying at the world's leading music schools were invited to give lunchtime concerts. Musicians came from the Gnsssen School, Moscow, the Kronberg Academy, Germany, the Juilliard School, New York and, representing England, The Yehudi Menuhin School. Nicole Petrus-Barracks (17, violin), Frankie Carr (17, cello) and Damir Durmanovic (16, piano) performed Brahms' Piano Trio No.1 Op.8 in a truly moving performance of this most difficult of chamber works.

Pupils also had a chance to see a little of Amsterdam, hear other concerts and meet and talk to many of the judges (Boris Berman from Yale, Jean-Claude Vanden Eynden from Brussels, Edith Fischer from Santiago, Chile, Dominique Merlot from Paris, Dina Yoffe from Cologne, Klaus Hellwig from Berlin and Ronan O'Hora from London) as well as many other musicians who were there. Malcolm Singer, Director of Music, was also on the judging panel. The Trio had a wonderful time and were very fine ambassadors for the School.

## And the rest

### — Exam Success

Many congratulations to YMS A level students who this year gained record results, with a 100% pass rate, all at grades A\*, A and B, with 72% of these being A\* or A grades. A tremendous achievement both by the pupils and by the dedicated staff who teach them. Chairman of Governors Richard Morris commented: 'An outstanding set of results: congratulations to the pupils and all the teaching staff - and I'm sure I speak for all the Governors. Bravissimo!'

Then came the equally impressive GCSE results.

Not only was there a 100% pass rate at A\*-C, but 50% of the grades were at A\* grade and 98% at A\*, A and B - both records for the School.

Well done to all our pupils and staff.

## — Activities Day

As is tradition, at the end of the summer term pupils flee in all directions to enjoy Activities Day. Here are two pictures that show our pupils at rest and play.



Simon Larter-Evans

*On the South Downs.*



Janet Poppe

*At Wildwood.*





Malcolm Singer



Jenny Dexter

Holding a snake are Evie Calver, Tsubasa Muramatsu (12), Coco Tomita (13), Tai Luanghvisut (12) and Hugo Haag (13).

Despite the unbearable heat, we found some weird but interesting things, including some chairs made from rolled-up newspaper, an invention that drew a smaller outline of your body without anybody having to use a pen, and a bunch of snakes and bearded dragons. We actually held a python – it was so much heavier than we expected, but had a pretty squishy texture!

We sent an electrical current around our bodies using our noses, explored how mini traffic lights work, and saw the real enigma machine - the one that starred in the movie *The Imitation Game*!

One of the coolest things we saw was a 3D printer. It was really interesting to see how they worked (we all really want one for the school!).

## — Do you know the piano's on my foot? You hum it, I'll play it...

The senior girls of Music House returned for the Autumn Term to find the new second-floor rooms completed, decorated, furnished and ready for occupation: five single rooms and one double, all with en-suite facilities.

They missed the excitement of the preceding week, however, when the strong men of Jaques Samuel pianos arrived to deliver the new uprights and carry them up several flights of stairs. Quite an operation! Many thanks to them all for their efforts.

## — Big Bang Fair

*Evie Calver (13) writes:* The C2 class and the Ds visited the Big Bang fair, an event that happens only once a year at the East of England Showground. Lots of scientists set up stalls to showcase their inventions and ideas to any school groups that want to come along.



Sarah Howell

Alex Keeley (12), Kyota Kakiuchi (12), Mika Petrovic (11), Jude Usborne (11), Nathan Perry (11) and Ignacy Stefanowicz (12).





Kevin Loh (17), Ursula Perks (18), Bréanainn O Mathuna (18), Nicole Petrus-Barracks, Jeff Wu (17), Leonardo Jaffe Barbosa (17).

## — Bodiam Castle

The History and English departments joined forces to find out about life in medieval England. The C1s were taken on a trip to Bodiam Castle, East Sussex by Sarah Howell and Maria Trkulja to investigate what it would have been like to live in a castle. Pupils could try on armour and handle weapons used by knights of old, imagining the difficulties and horror of medieval warfare. The day in a castle also provided ideas for writing 'gothic' fiction. We look forward to reading their stories in the School's creative writing magazine, *Bits and Pieces*.

