



The Yehudi Menuhin School

The International Music School founded by Yehudi Menuhin

Registered Charity 312010

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Newsletter

Autumn 2019

Looking ahead

We are delighted to announce that significant appointments have been made as The Yehudi Menuhin School starts a new decade.

Ben Gudgeon will take up the Headship of the School and **Ashley Wass** will begin the role of Director of Music at the start of the Summer term. David Buckley, Chair of Governors said, "We look forward to a strong partnership as they begin leading the School together, working closely with the staff, and nurturing and developing those special musical, creative and collaborative qualities that lie at the heart of YMS."

Ben is currently Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral) at Sherborne Girls in Dorset. He leads the pastoral provision of the school, before which he oversaw staff development, the co-curricular programme and the day-to-day running of the school. He read Music and French at Bristol University and at the Sorbonne, in Paris. Following this, he undertook graduate studies in vocal performance, conducting and piano where he also taught undergraduate music theory and piano.

Prior to his current role, he was Head of the Faculty of Performing Arts at Churcher's College, and then Director of Music at Dauntsey's School.

Ashley has a wonderful career as a pianist, both as a performer and recording artist, and in music education. He was Professor of Piano at the Royal College of Music for ten years before becoming Deputy Head of Keyboard at the Royal Northern College of Music, which included pastoral care and staff management. He was also Senior Professor of Piano at Bristol University and Artistic Director of the Lincolnshire International Chamber Music Festival.

Tasmin Little OBE has been our Musical Patron for many years and we are delighted that she has accepted the role of Co-President. Tasmin is very busy in her valedictory year of performance, and will be performing in The Menuhin Hall on 11 June. As an alumna of the School she has always been a strong supporter, and we look forward to her continued involvement in the life of YMS.

We are also deeply honoured that renowned pianist, conductor and

musicologist, **Professor Robert Levin**, has agreed to become a Musical Patron. During a recent visit, Professor Levin gave a series of inspirational talks and coaching sessions in which he perfectly put into words the challenge ahead:

"The School is the living monument to Yehudi's wisdom and vision, and all involved in its daily life are constantly inspired and challenged by his abiding spiritual presence. We must keep all of this in mind... preserving and deepening his legacy, putting the future of the School before any sense of self, drawing the gifted students into the magical aura of artistic aspiration, and give them the formation that will enable them to persevere in the enthralling and unpredictable path to becoming their fulfilled selves."



Ben Gudgeon



Ashley Wass



Tasmin Little



Robert Levin

| | |
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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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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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Competitions

It was a busy and successful term for our pupils who took part in many competitions around the world.

Claire won Second Prize in Piano Category I of the Antonio Vivaldi International Piano and Strings Competition in Vienna.

Coco was awarded the Carl Flesch Prize at the Carl Flesch Academy.

Darwin reached the Finals in both the Kloster Schöntal and Ysaÿe Violin Competitions. At the Kloster Schöntal he was also awarded the Bach Prize for the best interpretation of a Baroque piece.

Duru won First Prize in the Young Pianist of the North Competition in Newcastle in November.

Emili reached the Finals of the International Louis Spohr Competition for Young Violinists in Germany.

At the Ilona Fehér Competition in Hungary, **Mariam** and **Yume** both won



First Prize in their respective age groups and **Benedetta** won Second Prize in hers.

Pendo reached the Finals of the National Youth Music Competition in South Africa.

Claire has been selected to participate in the Menuhin Competition in Richmond, VA in 2020.



Out and about

Much of the music-making in the Autumn was given over to private events, but among the public events in November were lunchtime recitals at the Foundling Museum in Brunswick Square, London, and at the Wimbledon International Music Festival. The Foundling Museum always ask for a programme that includes a connection either to children or to their founders, one of whom was Handel; accordingly, the programme included a violin sonata by Handel and five pieces by Shostakovich arranged for two violins and piano which were played by three of the younger pupils. The Shostakovich pieces also made an appearance at the Wimbledon Festival, alongside works by Schumann and Prokofiev.

It was a joy to return to Champs Hill for a full-length recital, for which we were able to offer a programme of music by Bach, Beethoven and Brahms including a performance of Beethoven's *Quartet Op 59 No 3* (Razumovsky). The capacity audience



received this work in particular with cheers. One listener was the much-loved actress Patricia Routledge, who allowed us to take a photo of her with the performers.

