



The Yehudi Menuhin School

The International Music School founded by Yehudi Menuhin

www.yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk — Registered Charity 312010 — Newsletter 59 — Autumn 2014



Opening of the memorial garden — Photo Credit: Didier Descamps

— THE YEHUDI MENUHIN SCHOOL REMEMBERS...

Readers of this newsletter will remember that last year two YMS pupils, Aleks Mladenova (16) and Ketan Curtis (15), along with teachers Sarah Howell and Didier Descamps, travelled to Ypres to take part in the first leg of the Memorial Garden exchange project, joining other students from both the UK and Belgium in a project which involved bringing 70 sandbags, filled with soil from 70 battlefields and cemeteries in Flanders fields, to form the basis of a new memorial garden in London.

This year we were delighted to welcome back to the School our Belgian hosts, pupils Niky Bagheri and Louis Verlinde, as well as their teachers Bart Deheegher and Marian Vanoverberghe.

It was a great honour for the School to be invited to play during the opening ceremony of the new memorial garden on Thursday 6 November, attended by HM The Queen, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, HRH The Duke of Cambridge and HM Philippe, King of the Belgians. YMS pupils Nicole Petrus Barracks (16), Sam Staples (18), Dorothea Schupelius (18), Bennet Ortmann (18) and Joseph Pritchard (14) performed music especially composed for the occasion by fellow students Sao Soulez Larivière (16) and Leonardo Jaffe Barbosa (16) to the poem 'No one won' by Louis Verlinde, one of the pupils from Belgium.



Quintet opens memorial garden — Photo Credit: Didier Descamps

On Sunday 9 November the YMS Ensemble performed again at the Guards Chapel Remembrance Service and our Belgian partners were guests of honour at our Remembrance Day concert in The Menuhin Hall.

During their week's stay, our Belgian guests also travelled to London to visit the Imperial War Museum, the Tower of London's poppy installation and Hampton Court Palace.



Anglo-Belgian friends under the biplane — Photo Credit: Angela Stockbridge

— Remembrance Day concert

Daniel Penney (15) writes: The Yehudi Menuhin School's commemoration of the outbreak of the First World War came to a memorable finale with the Remembrance Day Showcase Concert. The entire programme consisted only of works written during the Great War along with three contemporary compositions, written by YMS pupils.

The first half of the programme consisted of Leoš Janáček's magical violin sonata, performed by Samuel Staples and Leyla Cemiloglu (16), Bela Bartok's Suite for Piano Op 14 performed by Aida Lahlou (15), concluding with Frederick Delius's Cello Sonata performed by Maxim Calver (14) and Aleks Mladenova.

The second half began with three compositions of our own pupils, 'No one won' by Sao Soulez Larivière and Leonardo Jaffe Barbosa with words by Louis Verlinde, followed by a Fugue by Damir Durmanovic (15) written for the School's new chamber organ, and finally 'The Happy Warrior' by Daniel Penney with words inspired by Lauren Deceuninck and Charlotte Verbrugge's poem. It was an impressive sight to have all three ensembles on stage simultaneously while two pupils were reciting the names of casualties in a roll call to pictures of war cemeteries in Flanders fields being shown in the background. The concert concluded with Claude Debussy's violin sonata performed by Charlotte Saluste-Bridoux (18) and Ursula Perks (17) followed by Damir Durmanovic performing Sergei Prokofiev's Piano Sonata No 4 Op 29.

— Remembrance Installation Art

Students have made a collaborative Remembrance Installation which is now in The Menuhin Hall. The centre piece is a bi-plane made by Sao Soulez Larivière and all the students made the poppies suspended from it. The poppies have pieces of music on them from Elgar's Cello Concerto, and the red ones have been inscribed with poems from the First World War. The white poppies have quotations about peace, particularly those of Yehudi Menuhin. There is one black poppy which symbolises the young men who were shot for alleged 'desertion' and who have since been pardoned. There has never been an apology to their families.

The floating poppies around the plane suggest parachutes and the significance of this is the controversial absence of parachutes when the pilots were sent into conflict.



Biplane and poppies — Photo Credit: Angela Stockbridge

Musical Notes

— Young Mozart

Bethany Petrovic de Maio writes: Mika Petrovic (10) had an exciting day at the opera on Sunday 16 November. He was given the honour of playing the young Mozart in the premier of *Mozart & Son* at The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The piece is based on letters written by Leopold and Wolfgang Mozart. The event proved to be an amazing insight into their private lives and was a great success. Proceeds from the event go towards The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden Foundation. Mika loved acting with professionals and being behind the scenes. The producers June Chichester and Danny Wyler have given us lovely feedback, saying that they were thrilled with Mika. He is very grateful to them for casting him in such a role and for his wonderful memories of a perfect day.