## — Duke of Edinburgh

*Jenny Dexter writes:* On September 24 a group of students went to the Mole Valley Duke of Edinburgh presentation evening to receive their certificates. The evening was held at The Ashcombe School in Dorking and was attended by 400 pupils from surrounding schools. We were entertained by each school between the presentation of awards and we were lucky to have SongHa Choi (15) represent YMS on the violin. She played beautifully and the audience were thrilled to watch her play. Congratulations to all those who worked hard to achieve their Bronze D of E. Pictured are: SongHa Choi, Katie Morgan (15), Qing Qing Ponok (15), Joe Pritchard (15) and Natasha Petrovic (16).

In September eleven Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award students set off in the New Forest carrying all that they needed for three days' camping and walking with very full rucksacks. They had planned their route, about 20km per

day, and their menu (mostly noodles) and were enthusiastic and ready for the challenge. All the students worked incredibly hard to achieve this physical and mental challenge and their team work and positive outlook throughout the long weekend was impressive. Having finished this challenge many of the pupils are ready to take on the Gold award. Well done to all.



Cllr Margaret Cooksey with SongHa Choi, Katie Morgan, Qing Qing Ponok, Joe Pritchard and Natasha Petrovic.

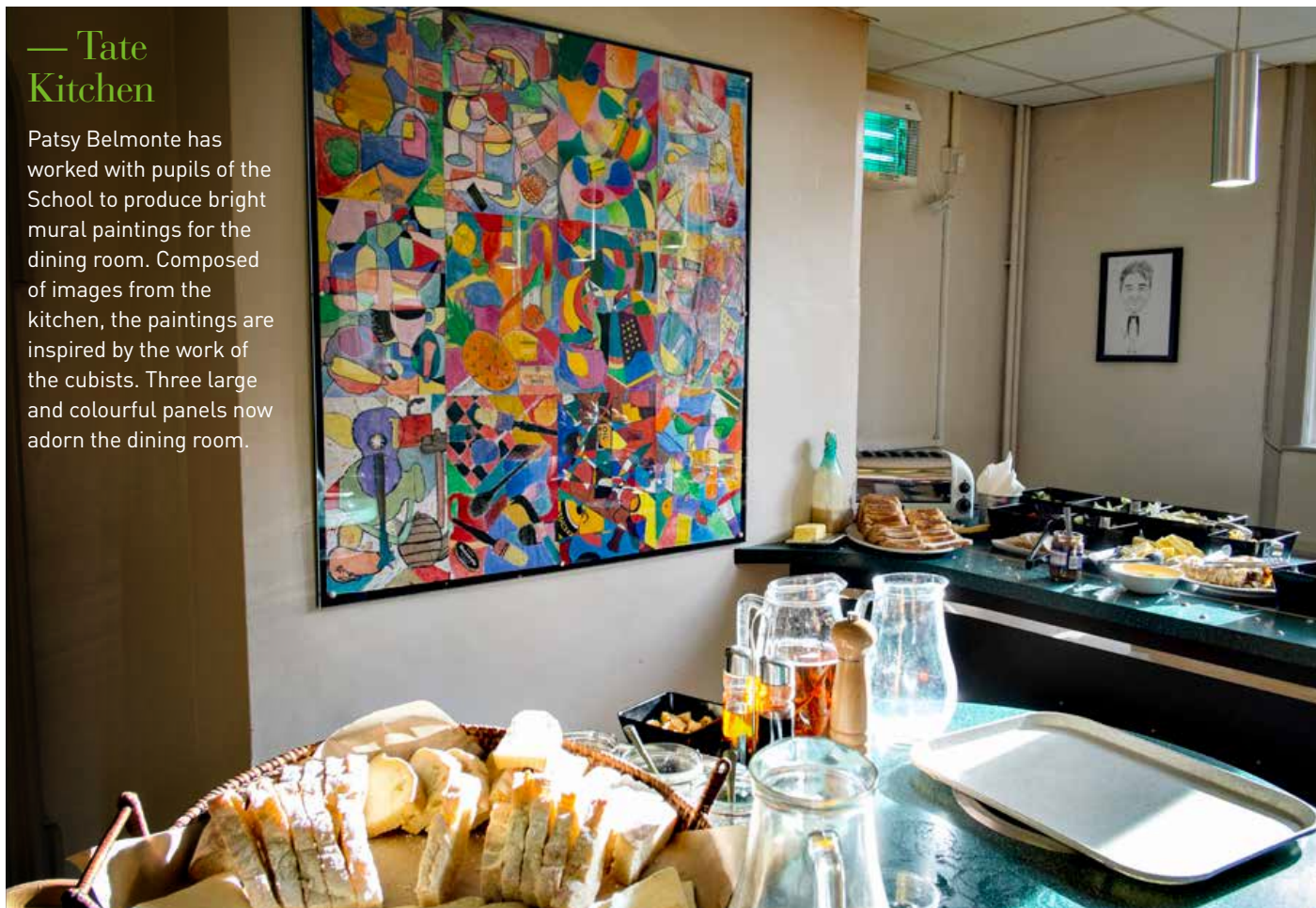
## — Maths Challenge

In this year's UK Senior Maths Challenge, 90 minutes of individual mathematical problem solving, Kevin Loh won Gold, and Jeff Wu, Bréanainn O Mathuna and Qing Qing Ponok won Silver. In the Senior Team Challenge, the School sent a team of four to Epsom College and came second.



## — Tate Kitchen

Patsy Belmonte has worked with pupils of the School to produce bright mural paintings for the dining room. Composed of images from the kitchen, the paintings are inspired by the work of the cubists. Three large and colourful panels now adorn the dining room.



## Staff News

### — Staff News

We welcomed to the music staff this term former pupil **Alexis White** (1997) as Piano Teacher (Supporting Studies) and **David Young** as Choral Director. In the second half of term **Anna Ziman** joined us as Assistant Violin Teacher, replacing **Gergana Raykova** who left us at the end of October to move to India with her husband Nikhil. We are very grateful to Gergana for the incredible support she has given both the violin staff and their pupils over the last 3 years, as well as for her help on the pastoral team in Music House as Assistant Housemistress. We say farewell, too – and many thanks – to **Prach Boondiskulchok**, who is leaving us to concentrate on his performing career. He will be replaced as Assistant Piano Teacher by fellow former pupil **Miho Kawashima**.

