



The Yehudi Menuhin School

The International Music School founded by Yehudi Menuhin

www.yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk — Registered Charity 312010 — Newsletter 60 — Spring 2015

— “TO LOVE GOD AND MY WIFE”

A review of the play *Sam* by Simon Larter-Evans adapted from Pepys's diaries 1660-1669.

Richard Tanner writes: The opening tableau set the scene for a feast: Roast chicken and wine on the table, fine furniture, opulent costumes, Bach elegantly played by Leyla Cemiloglu (17) on the spinet, Dorothea Schupelius (18) beautifully coiffed and poised in a flowing gown as Elizabeth Pepys. We joined her quietly waiting for her husband and our leading man, Sam.

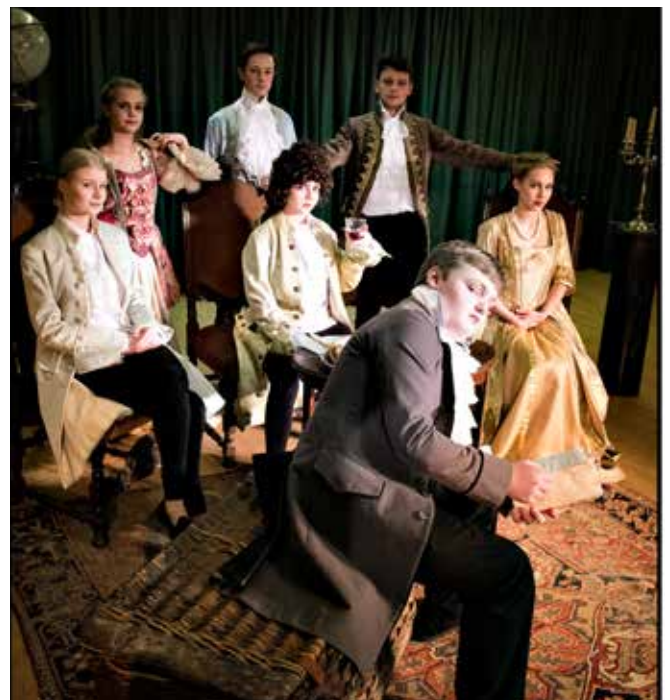
Simon Larter-Evans has written and directed a delicious play that revels in the man behind the diaries. He gave us generous helpings of music, dance, song and audience participation and revealed Sam as an able and likeable rogue, ambitious and energetic in his political career, with a young wife to adore but appetites for food, drink and dalliances to distract him. Three Sams appeared on stage to flesh him out. Max Calver (15) played Sam the younger with easy nonchalance and became narrator and commentator throughout the action. Cosima Soulez Larivière (18), bewigged as Sam the elder, acted out his official and domestic life with aplomb until, tiring of his deceit and debauchery, as any principled principal boy would, she gave up on him and invited Leyla to take over. Wig and spinet were swapped and Leyla slipped into the coat and the role and carried on with Sam's affairs with equal self-assurance and just as much infidelity.

The Restoration of Charles II, the Plague and Great Fire of London form a dramatic backdrop to the play but in the foreground we relate most readily to the candid details of Sam's diary entries, originally written in secret shorthand to prevent his wife reading the more colourful passages. The love, domesticity, arguments and jealousies between Sam and Elizabeth are central to the show and Dorothea's range of reactions gave poignancy to this unequal power struggle. It was played out among the household maidservants, Jane and Deb, both acted by Charlotte Saluste-Bridoux (19) to the delight of Sam's roving eye, and Will Hewers, Sam's young secretary and the 'son' they never had, acted by Bennet Ortmann (18).

Elizabeth displayed plenty of spirit and took up dancing lessons with Mr Pemberton which drove Sam mad with jealousy. Ben Whitnall (14), guest dancer/actor and son of Cathy Whitnall, was a masterful dancing master and members of staff invited to join his class struggled to match his moves, to the delight of pupils in the audience.

Sam began his rise to advisor to the King through the patronage of Edward Montague the Earl of Sandwich and Bennet had the fascinating acting challenge of taking on this role – Sam's boss – as well as the role of Sam's servant. It was an interesting sandwich, which Bennet achieved with accomplishment.

The drama of Sam's time had been brilliantly lifted from the page and memorably brought to life by the talented cast. The play ended reflectively and the audience responded with acclaim.



Cast of *Sam* — Photo Credit: Simon Larter-Evans

Going to the Ends of the Earth for YMS

Just before Christmas Stuart Mitchell, Governor of the School and Chairman of the Anniversary Appeal decided to risk his toes and fingers to support the School's Anniversary Appeal. Stuart covered all his own costs and undertook intensive training to prepare for the trek. Stuart talks about the enormous challenge he set himself and his incredible experience:

As a child I sat spellbound as our history master told us of the exploits of Scott and Shackleton at the South Pole.