Mika with Lady Chichester and Danny Wyler the producers of the show — Photo Credit: Lord Chichester

— International Guitar Symposium

YMS guitarists Rosie Bennet (18), Daniel Penney, Sergio Bucheli (16) and Kevin Loh (16) attended the 23rd International Guitar Symposium in Iserlohn, Germany in August. They received coaching on Richard Wright's quartet arrangement of Bartók's *Six Dances in Bulgarian Rhythm* from William Kanengiser of the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet (pictured) and Cuban/American virtuoso René Izquierdo, and were chosen to perform it at the festival's final concert.



YMS guitarists with William Kanengiser — Photo Credit: Marcus Loh

— Igudesman and Joo with the LPO

A high-spirited band of YMS students joined an enthusiastic audience at the Royal Festival Hall in London on 15 September for alumni Aleksey Igudesman (1989) and Hyung-ki Joo's (1990) *Big Nightmare Music* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra with Steffan Morris (2010), now teaching at the School, leading the cello section.



Richard Hillier and Malcolm Singer with Aleksey and Hyung-ki —
Photo Credit: Elaine Hillier

— Piano Competition success

Many congratulations to YMS student Aïda Lahlou who won first prize in the Concours International de Piano Son Altesse Royale la Princesse Lalla Meryem, organized every two years in Rabat, Morocco, by the Association les Amitiés Musicales. Aïda was awarded '1st Mention unanimously and 1st named' in her category.

Well done also to Leyla Cemiloglu (16) who competed in the International Franz Liszt Competition for Young Pianists in Weimar, and to Katie Morgan (14) who took part in the International Piano Competition for Young Musicians in Enschede and gained a 'Mention of Honour', as did YMS alumna Rosalind Phang (2013).

— Violin Competition Success

Dorothea Schupelius has been awarded a concert series associated with the Starkenburg Musikfestival held in Heppenheim, Germany. Many young music students from across Germany applied for the award which is a series of sponsored concerts playing with major orchestras throughout Germany in 2016. This is the second year that the festival has offered this opportunity, and to win it Dorothea played a range of works including Vivaldi's Concerto No 12 and Mozart's Concerto KV211.

— Istanbul

Ursula Perks (18) writes: Eight students, accompanied by Malcolm Singer and his wife Sara Nathan, set off for Istanbul to perform at the Neve Shalom Synagogue. We enjoyed a grand tour of Istanbul including the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, the spice market and a boat tour along the Bosphorus and were treated to the best of Turkish cuisine as well as finding half an hour to try out a Turkish bath. The Monday was reserved for rehearsals for the concert and I was lucky enough to have a few hours' practice on the grand piano in the glamorous presidential suite of the hotel. The concert in the Synagogue was enthusiastically received by a very warm audience. We felt very privileged to have been invited.



In the Blue Mosque

— Alumni Prizewinners concerts

This autumn term saw two concerts in our 'Alumni Prizewinners' series. The first with Michael Petrov (2009) playing the cello version of César Franck's Sonata in A and Ben Baker (2009) playing Strauss's epic Violin Sonata in E flat Major Op 18, together with their respective accompanists Rosie Richardson and Robert Thompson. Ben won the Windsor Festival International String Competition in 2013, whilst Michael was the winner of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama's prestigious Gold Medal earlier this year.



Robert Thompson, Ben Baker, Rosie Richardson and Michael Petrov —
Photo Credit: Richard Hillier



Linos Trio and guitarists Tom and Laura — Photo Credit: Elaine Hillier

The second concert featured two of our assistant teachers, pianist Prach Boondiskulchok (2004) and guitarist Laura Snowden (2008). Laura and her duo partner Tom Ellis (2007) were the first two guitarists to study at YMS and their brilliant performance of pieces by Dodgson, de Falla and Giuliani was the perfect way to celebrate 10 years of guitar teaching at the School. The piano trios of CPE Bach were played by the Linos Piano Trio, comprising Prach, cello alumnus Vladimir Waltham (2007) and violinist Konrad Elias-Trostmann (an alumnus of The Purcell School), who ended with an outstanding performance of Schumann's Trio No 3 in G minor Op 110.

The Linos Piano Trio were winners of the 2014 Royal Philharmonic Society's Albert and Eugenie Frost Prize for outstanding young ensemble.