Several students performed concertos with various orchestras. Evie played Mozart's *Violin Concerto No 3* with the



Dorking Chamber Orchestra as part of the Mole Valley Arts Alive Festival, and Caterina travelled to Wiltshire for a performance of Schumann's *Cello Concerto* with the Marlborough

Concert Orchestra. Coco played

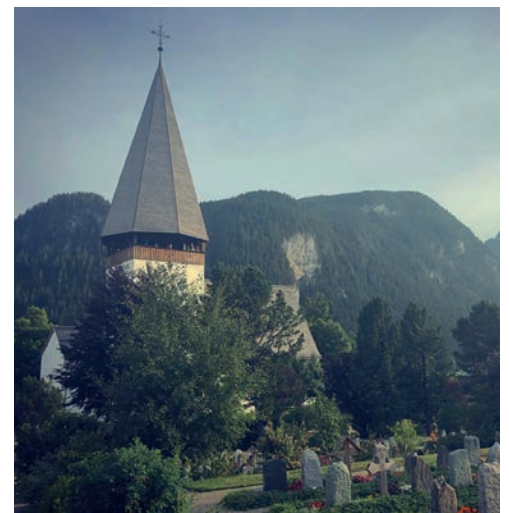
Beethoven's *Violin Concerto* with the Medico Orchestra under the baton of YMS General Music Teacher Matthew Taylor, and Ezo performed Brahms' *Double Concerto* with alumnus Joe Pritchard.

The Menuhin Festival, Gstaad

One of the highlights of the concert diary is the school's biennial visit to the Menuhin Festival in Gstaad.

This year's visit was enhanced by the addition of an Erhu – a traditional Chinese instrument which is sometimes referred to as a Chinese cello. Renowned musician Peng Fang played three pieces with the orchestra, from a suite written by Shion Kanata and arranged for this

performance by Joe Koyama. SongHa and Tianyou were the soloists for the ever-popular *Concerto for Two Violins in D minor* by Bach, and Can jumped from harpsichord in the Bach to Piano Obligato in Bloch's *Concerto Grosso No 1*. The programme was completed by Schönberg's *Verklarte Nacht* in a breathtakingly intense performance, which was very well received by the audience.



The Yehudi Menuhin School China



In September the School was proud to announce that we are setting up our first international music school, to be located in Qingdao, China. We will work with the Qingdao Urban Construction Group (QUCG) to bring our unique model for music education to the Far East. The opening is planned for 2022-23.

YMS will contribute The Yehudi Menuhin School name and expertise in setting up and running a specialist music school within a holistic academic environment. Key appointments, including the Head, Director of Music and Bursar, will be controlled by YMS to ensure that Yehudi Menuhin's vision and ethos will run through every area of the new institution. There will be opportunities for teacher and pupil exchange, which will benefit both



current and future pupils, and UK staff will visit regularly to carry out inspections to make certain that the new school is adhering to the ideals of its British parent school.

A city of 10 million people, Qingdao is ideally located between Beijing and Shanghai, just across the water from both South Korea and Japan, thus enabling The Yehudi Menuhin School China to attract the highest level of talent from the region. It has a flourishing economy both as a port city and a tourist destination, and is fast developing its cultural activities with support from major private institutions such as the Qingdao Urban Construction Group. QUCG's long-standing Chairman, Kong Shaowu, is a former musician and architect.

David Buckley, Chair of Governors said: "The announcement of our plans to open the Yehudi Menuhin School in Qingdao marks an exciting new opportunity to open our first

International School outside of the UK, and to establish a strategic presence for the School in China. Together with our partners, the Qingdao Urban Construction Group, we plan to replicate the unique model for music education that Yehudi Menuhin created to attract the highest levels of talent in the region and to develop new opportunities for cultural exchange between our two countries."

Zamira Menuhin Benthall said: "I vividly recall how my father talked of his deep love and admiration for China, which he visited several times, having always been fascinated by its culture. My father was always a passionate advocate for music as a universal language, overriding differences of nationality and politics. We are most grateful to Mr Kong Shaowu, who shares my father's commitment to the importance of educating musically gifted young people to bring out their full human potential, as well as their technical skills. I believe we all support this goal and I trust in the people of Qingdao to make it a reality."

Community Engagement



Our composers' project started off with our Head of Composition, John Cooney, working his way through a series of musical ideas of increasing complexity, expertly demonstrated by our quartet. The group then wrapped up the event with a performance of the first movement from Prokofiev's *String Quartet No 2*. It was especially exciting

to welcome – among many old friends – newcomers Cobham Free School and Reigate College to the project.

After several meetings and clinics with the budding composers and our Outreach Officer, Tamas Reti, the pieces are gradually taking shape for the upcoming workshop in January.

With works ranging from fugues and Haydnesque string quartets to a cabaret song of Voldemort lamenting the loss of his nose, there is certainly a lot to look forward to, and we eagerly await to hear what it all sounds like in a month's time!

Our Cs and Ds were busy at the beginning of December with their regular concert in The Menuhin Hall followed by visits to three schools and one care home where, together with Miho and Nigel, they performed a variety of pieces while Cathy linked everything up with masterful narration. The residents of Moore Place declared that it was the best entertainment they had had in the whole year. Given that it was already December when they made this proclamation, it certainly is an achievement of which our youngest pupils should be proud!





A fiery evening of *Dragons* in Horsham

With over 300 young performers, singers and instrumentalists, St Mary's Church Horsham was filled to capacity for the closing event of the Shipley Arts and Horsham Festivals.

A group of our pupils joined some excellent young musicians from the String Academy and a choir of children from local schools to perform in Malcolm Singer's *Dragons*.