I struggled to comprehend the motivations that could drive these men to take such a leap into so hostile an unknown. I was also deeply moved by the measured language of Scott's final entries, as he struggled to return home after failing in his endeavour to be the first to reach the pole.

Since the 21st we have had a continuous gale from W.S.W. and S.W. We had fuel to make two cups of tea apiece and bare food for two days on the 20th. Every day we have been ready to start for our depot 11 miles away, but outside the door of the tent it remains a scene of whirling drift. I do not think we can hope for any better things now. We shall stick it out to the end, but we are getting weaker, of course, and the end cannot be far.

It seems a pity, but I do not think I can write more.

R. SCOTT

Had we lived, I should have had a tale to tell of the hardihood, endurance, and courage of my companions which would have stirred the heart of every Englishman. These rough notes and our dead bodies must tell the tale, but surely, surely, a great rich country like ours will see that those who are dependent on us are properly provided for.

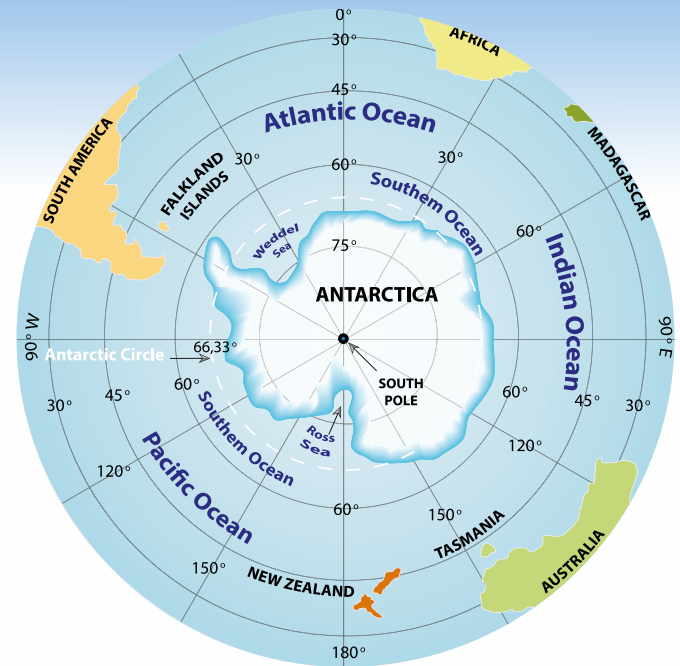
R. SCOTT

And of course the courage of Captain Oates seemed quite superhuman to a nine-year-old.

I am just going outside and may be some time.

Four decades on, I decided to organize my own expedition to the South Pole. I somehow managed to persuade two friends to join me. With our guide from the extreme expedition group, Polar Explorers, we would walk with skis, pulling all our equipment in sledges over the 'last degree' to the South Pole – from 89°00'00" S to 90°00'00" S, a distance just short of seventy miles.

The most vital part of preparation was to get incredibly fit. I tortured myself three days a week training in the gym. But more important were the hours spent harnessed up, pulling tyres behind me along endless roads to prepare for dragging a sledge day after day over very long distances.



You can imagine the comments from casual observers: 'You must be really tyre-d...'

'Do you know that you have got something following you?'

On reflection, putting up with terrible jokes was perhaps the hardest part of the expedition.

We planned our trip for December, the height of the Antarctic summer. Daylight lasted all day long, the sun slowly circling us at a constant of 45 degrees above the horizon. It being summer, the temperature was a balmy -25 to -35 °C.

We first travelled to the small town of Punta Arenas, in the far south of Chile, from where we would fly on to Antarctica when there was a break in the weather. We decided not to be too perturbed by our guide getting us lost on the way back from the supermarket to our hotel – perhaps spending a lot of time in a bar which Shackleton himself had frequented helped us get in the right frame of mind!

After a few days, the break came, and we took off in a rather decrepit ex-military Russian Ilyushin, heading down to Antarctica's Union Glacier. There were some other passengers on board. One was a group like ours, planning to trek to the pole, the other a set of climbers on their way to Mount Vinson to complete the 'Seven-Summits' challenge of getting to the top of the highest mountain on each of the seven continents.



Stuart's icicle beard



Stuart with his team Photo Credits: Stuart Mitchell

I am a very keen climber, loving not just the physical and mental challenge, but also the opportunity to be close to nature and the extraordinary sensation, which most climbers know, of being at one with our creator. These people, though, seemed less interested in such existential delights than in the prospect of notching up 'Number Seven'.

We spent a couple of days acclimatizing in the relative luxury of the camp at Union Glacier. Before flying across the Ellsworth mountain range to our starting point on the Antarctic plateau, I checked out the other group trekking to the South Pole. They claimed recently to have climbed Everest. But to me they somehow all looked a little wobbly for that. One of them had to squeeze rolls of belly fat into his trousers. In the event, they lasted all of three days on the plateau before an emergency rescue flew them back to civilization...

