



The Yehudi Menuhin School

ISSUE #73

Newsletter *Summer 2019*

The International Music School founded by Yehudi Menuhin

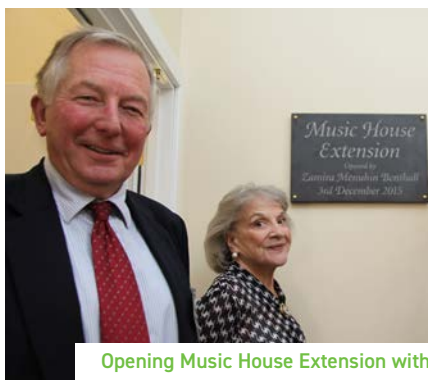
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Welcome

It is perhaps strange to be writing this Welcome message in the month when my own 14 year tenure at YMS as a Governor - the last eight of them as your Chairman - is coming to an end. But it does give me the opportunity to thank all readers, whether pupils, staff, parents, governors, alumni, Friends, benefactors or other stakeholders, for all your great contributions to our unique school over this long period.

The truth is that the School can only flourish through the commitment you all demonstrate to Yehudi's inspirational vision of an international but homely community dedicated to musical excellence, and to the all-round education of exceptionally talented young people.

There are constant rewards for all of us through our service to the School, but none greater than participation, whether as performer or audience, in the end of year Summer Festival. As I write, the curtain is about to rise on the 2019 Festival, and the sense of anticipation throughout the School is



Opening Music House Extension with Zamira Menuhin Benthall 2015



At the 2016 Gala with HRH Princess Alexandra

palpable. By the time it ends, every pupil will have performed and every member of the audience will have experienced the extraordinary output from all the intense teaching and learning over the past year. For me, it will be the ideal climax to my time as your Chairman, and the right moment to pass on this immensely privileged post.

My successor, David Buckley, is brilliantly qualified to guide the School over the next phase. Alongside a highly successful career in banking and finance, David is an organist

and a Director of the LPO, with a passion for music. His wife is a professional pianist, and together they have substantial experience of both education and business in China and the Far East as well as in the UK.



David Buckley

I am certain that YMS will flourish under the excellent leadership of both David Buckley and Richard Tanner, and wish the School and all of you the greatest future success.

Richard Morris
Chairman of Governors

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Competitions

Will had a very successful final term at YMS. He won the Adjudicator's Prize in the Gregynog Young Musician Competition 2019. Later in the term, he won First Prize in the Haslemere String Festival. Well done Will!

Nathan reached the Final of the Marjorie Humby Competition at the Royal College of Music.

Yume won Second Prize in the Postacchini Competition in Italy.

Claire reached the Finals of the Anton Rubinstein International Piano Competition during the Easter holiday.

Congratulations to all!



Masterclasses

The guitarists have felt thoroughly spoiled with masterclasses recently. Following on from Czech maestro Pavel Steidl's visit in February, this term we have had two of the world's greatest guitar teachers in quick succession: Paolo Pegoraro, from the Universitat für Musik und darstellende Kunst in Graz, and Jonathan Leathwood from Denver University. Paolo and Jonathan are regular supporters of YMS and their visits are

always an inspiration to our guitar pupils – and their teacher! The violinists were treated to an afternoon with Anthony Marwood following his stirring performance with duo partner Aleksandar Madžar in The Menuhin Hall the previous evening.

The bassists were thrilled to welcome back Paul Ellison who was visiting us from The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, Texas.



Follow us!

If you are active on social media (or would like to be) please have a look at our various channels.

Please follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram for news, events and images, but best of all is our YouTube channel which we keep updated with awe-inspiring videos of our pupils playing Schubert, Poulenc, Vaughan Williams, Howells and more. Through this channel you can watch and listen to our pupils in the comfort of your own home whenever you like.

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The Yehudi Menuhin School



We also update the news section of our website regularly, so please visit www.menuhinschool.co.uk/news to see what we are up to.

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Out and about

A busy calendar of concerts saw the pupils performing to audiences from all walks of life. Chamber music was to the fore as several venues had no piano. The first of these concerts was at the beautiful Hartsfield Manor in Betchworth where the Arensky Quartet and the Hermann Violin Trio were preceded by solo guitar for an audience of invited guests. The Arensky ensemble (Kingsley, Selina, Natasha, Özgür) had a second outing later in the week when they performed at the Banstead Arts Festival; another quartet joined them at Banstead performing Borodin's second *String Quartet*, and the second half of the concert was given by the Orchestra performing Schönberg's *Verklärte Nacht*.