The performers had come together over the term to workshop the pieces and the end result was a truly inspirational evening.



Celebrating Zamira

At the end of September, we were privileged to help Zamira Menuhin Benthall celebrate her 80th birthday with friends and family.

Despite the weather, the atmosphere was warm and happy, with friends, family members and alumni of the School coming together to celebrate Zamira and all she contributes to the School and the wider world. A concert with former and current pupils included music that had meant something special to Yehudi, and in turn to Zamira. Alumni performers included Valeriy Sokolov, Melvyn Tan, Alina Ibragimova, Tasmin Little, Akiko Ono, Boris Kucharsky, Bennet Ortmann, Sào Soulez Larivière, Max Calver, SongHa Choi, Joe Pritchard, Tianyou Ma and Can Arisoy. They were joined by Kingsley, Coco, Gorka and Richard, and the YMS Orchestra conducted by Òscar.

Alongside a delicious lunch, we were treated to some very special cake, baked with love by Lourdes Samarasekara! It was a joyful occasion, filled with happy reunions,



new friendships and, of course, truly magnificent music.

Later in the term, we invited Zamira and Jonathan back to the School to plant a tree in the grounds of the School like Yehudi did when he turned 80. She chose a beautiful Silver Birch, and Brian and Steve selected a spot where the paths from the White House and Music House intersect on the way down to The Menuhin Hall, so that everyone will pass it on their various journeys during the day.

Zamira and Jonathan joined us for what turned out to be the coldest day of term so far! We all bundled up and met on the path after lunch to watch Zamira sprinkle the first bits of earth on the roots of the young tree, followed by Jonathan, Òscar, Lourdes and others, before hurrying into the warmth of the Hall to listen to another wonderful Lunchtime Concert.



| PROGRAMME | |
|--|--|
| Sonata for violin and piano No 1 Second movement: Adagio Valeriy Sokolov Violin Gorka Plada Piano | Béla Bartók (1881 - 1945) |
| Four Impromptus D899 (Op 90) No 3 in G flat major No 4 in A flat major Melvyn Tan Piano | Franz Schubert (1797 - 1828) |
| Sonata for violin and piano L140 Allegro vivo Intermède: Fantastique et léger Finale: Très animé Alina Ibragimova Violin Richard Zhang Piano | Claude Debussy (1862 - 1918) |
| Hora Bessarabia Tasmin Little Violin | Roxanna Panufnik (b1968) |
| Octet in E flat major Op 20 First movement: Allegro moderato ma con fuoco Akiko Ono Violin I Coco Tomita Violin II Kingsley Lin Violin III Boris Kucharsky Violin IV | Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847) Sào Soulez Larivière Viola I Bennet Ortmann Viola II Max Calver Cello I Joe Pritchard Cello II |
| Concerto for two violins in D minor BWV1043 Violino Largo ma non tanto Allegro SongHa Choi Violin Tianyou Ma Violin The YMS Orchestra Directed by Òscar Colomina i Bosch | Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750) |



Bonfire night

Bonfire night was a special one this year, not only because we had our usual fireworks and bonfire expertly created by Brian and Steve, paired with a warming and delicious barbeque prepared by the Catering staff, but there was also an event taking place in The Menuhin Hall so our guests were also able to enjoy the celebrations as they went into the concert.



Remembrance Day

For Remembrance Day this year, our whole school gathered together outside the Music Studios to think on those who gave their lives in the Great War and in conflicts around the world. We listened to moving readings by Richard Tanner, Young, Jelena and Nathan, and a haunting 'Last Post' by Hugo on the viola.

In the Junior classroom, after discussing the horrors of the Great War, Esther and Hayden wrote their own poems on the subject.



The Apollo Philharmonic Orchestra



Ezo Dem Sarici writes:

On 31 October, the Apollo Philharmonic Orchestra had their premiere at St James' Church in Sussex Gardens, Paddington.

The APO started off as a distant dream of Kingsley's and mine many months before. After numerous email exchanges and collaborations with many young musicians, the dream finally became a reality!

I serve as Artistic Director and Kingsley is Principal Conductor. It was a fantastic experience for Menuhin School pupils to play alongside Purcell, Royal Academy and Royal College of Music students.

Alumni performed as well, and the audience was bustling with such great support from many students and families from the School.

New pupils

This term we have enjoyed welcoming ten talented new pupils from six different countries. They have been participating in a variety of activities, both musical and otherwise, and are proving themselves to be great assets to the School. We are very pleased to have them with us.



Daphne (13, Malta) began learning the piano at the age of 4, gaining her LTCL at 12. She recently won 1st Prize at the Debut International Piano Competition, and gave a 30 minute recital at Carnegie Hall.



Hayden (9, UK) plays the cello and the piano. His favourite composer is Bach and he also loves composing, reading and painting.



Emanuel (16, UK) plays the double bass and the piano. He enjoys composition and history, and one of his favourite composers is Rachmaninoff.



