

Newsletter Summer 2020

The International
Music School founded
by Yehudi Menuhin

Registered Charity 312010

Welcome

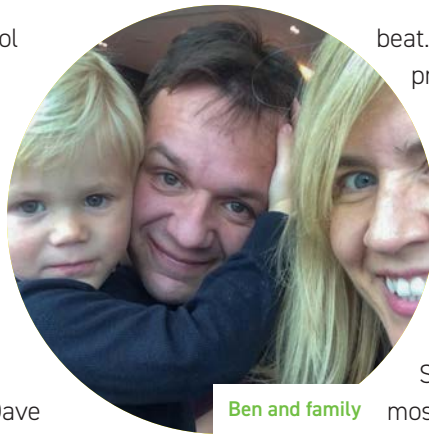
At the beginning of this term, I began my role as Headmaster here at The Yehudi Menuhin School. I hope readers will be understanding if I say that it was a very strange beginning – strange to move to a place that is meant to be full of life and music, but instead is silent. Strange to join a school without meeting any children, staff or parents. But the strangeness very quickly subsided when it became clear to me the palpable sense of community that permeated through the ether even into Microsoft Teams meetings.

I know that these are difficult times for everyone, and I appreciate that all of you will have your own set of challenges to face. As a new member of the YMS community, I have been constantly uplifted by the collaborative overcoming of these challenges, the most vital of which is helping our pupils continue their journey to becoming the excellent musicians and exceptional human beings they are destined to be.

Everyone has been working hard this term – teaching virtual classes, taking virtual lessons, contacting supporters and making plans. The benefits of

being a small school are many, but specifically during these strange times it has allowed us to be nimble and get online learning up and running very quickly. Our Timetable Officer Dave Greenwood seems to use some sort of sorcery to enable us to mirror very closely our usual timetable across continents and time-zones. We've shared concerts, both archival and new, with our community across the globe, collaborated with musicians from other organisations and the pupils have completed assessments and assignments with characteristic dedication and creativity. The esprit de corps is fighting fit and it is this sense of community that has kept us all buoyed through these testing times.

As is often the case in challenging circumstances, creativity comes to the fore, and the level of ingenuity has been quite inspirational. Nobody would have believed, even three months ago, that every pupil and teacher would be able to continue the educational experience remotely, without dropping a single



Ben and family

beat. We are immensely proud to be able to say that we have maintained 100% engagement throughout the Summer term and now look forward to the culmination of our hard work - our Summer Festival. Like most things these days, it will look different and sound different, but we are confident that the collective pride and warmth that is generated by the celebration of our learning, growing and making music together will not be dulled by the distance that divides us.

And when we can finally assemble again in person on site, we will remember this term as one that challenged us and tested us, but ultimately brought us closer together than ever before. History will remember the class of 2020 with great admiration.

Ben Gudgeon
Headmaster

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The Yehudi Menuhin School PLAYS ON

After our abrupt closure last term, pupils and staff at YMS has been very busy finding new ways to learn, teach, work and play. Many of our performance opportunities sadly had to be cancelled, but with a little help from YouTube, we have been able to share our music with

some of the people who had been looking forward to seeing us.

We also found fresh inspiration and created new projects with artists outside of our usual community. Read on to hear all about it.

'Tour' of the North

This term usually sees Ruth Nye taking a group of pupils to perform in various venues in Scotland and the North of England. This tour has been taking place for many years now and we did not want to disappoint our Northern supporters!



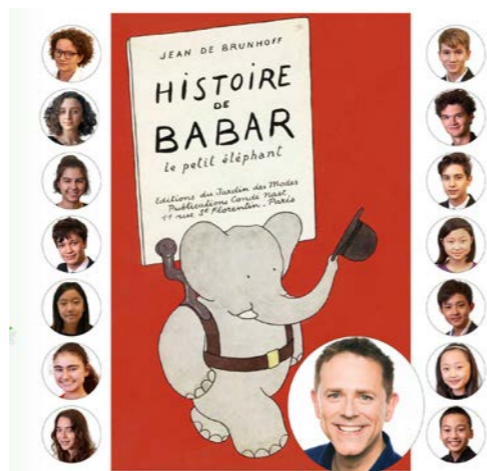
hosted on YouTube. We sent the link to the venues at which we were meant to perform who, in turn, shared it with their audiences. The video was viewed more than 600 times.

Julius, Daphne, Martin, Hattie M, Hattie Q, Claire and Rebecca each recorded performances in their homes which were stitched together to create a single concert

Babar, le petit éléphant - narrated by BBC presenter Chris Jarvis

We were thrilled to work with BBC children's presenter and founder of Little Radio, Chris Jarvis, on a collaborative recording of Poulenc's *Babar, le petit éléphant*. Poulenc completed his piece for narrator and piano in 1945, after the famous French children's book written and illustrated by Jean de Brunhoff in 1930.

The recording will be available as part of our virtual Summer Festival. Check the listings in the centre section of this newsletter for further information.



Each of the YMS pianists was sent a movement of the piece to record and submit. These were edited together and sent to Chris to record his narration. The finished version was shared with local primary schools, many of which would usually be joining us this term for our annual Primary Schools Concert.

Coco wins Strings Final at BBC Young Musician

Huge congratulations to Coco for her win in the Strings Final of BBC Young Musician. The category finals were recorded pre-lockdown at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, and the Strings Final aired on BBC Four on 31 May.