The Antarctic plateau is 12,000 feet up, and the air is thin. As soon as we were dropped off at our starting point, the altitude hit us. We all felt nauseous, and struggled for a couple of days before we started to get used to the lack of oxygen. Then there

was the cold. When you are trekking you need to wear just enough to keep you warm, but not so much that you start to sweat. The instant you stop your progress across the snow, you must put on your thick expedition parka. Otherwise you might freeze to death. If you have got a little bit sweaty then you cool down even more quickly. Keeping your hands warm was also a major concern.

But we quickly got a routine and really began to enjoy ourselves. We became expert at setting up and breaking down camp in super quick time, sweeping up and making sure everything was all neat and tidy, and also at cooking in the tent – my 'South Pole Pizza' has become a favourite back home. I rather came to see our little tent as home.

We would usually wake at six, have breakfast, break camp, and set off at half-past nine, spending the day harnessed up to our sledges, and trekking until mid to late afternoon. By teatime we might have managed seven or eight miles before it was time to set up camp again. The seventy miles took five kilos off my weight, and my wife can no longer reproach me for my 'moobs'!

The whole experience was joyous. The pleasure of being so intimate with two very close friends for nearly a month was wonderful. The thrill that comes with well-executed team work, everyone doing his job diligently and without complaint. The selfless way in which we all looked out for each other. And, above all, the time to reflect upon how lucky I am to have such an incredible family and fantastic life.

Antarctic plateau is completely flat, you can appreciate the curvature of the earth, and I had, for the first time in my life, the curious sensation of being on a planet. The landscape is how you might imagine that of our more distant and icier planets. You have an exhilarating feeling of being part of an intricate network of spinning worlds within the vastness of the Universe.

I attained levels of serenity which I have never experienced before. Day after day of moving, one foot before the other,

across a vast and unchanging landscape sent me into a trance, in which I was able to focus uninterrupted and with total clarity for hours. I had glimpses of that tapping in to the universal wisdom of the connected world which mystics often talk about when meditating.

And once we reached the geographical South Pole – 90°00'00" S – at the end of it all, we were able, with just a few swift steps, to run around the world not just once, but many times.

Stuart has raised a total of £56,681 at the time of writing with money still coming in. We are so very grateful to everyone who has donated. Thank you!

If you would still like to donate please visit justgiving.com/Stuart-Mitchell9 or send a cheque made payable to **The Yehudi Menuhin School Ltd** to Development Department, The Yehudi Menuhin School, Cobham Road, Stoke d'Abernon, Cobham, Surrey KT11 3QQ

— Holocaust Remembered

Richard Tanner writes: What will we remember from Dorothea Schupelius' and Philip Nelson's (18) talk about the Holocaust?

That only seventy years ago in Germany a government set up an industry to murder 6 million Jews, "The Final Solution".

That Dorothea and Philip visited Auschwitz and saw the gas chambers and the ovens for themselves.

That Dorothea and Philip met Susan Pollock, a survivor who was sent to Auschwitz as a child and told them how only she and her brother survived and all the rest of her family were killed.

That anti-Semitism, stirred up by Hitler and the Nazis, began by looking for someone to blame, led to hatred, violence, separation into ghettos, dehumanisation and finally loss of the right to live.

That millions of others who did not fit in with the Nazi Aryan ideal were also killed: homosexuals, gypsies, criminals.

That millions of people were persuaded by lies, propaganda and intimidation to hate and join in the persecution, or stand by and do nothing to stop it.

We will not forget the railway trucks.

We will not forget the barbed wire.

We will not forget the photographs of starving people.

We will not forget Dr Mengele's experiments.

We will not forget the death walks.

We will not forget the pointed guns.

We will not forget the bodies.

We will not forget the Holocaust.

We will remember Daniel's haunting composition as Charlotte, Sam, Lorena and Frankie played over the echoes of the Final Solution.

We will remember the stone we held in our hand and laid on the cairn.

We will remember that the future is in our hands.



Dorothea and Philip — Photo Credit: Simon Larter-Evans

Musical Notes

— Carnegie Debut

Leonardo Jaffé Misiuk Barbosa (17) enjoyed the privilege of performing in New York's world famous Carnegie Hall with his parents' orchestra the Instituto Grupo Pão de Açúcar Orchestra. Leonardo played Wieniawski's Polonaise Brillante in D Major. Based in Osasco, São Paulo Brazil, the orchestra was founded from a social programme fifteen years ago by Renata Jaffé and Daniel Misiuk. A fully family affair the evening's programme was arranged by Leonardo's grandfather, Alberto Jaffé. Leonardo said, "It is one of the best experiences of my career as a violinist. It is such an honour to play in such a great hall, one of the temples of classical music".