Jackson (12, China) plays the violin and especially enjoys Baroque music. He loves Bach and Vivaldi, and one day wants to graduate from a music university.



Enpei (11, UK) plays the violin and is in his first year at the School. When not practising, he enjoys reading science fiction novels.



Lukas (14, UK) began playing the double bass at the age of 11 and studies with Caroline Emery. He enjoys listening to many different genres of music.



Esther (11, Belgium) plays the piano. Her dream is to win the Chopin Competition, and her favourite piece is Chopin's *Etude Op 25 No 11*.



Rezi (16, Georgia) has played the cello since the age of 8. He won First Prize in the Taktakishvili International Competition in Tbilisi. He also enjoys football and swimming.



HaoRan (14, China) plays the cello and the piano. Before coming to YMS this year, he studied at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing.



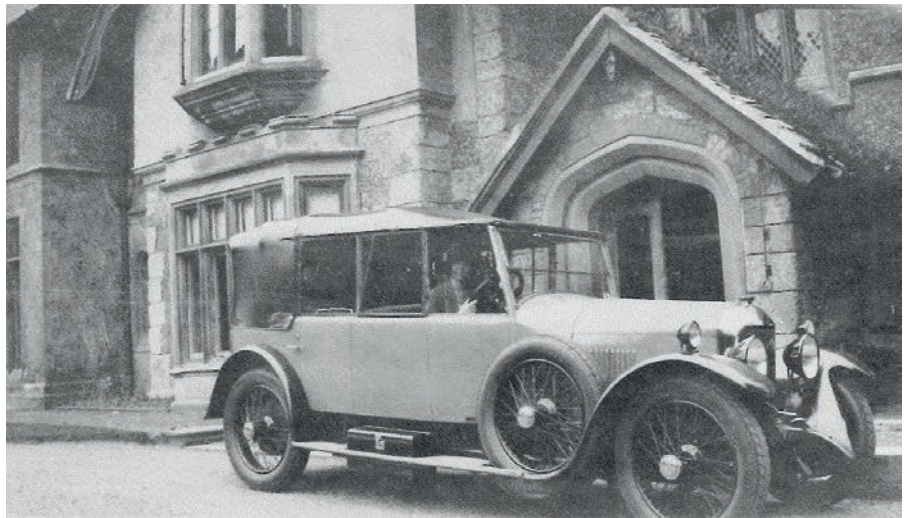
Vadym (14, Ukraine) plays the violin and won 1st Prize in the Rubinstein, Dvarionas, Gnessin and Cornelia Bronzetti competitions.

A portrait of the past

History Teacher Sarah Howell writes:

At the beginning of an academic year, I usually start by teaching my C1 history students the 'basics'. What is history? How can we learn it? What types of evidence are there? How can you use sources to come to valid historical judgements? To help make my point, one of my favourite lessons is when I let the students become the detectives. They are faced with a series of obscure-looking objects and artefacts which I found whilst gardening when I lived here on site in what was called 'The Bothy'. This leads them to ask which bits are relevant and which bits are anachronistic. By guiding their discussions and helping them study the Google satellite view along with historic maps of the area, the students are able to piece together that the School site was actually part of a wider estate - in fact an historic home, connected to a larger manor with a walled garden and 17th century gardener's cottage, 'The Bothy'.

We always have many unanswered questions about the history of our buildings and grounds, and would love to learn more. But this year I was delighted to be able to share with the



pupils a very precious photo album which was donated to the School by Ian Nelson and the Stoke d'Abernon Residents' Association when we had the opportunity to perform at one of their gatherings of local residents earlier this year.

Within this photo album are fascinating pictures of the school grounds when it was a family home in the 1920s. It is possible to see how the Norris and Kentner Rooms looked in all their panelled glory, and to catch a glimpse of the long forgotten 'organ gallery' above the foyer of Music House. It is also fascinating to see how the grounds once looked with croquet lawns and a Japanese summer house, and spot

some of the stately cedar trees that still stand today. One wonders how the School will look to pupils a hundred years from now – what will have changed and what will seem fondly familiar.



Milfield old cedar with Miss Crombie Lily Stella Stella July 1925.



Archway view outside Stables Milfield Doris Pam Stella June 1925.

Duke of Edinburgh



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



Expeditions

On one of the rare weekends this Autumn with just one day of rain, Sarah, David and Jenny took both Silver and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh groups to the New Forest to complete their assessed expeditions.

The assessor was very impressed with their navigational skills and how they found themselves in the right place even when footpaths had disappeared!

The DofE award promotes resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, and our students gained lots of experience in these areas whilst hiking through the bogs of the Forest together.

Fundraising

To complete their volunteering requirement, the Silver DofE pupils organised a Summer Fete for the whole school.

Although the most popular stall was throwing the sponge at the teachers, the other stalls were well-visited as well. These included finding treasure, 'Beat the Goalkeeper' and, of course, a traditional cake stall.

It was deemed so popular that there has been a request to make it an annual event!

