

Malcolm Singer's High Notes

Pictured above: Rose Gosney with Malcolm Singer.

Cathy Whitnall writes: The first of several events marking Malcolm Singer's retirement as Director of Music was an evening with the Friends of the School entitled 'High Notes'.

This took the form of an armchair interview with Sir John Baker, Chairman of the Friends, interspersed with recorded music that had a particular resonance for Malcolm.

Sir John's questions probed the whole of Malcolm's life, from musical beginnings and early influences, through his extended education with Nadia Boulanger, Gyorgy Ligeti and Franco Donatelli, in addition to studies at Cambridge and Stanford Universities, to his arrival at the Menuhin School in 1977 – the first of three

spells of teaching here. Recordings included his mother playing Chopin, Boulanger teaching a young boy (the future pianist and teacher Emil Naoumoff) about the depths of Mozart's Fantasia in C minor, and two performances by Yehudi Menuhin. After a question-and-answer session, in which Malcolm fielded such issues as 'what would you have been if you weren't a musician?' (answer: 'a classicist'), seven of the pupils performed one of his most recent works, Chagall's Violin, commissioned by the Governors of the School for the centenary of Lord Menuhin's birth. It was an engaging, informative and entertaining evening, ably and genially chaired by Sir John, and giving Malcolm full licence to display his considerable wit and skill as a raconteur. At the end of the evening he was presented with a gift from the Friends: a magnificently bound score of his opera *The Jailer's Tale* (2010) in whose first performance the School's pupils had played. And on the way out our ever-generous Friends donated a further total of £1,500 (including gift aid) to the School. A wonderful end to a remarkable evening.

HEAD'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends

By the time that you read this, we shall have marked in fine style the retirement from the School of Malcolm Singer, Director of Music.

He has already entertained the Friends with anecdotes from his life and career, not to mention significant musical moments, in his 'High Notes' in The Menuhin Hall. Still to come are all the usual summer concerts, which Malcolm plans and programmes with such meticulous care, and a 'farewell' concert on 12 July, featuring staff and current and former students. I have no doubt that it will be a fitting send-off. And even then, we shall still have Malcolm's final concerts in the Menuhin Festival Gstaad. Quite an end of term!

David Dolan, Professor of Classical Improvisation at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, as well as a teacher here at the School, has written in this newsletter of Malcolm's contribution to the life and success of the School. Malcolm's influence on the School during his time as Director of Music (a role for which he was prepared by his two earlier spells here as teacher of composition and general musicianship) cannot be overstated. His insistence on the very highest standards of both preparation and performance, whether pupils are performing as soloists, in chamber ensembles, or in orchestra, are evident to you all whenever the students step onto the stage of The Menuhin Hall. And his talent for planning absorbing, coherent and entertaining programmes has been much appreciated, although I suspect that few of us are aware of quite how much time and skill this takes.

On a personal note, I have very much enjoyed working with Malcolm over the last seven years. He has been immensely supportive of me as Headmaster, and Elaine and I have very much valued the friendship which he and Sara have extended to us. Malcolm will now be concentrating on his career as a composer and will continue to teach composition at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. All of us at the School owe him an enormous debt of gratitude and wish him and Sara all the very best for the years ahead.

Next term may be the last in the School for Elaine and me, but I am nevertheless very much looking forward to working with Óscar Colomina i Bosch, who takes over as Director of Music in September. I have no doubt that the pupils will continue to be inspired, supported, and, where necessary, chivvied along, just as they have been by Malcolm.

Elaine and I send you our very best wishes for the summer.

Richard Hillier

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A PRELUDE AND SOME FREE ASSOCIATIONS ON THE THEME OF MALCOLM SINGER

David Dolan writes: If I owe to Yehudi Menuhin my good fortune of getting to know the School in 1989 and starting work here, it is probably the impact of Malcolm as Director of Music, combined with the mensch and the musician he is, that was one of the factors behind our decision to move to the UK and make it our home.

