



The  
Yehudi  
Menuhin  
School

# NEWS LETTER



SPRING 2017



Coco Tomita was not only the youngest competitor in the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra's competition for young soloists in Brighton but was also awarded £800 as the overall winner. In addition, she was presented with the Duke of Devonshire's £300 prize, which goes to the best entrant under the age of 18. She triumphed over every other entrant up to the maximum permitted age of twenty-three.

Meanwhile, São Soulez Larivière was selected as one of the three finalists of the first Stockport International Young Musicians Competition, giving a wonderful performance.

Viviana Baudis is one of only seven pianists, out of 32, to go through to the next round of the 'Jugend Musiziert', a national competition in Germany. The next round is the 'Landeswettbewerb', where a new jury will choose the representatives for Bavaria. This will take place near Frankfurt at the beginning of April. Finally, Juliet Wolff won the Jellinek Award at the Una Clark Young Artist's Competition in Guildford.

Well done all.

# Congratulations...

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The International Music School founded by Yehudi Menuhin  
Registered Charity 312010

# HEAD'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends

The Spring Term is always a very short one and, therefore, always seems particularly busy. You will get some idea from the contents of this newsletter just how much goes on and just how much success our pupils have achieved.

In the last newsletter we celebrated the success of our Anniversary Appeal and, in particular, the opening of the new Music Studios which have done so much to improve facilities we offer our students. As you will read in the 'Staff News' section, Anthony Medhurst, our highly successful Development Director, left us at the end of February to take up a similar role at St Lawrence College Ramsgate, a school which is much closer to his home in Canterbury. We shall miss him enormously – but I know that, much as he will miss us, he will not miss the long morning commute to Surrey from Kent!

I shall be announcing soon the appointment of a new Development Director to help us move forward into the next stage of our fundraising campaign. And the need to raise more funds is as great as ever, in particular to help those students (approximately 20 each year) for whom we do not have bursaries funded by the Department for Education's Music and Dance Scheme (MDS). In each case, the parents pay as much as they can afford and the School tries to give a bursary to cover the rest of the fees. The School is lucky to have some income from its investments, but that still leaves me needing to find around £300,000 each year from individual donors and charitable trusts and foundations.

This year, as always, we have had a large number of applications from talented young people for whom we shall not have an MDS place. If you are in a position to help them come to the School, or know someone else who might be, then please do get in touch either with me directly or with Sarah McDonald in the Development Department (sarah.mcdonald@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk). We would be delighted to hear from you.

With best wishes

*Richard Hilder*

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## Celebrity Concerts

On Tuesday 21 February, we welcomed back past pupil Colin Carr and his accompanist Thomas Sauer to The Menuhin Hall for a fabulous evening of Bach, Beethoven and Brahms cello music and on Tuesday 24 January Richard Suart and Bryan Evans performed Gilbert and Sullivan favourites to an enthralled audience.

Colin Carr, Thomas Sauer and pupils

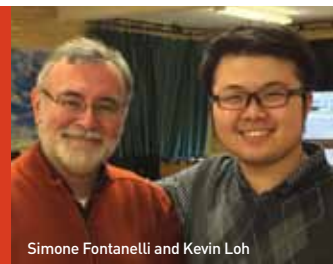


Looking ahead to next term, in April, past pupils Aleksey Igudesman (1989) and Hyung-ki Joo (1990) will be presenting an evening of comedy and music and Barry Douglas returns to The Menuhin Hall in June, performing the ever-popular Pictures At An Exhibition by Mussorgsky. Limited tickets are available for both these concerts. The all-Brahms concert in May, performed by Tasmin Little, is now sold out.

We look forward to welcoming you to our annual Summer Festival, the last under the direction of Malcolm Singer, and what promises to be an exceptional 10 days of music-making. To book tickets, please call the Box Office on **08700 842020** or visit **www.themenuhinhall.co.uk**

### SIMONE FONTANELLI

We had the pleasure of having Simone Fontanelli, composer/conductor and faculty member from the Universität Mozarteum Salzburg, back with us once more for two days, on 27 and 28 February.