Awards Presentation

In October our pupils joined hundreds of others from the local area to be presented with their Bronze and Silver awards. We were especially delighted this year that the entire group of C3s completed their Bronze award within the year. The Silver group are ready to go on to start their Gold award next year. Thank you to Jennie Dexter and Sarah Lee for volunteering so much of their time to make the DofE programme a success.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bronze recipients: | Silver recipients: |
| Alasdair | Hattie Q |
| Isla | Isabel |
| Jana | Mika |
| Kenza | Nathan |
| Richard | Pendo |
| Tom | |

Alumni news

Will Duerden performed with the Waverley Ensemble at St Christopher's Church in Haslemere as a result of winning the Haslemere String Competition earlier in the year.

Chloë Hanslip has been appointed as Visiting Professor at The Royal Academy of Music, in London.

Alina Ibragimova was awarded the Instrumentalist Award at the 30th anniversary of the Royal Philharmonic Society Awards.

The Marmen Quartet (with alumni **Ricky Gore** on violin and **Steffan Morris** on cello) was awarded Joint 1st Prize at the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition.

Benjamin Marquise Gilmore has been appointed Joint Concertmaster of the Philharmonia Orchestra, a position he will share with the ensemble's longstanding Concertmaster Zsolt-Tihamér Visontay. Gilmore was

appointed leader of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in 2016, where he will continue as Joint Leader, sharing the role with Stephanie Gonley.



Chloë Hanslip

Having just finished serving his two years of mandatory military service as a Combat Engineer Pioneer in the Singapore Armed Forces, **Kevin Loh** will be pursuing his undergraduate degree in Music at the University of Cambridge as a scholar of the Loke Cheng-Kim Foundation.

The London premiere of **Lucy Parham's** *I, Clara* took place at Kings Place on 6 October. The sold-out performance was narrated by Dame Harriet Walter and was part of the London Piano Festival.

Louisa Staples won the Special Award of the Villa Musica at the International Louis Spohr Competition for Young Violinists.



Aisha Syed was awarded the Youth of the Year Award 2019 for her Music for Life foundation, which brings music to schools, hospitals, hospices, orphanages and prisons. The award was presented by Dominican newspaper *Diario Libre*.

Luke Turrell won the 1st Solo Viola position at Leipzig Gewandhaus.

Recording in the Hall

The Menuhin Hall is pleased to offer 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 the Menuhin Hall Team at box.office@menuhinschool.co.uk.



Benjamin Marquise Gilmore

New staff



Ha Im Choi joins us as Violin Assistant. An alumna of YMS, Ha Im has performed in many leading venues in London, Amsterdam and Seoul, and is a Cultural Ambassador of UNESCO of Korea. She is a member of the prizewinning Salomé Quartet.



Lucy Flower has had a passion for HR since graduating in Psychology and Business Management. Lucy enjoys spending time with her family, travel, photography, skiing, and also volunteers for the NSPCC.



Isabel Harries is our new Harp Teacher. A graduate of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music, Isabel divides her time between teaching and performing. She previously studied at Chetham's.



Robin Harskin is the new Head of Languages. He was previously at Christ Church Cathedral School in Oxford, and has a PhD in French poetry from London University and an MPhil in Politics from Oxford University. His hero is Itzhak Perlman and his hobbies are reading, travelling, and playing chess.



David Ireland is the School's Independent Listener. He is a clergyman and retired charity fundraiser. He is also Independent Listener to the Royal Ballet School and Box Hill School. Married to Angela, a retired teacher, they have 15 grandchildren.



Niamh Poole is our new Receptionist and Administrative Assistant. She has worked as a technician in theatre for the past year including at The Menuhin Hall where she continues to help run the lighting, sound and recording for events.



Rebekah Russo joined as Development Officer in October. She has worked in fundraising for children's charities for the last several years. Previous to that she worked for an autism charity as a caretaker and events assistant. Rebekah plays piano, saxophone and guitar.



Ayaka Shigeno is joining the School as the new Piano Assistant. She has recently moved to England after living in Berlin for 10 years. She was a pupil at YMS from 2004-09 and is married to Violin Assistant Oscar Perks.



Jacquie Whittingham is our Interim Bursar. She has over 10 years' experience of being a bursar at a variety of independent schools in and around London. Prior to that, she spent 15 years in banking. Jacquie enjoys entertaining, pub lunches and country walks with her family.



Angela Williams, our new Housemistress in Harris House, was Deputy Head of Boarding at Ashford School. Prior to that she worked in corporate banking in Hong Kong. She also trained as a couture milliner at the London College of Fashion.



Fuensanta Zambrana-Ruiz is our new Alexander Technique teacher. She taught AT at Oundle School and assisted at Royal College of Music. Fuensanta currently teaches violin at Junior Trinity and has just published the book *The Alexander Technique for Young Musicians*.

Staff news

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Principal Cello Teacher Thomas Carroll at the end of the term. He will be increasing his teaching at the Hochschule in Cologne. Tommy has been a part of YMS for 24 years - 10 as pupil (1984-94) and 14 as a teacher, and he will be missed by pupils and staff alike.



