



The
Yehudi
Menuhin
School

ISSUE
#79



Newsletter

Summer 2021

The International
Music School founded
by Yehudi Menuhin

Registered Charity 312010

Welcome

The spiritual power of music is undeniably at the heart of everything we do here, every day. And over these past few weeks the Summer Festival has been a glorious exhibition of this. It brought an abundance of joy just at the time we needed it most. This being my first proper Summer Festival at YMS, I was bowled over by the collective achievements of our pupils. To see each one performing in the space of 10 days was momentous, and the palpable buzz that comes from experiencing live music together in a concert hall was electric.

I want to thank all of our loyal friends for being so quick to return and support us when we reopened. It was so gratifying to finally meet so many of you in person; I hugely enjoyed hearing first-hand how the School and Hall have made an impact on you, both before the pandemic and throughout, when so many of you stayed connected with us through our virtual concert series. This festival was an enormous undertaking – our most ambitious yet – and I must congratulate and extend my thanks to all in equal



measure: pupils, staff, catering and our tremendous team in the Hall. You were extraordinary, every one.

As the Festival draws to a close, it affords me a moment to reflect on the year behind us, and I would be lying if I did not admit a sense of relief at getting through it. Again, our pupils and staff deserve both thanks and praise for their heroic efforts in working together to safeguard each other. Our responsibility to and for one another has never been more important.

It will, of course, continue to be significant as we look towards September. We hope in earnest that the Autumn term will bring a sense of even greater normality. Until then, I wish everyone a happy and healthy summer, filled with joyous reunions and opportunities for both laughter and peace.

Ben Gudgeon
Headmaster

- SCHOOL LIFE 2
- MENUHIN HALL 8
- STAFF/ ALUMNI 10
- DEVELOPMENT 13
- FRIENDS 14

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.

CONTACT US

The Yehudi Menuhin School
Stoke d'Abernon, Cobham, Surrey
KT11 3QQ
01932 864739

www.menuhinschool.co.uk

Competitions

Alix won First Prize and Prix d'honneur at the 95th International Music Competition Léopold Bellan.

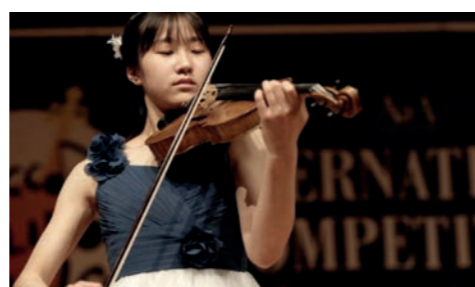


Duru won First Prize in the Advanced category at the Spotlight International Competition.



Kasina and **Richard** were both awarded prizes at the Tunbridge Wells International Music Competition, with Kasina earning a Merit and Richard a Distinction.

Mia won Third Prize in the inaugural Rossall International Piano Competition.



Yume won the Grand Prize at the 2021 Il Piccolo Violino Magico International Competition for Young Violinists.



Graduates' destinations

Kasina Ansvananda	University of Music and Performing Arts
Evie Calver	Kings College, London (reading English Literature)
Özgür Kaya	Royal College of Music
Martin Keane	Akademie für Tonkunst, Darmstadt
Darwin Chang	New England Conservatory
Salvatore Di Lorenzo	Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin
Alfie Leishman	Royal Scottish Academy
Eddie Mead	Royal College of Music
Emanuel Samant-Crampton	Pursuing studies in piano
Kyota Kakiuchi	Universitäre der Künste, Berlin
Alix Vaillot	Royal Academy of Music
Hattie McGregor	Royal Academy of Music
Selina Staeheli	University of Music and Performing Arts
Felicia Tsai	University of Music and Performing Arts

This information was correct at time of printing.

Playing on

Cathy Whitnall writes:

As lockdown began to lift, the pupils found various ways of escaping from the School grounds in order to perform... and we began to monitor the weather forecasts on a daily basis!



On 19 June we surprised the shoppers of Cobham and Guildford with some open air performances in the high street; this was originally planned to herald the end of lockdown, but we were still able to hand out lots of leaflets for the Summer Festival. We took a mixture of quartets and solo pieces and were received with much appreciation by passers-by.

As part of the Summer Festival we had arranged a number of external concerts, including a lunchtime concert at Epsom Playhouse – the first time we have played there, and

the first event for the Playhouse after lockdown. Three days later we performed at St Mary's Church, Stoke d'Abernon, where the audience only just managed to squeeze in. Then there was our annual visit to Painshill – but a different venue this time; the walled garden proved to be a great success, with space for up to 200 listeners.