Simone Fontanelli and Kevin Loh

He gave a string of wonderful masterclasses, ranging from solo repertoire to chamber music and orchestral work and even to composition sessions for some of the students. He also gave a fantastic lecture to the As and Bs about gestures in Italian music. Personally, I had a wonderful experience working with Simone, having had the opportunity to work on the Nocturnal after John Dowland by Benjamin Britten, one of the biggest works in the solo classical guitar repertoire. This was quite apt as Simone, with his many talents, is also a guitarist! I also had the chance to show him some of my guitar arrangements, and he gave me some great advice.

I'm sure I speak for all of the students when I say that we all learned a lot from him and that we enjoyed his visit to the school very much. We look forward to having him back at the School again in the future.

KEVIN LOH





## ETIENNE ROLIN

Etienne Rolin with (from left) Aleks Mladenova, Viviana Baudis and Damir Durmanovic

Earlier this term all the pupils were invited to take part in a two-day musical extravaganza led by the charismatic Etienne Rolin. With him he brought not only new and exciting techniques but a whole host of compositions, including a number of works written especially for his visit to the school.

Etienne treated the entire student body to a class on 'sound-painting', an exercise aptly named 'comprovisation'. In this he taught us the signals and signs with which a conductor, a role he adopted, may guide a group of musicians through a composition that is being written in real time. This technique is applicable to any sized group of any instrumentation, allowing for a massive scope in both sound and accessibility. The other classes he held were rehearsals of his compositions. I was lucky enough to play in his double bass duo, a piece in which not only were we challenged in our techniques on and off the bass but encouraged to improvise with tapes that Etienne had recorded with the double bassists of the Bordeaux Conservatoire. It was an intense and eye-opening experience; one which will remain with us for a long time, I am sure.

At the end of Etienne's visit a concert of all his pieces was held. The result was a fast-paced and exciting event in which pupils listened from the hall only to walk on stage and perform in the next group, inspired by the previous performances. The piece that lingers for me personally is a string quartet that Etienne wrote in commemoration of his mother, who had sadly passed away only a few weeks prior to his visit, which I thought the quartet played with confidence and sincerity. The concert ended and Etienne had to dash off to catch a flight but the remains of his visit are still present, inspiring and provoking the pupils to experiment and challenge the perceptions held by others and themselves.

MARCUS ELLIOTT GAVED

A new visitor to the School was **JENNIFER ELOWITCH**. She is Director of Music at Walnut Hill, which is a liberal arts college in Boston. A fine violinist herself, she coached chamber ensembles and worked with some of the violinists, as well as attending our splendid Showcase concert, just prior to our Scottish tour.

## SCOTLAND

In February Nicole Petrus Barracks, Kevin Loh, Frankie Carr, Damir Durmanovic, Katie Morgan, Mika Petrovic and Jude Osborne went on tour in Scotland. Our destinations comprised Berwick-upon-Tweed, Eyemouth, New Lanark, Edinburgh and Blair Atholl. We performed pieces ranging from Bach to Schubert in many different venues. The scenery there was truly stunning, from the medieval city walls in Berwick to the bustling harbourside in Eyemouth, the beautiful waterfalls in New Lanark to the calm and peaceful countryside in Blair Atholl. It was the School's first time performing in Blair Castle and it was such a privilege! The Grand Hall that contained so much culture and history was a venue that we will never forget playing in. Despite our 4-hour train delay on the way back, it was a remarkable experience and we cannot thank our hosts enough for looking after us and feeding us so well!

KATIE MORGAN

## OUTREACH

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

Participants attend an initial workshop in the autumn term, at which they have the chance to hear YMS pupils play and learn in depth about the challenges and rewards 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 develop their work. A recording session at the end of the spring term ensures that each pupil ends the project with a recording of his or her finished composition.