Coco played a superb programme of Debussy, Ysaÿe and Hubay, much to the praise of the judges, who said "She had a wonderful sense of ease about how she played - it was just a delight to listen to. My heart



goes out to her...she was wonderful." "Coco just had something about her tonight. Her phrasing, her expression - totally gripping."

One of the commentators was the acclaimed violinist Matthew Trusler, founder of the recording label, Orchid Classics. Following the broadcast of the Strings Final, Orchid announced that they have signed an exclusive deal with Coco to record her debut album.

Well done Coco. We're all so proud.

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.

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @menuhinschool



Find us on Facebook @yehudimenuhinschool



Subscribe to our YouTube channel by searching for 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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Photography by Julian Andrews, Ioan Davies, Dave Greenwood, Jason Lin and Nigel Luckhurst. Edited by Sarah McDonald.

GPO's Found Season

Like other venues, our neighbours Grange Park Opera in West Horsley were forced to close earlier this year, and cancel their planned summer season. Undaunted, their founder Wasfi Kani set about planning a new programme to share online with their audience. More than 70 artists from all over the world were invited to contribute, including some of our pupils who were in the area.

Coco, Yume, Alasdair, Kingsley, Laura, Claire, Daniil and Sveta were welcomed into the Theatre in the Woods in May and, respecting social distancing, were filmed performing on GPO's stage.

Their performances will be available from 2 July at www.grangeparkopera.co.uk alongside videos of Bryn Terfel, Simon Keentlside, Joseph Calleja, and artists from the English National Ballet, London Symphony Orchestra, English National Opera and the London Philharmonic Orchestra.



MDS Schools virtual orchestra

Collaboration is an essential part of any musician's training, and the global pandemic has presented new opportunities for us to work with other arts organisations. One of the most exciting projects for us has been the Music and Dance Scheme schools virtual orchestra.

The Music and Dance Scheme was created by the UK Department for Education in 1981 to support exceptionally talented young musicians and dancers regardless of their background and financial circumstances. The other music schools in the scheme are Chetham's, Purcell, Wells Cathedral School and St Mary's Edinburgh.

This term we were thrilled to be able to work with our counterparts at the other MDS music schools to create a virtual orchestra of over 100 children locked down all over the globe.

Pupils from all of the schools recorded their individual parts for a new piece of music specially composed for them by Chet's alumnus Gwilym Simcock, a celebrated pianist and composer producing work across classical and jazz music genres.

The collaborative work will premiere this July - keep your eyes on our social media for more information.



Composer Gwilym Simcock

Virtual Vivaldi

As lockdown relaxed a little at the end of June, a group of pupils were able to meet with **Ioan Davies** and Technical Director **Brian Fifield** in The Menuhin Hall to record Vivaldi *L'Estro Armonico Op 3 Nos 2 and 9*.

Brian recorded their parts and then used his renowned expertise to mix them with parts submitted by other pupils who were at home in Tipperary, North Scotland and

Sussex. For No 9, **Kingsley, Özgür, Daniil** and **Svitlana** were in the Hall, and **Molly** and **Hattie Q** were at home. For No 2, **Coco, Viviane, Caterina** and **Svitlana** were on site, and **Darwin** and **Isabel** played from home.

The recording was shared as part of our virtual concert to replace our annual event at Wigmore Hall, and is available as part of our Summer Festival. See listings for details.



Leavers' destinations

Isabel García González	Royal College of Music
Hugo Haag	Guildhall School of Music and Drama
Nipakorn Limcharoen	Currently auditioning
Kingsley Lin	University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna
Daniil Margulis	Royal College of Music
Molly McGregor	Currently auditioning
Carmen Pérez Salmoral	Currently auditioning
Viviane Plekhotkine	Royal College of Music
Harriet Quick	Royal College of Music
Ezo Dem Sarici	Royal Academy of Music
Elfida Turan	Royal Academy of Music
Claire Wells	Currently auditioning

Many conservatoires have had to delay their auditions so pupils are patiently waiting for news. This information was correct at time of printing.

Home learning

All of our teachers and pupils have been working hard to find new ways to teach and learn together.

Jenny writes:

Despite being at home we have tried to include some of the investigative and practical tasks involved in learning Science.

The C1s have investigated factors that affect their heart rate and reaction times, and have calculated how much pressure they exert on the floor.

The C3 class have been studying flower structure, and during a lesson they were asked to choose a flower



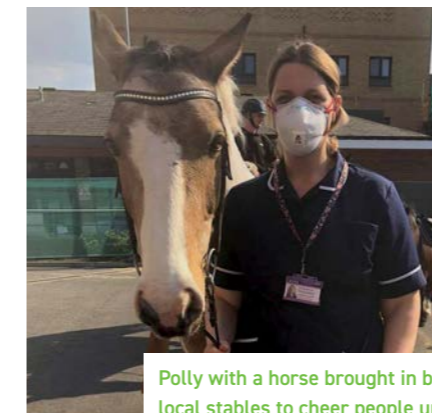
from their garden or neighbourhood, and to dissect and label the various structures within. We had an interesting selection of flowers including a beautiful bird of paradise flower from Daphne in Malta. We have

recently studied classification, and to identify organisms we often use a key. The class photographed twelve plants or leaves and made their own key for the other pupils to identify their leaves.