A shorter, more informal performance was given for the Stoke d'Abernon Residents' Association, arranged by Friend Sue Prentice. The annual visit to the Grotto at Painshill encompassed the usual three short concerts on one night and a longer concert the following night. A new venue for the School was Sarasins, our asset management

company next to St Paul's Cathedral; Richard, Claire, Emili and Duru gave stunning performances alongside the spectacular view of Wren's dome from the balcony.

The last week of term was another busy one with the Summer Festival, but the pupils found time to perform at a concert arranged by Surrey County Council Chairman Tony Samuels at the Council Chamber in Kingston in joint support of Reigate and Banstead Women's Aid and our own Student Hardship Fund.

BBC Radio 3's *In Tune*

At the beginning of term a long-planned project came to fruition with performances of both of Chopin's *Piano Concerti* by alumnus Emmanuel Despax with a quintet of string players from the School. Originally the plan was for a Founder's Day concert only, but Emmanuel then arranged for an additional performance at the home of Bob Boas who hosts many chamber concerts for audiences of friends and contacts.

Serendipity struck when Emmanuel was invited to appear on Radio 3's *In Tune*. As Bob Boas lives just round the corner from the BBC, Emmanuel

suggested performing a movement from one of the concertos. Things did not run so smoothly in practice however! Just as the ensemble (Mira, Ezo, Darwin, Pere and Daniil) were about to set up for rehearsal the fire alarm went off – so everyone had to leave their instruments and walk down eight flights of stairs to the pavement outside while the alarm was investigated. A couple of fire engines went past...and Tom Service, who was presenting the show, was whisked off to the far reaches of the Radio 2 studios in order to begin the broadcast. 5pm came and went (they had been due to play at 5.10) and at last the



ensemble was given permission to re-enter the building. However they had to quickly climb the eight flights back to the studio, and had 10 minutes in which to tune and do a very short balance test before they were on air! In spite of the less-than-ideal preparation, their performance was described as 'magical', and Tom Service was very full of praise when they had finished.

Founder's Day



Our Founder's Day week was one of the busiest all term. The celebrations at the School began with alumnus Emmanuel Despax's Chopin Concerto with a quintet of pupils.

The next day everyone met in The Menuhin Hall for

a talk and film by Anton Weinberg about the legendary Hans Keller who taught at the School in Yehudi's day. Afterwards, there was a wonderful concert with Boris, Tommy, Nigel and alumni Tetsuomi Nagata and Per Rundberg, followed by one of Jean's delicious BBQs on the lawn.



In addition to all of this, we had concerts at Hartsfield Manor, St Mary's Church for the Stoke d'Abernon Residents' Association and a piano duo at Little Slyfield, not to mention the

orchestra performing at Banstead on the weekend!

The Juniors' Treasure Hunt was postponed a week but that did not dampen their enthusiasm as they scouted for clues around the site!

Perhaps most remarkable is that this week also marked the start of public examinations, so our pupils were extremely busy revising alongside all of their musical commitments.

We are so proud of all of their incredible accomplishments, on and off the stage.



Community Engagement

On the 27 June we held one of our largest scale events of the year with nearly 600 children coming to two concerts in The Menuhin Hall. They listened to our pupils play a varied set of works as Elliott Perks narrated their journey through music, culminating in a heart-warming performance of Oscar Perks' setting of 'London's Burning' with the chorus of children accompanied by the YMS Junior Orchestra. The occasion was made even more special by the fact that we welcomed Surrey Arts to hold a joyful Singing Picnic on our grounds before joining us for the concert in the Hall.

"A big thank you for inviting us and for a truly super concert. My children loved the opportunity to hear live music played by people their age. They were truly inspired by inspiring young people."

Mrs Ann Alden
Headteacher
St Paul's C of E Primary School

"The children and staff all came back totally overwhelmed by the whole experience and by the talent of the pupils involved. They were all speaking of the beauty of the theatre and school



surroundings - the rest of us left behind were very jealous!!"

The pupils and staff of
Byfleet Primary School

"I cannot tell you how enthralled they were by the whole experience. It was a wonderful opportunity from which all who went - staff and children alike - have really benefitted. In particular hearing your students play was astounding. They are buzzing with emotion and abundant joy over the whole visit."

Susan Chrysanthou
Headteacher
Furzeffield Primary School

Care Homes Concerts

Our engagements with the community took us to four care homes this June - 'regulars' Cedar Court and the Princess Alice Hospice as well as new acquaintances Hartfield House and Springfield Nursing Home. Our pupils played a selection of Summer Festival pieces adapting to the different environments and audiences with ease. It was also at one of these concerts that our outreach keyboard, loyal companion to the School for many an outing, lost its will to make a sound mid-performance. Fortunately, backups were available while our old friend was sent off to await resurrection in Brian's workshop.