Congratulations to Damian LeGassick who was awarded his PhD from the University of Surrey this term.

Lisa Guy has moved from Reception to the Music Administration Office, where she now acts as Personal Assistant to the Director of Music. She still performs her duties as School Secretary.

Formerly Assistant Piano Teacher, Miho Kawashima has joined Nigel and Svitlana as Staff Pianist.

Simon Browning just cannot stay away! After leaving us for the second time last Autumn term, Simon returned over the Summer to provide some temporary cover in the Bursary and is now looking after the finances on our China project.

This term in The Menuhin Hall

It is always busy in The Menuhin Hall, and Autumn 2019 has been no exception.

Early in October, acclaimed violist Lawrence Power and duo partner Simon Crawford-Phillips treated us to an excellent recital which included works by Shostakovich and Benjamin, as well as a compelling arrangement of Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata* for viola. Later in the term, we welcomed back alumnus Tetsuomi Nagata with the Piatti Quartet, who performed an evening of Purcell and Haydn, finishing with Schubert's intensely melancholy *String Quartet No 15 in G*.

Every term The Menuhin Hall is honoured to host some of the most popular ensembles from the local area. Cobham Band returned to

the delight of the audience with a programme of music from stage and screen, and Watermill Jazz presented Keith Nicols and the Blue Devils performing a programme of well-known jazz classics alongside some rarely-heard delights that had lots of toes tapping. Radio Wey, based at St Peter's Hospital in Chertsey, staged an evening featuring the London Concertante in celebration of the life of former *Classical Concert* presenter David Humber. Clive Stevens, a member of Radio Wey for almost 30 years (and also a Menuhin Hall Box Office Assistant!) said, "The evening



Lawrence Power and Simon Crawford-Phillips



was a great success and was praised not only by Friends of The Menuhin Hall, but also

by family and friends of Radio Wey, some of whom had never been to a classical concert before." The concert, supported by The Ivy, Cobham, featured pieces by Albinoni, Bach, Rossini, Britten, Piazzolla, Morricone and Handel's *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*, with which David started his radio programme every week.

It is always a pleasure to welcome our neighbours from The Grange for their annual Christmas Concert. The Grange Choir is made up of people from the Grange community and local choral societies, and this is always a joyful occasion - we look forward to having them back to the Hall every year.

But as always, the most special moments of each season lie in the breathtaking performances of our own pupils, who never fail to dazzle our audiences. The extra concert at Christmas was a welcome addition as it gave even more of our Friends and family the chance to share our music and good cheer.

The Menuhin Hall Team



Next term

Due to an injury, Tasmin Little unfortunately has had to reschedule her January concert with Piers Lane until 11 June. Tickets for the original concert will be valid for the June performance but please do ring the Box Office if you have any issues. We wish Tasmin a speedy recovery and await what is sure

to be a spectacular event with our new Co-President in the Summer term.

February marks the start of our celebrations of the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth with two very special concerts featuring alumnus Colin Carr and duo partner Thomas Sauer

performing the composer's complete catalogue of compositions for cello and piano.

But prior to that that we are pleased to welcome back Menuhin Hall regulars Peter Medhurst for his ever-popular Twelfth Night concert, and the Picadilly Dance Orchestra for some Gershwin and Cole Porter to brighten up those grey February days.

Almost always sold out, our Showcase Concerts continue to be our *raison d'être* and a constant source of pride for all of us. If you are among the few who have not yet experienced one, do take a look at next season's *What's on* guide (available 11 January for Friends and 8 February for the general public) and make sure you find the time. You might just see the next rising star in classical music on the up and you'll be able to say you saw them when.



Colin Carr and Thomas Sauer

Coming up @ The Menuhin Hall

JANUARY

| | | |
|-------------|--------|---|
| SUN 5 JAN | 3PM | TWELFTH NIGHT CONCERT WITH PETER MEDHURST |
| TUES 21 JAN | 1.15PM | LUNCHTIME SHOWCASE CONCERT |

FEBRUARY

| | | |
|--------------|--------|--|
| MON 3 FEB | 7.30PM | SHOWCASE CONCERT |
| THURS 13 FEB | 7.30PM | SHOWCASE CONCERT |
| SAT 15 FEB | 7.30PM | PICADILLY DANCE ORCHESTRA |
| THURS 27 FEB | 7.30PM | COLIN CARR - BEETHOVEN 250 CELEBRATION |
| SAT 29 FEB | 7.30PM | COLIN CARR - BEETHOVEN 250 CELEBRATION |

MARCH

| | | |
|---------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| THURS 5 MARCH | 7.30PM | SHOWCASE CONCERT |
| SUN 15 MARCH | 3PM | NATIONAL YOUTH HARP ORCHESTRA |
| MON 16 MARCH | 7.30PM | JEAN-BERNARD POMMIER |
| SAT 21 MARCH | 7.30PM | SURREY MOZART PLAYERS |
| TUES 24 MARCH | 7.30PM | SHOWCASE CONCERT |

APRIL

| | | |
|--------------|---------|--|
| MON 6 APRIL | 10.30AM | STUDY DAY: IMPRESSIONISM IN MUSIC AND THE ARTS |
| MON 20 APRIL | 7.30PM | SIR ANDRÁS SCHIFF |
| MON 27 APRIL | 7.30PM | SHOWCASE CONCERT |



Sir András Schiff

Thank you for giving the educational opportunity of a lifetime!