It seems to me that this 'cocktail' has been one of the key elements in keeping The Menuhin School so much along the lines of Yehudi's vision. I suspect that, in addition to his professional strengths, the mensch-musician cocktail was one of the reasons Yehudi wished Malcolm to become the Director of Music 19 years ago.

Musically speaking, any temptation to 'sit down and relax' has never been an option. Take a community like ours, comprised of a few dozen super-talented 8 to 19-year-olds from around the world and their teachers (none of us being musically shy or lacking opinions), add the fact that very little can escape Malcolm's ears (be it intonation, coherence of tempi and phrasing, ensemble skills, harmonic and structural understanding of the music performed, expression and meaningfulness of the playing, his omnipresence in every detail of every student's development) - and you'll see why there is no shortage of moments charged with the high voltage of musical brain-storming and powerful reflection.

You feel the legendary heritage of Nadia Boulanger, with whom Malcolm studied, not only in his compositional strength, but also in the ease with which he dives into every musical style and the way he can be 'out of the box' from within the rules. (I would have loved to see the faces of his prestigious Cambridge university professors when he came with the spoken Fugue - with total obedience to the rules of the strictest musical structure without a single pitched note.) But perhaps even more importantly, one can sense the 'Boulanger Effect' in his ability to fuse what is so difficult to wed: on the one hand, a fiercely rigorous approach to perfecting the instrumental mastery, the understanding of the language of music, and always pushing one's creativity by means of improvisation and composition; on the other hand, under Malcolm's musical leadership, the school constantly sends students out to find their own personal artistic voice. And, much more often than not, they do.

Come and Sing

We began the term with the return of our popular Come and Sing event, which this year featured Mozart's much-loved Requiem with four soloists from the School 'family' - Headmaster Richard Hillier, Music Administrator Cathy Whitnall, Choral Director David Condry, and Rachel Thomas, girlfriend of Edwin Hillier (Richard and Elaine's younger son). Wind players and timpanists came from The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and much fun and enjoyment was had by all.



Pianists at Longfrey

Aida Lahlou (18) writes: On 22 June the two piano classes set off for Longfrey, Mrs Nye's house, at her generous invitation, for an evening concert.

The Longfrey gathering is a tradition and highlight of the piano life at YMS and has been so for many generations of pianists already. The evening starts with a concert in which every pianist plays their Summer

Festival piece, attended by both the piano staff and some friends, ex-pupils, and family of Mrs Nye, and is followed by a big outdoor dinner for the audience and the pupils. In the audience this year were the familiar faces of Akiko Chiba and Emmanuel Despax. Everyone had a tremendous time and we are very grateful to Mr and Mrs Nye for welcoming us once again.

YOUNG TALENTS IN EUROPE

Louisa Staples (17) and Joe Pritchard (17) write: In late March we travelled to Holland (with SongHa Choi (17) and Otoha Tabata (17)) to participate in the 'Young Talents in Europe' project, organised and hosted by the the Royal Conservatory of The Hague.

We were joined by other young musicians from the East Helsinki Music Institute, Wells Cathedral School, Fundão Academy of Music and Dance, Covilhã School of Arts, CPE Bach Music Gymnasium from Berlin and Carl Maria von Weber Gymnasium from Dresden, for performances in the concert hall of the Royal Conservatory of The Hague and in the Kleine Zaal of Amsterdam's historic Royal Concertgebouw.

The occasion marked the signing of a document linking all these European schools together to create a lasting working and friendly relationship. Each school was asked to prepare a piece from their country for an ensemble of their own choice. Our quartet performed Malcolm Singer's Tango Machine written in 2002, an energetic and exciting piece, which was wonderfully received by both audiences. To end the concerts, all the young musicians came together for an orchestral work by Dutch composer Hans Kox, performing the third movement of his Little Lethe Symphony, conducted and directed by Frans-Aert Burghraef.

After the first day, occupied with rehearsals and getting to know our fellow musicians, we performed in the first concert in The Hague. We were thrilled to be told that Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands would be in attendance, and even more so that she was delighted by the evening and very impressed by everyone's music-making. The following day we all went on a trip to the beach, where we had the opportunity to socialise with the other students while enjoying the scenery and local cuisine.