"Our patients, volunteers and visitors all really enjoyed it and several stayed back afterwards and told me it was one of the most incredible afternoons they have had for a long time. You have made a lot of people very happy."

Helen Sergeant
Community Engagement Officer
Princess Alice Hospice





The Scottish tour

Ruth Nye writes:

My thoughts go back 26 years, when the then Director of Music, Stephen Potts asked me to think of ideas to try to raise the 'position' of our five pianists in the School. This is how the



trip to Scotland (and other parts of the UK) began. In those days we drove - in February - all the way in the minibus, whereas now we go by train.

One of the first opportunities was 'Music at Blair Atholl' - right in the middle of Scotland. This was enthusiastically organised by Sebastian Thewes and Lavinia Gordon. The stables at the Thewes' lovely home was turned into a concert hall. Nowadays the dear, elderly Steinway lives in the 'ballroom' at Blair Castle (where we give two performances) and we stay at Lavinia's home - beautiful views, wonderful walks, fantastic food and warmest friends.

Our first performance of the tour is now in Berwick on the English/Scottish

border - a lovely old town. The next day a lunchtime concert in Eyemouth with fishing boats in the canal outside, then the train to the Western side of Scotland to play in the very special New Lanark. What a wonderful set of new friends we have there.

Back to Edinburgh to perform in the beautiful Canongate Kirk - a glorious setting for a concert. Even I look up to the windows and feel refreshed. And finally, the two concerts at Blair Atholl.

It is still predominantly a pianists' tour but we 'magnanimously' allow one violinist, one cellist and one guitarist to come too! I hope this will continue forever. It is such an experience and a privilege for our young musicians - in life, and in music.

Summer Festival

As always, the Summer Festival was the high point of the term with every pupil getting the chance to perform on The Menuhin Hall stage. The auditorium was packed as usual with a combination of family, Friends, alumni, donors, staff and local music lovers - and the atmosphere was one of joyous enthusiasm and heartfelt support.

The pupils' performances were glorious, as was the summer weather, and the special moments were too numerous to recount here. It was the perfect way to end the year.





Leavers' Destinations

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Can Arisoy (19, Turkey) | Guildhall School of Music and Drama |
| Sasha Boulton (18, UK) | Conservatorium van Amsterdam |
| SongHa Choi (19, South Korea) | Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin |
| Will Duerden (18, UK) | Royal College of Music, London |
| Tianyou Ma (18, China) | Curtis Institute of Music |
| Mira Marton (19, Poland) | Royal College of Music, London |
| Natasha Petrovic (19, UK) | Gap year |
| Pere Puertas Masferrer (19, Spain) | Conservatori Superior de Música del Liceu |

New pupil



Youngwoo
(11, South Korea)

Junior Citizens Event at Walton Fire Station



In June, the Juniors greatly enjoyed the Elmbridge Junior Citizens safety event. Coordinated by Child Safety Media, with assistance from Surrey Police, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, Elmbridge Borough Council, St John Ambulance, South Western Rail, Amey British Transport Police and the RNLI, the educational safety scheme teaches children how to stay out of danger in everyday situations.

The pupils were taken through a series of interactive lessons which taught them

a variety of skills, including basic first aid, water safety, railway safety, stranger danger, waste and recycling and fire safety. The scenarios were designed to challenge children and make them think for themselves, hopefully giving them the tools they need to make good decisions in difficult situations.

The Juniors reported that it was very interesting and a great reminder of how to prevent and avoid danger.

Brackenbury Art Exhibition

It is no secret that our pupils are creative but one might be forgiven for assuming that this creativity is purely musical. Anyone lucky enough to experience this year's Brackenbury Art Exhibition - held during our Summer Festival in the Kentner Room and organised by art teacher Patsy Belmonte - will testify that our pupils' talent and imagination extends to the fine arts as well.

Alongside traditional paintings and sketches, there were wonderful sculptures, mobiles and a Zulu shield. This year there was also a huge installation inside a tent, complete with film, photographic collage and handmade tiles created by pupils and staff - all carefully curated by Natasha.



X-men match

Julius writes:

19 May was a memorable day for the YMS football team as it was our annual X-men match, and Fraser had been drumming up excitement for weeks.