In addition to these events, we have made use of the school grounds with

two Singing Picnics and the annual Orchestral Picnic concert. The Singing Picnics are events organised with Surrey Arts for over 200 local primary school children, who combine singing songs outdoors with a picnic. Many of them were able to stay on after their picnic to listen to a concert in the Hall.

And though the weather did not always cooperate, it never managed to rain on our parade!

A new partnership

YMS is excited to be embarking on a new partnership with the international classical music agency **Cambridge Creative Management** (CCM), who currently represent the Brodsky Quartet, the pianist Martin Roscoe and the conductor Stephen Layton MBE. This exciting new collaboration will offer our pupils the opportunity to perform on the world's major stages through a new approach to the School's management of external engagements.

In the first relationship of its kind for the School, Cambridge Creative Management will act as agent to our young musicians, seeking professional-level external engagements for them

throughout the UK, Europe and around the globe. Building on the performance opportunities already on offer to the pupils, CCM will endeavour to help build in external engagements, giving a heightened taster of the careers already forged by our remarkable alumni. Initial performance projects will include developing the School's orchestral touring programme, focusing on our biennial visit to the Gstaad Festival; increasing the visibility of the annual Leavers' Concert (held this year at London's Kings Place) through further performances of the programme on offer; and exploring further ways to celebrate the School's 60th anniversary in 2023.

Director of Cambridge Creative Management, **Sarah Trelawny Ford**, welcomes the new collaboration as an exciting development in the short life of the agency so far. "CCM was born out of a loyalty and dedication to artists and classical music during an exceptionally difficult year for many in the industry," she says. "It's an absolute honour to be asked to work with some of the world's finest young musicians, securing a future for this incredibly important performance medium, and I am personally so excited to be working with those at the beginning of their careers. It feels a real privilege to be a part of the start of the creative process."

On the road again...

David Greenwood writes:

On 21 June, 12 of our musicians were thrilled to finally be able to play our first outside concert for over a year.

Though it was billed as 'Music for a Midsummer's Evening', the weather was far from summery, but we had a warm welcome as always from our hosts from the **Banstead Arts Festival and All Saints Church**, and from the very appreciative socially-distanced audience. They too seemed pleased to be out! It was a treat for me to get out of the office and accompany the concert party along with **Ioan and Cathy** - particularly special for me as

my wife and I were married in that church. The acoustics are very good with a clear balanced sound all round.

The programme too was very well balanced, starting with *Haydn Op 33 No 4*, followed by *Beethoven Op 18 No 2* before the short interval - no refreshments allowed at the moment. The second half was a new piece for me, *Vaughan Williams' Piano Quintet*. This is an early chamber work that he himself withdrew and was then not played until 50 years after his death when his widow Ursula gave permission. The audiences of that era missed out on an uplifting piece with



extra character added by the piano and a double bass.

It was a privilege to be part of such a special evening.

Changes in Boarding

We are pleased to announce that from September, our Boarding staffing structure will be further enhanced.

Melanie Bloor-Black will be the Director of Pastoral Care, taking responsibility for the oversight of physical and emotional wellbeing of all pupils - day and boarding. She will be supported in this role by **Robin Harskin**, who will be Head of Boarding.



Victoria Hiscock was appointed to provide cover in Music House following the departure of Joanne Field in February and she will continue her appointment from September, thereby increasing the overall staffing in girls' boarding. **Bertie Duncan** will be joining the School as the (resident) Assistant Houseparent, and Boys' boarding will be strengthened with the welcome inclusion of **Tony Chipps** and **Keelan Carew** to the team. The Safeguarding team comprises **Melanie** (DSL), supported by **David Bruce** and **Robin Harskin** as (Deputy DSLs).

Jazz Party

Julius writes:

After a two-year wait and full day of orchestral rehearsals, 1 July was the day for our annual Jazz Party. A colourfully decorated Hall foyer as the stage supported by a brand-new PA system provided the perfect environment for an evening full of all kinds of music. Ranging from Italian keyboard improvisations and intimate duo singing to heavy metal and Big Band Jazz, the night included a great variety of musical genres. Both choreographed and spontaneous dancing added to the festive mood and all pupils hugely enjoyed this evening full of joy. After the traditional final songs 'Spirit Carries On' and 'My Way', the laughter made way for tears as the Jazz Party marked a final goodbye to all our leavers who will depart us at the end of the year... but for those who are staying with us, see you next year!

Rearing chicks

This term the C1 class had a marvellous time incubating some chicken eggs. With great excitement they listened to the chicks chirping inside the eggs before they hatched!

In true YMS style, the chicks performed well by arriving to an audience. The Ds and Cs watched in awe as the eggs were gradually chipped open from the inside. The new babies were dubbed Squeaky and Smartie and quickly became part of the Menuhin School community.