On the final morning we all took a coach to Amsterdam and headed to the Royal Concertgebouw for an afternoon concert. It was an honour to perform in such a magnificent concert hall and also to have the opportunity to observe a rehearsal by the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra. When all the concerts were finished, we went on a boat cruise through Amsterdam, where we saw some of the city's historic sites including the Anne Frank House, the Van Gogh Museum and the Heineken Experience! It was a wonderful experience which was full of diversity and it was a pleasure to meet so many other talented and interesting musicians from all across Europe. We enjoyed working and performing with them immensely and hope to see them again in the near future.

Dartmouth

Aida Lahlou writes: We had a fantastic time during our concert trip to Devon in the last week of May. The programme of the evening fitted very well with the beautiful surroundings of the house of Edward and Sally Benthall: the serene happiness of the Mozart sonata and the flowing lines of the Bach mingled splendidly with the sunny landscapes of the south country, whilst the French section of the programme fitted very well with the garden of our hosts - ending in a flourish with the very Mediterranean finale of the Debussy sonata. The concert ended with an energetic and fiery violin trio by Kodály, which perfectly set us up for a midnight swim on that same evening! On the third day we went back to London, our heads full of lovely memories. It was a great way to start the half term holiday!

ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS

On 6 May the orchestra gave their biennial performance at the Banstead Arts Festival, where we are always well-received. Both orchestras performed alone and then joined together for Malcolm Singer's Music from the Shtetl, with Malcolm and Academy founder Andrew Bernardi conducting alternative movements. People commented afterwards that the roof was shaking...

The orchestra is currently preparing for concerts at the Gower, Thaxted and Gstaad Festivals. Pupils are also getting ready for the six Summer Festival concerts in which every student plays, as well as the Orchestral Picnic Concert on 9 July. This will be followed by the annual Wigmore Hall concert, and finally – on 12 July – the Farewell Concert for Malcolm Singer, in which many past students and staff are participating. A busy end to a busy summer term.

Pouring down at Painshill



Max Calver (17) writes: The annual Painshill Park concerts decided to fall on a day where the rain seemed endless!

Despite the drenched performers, all three concerts were well received by an enthusiastic audience, as the grotto was still a wonderful setting to listen to music, especially as it seemed to be the only dry place that could be found! Each concert concluded with a medley of Irish folk tunes, which allowed the performer Breannainn Ó Mathuna (20) to state jokingly that he didn't just bring along Irish tunes, but the Irish summer as well.

STUDENTS OUT AND ABOUT

Individual students also gave a number of concerts and recitals during the term. Kevin Loh (19) performed in the chapel at Gray's Inn in the presence of many eminent lawyers, including Baroness Hale, Deputy President of the Supreme Court, who gave a short speech at the end, expressing her appreciation of his performance.

Kevin has also given several performances with Frankie Carr (19), starting off with a 'slot' on the final day of the Leatherhead Drama festival, followed by recitals at Tadworth, East Horsley and Slyfield. A member of one of these audiences was so impressed with their playing that he made a substantial donation to the School.

On 8 June Kevin and Frankie were then joined by Sergio Bucheli (19), Sophia Prodanova (19) and Nicole Petrus Barracks (19) for a concert at the Church of St Peter and St Paul in King's Sutton to help raise funds for Save the Children.

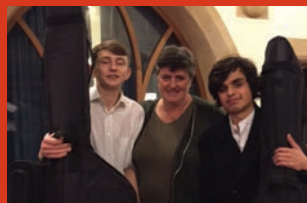
Kevin writes: We performed a selection of music by Bach, Diabelli, Debussy, Halvorsen, Ysaÿe, Dowland and Falla. We were delighted to have performed for such a lovely audience, as well as for a really meaningful cause.