We played a 90 minute eight-a-side game on our beautifully cut football pitch next to Harris House. The first 10 minutes were very tense for both sides and the teams were clearly a bit rusty! However, after the X-men lost an important player due to a collision with one of the home team, we started to score, and by half time both Gorka and Daniil had scored two goals each. In the second half, we loaned Finlay to the X-men to play in goal, but his heart was clearly still with the School as he conceded six more goals!

YMS goalkeeper Kingsley made some important saves, preventing the



X-men from scoring as they mounted a strong counter-attack. Our defence was a very solid unit with Martin, Pere and Julius but, while one of them was subbed off, Ben Tarlton was able to score an absolute banger, making the score a bit more bearable. Despite this, the YMS team had held on to their unbeaten record for another year by beating the X-men with a score of 10 -1.

Daniil was awarded Man-of-the-Match with five goals, Gorka bagged three, and both Kingsley and Darwin contributed one goal each. Huge thanks to Max Calver for organising the match, to the Catering staff for preparing a tasty post-match snack and to everyone who came out to support us. We look forward to next year!

Junior Plant Sale

The Juniors write:

On 14 May, the Juniors held their annual Plant Sale on the lawn outside of Music House. It was a beautiful day - perfect for us to sell our plants to raise funds for our two chosen charities: Surfers Against Sewage and Shelterbox.

There were many varieties of plants: flowers (including geraniums and surfinas), ground cover and bedding plants, and even fruits and vegetables, like tomatoes and chillies.

Anything remaining was sold at the Lunchtime Showcase Concert later that week. After a lot of money counting, we raised a record total of over £270!



Surfers Against Sewage was founded by surfers in Cornwall who were disgusted by the amount of sewage and pollution in the rivers and seas. As a result, they decided to spread the news nationwide and arranged dates where people could volunteer to pick up rubbish. These

days, their priority is to fight the plastic pollution that blights our beaches and strangles our seashores.

Shelterbox is a charity that works with disaster-hit families around the world, offering emergency shelter and other essential items to support them in rebuilding their lives.

Activities Day

After the busy Summer Festival, Activities Day provided some much needed relaxation time. All pupils were given the choice to take part in one of five different activities.

The Juniors enjoyed an action-packed day at Thames Young Mariners working on their team building skills and tackling various obstacles.

Nearly 40 pupils went to Chessington World of Adventures and visited the zoo as well as going on some thrilling theme park rides!

Another group of 15 left at the crack of dawn for a day trip to Bruges. They

experienced a rich cultural adventure and thoroughly enjoyed their time in mainland Europe.

Others stayed much more local and enjoyed the beautiful countryside surrounding Box Hill. They took some games, a tasty picnic and went on a ramble, returning rejuvenated.

The final group headed for London Bridge to an Escape Room. With the clock ticking it was very tense but they managed to crack the clues and escape with just a couple of minutes left! Thence to Borough Market for a leisurely lunch with a range of cuisines from around the world.



Duke of Edinburgh



Over the Easter holidays, the Gold D of E group went to Snowdownia to scale the peak of Snowdon - the highest point in the British Isles outside the Scottish Highlands. They camped in the mountains for three days and two nights, navigating the trails using maps and compasses. The trek was a success as they managed not to get lost!

Jenny Dexter and Sarah Lee also took a Silver and a Bronze group to the South Downs earlier in the term. They camped in the Cuckmere Valley and at Alfriston. The weather was amazing!



Alumni news

Nicola Benedetti has just released a new album, *Violin Concerto And Fiddle Dance Suite*, out 12 July, which features two works written especially for her by world-renowned jazz musician Wynton Marsalis. The album was recorded in The Menuhin Hall.

The Summer Season Sundays series in New Lanark has hosted several YMS alumni this year, including **Damir Durmanovic** and **Frankie Carr**, and **Aïda Lahlou** who performed with Adam Heron.

The Northern Chamber Orchestra's Artist in Association **Chloë Hanslip** joined the orchestra on stage in Manchester, Macclesfield and Buxton to close the Orchestra's 51st season.

Igudesman and Joo shared the stage with The Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor **Thomas Carroll** at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre and the Sha Tin Town Hall Auditorium in April for the Asian première of 'Clash of the Soloists'.

Tasmin Little was awarded BBC Music Magazine's 2019 Personality of the Year in recognition of her



Igudesman & Joo

contribution to classical music over the course of her career. Earlier this year, she announced her retirement from the concert platform to focus on other interests including giving masterclasses, participating in juries for competitions and advancing the effort to ensure music remains a vital component of the national curriculum.

Bart LaFollette, **Vlad Maistorovici** and **Benjamin Marquise Gilmore** performed at the annual Marryat Players Chamber Music Festival in Wimbledon in June.