Biology Field work

Luckily for the YMS biologists, school trips consisting of exciting things like counting shells on a seashore were permitted this term, so our A level group was able to venture out for a day in October.

They travelled to Cuckmere Haven on the South Coast to investigate the distribution and size of limpets on the seashore, where they discovered lots of flora and fauna in the rockpools, and spent an enjoyable day finding crabs and sea anemones, and measuring limpets!



Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Jenny Dexter writes:

After a year of waiting and guiding the pupils through their volunteering online, the School is now running three expeditions - Bronze, Silver and Gold.

This term we have been busy planning routes, doing First Aid courses and going on our practice expeditions. The Silver and Bronze groups tested out our new tents and rucksacks on expeditions in the local area on the North Downs. They were fantastic at map reading and were so positive. It was lovely for Sarah, David and I to be out camping with them and to watch

them excel! The sun shone and they all finished exhausted but satisfied.

A Gold group will visit the Lake District for more extreme navigation and walking at the end of term. I hope that the Sun shines for them... it can be very wet up there!



Good innings



David Bruce writes: On the morning of 11 June, the sun was shining as YMS pupils completed their last academic exam at the end of a very challenging year. They have all worked hard under difficult circumstances, and many

have sat more assessments than they would have outside of the pandemic. As a reward for all their hard work, academic lessons were suspended that afternoon in favour of a rounders match for all.

Despite the fact that some were playing for the first time and learning on the go, a great time was had by all. **Simon** was the impartial umpire and **Hannah** (who could not be bribed) kept the rounders' tally as two large teams battled it out for supremacy. It was a closely-fought match with some massive hits but credit must go to **Tony's** back-handed technique which confused all the fielders as he sailed home to massive cheers!

After the game, there was ice cream for all, but everyone enjoyed it so much that a rematch was quickly agreed which continued late into the afternoon.

It was a really relaxing and enjoyable afternoon and we hope to repeat it next year (although one or two staff did have limps the next day so a thorough warm up may be required next time!)

Activities Day

Due to COVID restrictions, we had to be a little more creative with our Activities Day this year and hold our events on-site. The Academic and Boarding staff came up with a great range of activities for the pupils, who got to move through each event throughout the day. David performed a sundance and was confident the weather would not let us down - and for once he was right!

The youngest started with **laser tag** which was a huge hit! The staff felt a teeny bit ganged-up on (but it's also possible that the pupils were just too quick for them!)

From here they had a breather with some **mocktail-making**. **Angela** supplied every available syrup and juice combination and an amazing array of fruit. After this pause it was off to the

inflatable obstacle course to see how fast they could get from one end to the other. **Sarah and Jenny**, our impartial time-keepers, agreed that the overall champion was **Tim** who completed the course faster than Usain Bolt can run the 100m! The staff, at slightly slower speeds, also took part with **Svetlana** being the quickest by some margin.

Just before a **fantastic BBQ** by **Jean and his team**, there were some **games and challenges** organised by **Sarah and Robin**. After the burgers, halloumi and salad had been gratefully consumed, we were treated to an incredible **falconry display** arranged by **Tony** - a real highlight for many. The pupils were able to meet and hold the birds, and took numerous photos of them in flight. Undoubtedly some of the photos

will appear in this year's photography competition kindly organised by **Victoria**.

After this, **Simon** turned the swimming pool into a party zone with floats, inflatables and balls flying around while the newly purchased waterproof speaker played some upbeat music. After a quick dry off and change, they were off to see **Hannah** to do some tie-dying. The t-shirt designs were really stunning and many have since been spotted around School. After that, there was just enough time for another very competitive **rounders match** before the final event - **Alan and Naomi's 'Play in a Day'** in which nine pupils produced a play in just two hours. The end result was something really marvelous.

The whole day was a great success and had that celebrated YMS family feeling.



This term in The Menuhin Hall

What a term this has been for The Menuhin Hall. It was exhilarating to be able to finally sell tickets for live events... and then actually welcome the audience! Alumnus **Alexander Chaushian** joined us for a concert in June, and we streamed a **virtual roundtable discussion** about the role of musicians in the 21st century. It felt good to get closer to normal, even though there were inevitable changes that had to be made in light of the