Many congratulations are due to our Partnership Officer **Nicola Darke** who gave birth to Wilfred Oliver (pictured) on 17 September. Whilst Nicola is away on maternity leave, **Cathy Whitnall** has taken over responsibility for external concerts, as well as our outreach work, and **Dave Greenwood** has joined the staff as Music Administration Assistant, with particular responsibility for the Music Library and music timetabling. We



were also pleased to welcome **Mark Smith-Lachie** as PE and Tennis Coach and **Gillian Watts** as our School Counsellor.

Meanwhile, there have been major changes in the Development Department as we step up our efforts to raise the funds needed for our new Music Studios and the bursary endowment fund. Joining Development Director Dr Anthony Medhurst are **Sarah Barton** (External Relations and Events Coordinator) and **Melanie Collins** (Receptionist and Development Assistant). Sarah is responsible for looking after our invaluable Friends, as well as the many events in the centenary year and beyond and Mel, as well as manning reception, provides administrative support for the development team.

At the end of the autumn term we bid farewell to **Maria Trkulja** (Housemistress) who moves to take up a post at Elstree Preparatory School in Berkshire. She will be much missed, not least by the pupils in Music House, and we wish her all the very best for her marriage to Foster in the summer and every happiness to them both for their life together.

From January 2016 **Ann Sweeney** will add the role of Resident Housemistress in Music House to that of Senior School Nurse and will be assisted by **Kendra Shute**, who will become her full-time Resident Assistant.



*Ann Sweeney, Senior Nurse and our new Housemistress from the spring term.*





Simon Larter-Evans

New Development Team: Sarah, Mel and Anthony.

There are also going to be changes in the staff of The Menuhin Hall. **Dominic Mackie** has joined as an Assistant Technical Manager, whilst **Liz Peters** (Bar Manager) is sadly leaving us to concentrate on her decorating business. In December we also say goodbye to **Ambie Desoutter** who has been manager of The Menuhin Hall since its opening in 2006 and has worked in the School in various capacities for more than sixteen years. We thank her for all she has done, especially for the part she has played in the success of the Hall, and wish her all the very best for the future. Many thanks to all our leaving staff: we hope they will stay in touch.