Elsewhere, Coco Tomita (15) performed Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in St Saviour's Church, Eastbourne, part of her prize for winning first place in the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra's Young Musician Competition. The Eastbourne Herald wrote: 'Make no mistake, the name Tomita will soon be as familiar as Menuhin.' Louisa Staples, like Kevin, gave a recital at Gray's Inn and earlier in the term joined Joe Pritchard and Can Arisoy (17) in a concert at Clapham Omnibus which included Dvořák's "Dumky" Trio.

COMPETITION SUCCESSES

Many congratulations to double-bass players Ketan Curtis (17) and Will Duerden (16) who came first and second respectively in the Haslemere and Nine Counties String Competition on 18 May. Ketan's prize will be to direct a concerto with The Waverley Ensemble on 25 November at St Christopher's Church, Haslemere.



Congratulations, too, to Viviana Baudis (18), who was placed second in the Jugend Musiziert in her native Germany. Well done also to Louisa Staples who reached the finals of the Competition Andrea Postacchini and Katie Morgan (17) who was a semifinalist in the Città di Cantù Piano and Orchestra Competition, both in Italy. Excellent performances were also given by Damir Durmanovic (18) in the Concours International de Piano Adilia Alieva in France and by double-bass player Daniil Margulis (16) in the Silk Street Sinfonia Young Soloists Competition in London.

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SOUND THE TRUMPET

Trumpeter Simon Desbrulais's appearance with the orchestra in last summer's Shakespeare and Music concert was so much appreciated by the pupils that he seemed to be the obvious choice for this year's visiting composer/performer.

He gave a recital in November and workshops on writing for trumpet, and returned at the beginning of the summer term, when he recorded twenty-two pieces written for him by the pupils.

INSPIRATIONAL COLOURSTRINGS

We were delighted to welcome the great violin pedagogue Yvonne Frye into our midst this term. Yvonne is a German violinist who lives and works in Finland.

She teaches the Colourstrings method at the East Helsinki Music Institute and also pedagogy at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki. Yvonne gave an inspiring lecture to instrumental staff and older students about the Colourstrings method and also spent two days observing instrumental lessons and discussing music education with staff and pupils. She was particularly interested in David Dolan's approach to teaching improvisation and enjoyed watching him work with pupils. Past pupil Hyung-ki Joo (1990) also visited at the same time in order to hear Yvonne's lecture and to talk with her about what makes good quality repertoire for young people as they start learning an instrument. Having these two visitors made for an exciting and stimulating couple of days for all of us at the School.

MORE VISITING TEACHERS

Richard Wright writes: It was a pleasure to welcome Paolo Pegoraro back to the School for an inspirational day-long guitar masterclass on 21 June. Paolo, who teaches at the University of Graz, Austria, is widely considered to be one of the world's great guitar teachers. He last came to YMS exactly three years ago and, hopefully, we will not have to wait quite as long for his next visit.

YMS students were also fortunate to receive return visits from Robert Levin, Professor Emeritus at Harvard, and Simone Fontanelli, from the Mozarteum in Salzburg, and benefited immensely from their words and teaching.

Pictured below: Tom Ellis, Richard Wright, Simone Fontanelli, Kevin Loh and Paolo Pegoraro.



AND NOW, MOZART!

Darwin Chang (14) writes: Aleksey Igudesman (1989) and Hyung-ki Joo (1990) were here for three days. During that time they taught their pieces and gave a workshop, a lecture and a presentation to everyone.

They inspired a lot of people including myself to try different things (whether it's about music or not) and not be afraid of the outcome. Young musicians nowadays can be quite tentative about trying new things because either their friends tease them if they do something different or they don't have enough confidence in themselves. Aleksey and Hyung-ki's answer to that was: 'No one cares!' On the second day there was a presentation where students shared with the whole School what they had learnt over the previous two days. The two alumni then gave a celebrity concert on the last day - And now, Mozart! - and it was a huge success.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

From Bronze...

Hattie McGregor (14) writes: Throughout the past term Jenny Dexter and Sarah Lee have been helping Alfred Leishman (13), Darwin Chang, Leon Sturdee (14) and me with our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award primarily consisting of a two-day expedition.