Fighting Covid-19

Ghofrane writes:

I have always loved volunteering and there is no better time to do that than now, in this time of crisis. I have been working with the Tunisian Red Crescent as an Emergency Medical Dispatcher. Our job is to answer phone calls of people in real emergencies like accidents and heart attacks, and quickly and calmly gather information, identify the problem and the location of the patient, decide which type of ambulance



Polly with a horse brought in by local stables to cheer people up

to send and finally assist them until help gets to them, all under supervision of a doctor. We've also been answering a lot of calls from patients who think they have Covid-19. We listen to their symptoms and decide if it's a suspected case and if so, send our healthcare staff to test them. I have learned a lot from this, and love seeing people sacrificing their time and risking their lives to help others, seeing parents who have left their children at home to help - the solidarity and selflessness and the genuine desire to help without expecting anything back. As Ghandi said, "the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Pollyanna has continued to work as a Nurse in the Pediatric Emergency Departments at both Kingston and Epsom Hospitals.

During the Easter break, **Joanne** worked in a neonatal ward and was supporting the NHS Test and Trace system. She will return to that in the summer holidays.



Lucy and her daughter Evelyn have been sewing scrubs and scrub bags for nurses and care workers at Cedars Care Homes.



Lucy's daughter Evelyn sewing

Twenty years (plus!) and counting...The Yehudi Menuhin School says thank you to long-serving staff

Continuity and institutional memory are important to any organisation, but even more so at somewhere as unique as YMS. We are remarkably fortunate to have an extremely committed group of people who teach and care for our pupils in a myriad of ways - many of whom have been doing so for a very long time.

We want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has stuck with us, and thus will be starting a new feature within these pages to celebrate those who have been with us for 20 years or more. In this issue we will acknowledge everyone who currently holds more than 20 years of service, and in future issues will recognise those who reach this milestone.



David Dolan remembers: "Yehudi came to a concert I gave in Paris as a young lad in 1989 in which the second half consisted of improvisations on themes provided by the audience. Afterwards he came backstage and asked, "Can you teach what you have just done, young man?" To my horror he also asked me to come the following week to the School. "I wonder what my kids will say. They always know best". The following week in the Recital Room a young string quartet was waiting, along with Yehudi who said "If you survive this lot, perhaps we should talk further." It took three minutes to see what he meant! Thomas Carroll was the cellist who would later become Professor of Cello and my great duo partner. Nearly four hours later we were still going, and since then I am here and happily so. I stay because of this rare element in Yehudi's dream that came true - the fusion between genuine human warmth and authenticity, and zero compromising in the search for musical meaning."

Caroline Emery was our first double bass teacher and joined in 1991. She loves it because "it is a unique school where the students have time to do things properly, time is valued and respected. It remains strong with the ability to nurture the students, and has staff that are trusted to do that. Amazing things can happen in lessons and the growth of the students. Almost every day is special. I had a mission and I have to accomplish it - for me this is the best place to devise a school for teaching the bass. Every day you learn something new as a teacher."



Ruth Nye has been teaching piano at YMS for 28 years. She writes: The Director of Music (Stephen Potts) asked me to think of some special occasions to boost the profile of the five pianists at the School. We went to many parts of England and then to Scotland and this still continues today. We also began a tradition of a party at our home just before the Summer Festival. I suggested a concert first, starting at 6pm, followed by a BBQ in the garden, and then the five pianists slept in the attic bedrooms. Back to School in the morning."

Carole Cerasi is our harpsichord teacher. She recalls that she "first visited YMS in 1988-89, when Boris was still a student! My teacher, Jill Severs, was the first harpsichord teacher here, and I regularly came with her to observe. I had expected to see some intense, nerdy kids with their heads deep in scores but was amazed at the liveliness and glamour of the pupils! I then spent long periods replacing Jill who was ill, so that by the time I was officially in post in January 1995, the interview felt like a mere formality. YMS is a treasured part of my life. The contact with both staff and pupils, who feel very much like younger colleagues, is enriching and stimulating, and always reminds me of why I am a musician. I hope the School can manage the delicate balance between evolving and staying true to itself for many generations to come."



Cathy Whitnall has been Music Administrator for 22 years. She remembers, "When I arrived in September of 1997, the White House conversion from stable block to classrooms was still in progress, so Reception was run from the Brackenbury block (now Development). The Ds had their own portakabin outside the kitchen, and the Library was in the Maths classroom - there were only 55 pupils! New pupils that year included Nicola Benedetti and a particularly moody cellist (sorry, Bart!) The informality of the School was particularly memorable, as was the provision for the staff at breaktime - fresh bread and cakes pretty well every day!"

Lutsia Ibragimova remembers: "I started at the School in 1998 when Yehudi Menuhin was still here. I came first as a parent - we moved from Moscow so Alina could study with Natasha Boyarsky. When Natasha lost her assistant, she asked me to join her. I knew only two words of English, but the pupils helped me. I taught them violin and they taught me English. My pupils are like my children - sometimes I must be strict but they understand that I want to help them to do better - they tell me everything and confide in me. This place is home for me. Yehudi Menuhin knew what kind of a school he wanted - a big family - and all of the teachers want to keep this special unique atmosphere. It must be protected."



Ioan Davies has been coaching Chamber Music at YMS since 1998. He recalls his first day: Everyone played Haydn! I agreed to help out temporarily but I'm still around - pure job satisfaction. Having worked all over the world nowhere else compares to YMS for sheer musical intensity. Being reunited with a few staff and pupils for recording in The Menuhin Hall this June was one of the most emotional experiences of my life. The pandemic has tested and strengthened the whole school community to stay together not only now but for many years to come.