Leonardo in rehearsal — Photo Credit: Renata Jaffé

— Valeriy Sokolov

Valeriy Sokolov's (2005) rescheduled recital, the first Celebrity Concert of 2015, was a sell-out success. Together with his regular pianist Evgeny Isotov, Valeriy treated the audience to an awe-inspiring programme of Ravel, Bartok, Prokofiev, Bach and Shostakovich (the 2nd Piano Trio, in which they were joined by another YMS alumnus Pau Codina (2006)).



Valeriy Sokolov with Pau Codina and Evgeny Isotov — Photo Credit: Elaine Hillier

— Viol Day

Richard Boothby, director of the UK's leading viol ensemble Fretwork, led workshops with both senior and junior pupils, introducing them to an instrument which, though less familiar to them than its modern successors, is no less fascinating.



Richard Boothby and pupils — Photo Credit: Simon Larter-Evans

— Wind in the air

Clarinetist Emma Johnson and pianist John Lenehan returned for a programme of works by Saint-Saens, Brahms and Poulenc, together with Mozart's Kegelstatt Trio, in which they were joined by 18-year-old YMS student Bennet Ortmann (viola).

A packed audience responded warmly to Emma's vivacious stage presence and engaging playing - and were particularly appreciative of the Benny Goodman encore, where both clarinetist and pianist showed their versatility to wonderful effect.

Pupils at the Yehudi Menuhin School rarely get a chance to work with wind players. However, this term our string orchestra rehearsed the slow movement of the Mozart Clarinet Concerto with young Lucas Dick, son of Amanda Hurton, herself a past pupil at the school when she was a young pianist.

Although only 9 years old, and having been learning the clarinet for only a year and a half, Lucas has won the opportunity to perform the work with a youth orchestra later this month.

His clarinet teacher is the great clarinetist David Campbell.



Bennet Ortmann with John Lenehan and Emma Johnson — Photo Credit: Elaine Hillier

Phyllis Court

It was a great pleasure to return last week to Phyllis Court, the beautiful riverside venue in Henley-on-Thames, after our first visit there this time last year. The Headmaster and Mrs Hillier took seven pupils, together with staff pianist Svitlana Kosenko, to play to a capacity black-tie audience and all enjoyed a delicious dinner served during the interval. The Headmaster also took the opportunity to tell the audience about the School's development plans and the ongoing appeal. We hope very much to be invited back again next year.



Pictured are, (back row) Esther Park (17), Svitlana Kosenko, Jeff Wu (16), Misha Favis (18), Ursula Perks (17), Kevin Loh (17), (front row) Cosima Soulez Larivière and Alex Mladenova (17) — Photo Credit: Elaine Hillier

— Scotland Tour 2015

Leyla Cemiloglu writes: At the end of the first half term three pianists, Alex Mladenova, Ursula Perks and myself along with violinist Cosima Soulez Larivière and cellist Misha Favis journeyed up to Scotland with piano professor Mrs Nye, Malcolm Singer and his wife Sara.

Our first stop was New Lanark, a small village with an important history: New Lanark Mill was the brainchild of philanthropist Robert Owen. He made waves during the Industrial Revolution with his progressive views on workers' rights. As well as giving a well-attended concert in the Mill complex, we also managed to see the glorious and breathtaking Falls of Clyde, visit some of the museums in the Mill complex and ransack the Mill Museum shop. This had been



Pictured are, Leyla Cemiloglu, Cosima Soulez Larivière, Misha Favis, Alex Mladenova and Ursula Perks — Photo Credit: Elaine Hillier.

our first visit to New Lanark and, much to our delight, we were invited back to play next year.

Next stop on the tour: Edinburgh. Our concert, attended by Dr Hillier and Elaine, was at the Royal Over-Seas League. We stayed the night at the League and enjoyed views of the Castle complete with incessant bagpipe accompaniment.

The final component of our trip was Blair Atholl, a beautiful place with amazing views of the near-Highlands. We gave two concerts at Lude House to a delightful audience, walked the picturesque hills to our host's small hangar where not one but three planes are kept, and- as tradition dictates- made a successful cheese soufflé for dinner on the last night.

As with every year, we were sorry to make our descent back home, and eagerly look forward to returning next February.

— Champs Hill

It is our great pleasure every two years to take a group of pupils to perform in the beautiful Music Room at Champs Hill, near Pulborough in Sussex. As our host, David Bowerman, pointed out to the capacity audience in his introduction, many of the School's alumni have performed at Champs Hill at the start of their careers and he delights in saying how he and his wife Mary spotted a young Nigel Kennedy as a potential star of the future!

— Laura Young

We were delighted to have Canadian guitarist Laura Young at the School for a day of teaching. Laura is a guitar professor at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. Here the guitarists of the School are pictured having fun on the set of the School play.