On 10 June, after a few sessions of planning and preparing, we were driven to St Martha's Hill by the North Downs to begin our practice expedition. We were lucky to enjoy very hot weather and, quite remarkably, were only lost twice (the first time being put once more on course by one of the many passing D of E groups). We are very grateful to our two teachers for encouraging us (and filling our rucksacks with water and sun cream) for the whole weekend and hope that we have just as much fun on our real expedition in September.

To Gold...

Jenny Dexter writes: During the Easter Holidays Breannain Ó Mathúna, Katie Morgan, Will Duerden and Otoha Tabata were in the Lake District training for their Gold D of E award.

The weather was not kind. While it was hot in Surrey, it was pouring with rain in Cumbria and, consequently, the group spent four days in waterproofs which they quickly discovered let the water through! They walked about 15 kilometres per day and spent two nights wild-camping in the hills, collecting water from the streams, and cooking the food they carried in their rucksacks. Sarah and I were very impressed with their positive attitude and their ability to keep going in extreme conditions. We are all looking forward to the assessed expedition in the summer.



NEW PUPILS

ILYA PRIETO-CLYNES 11, guitar, UK

EVA TER-SARKISOVA 13, violin, Latvia

LEAVING PUPILS

ELVINA AUH New England Conservatory, Boston, violin (Miriam Fried and Paul Biss)

LEONARDO JAFFE MISIUK BARBOSA New England Conservatory, Boston, violin (Paul Biss)

SERGIO BUCHELI RAM, lute/theorbo (Elizabeth Kenny)

SELINA BUSER RCM, cello (Thomas Carroll)

FRANKIE CARR The Juilliard School, New York, cello (Darrett Adkins)

DAMIR DURMANOVIC RCM, piano (Dmitri Alexeev)

JOSEPH EDWARDS RCM, violin (Gabrielle Lester)

MARCUS GAVED RCM, double bass (Caroline Emery)

DILLON JEFFARES RCM, violin (Lutzia Ibragimova)

KEVIN LOH Singapore, national service

ALEKS MLADENOVA Gap year

BREANAINN Ó MATHUNA RCM, violin (Radu Blidar)

ESTHER PARK RCM, violin (Itzhak Rashkovsky)

DANIEL PENNEY Amsterdam, signed to Spinnin' Records (the biggest dance-music label in the world)

NICOLE PETRUS BARRACKS GSMD, violin (Andras Keller)

SOPHIA PRODANOVA GSMD, violin (David Takeno)

SAO SOULEZ LARIVIÈRE Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin, viola (Tabea Zimmermann)

LOUISA STAPLES Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin, violin (Antje Weithaas)

JEFF WU GSMD, violin (Andras Keller)

KATHERINE YOON RCM, violin (Itzhak Rashkovsky)

In addition we say farewell to Tonwyn Li and Lili Veer and wish them every success at their new schools.

DIPPING Ds

Clara-Sophia Wernig (11) writes: On Wednesday 14 June the D group went pond dipping at Bookham Common. It was just the perfect day because it was sunny, warm and we could be in the shade of the woods. Janet drove us there (it only took about two minutes) and Philippa and Graham (Ann's husband) came along as well.

We walked through shady paths where we had to be careful because of bright-green stinging nettles and dark-green holly. Fortunately none of us were pricked or stung!

Then we reached a point where we were a little unsure about which path to take, but luckily Graham had an app on his phone called Ordnance Survey Mapping and he led us to a beautiful pond with many colourful dragonflies hovering over the water. We used magnifying glasses and jars to carefully observe all the mini-creatures in the pond water. I really enjoyed identifying the mini-creatures using identification charts.

We saw crimson-red blood worms, mosquito larvae, water boatmen and even fascinating dragonfly nymphs. We used nets and plastic containers to take water out of the pond. (We did return all the mini-creatures and water safely back into the pond!)

I really enjoyed this trip and I learnt such a lot!