Kevin Loh will perform the *Concierto de Aranjuez* in the President's Young Performer's Concert with the

Singapore Symphony Orchestra on 27 September.

The **Marmen Quartet** (including alumni **Ricky Gore** on violin and **Steffan Morris** on cello) won the Grand Prize in the Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition. The prize includes a three-year international tour.

Andrew Samarasekara led a performance of the world premiere of *Gammified* for string quartet and electronics – by the composer Tod Machover. The performance at MIT opened the BrainMind Summit conference to an audience of the world's top neurological scientists presenting their latest breakthroughs.



The Marmen Quartet

Jacob Shaw's Scandinavian Cello School has just released a short film which gives a flavour of a day in the life of the school. It is available to watch on their Facebook page.

Bella Tang won the Concerto Prize at the Ealing Concerto Competition, and will perform as a soloist with the Ealing Symphony Orchestra at St Barnabas next year.

Staff news

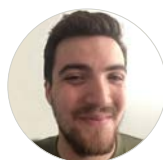
Caroline Emery has received a Special Recognition Award for Teaching from the International Society of Double Bassists - the first woman to receive the award.

Laura Snowden, and Mariko Brown

with duo partner Julian Jacobson, have been chosen for the Making Music Selected Artists Guide 2019.

Laura was also part of their Adopt-a-Composer Project last Autumn, and was paired with Chandos Chamber Choir.

We would also like to extend our very best wishes to **Hannah Maitland** and **Simon May, Oscar Perks** and alumna **Ayaka Shigeno**, and **Sarah McDonald** and her partner David Cooper - all of whom are getting married this summer.



New staff

Simon May is our new Swimming Coach. This term he has been overseeing PE and has been working with Marco looking after the boys in Harris House. He has four years of independent swimming teaching and coaching up to a GB level. Having previously worked with one of the South East's most respected coaches, Simon says that he hopes to bring a love for sport and swimming to as many people as possible, with a desire to improve lives along the way.

Staff leavers

Leaving us at the end of this term is **Kate Clanchy**. We would like to thank her for her dedication and hard work over the past 18 months as Head, and we wish her all the best. We are pleased to welcome back **Richard Tanner**, former Director of Academic Studies, as Interim Head.

We also say goodbye to **Angela Bradshaw**. Angela will be missed by all the pupils who greatly enjoyed their Alexander Technique sessions with her. However, family commitments have meant that she must leave us.

We are also very sorry to be losing **Didier Descamps** at the end of term, who is leaving us to join Leighton Park School in Reading where he will be Head of Languages. A shorter daily commute will allow him to spend more time with his young family.

Earlier in the Spring, **Fraser Dewar** took up the post of Head of Boarding at the Hammond School. He will be particularly missed by his boys in Harris House. As the Hammond is another Music and Dance Scheme school, we hope that he will feel right at home!

Recording in the Hall

The Menuhin Hall offers alumni and current teachers a **50% discount on Hall and piano hire for commercial recordings.**

Recently, we have welcomed alumni **Charles Owen, Lucy Parham** and **Nicola Benedetti**, as well as teachers

Mariko Brown, Nathan Williamson and **Oscar Perks.**

For further information, please contact:

Alice Benzing, Menuhin Hall Manager
alice.benzing@menuhinschool.co.uk
01932 584408.

This term in The Menuhin Hall

As so many events rush by in The Menuhin Hall, it is a real pleasure to take a moment to look back on some of the truly world-class performances the Hall has hosted this term.

Each year the YMS pupils continue to negotiate the jam-packed Summer Term with ease, juggling academic exams and revision, all while giving exceptional performances in our ever popular Showcase series. Much as academic work concludes with exams, the Summer Festival is the culmination of all our pupils' incredible musical achievements this year, and the Festival never disappoints. Alongside all the beautiful individual performances, the orchestral concerts were a real celebration of dedication, teamwork, and, of course, music. Each pupil should be applauded for their hard work, and of course we cannot forget the staff, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the pupils are sounding their very best.

Anyone lucky enough to get a ticket for the sold-out Emmanuel Despax concert last April, was treated to a feast of Chopin Piano Concerti -



Emmanuel Despax

what a wonderful way to celebrate Yehudi Menuhin's birth, with one of our incredible past pupils. Anthony Marwood and Aleksandar Madžar provided an evening of violin and piano gems in May, and in June, the Dante Quartet brought drama and music together to illustrate Beethoven's life and his battle with deafness. This was a unique event and a real treat, both musically and historically.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you, our concertgoers, for your continuing support of both the Hall and the School. Without you, The Menuhin Hall would not be the success it is today, and your contribution to our community is both vital and touching. I wish you all an enjoyable summer, and look forward to welcoming you in September for more exceptional experiences in our wonderful venue.