The project involves more than 30 visiting students a year, nearly all of whom use their finished compositions as part of GCSE or A Level coursework. The quality of recordings that result from the project has a significant impact on pupils' final exam coursework, and feedback, from both participating students and teachers alike, is always extremely enthusiastic. YMS students gain a great deal from the project too, extending and developing their own teaching and communication skills as they work alongside pupils from the visiting schools.

JOHN COONEY

# School Quiz

**The School Quiz is an event that features high on the YMS entertainment calendar with teachers and pupils alike. For the former this date marks the end of a prolonged inspirational struggle painstakingly unpicking one's brain in the hope of finding the one golden question that challenges pupils' memory, intelligence and wit. For the latter this evening is a great occasion to stock up on some tasty treats and to endeavour to win the Golden Prize in the form of a giant refined chocolate egg to share (or not to?) with the team.**

Rumour has it that some teachers use the evening to cram in missing bits from their curriculums, thus Math teachers Sarah and Richard decided to test pupils' analytical thinking with a mystifying pizza slice question.

Music teacher Damian boosted pupils' musical adaptation skills by exposing them to inverted versions of various greatest hits while English teacher Alan hoped to appeal to his pupils' profound literary

awareness by presenting them with a concise thesaurus of opening lines to be matched with titles of great literary works.

After several rigorous rounds of mental activity it became clear there were three teams within inches of overall victory. However, Languages teacher Didier had come up with a new tie-breaker challenge putting the teams' improvisational choir-singing talents to the test. This required each team to give an original and harmonious interpretation of the lyrics of an evergreen against the tunes of another classic song.

Needless to say, judges Richard and Richard faced a difficult task but bravely endured this challenge and awarded bonus points solely on the basis of group merit.

The outcome of the evening's spectacle designated a clear winner, securing eternal fame in the chronicles of YMS history and maybe a tummy ache the next morning.

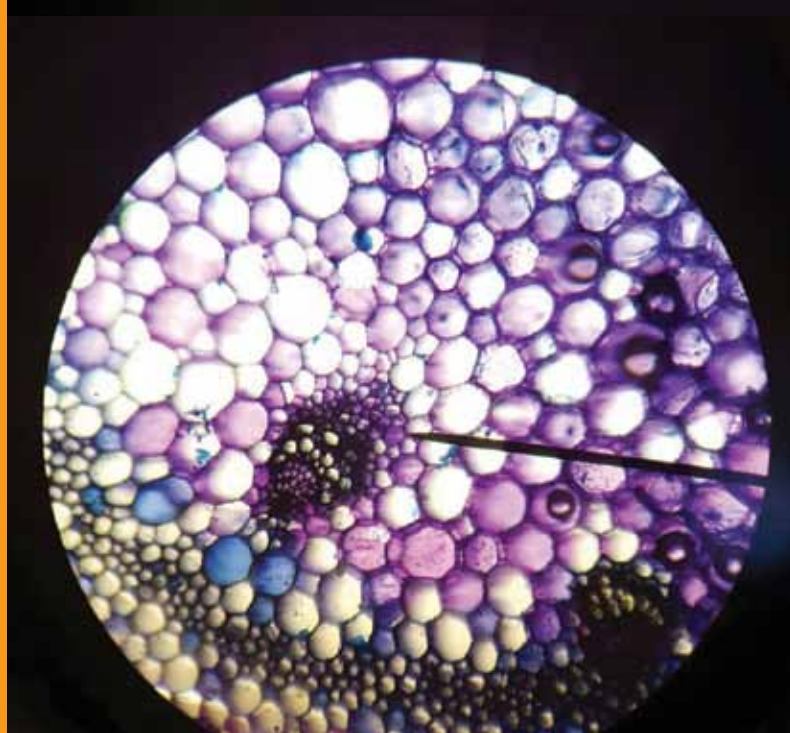
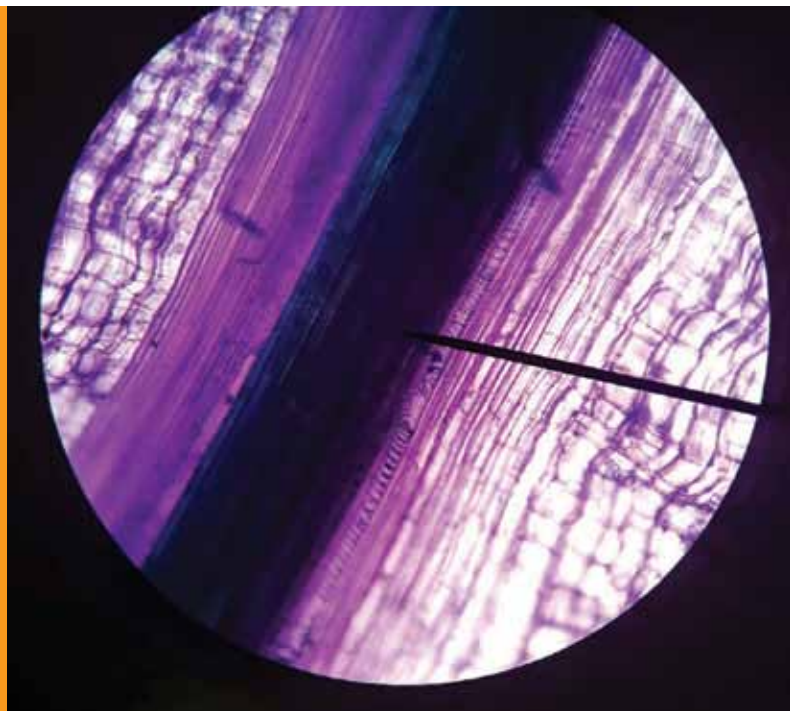
**DIDIER DESCAMPS**