DRAMATIC Ds

Rose Gosney (11) writes: Since the beginning of this exciting school year, the D group have been working on two original plays. They were split, so half of the group worked on a well-known tale *The Three Little Pigs* and the other half worked on a famous tale called *Bambi*. The scripts were written by the pupils themselves but there was always a slight twist and they even added a few extra characters!

The D group made most of the props and rehearsed frequently with their wonderful drama teacher Kendra. *The Three Little Pigs* was packed with hysterical humour and *Bambi* was full of emotion and drama. The performances were astounding and left the audience jaw-dropped. The whole school watched over two morning meetings and parents were invited to see both plays on Friday 16 June. It was extraordinary and great fun taking part in them!



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STAFF NEWS



The main news this term is of course the retirement of **Malcolm Singer** as Director of Music. His influence on the life of the School has been enormous and I hope very much that you will enjoy reading what has been written elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter. He leaves with our heartfelt thanks and good wishes for the future.

The Summer Term has seen the arrival of **Edward Romain** as our new Development Director, taking over from Anthony Medhurst. Edward joins The Menuhin School from the University of Sussex where he was a Major Donor Development Manager, raising funds for a wide range of causes from dementia research to honey bee preservation. He writes: 'I am thrilled to have now taken up my post here at the School. From the moment I arrived for my first interview, I could tell what a unique and extraordinary place it is. I look forward to meeting many students, parents and friends in the months ahead and helping the School go from strength to strength.' Also new is **Cheryl Poole**, who has taken over as Registrar and Headmaster's PA. A warm welcome to them all.

From the music staff, we said goodbye at the start of term to Choral Director **David Young**, who left to concentrate on his other professional commitments, and welcomed back **David Condry**, who has both sung for us and directed the choir in the past. At the end of term we bade farewell to **Mariana Izman**, who has been a much-loved Deputy Principal Piano Teacher for the last seven years, and also to **Jenevora Williams**, who has taught singing as a much-valued supporting study since 2009. Many thanks to them both for everything they have done.



As readers will be aware, **Óscar Colomina i Bosch** takes over as Director of Music in September. He will be joined in the music department by **James Young** and **Shu-Wei Tseng** as new members of the GM (General Musicianship) teaching team, and also by **Marta Gonzalez Bordonaba** who takes over as Music Librarian, succeeding **Jess Cresswell**, who left us in April.

The School was very sad to learn of the death last November of former Bursar **Colin Mays** (1991-97). Former Headmaster Nicolas Chisholm writes: 'When it became clear that the School needed to find a new Bursar, the Chairman of Governors at the time Sir John Margetson recommended a colleague who was just retiring from the diplomatic service. Colin Mays had just returned from serving as High Commissioner of the Bahamas and happened to live locally. His experience with dealing with personnel was invaluable at the time and his calm unflappability a great support to me. He completed the six years he had agreed with Sir John to serve, overseeing the start of our redevelopment programme with the building of Harris House.' Colin's wife writes: 'Colin thoroughly enjoyed his time at the School and maintained his association with it through the Friends' organisation until the end of his life.' We send his family our very best wishes.

Earlier this year **Nathan Williamson** (part-time accompanist) released CDs of American solo piano music on SOMM and of British violin and piano music with Fenella Humphreys on Lyrita, which have received 5-star reviews in Musical Opinion and BBC Music Magazine.



DAVID ANGEL (1954-2017)

Susie Meszaros (1978) writes: On 10 April this year we lost a most beloved friend and talented musician, the violinist David Angel, aged just 62.

A founder pupil of the Menuhin School, where he studied with Frederick Grinke and Jaqueline Gazelle, he is remembered as a sweet boy with a sense of fun and mischief as well as being a great mimic. Years later his Yehudi impression was so convincing that when the great man himself once telephoned Garfield Jackson (1975), the latter retorted: 'I know it's you, David, stop messing about!'

David was generous and sympathetic towards his fellow students, with a gift for reaching out to others. He could coax a lost and homesick younger pupil out of their misery with his sympathetic ear and irresistible sense of humour. He adored football and table tennis and was an avid boxing fan. An insatiable reader with an encyclopaedic knowledge, he developed a particular love of 19th-century English literature and maintained these interests throughout his life.