Pictured are, Alfie Leishman (11), Kevin Loh, Oren Myers (luthier), Daniel Penney (15), Richard Wright, Laura Young, Sergio Bucheli (17) and Finlay Hay (13) — Photo Credit: Simon Larter-Evans



Relaxing after the concert — Photo Credit: Elaine Hillier

This year's audience was as enthusiastic and appreciative as ever and gave the warmest of receptions to the performers: pianists Damir Durmanovic (15), Ursula Perks, Alex Mladenova and Leyla Cemiloglu, cellists Misha Favis and Selina Buser (16), and violinists Cosima Soulez Larivière and Jeff Wu.

David and Mary were as generous as ever with their hospitality and the students were splendidly fed and watered both before and after the concert. Many thanks indeed to them both and indeed to the Bowerman Trust for their generous donation to the School.



— Kevin performs Piazzolla

Kevin Loh returned to Singapore to give a performance of music by Astor Piazzolla with Jin Ta, principal flautist of Singapore Symphony Orchestra.



Kevin in rehearsal with Jin Ta — Photo Credit: Marcus Loh

And the rest

— New Year Quiz

YMS students found a good way to banish the winter blues by gathering in the Square Room for our annual whole-school Quiz. Many thanks to organisers Sarah Howell and Karen Lyle, as well as all those who set questions and helped make the evening such a success.



The winning team punches the air — Photo Credit: Simon Larter-Evans

— Writing for Radio

BBC dramatist Nick Perry came in to talk to pupils about writing for radio. Pupils in the C group have been writing their own radio dramas in English. Nick showed the pupils what a professional radio script looks like and talked about the special qualities of radio drama and where ideas can come from.

Nick's first radio drama commission for the BBC came from an idea sparked by a phone call from the police: his son Nathan (11), and now a pupil at the School, used to play with his dad's phone and would accidentally call people up, including dialing 999.



Nick Perry with pupils — Photo Credit: Simon Larter-Evans

— Maths Challenge

Pupils entered the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge this term and gained the following certificates:

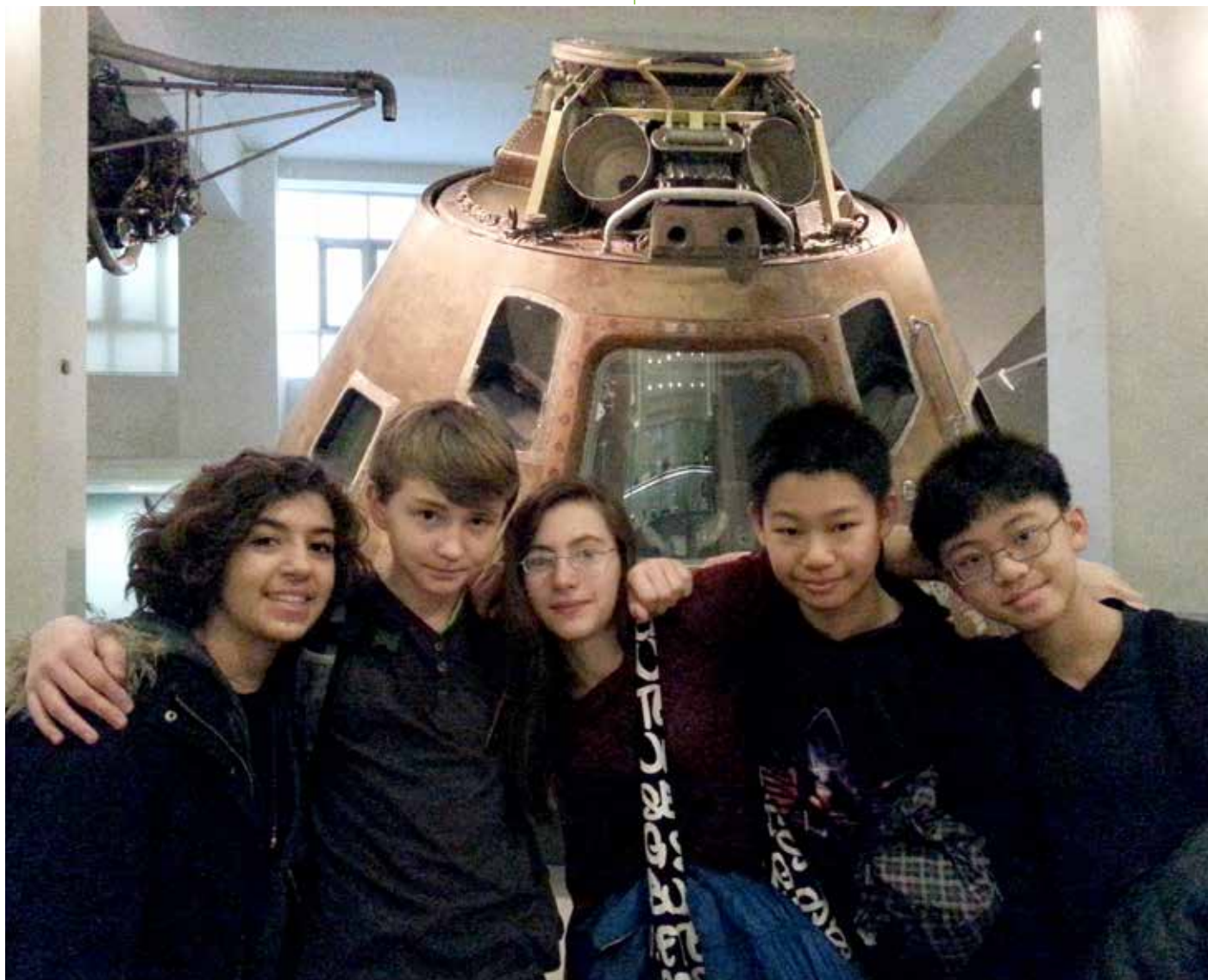
Qing Qing Ponok (14) – Gold

Katie Morgan (14), Sao Soulez Larivière (16), Katherine Yoon (16) and Leonardo Jaffé Misiuk Barbosa – Silver

SongHa Choi (15), Daniel Penney and Aida Lahlou (16) – Bronze.

— Lost in Space

Viviane Plekhotkine (14) writes: On 28 January our C3 class and our teacher Jenny Dexter went on a science trip to the Science Museum in London. First we looked at the Apollo 10 command module, the capsule that brought three astronauts back to earth from an orbit of the moon in 1969, and then the planes in the flight exhibition. We then went to The Rocket Show where we tried out many experiments. At the very end all of us went to the IMAX cinema in the museum where we watched a documentary about space and stars. It was a very special experience.



Pictured are, Dilara Sahin (13), Will Duerden (14), Viviane Plekhotkine, Tianyou Ma (14) and Kinglsey Lin (13) — Photo Credit: Jenny Dexter

— Art

Patsy Belmonte writes: At the beginning of the term our creative chef Jean asked me for some art work to liven up the dining hall.

I thought about this for some time and proposed a site-specific project to the students. We took our inspiration from three quotes by Picasso.

“I begin with an idea and then it becomes something else.”

“There is only one way to see things, until someone shows us how to look at them with different eyes”

“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.”

The art room was transformed into a kitchen when I brought in baskets of fruit, vegetables and a variety of other food and cooking utensils. The first observational drawings developed into colourful Cubist designs using paint and pastels. The students engaged in the project with lots of enthusiasm resulting in an abundance of wonderful paintings. We are now in the process of deciding how we will display them in the dining hall.



In the kitchen



Songha, Jeff, Breanainn and Margarita raise money for Cancer Research — Photo Credit: Jenny Dexter

— Duke of Edinburgh

On Wednesday 25 March Rosie Bennet (2014), Philip Nelson (18) and Qian Hui Ho (18) are going to be presented their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards by Prince Philip in St. James's Palace.

Breaniann O'Mathuna (17), Jeff Wu, SongHa Choi and Margarita Cantó Woltèche (14), Duke of Edinburgh participants, have raised £1020 for cancer research by holding a raffle and by washing staff cars. They were supported by the local community in Cobham where shop and restaurant owners donated amazing raffle prizes. Thanks to everyone who supported them by buying raffle tickets.

Outreach News

— Composition Project

John Cooney writes: This Spring Term once again sees the culmination of the annual 'Composition Outreach Project', an initiative that has been running for almost a decade now and which sees GCSE and A Level students from schools all over Surrey compose new pieces for students at YMS.

Participants attend an initial workshop in the autumn term, when they have chance to hear YMS pupils play and learn in depth about the delights and challenges of composing chamber music. Participants then begin work immediately on their own compositions, returning at the start of the spring term for a 'work in progress' session, during which they hear how their piece is developing and receive guidance from YMS music staff on how to extend and refine their work. A recording session at the end of the term ensures that each pupil ends the project with a recording of his or her finished composition.

The project benefits upwards of thirty students a year, nearly all of whom use their finished compositions as part of GCSE



Oscar discussing music — Photo Credit: John Cooney

or A Level coursework. The quality of recordings that result from the project has been shown to significantly increase the impact of exam coursework, and feedback on the project, from students and teachers alike, is extremely enthusiastic.

Staff News

— New Music Alive

Òscar Colomina-Bosch

To mark the centenary of Lord Menuhin's birth, the Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition 2016 returns to London. The competition is to be hosted at The Royal Academy of Music and the School's orchestra will accompany the finalist of the Junior Section of the competition on 15 April 2016 (as well as performing a concert in The Menuhin Hall with Joji Hattori – one of the judges – on 12 April). One particular feature of the Junior Finals is that a new work is commissioned for solo violin. The commission is to write a five-minute solo that expresses Menuhin's connection with the host country. We are delighted that this year the commission has been offered to Òscar Colomina-Bosch, who teaches academic music studies at the School and is also Professor of Orchestration in the composition department at the Royal Academy of Music. Òscar has chosen the opening four notes from Elgar's violin concerto as his starting material because of its particular connection with Menuhin. As a teenager Menuhin recorded the concerto with Elgar conducting, a recording that has since become legendary. Òscar explains that the opening four-note motif "lends itself to be treated freely and not bound to any particular style, allowing me to write a piece very much of my own."