Brian Harris arrived at the School on April Fools' Day 2000 and has been looking after our facilities ever since. He says that the School is more than his workplace - it is also his home, and the pupils and staff are like family. Alumni will regularly ring him up to get together, and his colleagues are more than just workmates - they are friends. But what ultimately makes him stay are the children. He says, "They may break things and make a mess but then when you see them performing you can see how special they are and there's nothing better or more important than that."



The Menuhin Hall at Home

With the world in lockdown and the enforced closure of The Menuhin Hall, we wanted to find a way to bring a little light into the homes of the people who have supported us over the years.

And so **The Menuhin Hall at Home** was born. As all of our Showcase concerts are meticulously recorded by the technician on duty, we thought we'd take advantage of our vast archive of wonderful concert videos, and have been sharing a different concert each week in an email to our community of Friends and supporters.

Since then our concert videos have been viewed over 12 thousand times in 14 different countries around the world. The flood of positive messages



of support has been truly heartening - we are so pleased to have been able to continue to share with you the incredible talents of our pupils. For them, knowing that you are still out there rooting for them has helped them enormously throughout the past few months.

Though we have enjoyed looking back at the special moments of Showcase concerts past, we are awash with excitement at the opportunity to share some new music during our Summer Festival.

We hope you will join us.

Next term in The Menuhin Hall

Up in the control room behind the last rows of seats a button is pressed. Three firm claps are heard from the stage, then silence. No shuffling of feet, no muffled coughs. The oft-scorned sounds of the concert hall are gone, and there is only silence from which music emerges.

Despite the stillness and quiet, these are not ideal conditions to be making music; and yet, it feels strangely moving to have performers playing together, seeing life on our stage once again.

We now know that The Menuhin Hall will not be open for public events this Autumn. Not only do we feel that this is the safer, more responsible choice, but it also gives us an opportunity: when we do reopen, it can be on a positive

note, without worry and uncertainty but instead with celebration.

This does not mean that nothing will happen in the coming months. We are hoping to bring a large number of exciting events to your home - recordings from the past, live concerts, talks, and many occasions for our community to come together. You will be able to watch and listen on your phone, tablet or PC; in your garden, kitchen, living room; you can choose to wear your favourite bowtie with your most comfortable slippers, holding a glass of red or a mug of hot chocolate. There are no rules - only that we must not let the music fall silent. I warmly invite you to join us, to stay with us as we continue to break the sterile quiet of an empty concert hall.

The day will come when, once again, phones will not be needed to hear music. The kitchen will no longer be acoustically desirable and pyjamas as dress code may fall out of fashion. Recordings will once again become a by-product of music-making and not a requirement for it.

On that day, when we find ourselves annoyed by someone clearing their throat in the middle of the slow movement, let us remember what we have been through to get there - and let us treasure what will be a joyful moment indeed.

Tamas Reti
Menuhin Hall Manager

Welcome to the Summer Festival 2020

It's fair to say this has been a term like no other at YMS. Everything we took for granted has been called into question; our way of working has been utterly transformed; our ability to collaborate has been stripped away; the School community has been scattered across the globe just at the moment we should have been closest together.

But, out of adversity comes opportunity, and I've been so heartened by the imaginative, innovative ways in which our staff and pupils have risen to the challenges created by this unprecedented time. We've explored new ways of sharing music, both with our wider audience and with each other, we've learned to value togetherness as never before, and we've created new initiatives which we will undoubtedly refine and retain even when the world returns to normal.

Indeed, there are numerous silver-linings to have (unexpectedly) emerged from this experience, not least in our growing awareness of technology and the endless possibilities it brings to enhance our creative work.

Personal highlights over the last few weeks have included our virtual Tour of the North, a collaborative recording of Poulenc's *Babar the Elephant* featuring all fourteen of our student pianists and a CBBC presenter, Ioan Davies' and David Dolan's Red Priest project, the opening of a virtual exhibition space, a collaboration with Grange Park

Opera as part of their Found Season, assessment week (done remotely), which gave me the opportunity to hear many of the pupils play for the first time, and the thrice-weekly Morning Meetings, which have frequently featured live music from our students and have played such a key role in keeping our community connected.

Some of these initiatives have been so rewarding we've decided to feature them in **this year's much-expanded Summer Festival.**

Alongside our traditional **evening Showcase concerts featuring our students** (they have been busily recording their pieces over the past few days), we're delighted to offer **daily talks from respected musicians and industry figures, a mid-morning platform for live performances from pupils** (both available to internal audiences only and internet connections dependent!), a wonderful composition project led by John Cooney called **Sonic Postcards**, featuring music written by the students from wherever they currently are in the world, and **Encore - a mid-afternoon series of performances given by some of the School's illustrious alumni.** Our leavers are also working hard to create additional student-led content to support the concert programmes, and we've also

got the return of the Brackenbury Art Exhibition, so it's sure to be a busy but rewarding end of term!

I'd like to take this opportunity to offer a heartfelt thanks to a number of people: to my new colleagues for making me feel so welcome at YMS, and for being so supportive and proactive in this difficult time; to Cathy for all her brilliant work on the Festival programme; to the students for their enthusiasm, talent and creativity, all of which is a constant source of inspiration; to the students' parents for their support (I appreciate this has been a hugely challenging time for many of you!); and to all of our Friends and supporters for everything they do to keep this magical place thriving.

I look forward to seeing you all in person very soon and, in the meantime, I hope you enjoy our celebration of the indomitable spirit of YMS and all that we've achieved in recent weeks.

It's fair to say it will be a Summer Festival like no other.