We welcome **Alice Benzing** as the new Manager of The Menuhin Hall starting in January. Alice is currently the Concert and Tours Coordinator for the Royal Northern Sinfonia at the Sage Gateshead.



Simon Larter-Evans

Maria with some of her girls: Emma Demetriades, Evie Calver, Coco Tomita, Jelena Horvat and Tsubasa Muramatsu.

## — John Cooney: Latest premiere & Naxos releases

YMS teacher of Composition John Cooney's latest piece *Ellipse* was premiered this summer by Lisa Nelsen (flute) and Gwennlian Llyr (harp).

The performance took place at the National Museum in Cardiff, at a special event linked to the Museum's exhibition of contemporary ceramics entitled *Fragile?* John was invited to write a piece in response to the work of Ashraf Hanna, a ceramicist and glassmaker at the forefront of current practice and winner of the 2015 UK Glass Biennale. *Ellipse* was written specifically in response to Ashraf's piece *Rhythm Vessel* (pictured), an astonishing work that fuses traditional Japanese *raku* methods with more contemporary styles and techniques. Following a successful first performance, the London premiere of *Ellipse* is to be scheduled for 2016.

Also this summer, recordings of two of John's earlier works, *Chasing Shadows* and *On Shifting Ground*, were added to the Naxos catalogue. *Chasing Shadows* was originally commissioned by the Allegri Quartet, while *On Shifting Ground* was written to a commission from the London Sinfonietta.





# — Alumni News

**Jonathan Rutherford** (1969) has written an 11-minute String Quartet that will be performed by the Tippett String Quartet on November 28 in Orford Church. It was written for the 60th birthdays of Graeme (BBC Radio 3) and Penny Kay.

**Sophia Durrant** (née Holmes) (1989) has won the section principal 2nd violin position at English National Opera.

**Cheryl Frances-Hoad** (1998) has been commissioned to write a new Christmas Carol for BBC Music Magazine, which will be published in their Christmas issue. The carol is set to the medieval text "Good Day, Sir Christemas" from the Selden Carol Book which can be found in the Bodleian Library, Oxford and was compiled in the fifteenth century. It is, says Cheryl, "unashamedly jolly" and will be performed by the School Choir at the Christmas Showcase Concerts.

**Max Baillie** (2000) has been astonishingly busy with new compositions, concerts and recordings. His particular focus is on Bach, and he is also working on launching a new online Bach resource *The Bach Voyager*. Find out more at his web site, [www.maxbaillie.com](http://www.maxbaillie.com).

**Prach Boondiskulchok's** (2004) Linos Piano Trio won the Piano Trio Section of the 2015 Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition this summer. The trio are Prach (piano), with Konrad Elias-Trostman (violin) and **Vladimir Waltham** (2007) (cello).

Award-winning writer **Cordelia Lynn's** (2005) debut play *Lela & Co.* was performed to great acclaim at The Royal Court Theatre, London. In *The Guardian*, Cordelia said of the play, "This world's inhabitants have been, and are being, shattered by violence, and they helplessly recreate what happens on a vast public scale within the walls of their homes, in the minutiae of their relationships. Any war has its opportunists, and there are those with very good reasons for not wanting Lela to tell her story."

Trio Isimsiz, of which the cellist is alumnus **Michael Petrov** (2009), have won the Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition 2015. They also won the audience prize.

**Irene Enzlin's** (2011) Delta Piano Trio has won the first prize, Prix Charles Hennen, at the Orlando Competition. The trio is soon to record on the Naxos label.

**Yume Fujise** (2013) has won the RCM Violin Competition 2015.

**Cosima Soulez Larivière** (2015) was awarded 1st prize in the 22nd International Johannes Brahms Competition, which includes concert invitations to perform in Tokyo, Japan and Lapedona, Italy. Fresh out of School Cosima writes: "Very surreal but exciting as you can imagine!"

## — Advance notice of our next reunion:

On the afternoon of Saturday 9 July 2016 we will be holding our second Reunion for Alumni and Former Staff. Please put the date in your diary. Details to follow.



*Linos Piano Trio*





Cherry Frizzell

## — Leaving a legacy

*Cherry Frizzell, a Friend of The Yehudi Menuhin School, writes:*

What prompted my husband and me to leave something in our wills to the YMS? Simple. The School, and indeed all the work of Lord Menuhin, embodies everything in which we believe most profoundly and everything we love most. This goes back to my childhood bathed in music and love of beauty. Woven into the fabric of this was always the mythical name, Yehudi Menuhin, which impregnated my life.