Alix de Mauny writes:

We were delighted to be offered the opportunity of running a match-funding challenge in support of our Bursary Fund this term. An existing supporting Surrey family initially offered to match pound-for-pound all donations to the School up to £80,000 in honour of Zamira Menuhin Benthall's 80th birthday. Thanks to an amazing response from so many of our supporters, we met our target a full four weeks ahead of schedule! In response, our backer challenged us to raise our game even higher and offered to match-fund up to £130,000 for all

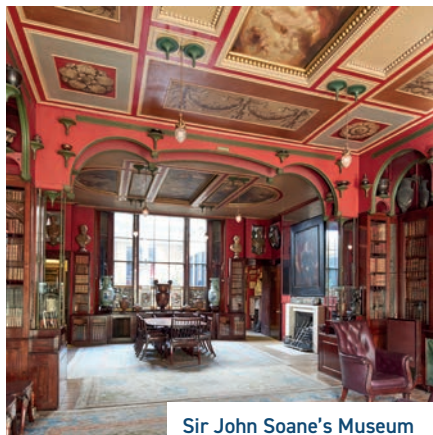
donations made by Friday 20 December – a challenge we readily accepted.

At the time of going to print, I am excited to report that we are close to the enhanced target and we are assured that any further contributions received before the deadline will also be matched – meaning that we have at least another £250,000 to offer bursary-assisted places to new pupils next academic year. **A huge thank you to all those of you who were kind enough to make a donation, your support quite literally changes young people's lives.**

£130,000



Dates for your Diary: Menuhin Circle Annual Party



Sir John Soane's Museum

We are proud to have welcomed 17 members so far to our Menuhin Circle, which was launched in June 2019 at our Wigmore Hall concert.

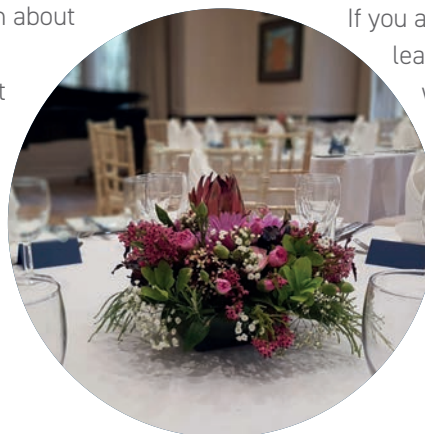
Our first Menuhin Circle concert and drinks was hosted by our former Governor Noël Annesley and his wife Caroline in their stunning home in Dulwich. Our second event took place in a quirky little club in central London, the 1901 Arts Club. With a wonderful piano on site, and a gorgeous, intimate

drawing room, it was the perfect place to hear our pupils perform, followed by a chat over wine and canapés.

The main Menuhin Circle event of the year will take place in the magnificent surroundings of Sir John Soane's Museum on 11 March 2020.

Menuhin Circle Members support the School's Annual Fund through a three-year commitment of between £1,000 and £5,000 per year, thus helping us to plan ahead with greater security.

For more information about joining the Menuhin Circle, please contact Beth Quartermaine on beth.quartermaine@menuhinschool.co.uk or 01932 584744.



If you are interested in leaving a gift in your will and would like to discuss further, please contact Beth on beth.quartermaine@menuhinschool.co.uk or 01932 584744.

The 1963 Society Annual Gathering

The 1963 Society brings together those of our supporters who have pledged to leave a gift to the School in their will, thereby helping to preserve Menuhin's extraordinary legacy for generations to come.

The 1963 Society Annual Gathering will take place in the Kentner Room before the Lunchtime Showcase concert on Thursday 21 May 2020.

Please save the date, and we will be in touch with members with further information nearer the time.

Student Hardship Fund: helping our pupils beyond the School

Our Student Hardship Fund exists to help pupils to take advantage of musical and educational opportunities outside of the School that they would otherwise be unable to afford. Pupils apply to the fund with the support of their teacher, and the Head and Director of Music award grants accordingly. We aim to raise up to £25,000 each year specifically for this Fund to ensure that our pupils can enjoy a parity of opportunities whatever their background.

Last academic year, thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to award 38 grants, helping our pupils to take part in competitions, performances and masterclasses both in the UK and across the world, in addition to chamber music courses and auditions.

Gorka (17, Spain) and Yume (11, Japan) tell us what a difference their grants made to them:



Gorka took part in a masterclass in Montepulciano, Italy, with Nina Tichman and Claudio Martinez-Mehner.