Ashley Wass
Director of Music



How to watch our Summer Festival

Our Summer Festival projects will be available on our website at www.themenuhinhall.co.uk. Take a look at the schedule overleaf and find the events you'd like to watch or listen to. When the time comes, just go to our website where there will be a list of what's on. Click your chosen event to view, and then sit back, relax and enjoy the music!

WHAT'S ON AND WHEN...

Guide to events

- **Morning Meetings** and **live Coffee Concerts** are for pupils, staff and parents only.
- **Sonic Postcards** will feature composition projects and sonic postcards created by pupils in their homes during lockdown. These will be audio events only, and links to each event will go live every day at 1pm on our website.
- **Encore** is our programme of concerts by YMS alumni and staff. These will go live each day at 4.30pm on our website.
- **Children's Corner** concerts are aimed at children.
- **Showcase concerts** will go live on our website each day at 7.30pm.
- **All events are subject to change if circumstances require.**
- **All events will be available online at www.themenuhinhall.co.uk on the dates and times listed below.** Just go to our website and click your chosen event to view.
- **Missed something?** Don't worry! Pre-recorded events will be available to view on our website until 1 September.

SATURDAY 4 JULY

7.30pm Showcase Concert: Daniil, Julius, Kotone, Jackson, Kenza, Tomomasa, Claire Wells with guest Katie Morgan

SUNDAY 5 JULY

2pm Children's Corner: Poulenc's *Babar the Elephant* with BBC presenter Chris Jarvis and YMS pianists with performances from Isabel, Joanne, Pendo, Enpei

7.30pm Showcase Concert: Daniil, Carmen, Isla Schwarz, Vadym, Kingsley, Hugo, Özgür, Lara, Tim, Salvatore

MONDAY 6 JULY

9am Morning Meeting with Special Guest *(Internal viewing only)*

11am Coffee Concert Live: Yume with guest Kan Tomita, Rebecca, Evie *(Internal viewing only)*

1pm Sonic Postcards *(Audio only)*

4.30pm Encore: Tianyou Ma, Kevin Loh, Ning Kam

7.30pm Showcase Concert: Patrick, Kasina, Caitlin, Richard



Tianyou Ma

TUESDAY 7 JULY

9am Morning Meeting with Special Guest *(Internal viewing only)*

11am Coffee Concert Live: Kyota, Emili, Claire Wang *(Internal viewing only)*

1pm Sonic Postcards *(Audio only)*

4.30pm Encore: Oscar Perks and Ayaka Shigeno

7.30pm Showcase Concert: Lukas, Rebecca, Hayden, Seoyul, James, Martin, Nipakorn

WEDNESDAY 8 JULY

10am Morning Meeting with Special Guest *(Internal viewing only - please note change in time)*

11am Coffee Concert Live: Nathan, Darwin, Daphne *(Internal viewing only)*

1pm Sonic Postcards *(Audio only)*

4.30pm Encore: Bartholomew Lafollette

7.30pm Showcase Concert: Isabel, Claire Wang, Mariam, Felicia, Selina, Alfie, Henry

SUMMER FESTIVAL 2020

THURSDAY 9 JULY

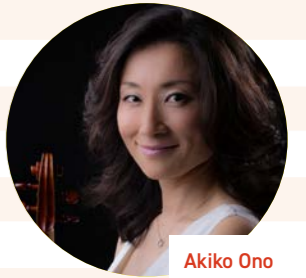
9am Morning Meeting with Special Guest *(Internal viewing only)*

11am Coffee Concert Live: Stefanija, Eva, Lara *(Internal viewing only)*

1pm Sonic Postcards *(Audio only)*

4.30pm Encore: Alexander Sitkovetsky and Wu Qian, Akiko Ono and Melissa Gore

7.30pm Showcase Concert: Eddie, Young, Gökçe, Leon, Esther, Coco, Yume



Akiko Ono

FRIDAY 10 JULY

9am Morning Meeting with Special Guest *(Internal viewing only)*

11am Coffee Concert Live: Jelena, Özgür, Mika *(Internal viewing only)*

1pm Sonic Postcards *(Audio only)*

4.30pm Encore: SongHa Choi, Matthijs Broersma, Laura Snowden, Will Duerden with Daniil Margulis

7.30pm Showcase Concert: Emanuel, Alasdair, Yamato, Alix, Elfida, Viviane with guest Ursula Perks

SATURDAY 11 JULY

2pm Virtual Vivaldi: Concertos from *L'Estro Armonico* *(details on page 4)*

7.30pm Showcase Concert: Nathan, Jude, Ludwig, Coco, Ella, Zac, Molly, Hattie Quick, Martin

SUNDAY 12 JULY

7.30pm Showcase Concert: Emanuel, Stefanija, Kate, Ghofrane, Benedetta, Kingsley, Isabel, Viviane

MONDAY 13 JULY

9am Morning Meeting with Special Guest *(Internal viewing only)*

11am Coffee Concert Live: Coco, Gorka *(Internal viewing only)*

1pm Sonic Postcards *(Audio only)*

4.30pm Encore: Thomas Carroll

7.30pm Showcase Concert: Mika, Clara, Jana, Viviane, HaoRan



Thomas Carroll

TUESDAY 14 JULY

9am Morning Meeting with Special Guest *(Internal viewing only)*

11am Coffee Concert Live: James, Laura, Kingsley, Duru *(Internal viewing only)*

1pm Sonic Postcards *(Audio only)*

4.30pm Encore: Bartholomew Lafollette and Alina Ibragimova

7.30pm Showcase Concert: Tom, Magnus, Isla Forbes, Sasha, Salvatore, Caterina, Ezo

Don't miss this year's **Brackenbury Art Exhibition** in our virtual gallery space, featuring works of art created by our pupils over the Summer term.