On leaving school David won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music where he continued his studies with Frederick Grinke and Sidney Griller. Here began a lifelong dedication to chamber music; after some years of recitals and freelancing he became founding second violinist of the Bochmann Quartet and later of the Maggini Quartet. He also co-led the second violins of the London Mozart Players for over thirty years and was chamber-music tutor at the Birmingham Conservatoire.

It can be said that David defined the role of Second Violinist to perfection. A fine musician with infinite tact and flexibility, he was the glue that held his quartet together. He was deeply committed to education and became a most popular coach, teacher and speaker, in particular for amateur musicians. His self-deprecating humour delighted audiences, as exemplified in his sketch entitled 'Second Violin Concertos', though it was clear to all that he was in fact a most accomplished violinist.

Tender-hearted and gentle though he was, David possessed a sharp intelligence and perceptiveness which cut through all pomposity and insincerity: he could see through any façade and expressed his views with incisive wit. Yet David never made a single enemy. He was universally admired and respected by all who came in contact with him.

David was teaching on a music course in Oxford when he suffered a fatal heart attack. He leaves a wife Man Ying and sons Gyen Ming and Gyen Wah.

ANTONIO LYSY (1979) and **PAUL WATKINS** (1988) are playing in the Incontri in Terra di Siena 2017 festival in Tuscany this summer: www.itslafoce.org.

MARY WU (1983) and **TASMIN LITTLE** (1983) will be playing together again in a concert in Hong Kong at the end of June. They are collaborating to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the British handover of Hong Kong.

The Elias String Quartet, which features **SARA BITLOCH** (1992), is in the process of releasing the last three volumes of their Beethoven cycle on the Wigmore Live label, recorded live at Wigmore Hall.

YOOJUNG KIM (1995) is on the piano faculty at New York University and has been appointed as Acting Director of Piano Performance department this semester.

CHERYL FRANCES-HOAD (1998) is releasing a new CD, featuring **DAVID COHEN** (1998), on 30 June. It features her chamber orchestral, chamber and solo piano works, all united by the theme of homage (to other composers): <https://tinyurl.com/ycxccjau>. She has also been commissioned to write a piece for Stephen Hawking's 75th Birthday.

DIMITRI MURRATH (2001) has been appointed to the viola faculty at San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

ELISA MCCARTHY (2003) has been working with the composer Mica Levi, recently nominated for an Oscar for her soundtrack to the film Jackie, who has been writing Elisa a set of solo piano pieces to be released later this year. A single from the set was released last April on Foom: <https://tinyurl.com/y7dxtgak>. Elisa also performed Philip Glass's Music in 12 Parts at the Barbican Centre on 1 May as part of the composer's 80th Birthday celebrations, the first time the work had been allowed to be performed by an ensemble other than the Philip Glass Ensemble.

CORDELIA LYNN (2005) is writing a libretto for a new opera – Miranda – at the Opera Comique in Paris, to be directed by Katie Mitchell and conducted by Raphael Pichon with his Pygmalion Ensemble: <https://tinyurl.com/yaq2tfuf>.

JONATHAN BLOXHAM (2007) has had his contract as Assistant Conductor of The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra renewed for 2017-18. This year he will also make debuts with the Malaysian Philharmonic, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the RTE Orchestra.

MICHAEL PETROV (2009) has won the Guildhall Wigmore Recital Prize.

LUISA REICHEL (2012) has released another CD with her newly-formed quartet Mirror Strings, a unique line-up consisting of two guitars and two cellos. The CD is called Holberg Unplugged and contains their own arrangements of Grieg's Holberg Suite and Brahms' song Die Meere.

TANJA ROOS (2012) received the Manfred Grommek prize (€10,000 and concerts in Germany) in the Kronberg Violin Masterclasses 2017. She also received the 'best interpretation of Mozart' and the 'best Reger' prizes at the Henri Marteau International Violin Competition, as well as reaching the finals.