## BIOLOGY AS LEVEL

Our AS level biology class (Katie Morgan and SongHa Choi) have been getting to grips with all the fascinating investigative tasks that they must complete to earn the new 'Practical Endorsement'.

They've visited the City of London Freemans School and used a spirometer to measure their lung capacity; they have taken blood samples and looked at their own red blood cells through a microscope. They've also rolled up their sleeves and dissected fish gills and a sheep's heart. Preparing a slide and looking at the microscopic structure of a plant stem under the microscope showed extraordinary detail but this was perhaps not as interesting as the animal cells. (See right: the photos are taken with a mobile phone, looking down through the microscope: a good use of new technology in class!)





# Our Visit to The Mary Rose



On Wednesday, 8 February the D group went to see the 'Mary Rose' Exhibition at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. When we first entered the exhibition we saw some cannons salvaged from the Mary Rose. They were gigantic! (I can't imagine how heavy they must have been!) We even saw the original bell from the Mary Rose that they used to ring when the sailors had to change watch.

When we went into the main part of the museum I could hardly believe my eyes! We read that the Mary Rose had been underwater for 437 YEARS!! Her starboard side had sunk into the mud so that part of her hull had been well preserved for many years. We walked alongside the Mary Rose from her bow to her stern and on the other side of a glass corridor were many stunning artefacts salvaged from the seabed, which would have been housed in the ship's cabins and on her decks.

My favourite artefacts were the colossal, robust ropes which they used to keep the massive sails up and I also really liked looking at all the equipment belonging to the ship's surgeon. We saw his syringe and the saw that he planned to use if he needed to amputate the sailors' limbs! The flagship had projectors shining on to the cabins on her decks, showing us videos of what it would be like when the ship was at war and what ordinary life was like on board the ship. It was fascinating! Then we had a look around the museum and we even saw the skeleton of a dog named Hatch who had sunk with the boat, along with 500 sailors. We learnt that, although the boat capsized close to the shore, most of the men could not swim and so sadly drowned.