Alice Benzing, Menuhin Hall Manager



The Dante Quartet



Next term

There's plenty to look forward to next term in The Menuhin Hall, from Lawrence Power (the wonderful violist) to jazz and swing with Watermill Jazz, and from the Piatti Quartet's performance of Schubert's *String Quartet D887* to the London Concertante's first visit to our Hall - we have a busy Autumn ahead of us. Other

highlights include the first of two visits from Peter Medhurst and the annual Grange Christmas Concert, guaranteed to get you in the Christmas spirit.

The YMS pupils will continue to present world-class music in our Showcase concerts, and the Orchestra, under Óscar Colomina I Bosch's baton,

will perform the beautiful *Adagietto* from Mahler's *Symphony No 5* in our Christmas Showcases.

Tickets for our Autumn/Winter season go on sale to the general public on Tuesday 27 August, and to Friends of YMS on Monday 12 August.



The Piatti Quartet



Lawrence Power

Coming up @ The Menuhin Hall

SEPTEMBER

THURS 26 SEP 7.30PM SHOWCASE CONCERT

OCTOBER

SAT 5 OCT 7.30PM COBHAM BAND PRESENTS
MUSIC FROM STAGE AND SCREEN

FRI 11 OCT 7.30PM LAWRENCE POWER AND SIMON CRAWFORD-PHILLIPS

TUES 15 OCT 7.30PM SHOWCASE CONCERT

SAT 19 OCT 7.30PM LONDON CONCERTANTE

MON 28 OCT 10.30AM THE ROMANTIC PERIOD WITH PETER MEDHURST

NOVEMBER

TUES 5 NOV 7.30PM PIATTI QUARTET

SAT 9 NOV 7.30PM WATERMILL JAZZ PRESENTS
KEITH NICHOLS AND THE BLUE DEVILS

THURS 14 NOV 7.30PM SHOWCASE CONCERT

DECEMBER

SUN 8 DEC 2PM CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE CONCERT

MON 9 DEC 7.30PM CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE CONCERT

TUES 10 DEC 7.30PM CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE CONCERT

Christmas Concerts

Our Christmas Concerts are always extremely popular and indeed sell out every year. We always hate to turn people away so, to accommodate the ever-increasing demand for tickets, we have decided to run a third performance this year.

We hope that this will mean that everyone in our community - from Friends, to staff and parents - has the chance to experience this wonderfully special event.

Even with the extra concert it will be very busy, so please book your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

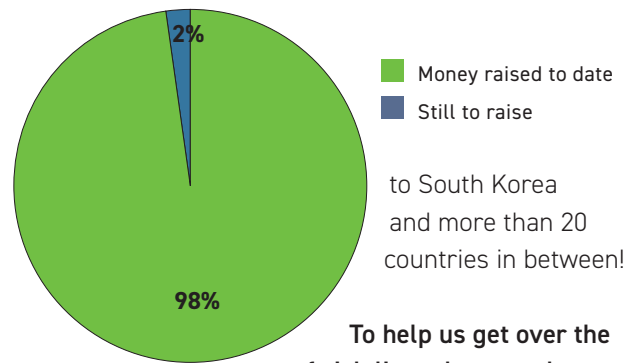
Nearly there!

In our Spring newsletter we shared our need to reach an ambitious target of £1.235 million by the end of August in order to provide the best possible educational experience to our pupils, and support the 90% of students who would not be able to attend the School without some level of financial assistance.

I am delighted to announce that, thanks to the immense generosity of our Friends, donors, corporate partners, trusts and foundations, we are within

touching distance of reaching that ambitious goal, with only £30,000 left to raise between now and 31 August.

A huge thank you to all of you for your incredible generosity and support. You can take great pride in knowing you have helped to sustain the future of classical music across the world, from the United Kingdom



To help us get over the finish line, please make a

secure donation online at:

www.menuhinschool.co.uk/support-us/donate-now or contact:

Alix de Mauny, Development Director
01932584746

alix.demauny@menuhinschool.co.uk.

The Menuhin Circle

Our incoming Chair, David Buckley launched a new giving programme at this year's Wigmore Hall concert. **The Menuhin Circle brings together people who donate between £1,000 and £5,000 per year to our Annual Fund for a minimum of three years.**

Contributions to the Annual Fund allow the School to direct funds to the areas of greatest need, as well as seizing opportunities as they arise.