Malcolm Singer Director of Music writes:

This is a wonderful honour and opportunity for Òscar and we all offer him our hearty congratulations. I had the privilege of teaching Òscar for five years in the Composition Department at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Òscar arrived in England in the autumn of 2001, with virtually no money and no English. It has been great to see him develop into a first-rate composer, conductor and teacher. He has been on the staff at the school since 2006, has gained his Doctorate and now speaks and writes English better than most Englishmen. It is a joy for us all to see him receiving this commission, and we look forward to hearing the piece.

The **Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León**, one of the major Spanish symphony orchestras, has commissioned Òscar to write an orchestral piece for the orchestra's 2014-15 season. Òscar's new work will open a concert including Brahms' *Violin Concerto* op. 77, featuring soloist **Vilde Frang**, and Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet*, conducted by **Jaime Martin**.

The **Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León** is one of Spain's leading orchestras, attracting some of the world's finest conductors.

Concerts will take place on 7 and 8 May 2015 at the Auditorio Miguel Delibes, Valladolid, Spain.

John Cooney with the BBC and NMC Records

Earlier this term, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales selected John Cooney's recent orchestral piece *In these dark waters* to be performed as part of a major project showcasing new music. BBC NOW will be playing the piece again at the end of March, under the baton of Jac van Steen, at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff. The piece was inspired by a haiku by Ringai. John was drawn to the poem because of the sense

of elemental beauty and power it conveys: *In these dark waters, Drawn up from my frozen well, Glittering of Spring.*

John also has recordings of two earlier pieces recently released by NMC, the flagship recording label for new music in the UK. The pieces are *On Shifting Ground*, a short work commissioned for soloists of the London Sinfonietta, and *Chasing Shadows*, written to a commission from the Allegri String Quartet. John's profile on NMC, together with a link to the recordings, can be found at: www.nmcrec.co.uk/composer/cooney-john

Nathan Williamson performed by Mariko Brown

Supporting studies piano teacher Mariko Brown and her duo partner Julian Jacobson will perform a new piece by one of the school accompanists, Nathan Williamson, in their Purcell Room recital on Tuesday 7 July and at Aidan Woodcock's home on the evening of Sunday 28 June.

Alumni News

Ruth Phillips (1980) runs cello 'retreats' in Provence dealing in particular with anyone struggling with issues of tension, breathing and stage fright. Read more here at www.thebreathingbow.com

Igudesman and Joo (**Aleksey Igudesman** (1989) and **Hyung-ki Joo** (1990)) announce two world premieres. Their composition *Concerto Fantastique* commissioned by the Düsseldorfer Symphoniker was performed in two venues in the spring, and *The League of X-traordinary Musicians*, first performed at the Konzerthaus Vienna on New Year's Eve. The concept of the League is to showcase musicians from around the world blessed with talents beyond the usual. The next performance of the League is on 10 September 2015 at the Lucerne Festival in Switzerland. Contact: aleksey@chello.at or joothoven@gmail.com if you are interested in getting involved.

Composer **Cheryl Frances-Hoad** (1998) is recording her third CD of chamber music. Available in 2016 on the Champs Hill label, the compositions pay homage to Bach, Stravinsky, Britten, Haydn, Mendelssohn, Schubert, Janacek, Ravel and Beethoven. Alumnus **David Cohen** (1998) is playing the solo cello part in her piece *Katharsis*.

Over the Christmas holidays, **Bobby Chen** (1998) held his Overseas Masters Winter Piano Academy once again at the School. Attracting pianists from the Far East, delegates hear expert views from guest speakers and enjoy master classes from a broad and impressive faculty.

Alexander Sitkovetsky (1999), **Wu Qian** (2002) and **Leonard Elschenbroich** (1999) will also be playing in a concert in the same festival, the day before Cellophony, on 30 April. Contact the Guildford Tourist Information Centre on +44 (0)1483 444333 for tickets and information about the festival.

The critically acclaimed cello octet Cellophony is playing in the Surrey Hills International Music Festival. Six of its members are YMS alumni: **Reinoud Ford** (2003), **Bart LaFollette** (2003), **Matthijs Broersma** (2006), **Pau Codina** (2006), **Ella Rundle** (2006) and **Vladimir Waltham** (2007). The concert will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford at 7.30pm on Friday 1 May.



Cellophony

Melissa Gore (2006) with singer Kimberley Borttger-Soller have won First Prize at the International "Schubert and the Modern" Competition in Graz.