It was nearly 2pm on the day of our visit when we remembered that we still hadn't had any lunch!! None of us had noticed because we were so absorbed in looking at the remains of the boat and all the amazing objects which had been salvaged.

After lunch we had time for a look in the museum shop. I bought two compasses for my brothers and told them all about Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Now they are longing to go and see it themselves!

CLARA-SOPHIA WERNIG (AGE 10)

## UK MATHS TEAM CHALLENGE

On Tuesday 21 February four optimistic YMS mathematicians travelled to Tonbridge Grammar School for Girls to compete in the regional finals of the UK Maths Team Challenge. Darwin Chang, Tom Yang, Hattie McGregor and Jude Usborne spent the day completing four rounds of stimulating maths puzzles against 25 other school teams, culminating in a frantic relay round.



Hattie McGregor and Darwin Chang solve a problem

The students showed enthusiasm, fantastic team work and had a great experience.

### HAVE A GO!

Here are a couple of the problems taken from the shuttle round and you can't use a calculator:

- 1) Find  $123 \div (-4 - 5 + 6) - 7 \times (-8 - 9 + 10)$ ?
- 2) From 80% of 70, Jocelyn correctly subtracts  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 60
- 3) A walker travels 2km on a bearing of  $090^\circ$  then 2km on a bearing of  $210^\circ$ . On what bearing must she walk to return to her starting point?

Finlay Hay got a gold certificate in the INTERMEDIATE UK MATHS CHALLENGE this year. Tai Luanghvisut was presented with a silver and Tianyou Ma received a bronze.

Answers: 8, 16, 330 degrees

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

This year, for the first time ever, we are running both a Gold and a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh team. The Gold group are busy planning their routes for the practice expedition in the Lake District, where they will have to walk for four days and camp for three nights, two of those nights being in the wild - camping on wild hill sides which are totally out of touch with all facilities. They will also volunteer for a year. Katie has already begun her volunteering by raising over £1,000 for the Progeria Research Foundation, which helps children who have a genetic disease where they age prematurely. Katie's fundraising was helped by generous donations from Friends of the School after the Christmas Concerts, as well as a very successful cake sale with a Disney theme.

JENNY DEXTER

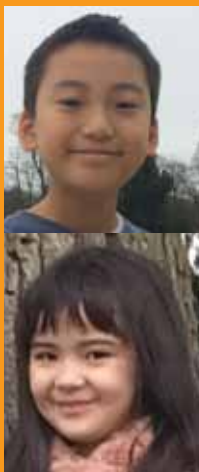


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## NEW PUPILS

LILI VEER AND  
RICHARD ZHANG

This term the School welcomed new pupils Richard Zhang (11, piano) and Lili Veer (9, violin). Richard comes from China and Lili from Hungary. We wish them every happiness and success during their time with us.



## The Seussification of Romeo and Juliet

THE YEHUDI MENUHIN SCHOOL PLAY  
16, 17 MARCH 2017

The play is the thing, the actors were magic.  
Romeo, Juliet comic yet tragic.

Nathan and Evie embraced the lead parts;  
Young lovers creating a place in our hearts.  
Yet whenever a kiss was part of the plot  
The narrators insisted that it was not.  
Maxim and Will were a wonderful double  
Who ad-libbed, upstaged and caused lots of trouble.

Isla's clear prologue had captured the scene:  
Monotones and Capitulates being mean.  
Breannain Capitulate put on a show  
As a Lord and a Monk, Mathuna O!  
And his Lady, Aleks, posed without stint,  
Seducing us all with her peppermint.  
Nurse Jelena's performance caught the eye  
And Hugo was smitten by and by ...

The lute that Sergio played set the era.  
(He'd also painted the scene from Verona.)  
Ignacy was charming Benvolio,  
With Hugo the two pals of Romeo.  
Lord Monotone and Tybalt, Finlay played,  
Until he fought and was finally slayed.  
Alasdair Howell has triple praise due  
As Paris, The Prince and Gregory too!  
Tom Yang served a double and Isla played three.  
Delights were lit by Ezo Dem Sarici.