Joining the Circle brings a number of benefits, including invitations to public and private events in and around London and Surrey; an annual Menuhin Circle concert and reception in London, priority booking for our Menuhin Hall concerts and even the opportunity to join the School Orchestra on tour!

For more information or to join the Menuhin Circle, please contact Beth Quartermaine
01932 584744 / beth.quartermaine@menuhinschool.co.uk

Did you know...

...that we have 65 pianos across the School?



From concert grands in performance spaces, to our fleet of teaching instruments in the Music Studios, and upright practice pianos in (almost!) every room in the boarding houses, pianos play a huge part in the day-to-day life of our pupils. Our students need constant access to high-quality pianos which must be kept in top-condition - meaning frequent tuning, repairs, and replacements. Piano tuners recommend tuning a piano once every six months when it is situated in a home, let alone instruments in daily use by musicians in training!

In September we are launching an extensive piano overhaul programme to ensure that all of our pupils have access to instruments of the quality that they require. On top of servicing and repairs, we estimate that we will need to replace a minimum of three upright pianos every year over the next five years to ensure that our practice pianos are of an acceptable standard.

At this point, we need to raise at least £38,000 for tuning and servicing our pianos, and an additional £10,000 to kick-start a rolling programme of piano replacements. This will ensure that our pupils have the instruments that they need to help them reach their potential.

To contribute to our piano campaign please contact:

Beth Quartermaine
Head of Philanthropy
01932 584744
beth.quartermaine@menuhinschool.co.uk

Diplomatic relations – celebrating our international outlook

Over the Summer term we had the honour of hosting ambassadors and representatives from a range of embassies. These visits have given our pupils the opportunity to meet and perform for delegations from their home countries. All of our guests have been extremely impressed by the talent and maturity of the pupils.

In May, we welcomed both HE Mr Simon Smits, Dutch Ambassador to the UK, and Ms Ahenk Dereli, Political Counsellor at the Turkish Embassy, to our Lunchtime

Showcase Concert and afterwards at a reception in the Kentner Room.

We were delighted that HE Mrs Aleksandra Joksimović, Serbian Ambassador to the UK, and Ms Semay Kayapinar, Second Secretary at the Turkish Embassy, were able to join us for our annual concert at the Wigmore Hall on 30 June.

Over the course of the Summer Festival we were joined by delegations from the Chinese Embassy to the UK; the Taipei Representative Office in the UK, and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea.



HE Mr Simon Smits with Dutch pupils



Mr Sungho Min with S. Korean pupils



Ms Ahenk Dereli with Turkish pupils



Representative Lin and Ms Jo Jsu with Taiwanese pupils



Mr Yu Peng, Mrs Xue Ling, Prof Hu Kun, Ms Mo Xia, Jonathan Benthall and Zamira Menuhin Benthall with Richard Tanner, Òscar Colomina and Chinese pupils

Aston Lark

We are pleased to welcome insurance brokers Aston Lark to our family of supporters. Aston Lark is one of the top five independent Chartered insurance brokers in the country placing over £250 million of premium into the insurance market. Under the brand Lark Music they provide insurance to musicians, schools, music dealers and orchestras, and are active supporters of the musical arts. Aston Lark is kindly supporting the School's Bursary Fund from September onwards, helping us to provide financial aid to students who would not otherwise be able to attend the School.

LARKmusic



From the Chairman

Dear Friends

At the start, I would like to acknowledge the series of leadership changes taking place within the School. Both Kate and Òscar have made many friends amongst us and change always breeds uncertainty. But throughout this period, I have given my full support to the Governors and Leadership team, and I am sure that many of you will be lending yours personally to the staff members and pupils whom you know.

The steadfast and enthusiastic support of the Friends, both financially and as welcoming audience members for the pupils, is something for which both the School and I are immensely grateful.

With that in mind, I would like to thank you all for the membership contributions and donations that you have made this year. I am delighted to tell you that this year the Friends have made a donation of £40,000 to the School; £25,000 towards Bursaries, £5,000 towards the Student Hardship Fund, and £10,000 towards the replacement of pianos in the boarding houses. This is of course on top of all the concert tickets purchased, donations made directly to the School by the Friends, and legacies given by those who had chosen to leave gifts in their Wills.

Some Friends have asked me why the Friends Committee has allocated

part of the Friends' support for the School towards piano replacements. The School has an enormous fleet of pianos, including one in almost every room in the boarding houses.



As part of their musical education, the pupils need constant access to good quality instruments in order to practise effectively. As Friends, we are here to support the pupils' needs – and after the

School told us about the poor condition of some of the practice pianos in the boarding houses, we wanted to help.