"This event gave me a very clear idea of where I would like to continue my studies. Meeting Claudio (Martinez-Mehner) after 10 years was something I had been looking forward to for a very long time, and it couldn't have been in a better environment.

Apart from his enlightening insight into every single form of art, and his vast knowledge in all fields, he was also a well-grounded person with a very approachable character.

The combination of all these qualities makes it a dream for me to go and study with him. He is keen on me joining his class next September if everything goes well in the auditions."

Yume took part in the Ilona Fehér International Violin Competition (as part of Festival Academy Budapest), in age group 1 (9-12 year-olds).

"The preparation for this competition was a challenge for me as I only had a month and a half to prepare after my previous competition in May, and the programme was a lot bigger (three rounds!) But I am extremely happy to have received the First Prize and had an unforgettable experience performing with an orchestra for the first time (without a conductor!) in the final round. I was also chosen to take part in the masterclass with the President of the jury, Mr Shlomo Mintz, and two other members of the jury.

When I wasn't competing I went to some great concerts, enjoyed sightseeing and met many wonderful people."

From the Chairman

Dear Friends

It has been a pleasure to see old Friends back at The Menuhin Hall this Autumn term, and also to have met some new faces amongst the familiar ones. Our total numbers continue to grow.

The Development team are now back up to full strength, having been joined by Rebekah Russo as Development Officer in October. Rebekah will be looking after the administration of the Friends as part of her role and I'm sure you will make her welcome when you see her at Friends' events and at concerts in the near future.

As regards the concerts themselves, we have had some excellent evenings. The Showcase Concerts have shown off the extraordinary talents of our pupils. I hear Friends discussing how one year compares with another, including wondering how our stars of earlier years are getting on at conservatoires and in their careers. We are going to try to give you answers.

I am delighted to announce that we are launching a new 'Friends only' event series, where we will welcome back alumni of the School for short recitals and to talk about their musical journey since leaving YMS. The pilot event will

take place in February - you will find further information opposite - and if the pilot is a success we hope to run two of these events each year.

We have also had some really excellent Celebrity Concerts this Autumn, including Lawrence Power (viola) with Simon Crawford-Phillips (piano), and an outstanding evening with the Piatti Quartet featuring alumnus Tetsuumi Nagata, again on the viola. It is, however, a shame to see seats unsold at some of these world-class events taking place right here on our doorstep. I do urge you to book tickets and come along to provide these invited performers with a full auditorium which will be of even more benefit to School funds.

Sir John Baker
Chairman, The Friends of
The Yehudi Menuhin School
Management Committee

Your Friends Committee Needs You!

The Friends Management Committee meets quarterly at the School to discuss new ideas for the Friends, to look at membership numbers, to plan events, and to decide on the amount and purpose of grants awarded to the School.

The Committee currently consists of five members, plus some School staff. Each meeting usually takes place at 5pm on School grounds, and lasts for no more than 1.5 hours. Some of the current members have now been serving for many years, and although they would be happy to continue on the committee, they also want to offer the opportunity for other Friends to take part and to engage with the life of the School in this way.

If you would be interested in hearing more about what the role involves, please contact Beth Quartermaine who will put you in touch with Sir John Baker for an initial chat.

beth.quartermaine@menuhinschool.co.uk / 01932 584744



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.**

Alumni Events for Friends



One of the things that we hear from our Friends is how much they enjoy seeing our pupils progress through the School, and how much they would love to hear them perform after they have left.

We are therefore hugely excited to announce a new Alumni events programme just for Friends. The pilot event will take place at the School on Wednesday 19 February 2020, when we will welcome back alumnus Kevin Loh, who left YMS in 2017.

Kevin was named the 2019 Singapore Symphony Orchestra's President's Young Performer and is currently studying music at the University of Cambridge. He will give a short recital and talk to us about his plans for the future and what life has been like since leaving the School.

Tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To reserve your place please contact Rebekah Russo at rebekah.russo@menuhinschool.co.uk or 01932 584409.

An evening with Kevin Loh

19 February 2020

6.30pm

The Yehudi Menuhin School

Tickets £15

(includes drinks and nibbles)

This is a Friends-only event

Friends AGM

The Friends AGM will be held on 18 March in the Music Studios. We hope to see many of you there.

Booking and Proxy Forms are included with your mailing or are available from the Development Office. **Please return them by 2 March** to Rebekah Russo at friends@menuhinschool.co.uk or c/o the School.

Welcome to our newest team member

Rebekah Russo joined the Development Team in October and is truly enjoying being at the School. She joined YMS from The Children's Society, where she worked in fundraising and focused on looking after support groups and committees across the UK, as well as events planning.

Rebekah grew up in East Horsley and Cobham, where she attended

the International Community School, followed by Richmond University and King's College London for her Master's degree in International Child Studies and Protection Law.

Rebekah trained as a ballet dancer and has competed professionally in both contemporary and lyrical dance. Her grandmother and mother are both cellists and taught her piano before she moved on to private tutoring.