So it was in the 1970s that a friend introduced me and my husband Norman to Zamira Menuhin. Our first taste of the music of the School was a dinner and concert held in The Royal Academy. It was as if we had arrived in paradise, those beautiful kids, their magical gifts, and their music. Everything without exception was exquisite. Not only that, but all the people connected with the School were delightful. From then on, we realised more and more that every single thing organised by the YMS was, and is, a sheer delight.

Always the music reaches sublime levels. Often there is some previously unheard composer or piece to discover. Always the kids are astonishing and enchanting - totally normal, happy and so incredibly gifted, always shepherded by equally talented staff.

Lord Menuhin himself was an example - small, beautiful, eloquently melodious in his speech, so charmingly grateful for everything. During his life, Lord Menuhin admired the simple teaching of universality, stressing the power of music and beauty to unite all people. So when we learnt of his desire to build a concert hall, and having experienced concerts in the neighbour's barn, we decided to offer what we could. After his death, this became an even stronger wish. Now all our most profound desires for humankind - added to a passion for music, beauty and the bringing together of people and cultures - make it a no-brainer to leave what we can to the School and so perpetuate these ideals.

# Hall News

## — Best Friend and Concert sponsorship opportunities

We recently launched a new membership – Best Friend. In addition to the benefits already currently received by Friends, Best Friends also receive for just £100 per year:

- Two complimentary tickets to a Summer Festival concert and an invitation to the pre-concert reception as part of the Summer Festival
- Priority booking for four 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](mailto:sarah.barton@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk).

## — Hall Hire

The Hall may be hired for any kind of celebration or memorial occasion at any time of year depending on availability.

Visit [www.yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk](http://www.yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk) for more details or call the Hall Manager on 01932 584408 to discuss your requirements.

## — Menuhin 100 Celebrity Series

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

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

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





# From the Headmaster

Dear Friends

It seems but only yesterday that we were just beginning to plan our programme for the three years from 2013 to 2016, three special years which would see the marking of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the School, its move to Stoke d'Abernethy, and the centenary of the birth of Lord Menuhin. And suddenly here we are: 2015 is drawing to a close and we prepare to embark on a year of celebration and commemoration which will surely be one of the busiest and most important in the School's history.

Our traditional Scottish tour in February has expanded once more to see pupils playing for the first time in Berwick on Tweed, as well as Eyemouth, New Lanark, Edinburgh and Blair Atholl. In April we shall play our part in the Menuhin International Violin Competition in London by supplying the orchestra for the finals of the junior section of the competition, as well as joining one of the jurors, Joji Hattori, for a concert in The Menuhin Hall on Tuesday 12 April. Later that month we shall take a large party to Berlin to give three concerts as part of the Konzerthaus's ten-day *Hommage an Yehudi Menuhin*. The summer term will also see pupils taking part in centenary events in Warsaw, whilst, later in the year, we travel to Brussels.

The busiest period, however, will undoubtedly be from 1 to 10 July when we mount our very own Menuhin 100 Festival. Celebrations begin with a Gala Concert and Dinner starring alumna Nicola Benedetti, our usual summer festival concerts will have their own celebratory twist, Westminster Abbey's James O'Donnell will give a recital on the Frobenius organ in St Mary's Church, and the final weekend will be marked by a very special commemorative event in the Hall to mark our founder's centenary, as well as a much-anticipated reunion for our endlessly supportive and inspiring alumni, and a celebration in words and music of the 400th anniversary of the death of Shakespeare with award-winning actor Samuel West.

So, there is a lot to prepare for and a lot to look forward to! Whether you are a frequent visitor or have not seen us for some time, we hope very much that you will want to be part of what promises to be a memorable week and a half.

With very best wishes to you all from Elaine and me for the year ahead.

*Richard Himm*



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



## Buy a Brick Campaign

Don't forget to buy your brick paver, available for £50 each and engraved with a personal message of your choice. These bricks will form part of the external courtyard of the new music studios, and will be a lasting reminder of your support for the School.

For more information and to request an order form please contact 01932 584797 or

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