Many of you kindly give additional donations when renewing your Friends membership, and from September you will have the choice of allocating this to the piano campaign if you wish. But of course we are hoping to raise additional money and you will hear more about this over the coming months from Alix and Beth, who are always available should you have any questions.

I wish you a wonderful summer break, and look forward to seeing you at The Menuhin Hall in September to greet the new intake of pupils, and renew acquaintance with those whose performances we already admire and love.

Sir John Baker

Chairman, The Friends of
The Yehudi Menuhin School
Management Committee

Friends Community

Those of you who come to The Menuhin Hall will no doubt have experienced the familial and supportive atmosphere amongst the Friends, pupils and staff. This is one of the areas of the School of which we are most proud, and we have some ideas around how we can make the most of this support.

Become an Ambassador

We are looking for volunteers to run a brand new Friends desk at events at The Menuhin Hall, and to spread the word about the Friends at local concerts in the community.

As our most committed supporters, you are the best ambassadors for the School, and we hope you will help us share our music with as many local residents as possible.

Give a Friend a lift

We are saddened to hear that some Friends can no longer join us for evening concerts at The Menuhin Hall as they would prefer not to drive in the dark. To address this we would like to help facilitate a car sharing scheme to link up local people who are able to help a neighbour by providing a lift to our concerts. This scheme will also have the benefit of reducing traffic in the area on concert days and improving the environment.

If you think you can help in any of these ways or would like further information, please contact Beth Quartermaine on 01932 584744 or beth.quartermaine@menuhinschool.co.uk.

Remembering Nanette: a lovely wee Scottish lady

During her life, Miss Nanette Peggie was a devoted patron of the School and a keen concert-goer at the Hall. Nanette left a significant gift to the School in her will, enabling us not only to carry out vital repairs to the School's infrastructure, but also to offer the Nanette Peggie Bursary over the next five academic years. We are deeply grateful for her generosity - she has left the School a lasting legacy in more ways than one.

We asked her cousin Margaret to share some of her memories of an exceptional lady.

"For anyone privileged to have known Nanette - was to enjoy someone's company who was always so cheerful, kindly and outwardly welcoming. This lovely wee family member was one of the most delightful and engaging of people. Never a bad or a demeaning word could be heard from her; instead you were always left with the impression of her strong sense of loyalty and correctness. Dropping in to take her out somewhere



or just to chat was never greeted with anything but delight.

The gentleness Nanette possessed should not overshadow her capabilities and sense of focus - for years she filed her own tax returns. Nanette had that strong Scottish Presbyterian ethic, where there was only a right and just way of doing things. Shortcuts or sloppiness were never part of her

modus operandi and should you make a mistake of forgetting that, you would soon be reprimanded with her own distinctive "look" of suppressed disapproval. Nanette

was a very successful banking executive and so highly regarded by her Greek boss that she would often be flown out of the country First Class to carry out tasks in Greece for him. For once her Scottish instinct to always spend wisely did not interfere with that little hardship! Her business acumen and judgement seemed to stem from

a real attention to detail. Nanette and her sister Helen, who passed away several years ago, were part of a close knit little group, and never forgot their Scottish heritage. Within the family we discovered that her pet name was "squirrel". We realised this sobriquet fitted her quite well when faced with the unenviable task of going through all the "squirrel's" paperwork!

For Nanette the company and pleasure of her cousin's grandchildren was something she really enjoyed. One quality of Nanette's that will always be remembered was her wry sense of humour. Never a person occasioned to use bad language: even a "damn" was abhorrent to her. That said - she was heard to personally blame someone for interrupting her planned TV viewing schedules when the 2016 Football World Cup was being televised. During those four weeks she was constantly heard saying: "you and your bloody football are ruining my TV programmes". The only slight reprieve was that on her 90th birthday that same innocent presented her a coffee mug inscribed with the words: "I Love Bloody Football".

Bridge Tea

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's Bridge Tea such a success. We are thrilled to announce that this year the event raised a record beating £1,129!

An extra special thank you to Sheila Rice-Smith for her tireless efforts in organising this wonderful afternoon.

Join us! Become a Friend today

Friends enjoy a range of benefits, including priority booking for performances in The Menuhin Hall, invitations to masterclasses and pre-concert receptions, and special offers from local businesses, including 20% off at The Old Plough in Cobham, 10% off at The Cobham Bookstore and half-price membership of Denbies

Winery. Best Friends also receive complimentary tickets to a Summer Festival Showcase Concert.

Membership starts at only £35 per year. **Just email friends@menuhinschool.co.uk to request an information pack, or pick one up in The Menuhin Hall foyer.**

e Men in Hall