Just go to www.themenuhinhall.co.uk/summer-festival and click on 'Brackenbury Exhibition'.

YMS Alumni in lockdown

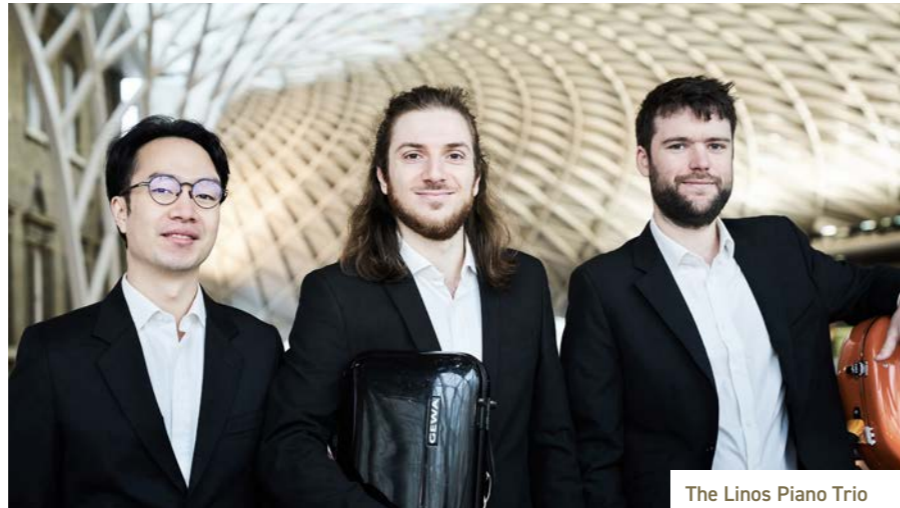
One of the beacons of light throughout lockdown has been the outpouring of creative generosity from the arts community. Musicians and artists of all ilks have been flooding the internet with projects of various kinds - concerts, playlists, masterclasses and virtual galleries of artwork and photography. Our alumni have been extremely busy making sure that there is no shortage of exceptional classical music for everyone stuck at home.

Benjamin Baker participated in the Wigmore Hall BBC Radio 3 Special Broadcast series on 23 June. You can watch it now on Wigmore Hall's website.

Nicola Benedetti's foundation created the Virtual Benedetti Sessions which provided three weeks of daily online tutorials and inspirational workshops in May to over 7,000 musicians of all ages and stages across the world. In June, Nicola also digitally released her new album *Elgar* which features music by Britain's best loved composer including his vast *Violin Concerto*. On 4 July, Nicola will participate in Royal Albert Home, sharing stories and music from her home.

Luisa Marie Darvish Ghane's ensemble Mirror Strings has released a new album called *Dedication*, which consists of pieces written for them by composers from all over the world including Germany, USA, Iceland and Columbia. They will present the CD live on German television in the summer and are planning on touring next year.

Alina Ibragimova joined forces with Vladimir Jurowski and the State



The Linos Piano Trio

Academic Symphony Orchestra of Russia in a thrilling all-Russian account of Shostakovich's *Violin Concertos*, released on Hyperion in June. Alina also participated in the Wigmore Live series, along with pianist Kristian Bezuidenhout (available now on the Wigmore Hall website).

In May, the Linos Piano Trio - with alumni **Prach Boondiskulchok** (piano) and **Vladimir Waltham** (cello) - released the premiere recording of



Luisa Marie Darvish Ghane

Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach's *Complete Piano Trios* on German label CAvi music.

Our Co-President **Tasmin Little** has had to postpone her retirement from the stage planned for this year. We look forward to seeing her back in The Menuhin Hall soon. In the meantime, she has been giving online classes and offering Virtual Postcards for people to send to loved ones. The proceeds from the postcards have been donated to Help Musicians UK. The School also had the pleasure of welcoming Tasmin to one of our virtual Morning Meetings in June where she gave us much wonderful inspiration.

Kevin Loh has been very busy online. At the end of June, he participated in the second season of Michael Ibsen's 'Messy Desk' livestream series, and earlier in the month he gave an online masterclass for the Calcutta Classical Guitar Society entitled "Advanced Guitar Techniques: From Conception to Performance". On Father's Day he sat down with his father and together they performed 'Melodico' from *Valses Poeticos* by Enrique Granados. You can watch this and many other performances on his YouTube channel.

Sir Alan Traill GBE QSO MA DMus 7 May 1935–17 April 2020

Nicolas Chisholm (Headmaster 1998–2010) writes:

I first met Sir Alan Traill in 1990 at the Mansion House at a reception following a fundraising concert given by the pupils of YMS and Mstislav Rostropovich. Sir Alan was very much at home as he had been Lord Mayor of the City of London some six years before in 1984. During his highly successful career in insurance Sir Alan became heavily involved in the Corporation of London, joining the Court of Common Council in 1970. Soon after in 1975 he became an Alderman for the Langbourn Ward thus starting his rise to becoming Lord Mayor of the City of London.

Sir Alan's interest in music and love of opera encouraged him to join the Worshipful Company of Musicians in 1989, becoming Master of the Company in 1999.

Sir Alan's involvement with the City of London brought him into contact with Christ's Hospital where he became an almoner in 1980, and he soon listed 'assisting education' as one of his major interests. Education and music came together when as Lord Mayor



during his visit to Christ's Hospital he conducted the school orchestra.