Tom and Laura were winners of the 2012 Ligita International Guitar Duo Competition.

— Visit of Professor Tong

It was a great pleasure for the School to welcome Professor Weidong Tong from Beijing's Central Conservatory of Music.

Staff and pupils first met Professor Tong in April 2012 when we went to Beijing to perform, with students from the Beijing Conservatory, as the orchestra in the finals of the junior section of the Menuhin International Violin Competition.



Professor Weidong Tong with Andrew Samarasekara —
Photo Credit: Angela Stockbridge

And the rest

— Work has begun on the roof of Music House.

Over the last few weeks the roof has been stripped away, ready for the construction of a new (second) floor to provide student accommodation, as well as a small staff flat.

The work is due to be completed next summer. Many thanks to everyone for their patience during the disturbance!



Music House Scaffolding — Photo Credit: Angela Stockbridge

— Kindertransport

YMS students were delighted to welcome Sir Eric Reich to the School on 21 September to talk to them about his life and work, and in particular about his arrival as part of the famous Kindertransport in 1938-9, when nearly 10,000 children (mainly Jewish) were evacuated from Nazi Germany and settled with families in the UK. Sir Eric was awarded a knighthood in 2010 for his charitable work



Eric with pupils of the School — Photo Credit: Simon Larter-Evans

— Trip to Imperial War Museum

Alex Keeley (age 11) writes: On Wednesday 8 October, the D group with Janet and Philippa went to the Imperial War museum to look at the WW1 exhibition. We began by first looking at a 13 pounder quick firing Mark 1 gun that was used against the German 4th Cavalry Division at the Battle of Nery on 1 September 1914.

We watched film clips and photographs of people's lives from 1900 to 1914 and saw displays of different uniforms worn by the soldiers from each country in the war. Kaiser Wilhelm II's coat was on display, a gift from the leader of Russia, his cousin Tsar Nicholas II. We tried on copies of coats and jackets and were able to pick up and feel how heavy a shot gun and a helmet are.

We saw lots of recruitment posters and pictures from 1914 from around the British Empire. Janet bought a copy of one for our class display board.

We looked at signs from the trenches directing soldiers to different places so that they didn't get lost and walked through a mock trench and heard all the noises of bombs exploding overhead. I enjoyed that bit the best because it showed you what a trench was really like- very dark and deep. There were even periscopes so the soldiers could see what was going on above and outside the trench. We also saw photographs of the soldiers in the real trenches.

There was so much to see and we would recommend a visit.

— Duke of Edinburgh Award

Jenny Dexter writes: In September Otoha Tabata (14), Qing Qing Poniek (14), Joe Pritchard, Songha Choi (14), Katie Morgan and Natasha Petrovic (15) all completed their assessed Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition. This took part in the beautiful North Downs with a climb to the top of Box Hill. They carried all the equipment needed for the two days and cooked their evening meals and breakfast on a camping stove. They all worked hard and remained enthusiastic despite having to walk 35km with huge rucksacks. Congratulations to them all!

Pictured with them is volunteer D of E helper (and former maths teacher) Sarah Lee.



Bronze D of E about to set off



Gold presentation evening — Photo Credit: Elaine Hillier

— Mole Valley Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Evening.

YMS students joined young people from other Mole Valley secondary schools and youth groups to receive their certificates from Inspector Richard Hamlin, the neighbourhood commander for Mole Valley Police. Gold awards were presented to Qian Hui Ho (18) and Philip Nelson (18) and Bronze awards given to Nicole Petrus Barracks, Lucia Polo Moreno (19) and Sally Lee (16), watched by YMS Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator Jenny Dexter, Headmaster Dr Richard Hillier and Elaine Hillier, as well as YMS Governor Vanessa Richards.

Presentations were punctuated by performances and other contributions from the participating schools. YMS was represented by guitarist Kevin Loh, playing a piece by Villa Lobos. Kevin gained his bronze award last year.

Particular congratulations are due to Qian Hui, Philip, Rosie Bennet and Sharon Wong (18) - the first YMS students ever to attempt the gold award.

— Children in Need

We raised over £450 for Children in Need. Pictured: Hugo Haag (12), Darwin Chang (12), Evie Calver (12) Tai Luanghvisut (12), Leon Sturdee (11), Sebastian Banwell (11), Finlay Hay (12), and in the background school accountant Mark Armstrong.