Alan and Kendra deserve all the credit;  
Peter Bloedel can be blamed for the edit.

RICHARD TANNER

## STAFF NEWS

At the end of the Autumn Term, Ann Sweeney stepped down from her role as Housemistress of Music House. We are very grateful to Ann for all she did during her year as Housemistress. She remains an important part of the pastoral team and has taken on the new title of Head of Pastoral Care, which reflects the work she does as Senior School Nurse, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Assistant Housemistress. Kendra Shute, formerly Assistant Housemistress, is now Resident Housemistress of Music House.

At the end of term we said goodbye to Donna Trout, Registrar and Headmaster's PA since July 2016. We wish her all the very best for the future.

Anthony Medhurst, Development Director since July 2015, left us at the end of February. I know that you will all want to join me in thanking Anthony for the way in which he led our Anniversary Appeal to such a successful conclusion, culminating, of course, in the opening of the new Music Studios last September. We wish him all the best in his new role at St Lawrence College Ramsgate, rather nearer his home and family in Canterbury.



Sarah McDonald and Lizzie Utting

Whilst we look for a worthy replacement for Anthony, the fundraising fort is being held by Sarah McDonald, our new Development Coordinator, who takes particular responsibility for the Friends, and Lizzie Utting (Development Assistant). They are both very welcome.



Sarah Howell and Bertie

History Teacher Sarah Howell gave birth to her second son, Bertie, over the half-term break and she will now be on maternity leave until July 2018. We send our very best wishes to Sarah and Steve, Thomas and Bertie. We were delighted to welcome back once more Jeanne Rourke, who covered Sarah's maternity leave three years ago. Jeanne will be with us until next summer.

In the music department, we are delighted that alumna Alina Ibragimova (2003) has agreed, when her busy schedule allows, to help out as an occasional deputy principal instrumental teacher. In addition, we have been joined by Debbie Stennett (Practice Supervisor) and Jess Cresswell, who, as an additional Music Librarian, has been charged with locating and cataloguing our entire music library and moving it to its new home in the Music Studios.

Welcome to them all.

## NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

The Governors are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Òscar Colomina i Bosch as Director of Music with effect from 1 September 2017. Òscar has been an academic music teacher at the School since 2006, as well as being Professor of Orchestration at the Royal Academy of Music, where he gained his PhD. Richard Morris, Chairman of Governors, writes: 'Òscar will bring an exceptional range of musical skills and experience to the unique post of Director of Music at the Yehudi Menuhin School. As instrumentalist, composer, conductor, teacher and coach, he is ideally qualified to sustain and build on the extraordinary quality of music education for which the School is renowned.'

## NEW RELEASE

Staff member alumna Akiko Ono (1996) has released a new album 'Romance', a homage to Yehudi Menuhin on his centenary, featuring works by Debussy, Stravinsky, Ysaye and Wagner. (These are available from The Menuhin Hall.) She has also been appointed a violin professor at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London.







Virginia with alumni Ming Feng Hsin (1978) and his sister Hsing-Chwen Hsin (1982).



# HEINRICH SCHIFF

Heinrich Schiff and Tommy Carroll

**23 December was a bleak day for the musical world, with the passing of one of its greatest cellists, Heinrich Schiff.**

He played an immense part in so many musical lives, leaving behind not only an incredible recording legacy of every major work with every major orchestra – from the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonic, to the Los Angeles and London Symphony Orchestras – but also the love and respect of more than a generation of students. He loved teaching and was one of the outstanding teachers of the last 30 years. We were fortunate to have welcomed him to the school on three occasions, all of which made a deep and lasting impression on both him and us.