CHLOE STOWERS-VEITCH (2013) starts as Assistant Artist Manager at Hazard Chase, a leading international classical music management company, at the end of July.

The Salome Quartet which includes **PHOEBE GODDARD** (2014), **HAIM CHOI** (2014) and **SHIZUKU TATSUNO** (2016) has won the RCM String Quartet Competition.

PHILIP NELSON (2015) was placed third at the 2017 International Society of Bassists Solo Competition in Ithaca, New York.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Development Office is keen not to lose any of the incredible momentum of our successful Anniversary Appeal. The School must continue to fundraise and encourages unrestricted donations which the School can allocate towards areas of greatest need.

So many of the achievements of the School and its pupils have only been possible because of donors who have shared Lord Menuhin's vision, his passion for excellence, and a belief that music-making can inspire and bring joy to individuals and communities. In an increasingly divided world, we believe that music has an important and unique role to play in uniting and bringing our communities together.

LEAVE A LEGACY

This autumn the School is launching THE 1963 SOCIETY, named after the year in which the School was founded: a special group for those who have chosen to leave a legacy to the School in their will. A legacy gift can help us to provide transformational opportunities for pupils and help to guarantee the long-term security of Yehudi's great vision.

THE BURSARY APPEAL

The School is focusing its fundraising endeavours on maintaining and building upon our bursary provision to enable the very best UK and international students to attend the School, regardless of background or financial means.

ANNUAL FUND

We are setting up an Annual Fund to enable our community to make regular gifts to the School. Regular donations over a number of consecutive years can be paid monthly, quarterly, or annually, and provide a predictable income which allows for better planning.

Making regular donations towards The Yehudi Menuhin School will help us achieve our ambitious and exciting development programme which would not be possible without the help and support of the wider School community.

If you would like to find out more about Leaving a Legacy or supporting The Bursary Appeal or the Annual Fund please contact the Director of Development, Edward Romain:

01932 584797 or edward.romain@menuhinschool.co.uk

FRIENDS

Once again we would like to extend our thanks to all our Friends for their support throughout 2016-17.

Next term the Friends will hold a fundraising lecture in The Menuhin Hall by long-time Friend and celebrated art historian Eveline Eaton. The subject will be 'The Joys of Impressionism' and will include a look at the major show at Tate Britain (2 Nov 2017 - 29 April 2018). More details are available in The Menuhin Hall Events Brochure.

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If you enjoy listening to outstanding music, supporting emerging talent from across the world and would like to have priority booking for The Menuhin Hall, why not become a Friend? Just get in touch with the Development Department on friends@menuhinschool.co.uk or 01932 584409 and we would be happy to send you an information pack.

The Menuhin Hall Update

As will be clear from the rest of this newsletter, it has as usual been a busy term in The Menuhin Hall, from the Come and Sing event back at the end of April through to our forthcoming and ever-popular Summer Festival in early July.

Highlights included an inspiring and energetic night of musical comedy courtesy of past pupils **ALEKSEY IGUESMAN** (1989) and **HYUNG-KI JOO** (1990) on 29 April, an amazing all-Brahms evening night from **TASMIN LITTLE** (1983) and **PIERS LANE** on 9 May, and a wonderful programme of piano music expertly performed by **BARRY DOUGLAS** on 15 June.

Our programme of events for next season (September to February) is looking diverse and exciting, so we hope to see you in The Menuhin Hall in the not so distant future.



A BIG THANK-YOU FROM THE MENUHIN HALL

Hannah Walton, the School's Alexander Technique instructor, and her husband Chris have very kindly donated to The Menuhin Hall and School two very useful pieces of musical equipment: a Vox Pathfinder 15R guitar amplifier and a Yamaha MD4 Multitrack Recorder (which also doubles as a 4-input mixing desk).

The Menuhin Hall is often asked by outside hirers if we have such equipment and, thanks to the generosity of Hannah and Chris, we will now be able to provide this equipment in-house.

A huge thank-you for thinking of us: we shall get much use out of both items.



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