Laura Snowden (2008), who also teaches at the School, performs on the new album by folk band Tir Eolas, *Stories Sung, Truths Told*. Recorded thanks to an award from the City Music Foundation the album was produced by BBC Folk Award Winning Jim Moray. Laura wrote six of the songs, including a setting of poetry by Robert Burns. The album is available from www.tireolas.bandcamp.com The band has performed at venues including The Royal Albert Hall, Bestival, Ronnie Scott's and live on BBC Radio 3. Future performances include the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe in a series curated by guitarist John Williams.

Congratulations to **Elliott Perks** (2010) who has recently been appointed the new violist of the Maxwell String Quartet. Formed in 2010, the quartet's members are outstanding graduates of the Royal College of Music, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and University of Oxford. At the time of going to press, Elliot is the only member of the quartet without a beard.

William Dutton (2014) will be giving a Bach Recital in St James' Piccadilly on the 30 March, and in the summer playing with Young Classical Artists Trust pianist Richard Uttley in two festivals: the Northern Aldborough Festival and the Beaminster Festival. Will has also been sponsored by the T. F. Willetts Foundation for his whole three years of study in Switzerland.

Anas Romdhani (2014) will be performing the Tchaikovsky violin Concerto with the Tunisian Symphony Orchestra in April at the Municipal Theatre of Tunisia in Tunis.

Sue Dorey lives in Clapham and in her spare time is Director of Music at Omnibus, Clapham's new Arts Centre. Current pupils Samuel and Louisa Staples gave a sell-out recital in January and Mariko Brown will bring her piano duo in March. Sue is happy to hear from alumni who would be interested to give a recital www.omnibus-clapham.org

Friends & Hall News

Katy Talati, a stalwart supporter of the School, passed away on 9 January. Katy was a very elegant lady with a great interest in the Far East where she had been brought up. She was very generous to the School and purchased a Yamaha upright piano for one of the practice rooms. The piano can be identified by a plaque which bears her name.

— Art Exhibition of YMS pupils by Geraldine van Heemstra

As part of our Anniversary Appeal celebrations, next summer artist Geraldine van Heemstra will be exhibiting her works showing YMS pupils. Geraldine is currently visiting the School and sketching pupils in lessons, practising and performing in The Menuhin Hall. All work will be for sale during the exhibition and all proceeds will go directly to the School's Anniversary Appeal.

Geraldine works with a variety of materials and media including pencil, watercolour and oil. To view Geraldine's sketches and to sign up to receive updates on her progress please visit her blog: geraldinevanheemstra.com/blog

We are very grateful to Geraldine for giving up her time to create a body of work which will directly benefit the School and support our pupils.



Sketch by Geraldine van Heemstra

— Hall Hire

The Hall may be hired for any kind of celebration or memorial occasion at any time of year depending on availability. With menus to suit all budgets and tastes and we can recommend florists, entertainers and give you all the help you may require. For certain occasions it is also possible to request a performance from pupils of The Yehudi Menuhin School. Income from events goes directly into our student aid fund.

Visit www.yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk for more details or call the Hall Manager Ambrosine Desoutter on 01932 584408 to discuss your requirements.

— 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 Sally Williams: 01932 584791 or sally.williams@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk.



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 **development@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk** or 01932 584797

Buy a brick — Photo Credit: Richard Lewisohn

From the Headmaster

Dear Friends

As you will read in this edition of the Newsletter, much of our focus at the moment has continued to be on our Anniversary Appeal and our bid to raise the necessary funds both for the new music studios and for our bursary fund. In particular, we are immensely grateful to Stuart Mitchell, one of our governors and Chair of our Appeal Committee, for naming the School as the recipient of the funds he raised during his trek to the South Pole back in December. His report makes fascinating reading: we cannot thank him enough.

But it is also gratifying to see how eager YMS pupils – as well as their parents, friends and supporters – are to raise funds for good causes outside the School. Just before Christmas, pupils took the opportunity to wear a festive hat in aid of the NSPCC and Child Line, their efforts boosted by generous contributions from the Christmas Concert audiences, raising a total of nearly £900. And over the course of this term the students involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award have been raising money for Cancer Research, washing cars on a Wednesday afternoon and selling huge numbers of raffle tickets to raise a staggering £1020. (Equally impressive was the charm they used on local shopkeepers and business folk to persuade them to donate some attractive and valuable prizes!) As I write, it is Red Nose Day and from my window I can see numerous pupils sporting their red rubber noses, as well as enjoying the red-nose-themed cakes prepared by chef Jean Labourg and his team, all in aid of Comic Relief.

The School's declared mission is to develop our pupils' potential, 'both for their own fulfilment and for the benefit and enrichment of others'. It has been very pleasing indeed to see how fulfilling it has been for our students to put others first in such a concrete and meaningful way: our mission statement in action. Well done to them all.

With best wishes from Elaine and me for the Easter holidays.

Richard Himmer



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.