He loved the sense of focus and calm which he felt was so present at the school and said that it was always his dream to grow up in an environment that was totally dedicated to music and surrounded by nature. His magnetic presence was truly inspiring for all those present, both when he played with and conducted the orchestra and when he gave master classes. His deep knowledge and experience left a lasting impression on all those who were fortunate to be present. He had the rare gift of making everyone present know instinctively that the evening together was something very special. It was a combination of his brilliance and charisma, as well as his unique humour, charm and warmth. He will be sorely missed.

**TOMMY CARROLL**

## Virginia Renshaw

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Virginia Renshaw on 24 October 2016. Virginia touched very many lives, but most particularly those who knew her as teacher, colleague and friend.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Sophie, Ben, Lucy and all the grandchildren. Below are just a few of the many tributes which have been paid to Virginia over the past four months.

**ANNE BELL** (staff 1981-9): Virginia was passionate in everything she did and gave of herself unstintingly. So many things were important to her: her devotion to her family, her love of music, especially playing chamber music, her interest in the arts, literature, languages, travel and, above all, people. From 1975 to 1986 she was of central importance to the academic and pastoral life of The Menuhin School, much loved by pupils and staff alike. Later she spent some time as John Ogden's Personal Assistant before becoming Director of Live Music Now. Virginia was perceptive and kind, talented, generous and modest to a fault. Profoundly thoughtful and engaged in many areas of life, she never lost her sense of fun and laughter, even in the last stages of her illness. One always came away from spending time with her feeling stimulated and enriched.

**KRYSIA OSOSTOWICZ** (1976): it was Virginia's enthusiasm coupled with her kindness that I remember most. Her eyes would light up at the beginning of an Italian lesson or when we would play chamber music for fun. I last saw Virginia a couple of years ago and, although she was clearly very ill, her eyes still had that same sparkle and her enthusiasm was undimmed. An inspiration!

**HSING-CHWEN HSIN** (1982): our lovely teacher of ESL, French, Italian and Human Development - who also taught us cooking, took us pony-trekking, strawberry-picking, provided cheese and wine parties after visitors' concerts, free-day skating and museum trips, instigated wonderful conversations in our bedrooms of an evening on her duty nights and transformed the atmosphere of the school from the late 1970s to the mid 1980s - seemed to us to embody the spirit of the age. She made School feel like home. Thank you, Virginia. You are deeply missed.

**TASMIN LITTLE, OBE** (1983): Virginia was enthusiastic, warm and very caring of all the pupils. For many of us she was not just a teacher. She was almost a mother - she taught me to cook and listened sympathetically if I had a problem. As a teacher she shared her passion for the French and Italian languages. Her lessons have remained with me ever since. I miss her greatly.



Irene Gabriel

## IRENE GABRIEL

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Irene Gabriel.

She had been a Friend of the school for very many years and had regularly attended Showcase concerts in The Menuhin Hall, coming to her final concert just weeks before her death at the age of 95. For many years, Irene had run the Chobham Music Society, and the School performed there often down the years. Past pupils, such as Tasmin Little, became close friends with her. Irene had an infectious love of life, a 'can do' attitude to everything she attempted and a passionate love of music.

One of our pupils, Elvina Auh, played the 'Allemande' from Bach's D minor Partita for solo violin at the very moving memorial event at St Lawrence's Church, Chobham, the afternoon after the funeral. This event was attended by a very large number of friends as well as her extended family, including her son, the world-famous musician Peter Gabriel.

**MALCOLM SINGER**

# Alumni news



We were delighted to welcome back alumni **MELVYN TAN** (1974), **LIS PERRY** (1972) and **NIALL (TED) BROWN** (1979) for a Celebrity Concert on 14 March. The programme included a piano piece specially written by Jonathan Dove to mark Melvyn's sixtieth birthday.

**ANTONIO LYSY** (1979), who has run the Chamber Music Festival Incontri in Terra di Siena in Tuscany every summer until this year, will be performing in this summer's festival, which runs from 19 July to 5 August, along with **PAUL WATKINS** (1988).