Pupils collecting for Children in Need — Photo Credit: Angela Stockbridge

— New Pupils

We are delighted to welcome 16 new pupils to the School this year. Pictured left to right are: Sophia Prodanova (17, Bulgaria, violin), Margarita Cantó Woltèche (14, Spain, cello), Tianyou Ma (14, China, violin), Can Arisoy (14, Turkey, piano), Finlay Hay (12, Guitar, Scotland), Selina Buser (16, UK, cello), Darwin Chang (12, Taiwan, violin) Jude Usborne (10, UK, piano) Nathan Perry (10, UK, double-bass), Ignacy Stefanowicz (11, Poland, violin), Leon Sturdee (11, UK, violin), Tai Luanghvisut (12, Thailand, piano) Frankie Carr (16, UK, cello), Joseph Edwards (17, UK, violin), Tsubasa Muramatsu (12, Japan, violin), Pere Puertas Masferrer (15, Spain, cello).



New Pupils — Photo Credit: Simon Larter-Evans

Outreach News

— Composition Workshop, Day 1

We welcomed 29 GCSE and A-level students from seven Surrey secondary schools on Friday 3 October for the first day in this year's three-part Composition Workshop. The students all came to gain new compositional skills in order to write and record a final work to be used in their exams.

John Cooney, Head of Composition, led the students in an introductory morning, launching the project by introducing a variety of compositional techniques and possibilities. Following this, some YMS students gave an inspirational lunchtime concert in the Recital Room. One of the teachers attending with his GCSE and A-level students described the concert as "the best recital he had been to in years! Exquisite!"

— 'A Chance to Play' at Lancaster House

On Monday 13 October, six students visited Lancaster House in London for a short performance at a reception celebrating free schools across the country. As part of our successful 'A Chance to Play' outreach project, our students played with and supported a group of primary-aged children from Cobham Free School in this performance for some very important people.

The Prime Minister Rt Hon David Cameron and Secretary of State for Education Rt Hon Nicky Morgan, both attended the event and the Prime Minister took the time to speak to some of the students.

The group gave two short performances and enjoyed an excellent tea!

Staff News

We said goodbye at the start of this term to **Simon Fischer**. His appointment as violin consultant at the Royal Scottish Conservatoire, along with his performing commitments (having just signed up with Peters Edition Artists Management), including several invitations to perform abroad, plus, of course, his continued teaching at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, made it impracticable for him to remain as a violin teacher at the School. We wish him every success for the future.

Jane Sheppard joined us as Accounts Assistant in November. She replaces Chris Feline, who leaves us in December after fourteen years at the School. We thank Chris for all she has done and send her our very best wishes for her retirement. We were also sad to lose **Daisy Fannin** from the Development Department. We wish Daisy all the best as she leaves to pursue a career in the PR business.

During the summer term, the School brought 'in house' the catering which had previously been contracted out to the Brookwood Partnership. The team now comprises **Jean Labourg** (Chef Manager), **Jo Busby** (Chef) and **Sam Bartlett** (Commis Chef) – who are producing some excellent food! Meanwhile, we are delighted that **Liz Peters** has agreed to take on the role of Bar Supervisor in The Menuhin Hall, whilst **Luke Brough** and **Tim McKeever** have joined the Hall's team of Technical Assistants.



Piano teacher **Mariko Brown** can be heard on a new Naxos CD, 'Maurice Jacobson: Theme and Variations, The Music Room & Mosaic', playing duets with Julian Jacobson, the son of the composer.

Housemaster **Simon Larter-Evans** made his annual appearance in the Menuhin Hall with the Cobham Band, this year as a featured soloist on the cornet.



Pupils with British Prime Minister, David Cameron at Lancaster House — Photo Credit: 10 Downing Street

Alumni News

Nicola Benedetti (2002) features in this year's BBC's Children in Need campaign song, a remake of the Beach Boys 1966 hit, 'God Only Knows'.

Tatiana Berman (Kojovatova) (1998) has made her first music video featuring a piece she composed with pianist/arranger Julie Spangler. She also gave a European premiere of Charles Coleman's violin concerto, and together with Constella has filmed the first music video for the Grammy award-winning group Roomful of Teeth.

David Cohen (1998) and **Corinne Chapelle** (1992) are the proud parents of Leila Cohen-Chapelle. Corinne went into labour as David was finishing a recital at the Wigmore Hall. David is Artistic Director of The Melchior Ensemble and has been teaching as professor of cello at the Royal Conservatory of Mons for thirteen years. David is now also professor of cello at Trinity Laban College of Music.



Leila Cohen-Chapelle

Irene Enzlin's (2011) chamber group won a first prize at the Salieri-Zinetti International Chamber Music Competition in Verona. The group went on to give a recital in New York during the New York Chamber Music Festival.