Sir Alan's influence was worldwide, and less well-known is his connection to New Zealand. He was chairman of the UK/NZ 1990 Committee conceiving, organising and funding a programme of activities to strengthen the special relationship between the UK and New Zealand for which he earned a special New Zealand award, the Queen's Service Order. His expertise in insurance often took him to the Bahamas as an expert witness.

Involvement in specialist education became a passion when Sir Alan became a trustee of Treloar College in 1986, so it was a short step to becoming a Governor of YMS in 2000. Living near Guildford only a few miles south of the School meant that he could become closely involved. When we embarked on the construction of The Menuhin Hall in 2002 Sir Alan volunteered to attend the monthly construction meetings, so vital to keeping a project under control. His keen eye for detail and understanding of finance were crucial elements in making the project such a resounding success.

Part way through the project John Chadwick, our Chairman of Governors since 2001, became seriously ill and in 2004 Sir Alan took over the role with enthusiasm and skill. His experience at other schools and in the City brought a fresh vision to the Governing body. His determination to introduce new ideas to the organisation of the Governors included the establishment



of the Education Committee and an innovative way of dealing with Council meeting agendas. Sir Alan was always keen to understand the complexities of a specialist music school and his unswerving support and wisdom made the burden of the Headmaster much easier to bear.

One of the most important tasks of the Governors is the appointment of a new Head and my retirement in 2010 brought this task to Sir Alan. He undertook the task with his usual care and attention to detail, securing Dr Richard Hillier's appointment before his own retirement in 2011.

Sir Alan is survived by his son, two granddaughters and his wife, Lady Sarah Traill, whose support as a Friend and a volunteer steward has been invaluable.

He will be much missed.



On love in the time of COVID...

Alix de Mauny writes:

It has been a strange time for us all and, like everyone else at School, in the Development department, we found ourselves having to rip up our plans for the Summer term and throw them out of the window! Normally at this time of year we would be hosting a whole range of events for our family of supporters, both at the School and further afield.

We have sorely missed welcoming you to our pre-concert receptions and having the opportunity to chat face to face, and while we have embraced the

wonders of technology, nothing is ever quite as good as the real thing.

But all is not doom and gloom – far from it! There have been some wonderful rays of light and expressions of love (as you will see below) and we feel - strangely - even more connected than before.

Perhaps it is the realisation of just what a special place YMS holds in so many peoples' hearts: so many of you have written in to tell us how much you miss the concerts, and how much you enjoy being able to see and hear our pupils perform through our

Menuhin Hall at Home series. We are so immensely grateful to you all for continuing to support us at this time of deep uncertainty. If there is one clear message to emerge from this global pandemic, it is the fundamental role of music in connecting people – just seeing the many examples of people in lockdown sharing community spirit through singing and playing instruments from their balconies was immensely heartwarming, and gave us all hope for the future of music.

Thank you all for your part in keeping that hope, and love of music, alive.

COVID Hardship Fund – THANK YOU!

You have responded with characteristic generosity to our call for help on behalf of our parents, many of whom have been adversely affected by the COVID pandemic.

Thanks to your support, through donations and through forgoing ticket refunds from The Menuhin Hall, we have raised sufficient funds to help those of our parents who were struggling with their Summer term fees.

It is a testament to you, our donors, that you have reached out to us in our hour of need, and we are immensely grateful to you all: it is through your generosity that Yehudi Menuhin's spirit remains alive and well.

A new Steinway is on its way: in memory of Sir Clifford Curzon and his wife Lucille (née Wallace)

Imagine our delight when Fritz Curzon, a Trustee of the Wallace Curzon Charitable Trust – a longstanding supporter of the School – got in touch with us to say that the Trust was winding down and wanted to make a significant donation to the School as a parting gift.

It took less than five minutes for us to hit on the perfect project: just that week the School's Leadership Team had discussed the need to start raising funds for a new concert grand for the Hall. Sir Clifford Curzon was a renowned concert pianist, and a Steinway artist to boot, so it seemed a perfect fit!

We eagerly await the right moment for our Director of Music, Ashley –



Sir Clifford Curzon

© Fritz Curzon

himself also a pianist – to visit the Steinway showrooms to choose the perfect instrument. We look forward to organising an inaugural concert when circumstances allow!

From the Chairman

Dear Friends,

Whilst we are all aware of the ongoing struggles facing Schools and their students during the COVID 19 crisis, the news from The Yehudi Menuhin School is positive and uplifting. Our pupils are scattered round the globe but they are all able to get online with staff, and teaching is in full swing.

Ben and Ashley have been thrown into the deep end in their new positions as Headmaster and Director of Music. It has become very quickly apparent that the School is in excellent hands thanks to their dedicated and inspiring leadership. They are both very much looking forward to meeting all of the Friends once the Hall and the School can open their doors.

I am particularly delighted to let you know that the Friends Committee recently approved a grant of £25,000 to the School to support the COVID Hardship Fund. This Fund was set up to ensure that no pupil suffering financial hardship due to the

worldwide crisis would be forced to leave the School due to an inability to meet their portion of the fees. With a £15,000 grant towards bursaries given in September 2019, the total donations from the Friends this academic year is an astounding £40,000. Thank you to all of you who have remained Friends, and given additional support through this incredibly difficult time.