**REBECCA BROWN** (1994) has been appointed Sub-Principal viola of the orchestra of the Royal Opera House.

**PRACH BOONDISKULCHOK** (2004 and former YMS staff) played in a European premiere of his chamber song cycle *Goose Daughter* with his trio, the Linos Piano Trio, at Kings Place in London on 22 March. **VLADIMIR WALTHAM** (2007) is a member of the trio and they were also joined by **JENNA SHERRY** (current YMS staff) on the viola.

**MICHAEL PETROV'S** (2009) trio (Trio Isimsiz) won 2nd prize and the Haydn prize at the Haydnwettbewerb in Vienna.

Cellist **JAMAL ALIYEV** (2013), BBC Introducing Classical Artist, performs at the Wigmore Hall on Monday 22 May at 7.30pm. His programme includes Shostakovich's Cello Sonata in D Minor and the world premiere of a new work by Edwin Hillier (composer son of YMS Headmaster Richard and Alumni/Examinations Officer Elaine). Jamal and Edwin are pictured here with pianist Maria Tarasewicz.

<https://wigmore-hall.org.uk/whats-on/jamal-aliyev-nicholas-mogg-201705221930>



On 12 March staff members and alumni **AKIKO ONO** (1996) and **ELLIOTT PERKS** (2010) were joined in The Menuhin Hall by **ROBERT GIBBS** (1983), **MEGUMI FUJITA** (1984), **PER RUNDBERG** (1989), **ROWENA CALVERT** (2001), **EUNSLEY PARK** (2009), as well as **MARIKO BROWN** (staff) and **LEONID GOROKHOV** (staff 1995-2002), amongst others, in a memorial concert for Aidan Woodcock of Little Slyfield who died last year.

## Friends' activities

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends took place on 1 March and, beforehand, they were given tours of the rooms by our pupils. They were then treated to a wonderful concert by Nicole Petrus Barracks, Frankie Carr and Kevin Loh.

The Friends Events Committee, led by Sheila Rice-Smith, has been busy organising the annual Bridge Tea, which will take place in the Hall foyer on 26 May. This event is open to all, so if you would like to book a table please contact Lizzie Utting on 01932 584409 or [lizzie.utting@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:lizzie.utting@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk).

The Friends are a valued part of the School community and enjoy a range of benefits, including priority booking at The Menuhin Hall, invitations to receptions and exclusive Friends events, and discounts from local businesses such as Denbies Winery, the Cobham Bookshop and the Old Plough. If you are interested in joining the Friends, please call Sarah McDonald on 01932 584409 or email [friends@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk](mailto:friends@yehudimenuhinschool.co.uk).

## MOORFIELDS EYE HOSPITAL

On the 25 of February I had the opportunity to play in a concert organised by YMS alumnus **SAMUEL STAPLES** (2015) in aid of Moorfields Eye Hospital. The concert took place at St Luke's Church in London, a beautiful building with fantastic acoustics.

The programme was Vivaldi's Four Seasons with Sam as the soloist. The orchestra accompanying him included current YMS pupils Sophia Prodanova, Louisa Staples and myself. Many YMS alumni took part, including **TIMOTHY CHUA** (2011, violin), **LEYLA CEMILOGLU** (2016, harpsichord), **JEAN FRANCOIS CARRIERE** (2016, cello), **BARTHOLOMEW LAFOLLETE** (2003, cello), **PHILIP NELSON** (2015, bass) and **JULIETTE ROOS** (2013, violin).

The church was absolutely packed and it was great to see old friends and teachers in the audience such as Simon Larter-Evans, our old housemaster. Sam played brilliantly. I had never had the chance to play with him before and it was great fun to accompany him on the theorbo. His performance was full of both energy and refinement, reminding me of the concerts at School that were very inspiring to me when I was younger. This concert was a great opportunity to meet and make music again with old friends and I hope to have more opportunities like this in the future.

**SERGIO BUCHELI**