Hsing-Chwen Hsin and Alexander Sitkovetsky

Hsing-Chwen Hsin (1982) recorded Granados's monumental *Goyescas* for Hong Kong Radio Television, complete and unedited. The performance, called "Music of Friends", can be heard through the

website of Radio 4, RTHK. Hsing-Chwen is Piano Professor at the Institute of Music, National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan.

Hsing-Chwen also had a happy reunion with **Alexander Sitkovetsky** (1999). Alexander was visiting Taiwan in January with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Centre for a programme of events organised by Hsing-Chwen.

Tetsuumi Nagata's (2005) ensemble the Benyounes Quartet won 2nd prize at the Orlando String Quartet Competition in Holland in August.

Gabriel Ng (2012) gave a fund raising concert in Singapore, and was joined by current pupil **Kevin Loh**. The concert raised money for The Business Times Budding Artist Fund which provides arts education for underprivileged children.

Jacob Shaw (2005) has been invited to join the prestigious Young Performers Career Advancement program, organised by APAP (Association of Performing Arts Presenters), which includes a debut at Carnegie Hall in January 2015. His new project, "Radical Classic" - a touring pure-classical music nightclub - can be seen in Beijing, Shanghai and Copenhagen.



Gabriel Ng and Kevin Loh — Photo Credit: Marcus Loh

Friends & Hall News

— Stage floor

During the month of August the stage floor of The Menuhin Hall was completely re-built. Eight and a half years of rolling pianos had taken their toll and the wooden floorboards on the stage were beginning to creak.

The architect of the Hall Mark Foley and acoustician Bob Essert worked closely with Hall Manager Ambrosine Desoutter and Hall Technical Manager Brian Fifield, along with the carpenters, to ensure that the stage floor was completely refurbished and strengthened to the highest standard both visually and acoustically.



Hall floor being rebuilt — Photo Credit: Brian Fifield

— Friends Bridge Event

The Friends held their second Bridge Tea on Friday 10 October 2014 in The Menuhin Hall foyer. 68 bridge players attended the event and enjoyed an afternoon of bridge, sandwiches and cakes (made by Jean and his team at the School) and a raffle too. We would like to thank the Friends Events Committee for their hard work in organising such a fantastic event and for donating some great raffles prizes, especially Sheila Rice Smith. We would also like to thank Jean and Jo in the School kitchen for their wonderful food. The bridge event raised £689. Thanks to everyone who attended and hopefully another Bridge Tea will follow next year!

— Friends AGM

The Friends AGM took place on Friday 28 November in The Menuhin Hall. Sir John Baker, Chairman of FYMS, thanked the Friends for their support at Showcase concerts over the past year and explained why their support is so important for the pupils. The Chairman also thanked the Friends for their financial support and announced that FYMS were able to give a donation of £26,000 to the School last year for bursaries. Thanks were also given to the Development Department who took over the administration of the Friends in November 2013. Thank you to all Friends who attended the AGM. Many enjoyed a light supper in the foyer followed by a Showcase concert.

— 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.

— 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 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.



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.

From the Headmaster

Dear Friends

We started this term with 77 young musicians on our roll (with ages ranging from 8 to 19) - the highest number in the School's history.

When we offered places to students for this current year, we were hoping that the building work currently underway in Music House would be complete and we would have six additional bed spaces. Unfortunately, as some of you will be aware, the discovery of bats at a late stage in the process meant that the project was delayed and could not begin until October. However, I am glad to say that work has started and the builders are making excellent progress, with the project due for completion by the end of the summer term next year.

I had a fascinating tour of the building work the other week. The roof, surrounded by scaffolding and its own high tin roof, is a like a separate community, a world away from school life below. The central area of the roof has been cleared, ready for the steel beams which will form the new supporting structure. All around the outside of the house (at gable height) is a wooden walkway, allowing a close-up view of all the original beams and other woodwork, all of it more than a hundred years old. There is obviously some restoration to be done, but I hope that the work which will be completed over the next few months will look as good as this in a hundred years' time!

Centenaries are very much in our minds at the moment. As you can read here, the School played a full part in the Anglo-Belgian commemoration of the start of the First World War which centred on the opening of the Flanders Field Memorial Garden in London. And all of us at School are busy planning our celebration – musical and otherwise - of the centenary of Lord Menuhin himself, which we will mark in 2016. Watch this space for more details: we have a very busy time ahead of us!

Elaine joins me in wishing you all a very happy 2015.

Richard Himmer



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 Lewisoohn