We were pleased to "see" so many of you at the Friends AGM, held via Zoom, and very much appreciate your understanding and flexibility with regards to holding the meeting virtually. I hope that Ben and Ashley's introductions have given you a flavour of what exciting plans are in store for the School from September. We are very lucky to have Sue Prentice join us as our new Honorary Treasurer and, once again on behalf of all the Friends, I send my thanks and best wishes to Susan Mitchell, the outgoing



Treasurer, after her 20 years as a Governor and Member of the Friends Management Committee.

Next year is the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Friends of the School. Firm plans to mark the anniversary are on hold until we know when The Menuhin Hall will re-open. If you have any ideas as to how you would like to celebrate the anniversary do let us know. We will also invite you shortly to tell us how you regard being a Friend, and about the various Friends' activities. I do hope that, whilst we cannot invite you into the Hall at present, you will support both activities to the hilt as usual.

With very best wishes

Sir John Baker
Chairman of the Friends of
The Yehudi Menuhin School

Friends' Annual General Meeting

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Tuesday 23 June for our first ever virtual Friends Annual General Meeting. We had an incredible turnout and we really enjoyed "seeing" you all.



Friends Survey

Watch out for our Friends 50th Anniversary survey which will be landing in your inbox in a few weeks.

If you would like to take part but have not yet given us an email address, please contact Rebekah Russo at friends@menuhinschool.co.uk or on 01932 584409.

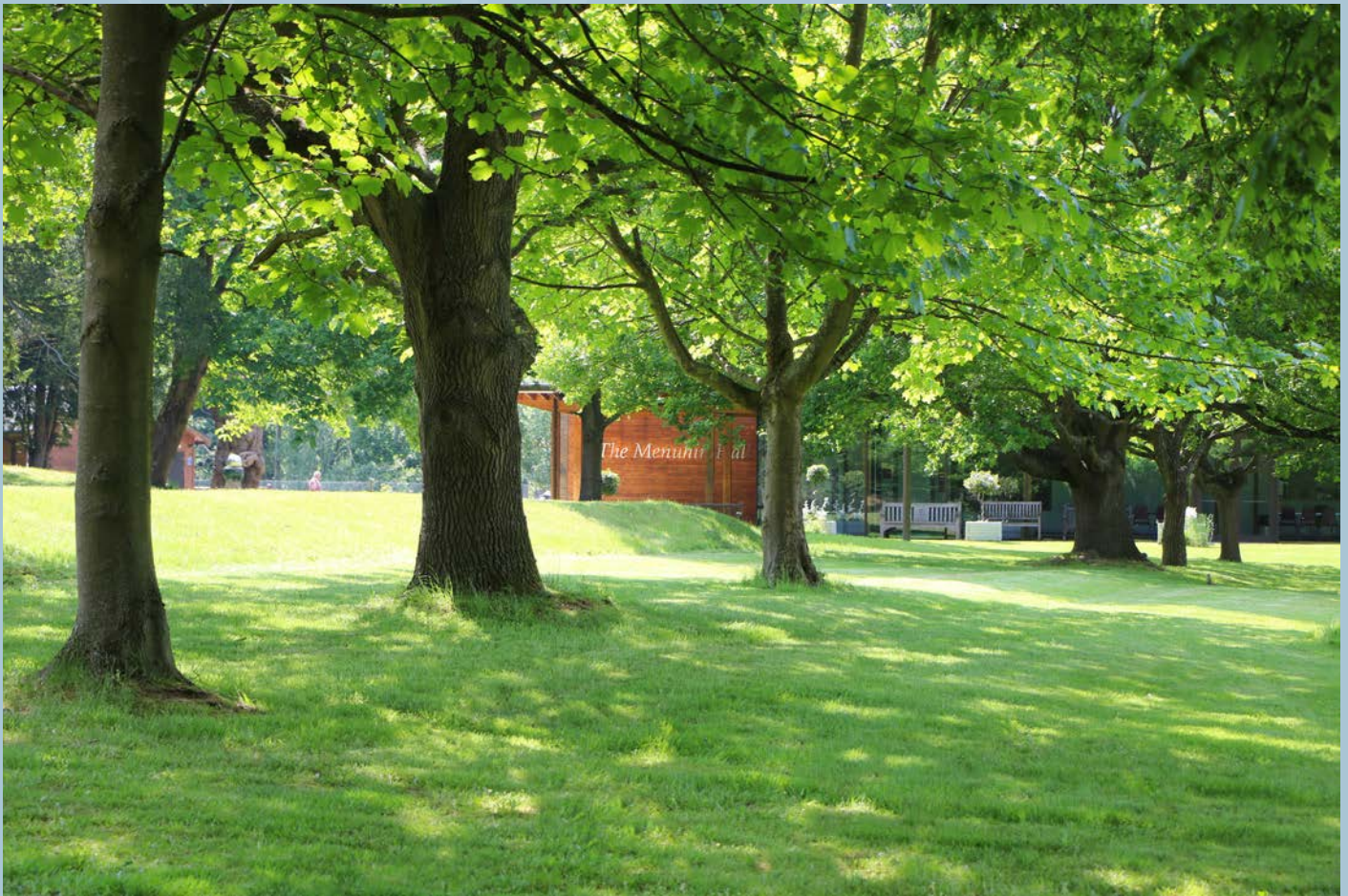


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The Yehudi Menuhin School

SUMMER FESTIVAL 2020



4 - 14 JULY 2020

Get your picnics ready and join us from the comfort of your own garden for two weeks of outstanding classical music from the pupils, staff and alumni of The Yehudi Menuhin School.

See inside for full details and a programme of what's on when, to help you plan your virtual concert-going.

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