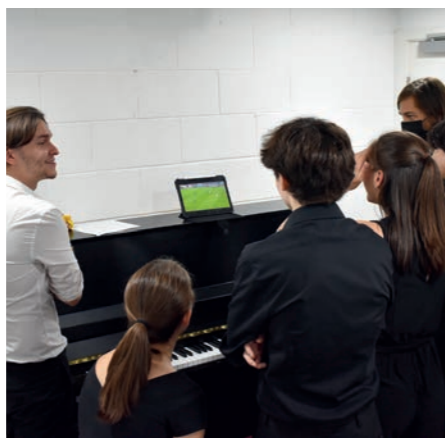
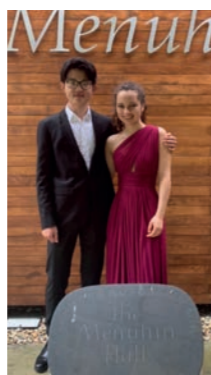
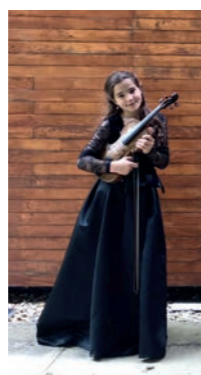
government guidelines remaining unchanged until after the Festival.

We very hurriedly had to devise a new system for ordering from the bar once we learned that table service was all that would be allowed. This was a bit of a learning curve, both for us and for the many audience members who conquered the process of ordering through their phones using QR codes and a brand new online platform. We applaud all of you for your resilience

and patience with the new, temporary system, and hope to be able to reopen the bar as normal in September.

It goes without saying that the **Summer Festival** was the highlight of the term, if not the year. 11 days, 37 events and hundreds of pieces performed for appreciative audiences of both longstanding supporters and new friends. It was a fitting farewell to a year of both challenges and triumphs, and we were thrilled to share it with you.

Summer Festival



Coming up

This Autumn brings some exciting plans to The Menuhin Hall.

The new season kicks off with an evening with acclaimed **countertenor Iestyn Davies accompanied by Thomas Dunford on the lute**. Iestyn is an honorary member of the YMS family as his father is YMS Chamber Music Professor - and founding member of the Fitzwilliam Quartet - **Ioan Davies**.

It is with great joy that we finally welcome back beloved Menuhin Hall regulars the **Piccadilly Dance Orchestra** in September and **The Grange Bookham** for their annual Christmas concert.



Iestyn Davies

In addition to our **Showcase concerts** - which remain the backbone of every season - we look forward to presenting a number of special guests, including **Dame Evelyn Glennie, Charles Owen, Dame Patricia Routledge** and the ingenious **Harry the Piano**. We will finish with our Winter Festival,

featuring a **screening of *The Snowman*** with live musical accompaniment, **Showcase concerts** and an **orchestral concert with Maxim Rysanov**. There are many opportunities to celebrate the season with the whole family, and we look forward to welcoming audiences both familiar and new.

Autumn/Winter season

SEPTEMBER

THU 16 SEPT	7.30PM	IESTYN DAVIES & THOMAS DUNFORD
SAT 25 SEPT	7.30PM	PICCADILLY DANCE ORCHESTRA
THURS 30 SEPT	7.30PM	SHOWCASE CONCERT

OCTOBER

TUES 5 OCT	10.30AM	ANDREW KEENER RECORDING WORKSHOP (FRIENDS)
FRI 8 OCT	7.30PM	HARRY THE PIANO
THU 14 OCT	7.30PM	SHOWCASE CONCERT
SAT 23 OCT	3.00PM	PATRICIA ROUTLEDGE WITH EDWARD SECKERSON

NOVEMBER

WED 3 NOV	7.30PM	CHARLES OWEN 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
THU 11 NOV	7.30PM	REMEMBRANCE DAY SHOWCASE CONCERT
THU 25 NOV	7.30PM	IN CONVERSATION WITH EVELYN GLENNIE
SAT 27 NOV	1.15PM	LUNCHTIME SHOWCASE CONCERT

DECEMBER

SAT 4 DEC	7.30PM	THE GRANGE CHRISTMAS CONCERT
5-9 DEC		WINTER FESTIVAL

For further details please see The Menuhin Hall What's On guide or visit www.themenuhinhall.co.uk.

How to book

As before, we are encouraging all patrons to book online if possible.

The Box Office will be operating reduced hours over the Summer period but if you need help with your booking, please get in touch either on boxoffice@menuhinschool.co.uk or 01932 559400.

Priority Booking

MENUHIN CIRCLE OPENS 18 AUG
BEST FRIENDS OPENS 18 AUG
FRIENDS OPENS 25 AUG

GENERAL BOOKING OPENS 1 SEPT

Please keep an eye on our website for the latest updates and any changes to these plans.

www.themenuhinhall.co.uk

Staff farewells and hellos

This term we bid a fond farewell to a number of staff.

Principal Violin Teacher **Diana Galvydyte** departed this term to relocate to Guernsey. The School is grateful for her contribution to the Music department over the years.

Teacher of Italian **Valentina Palmadori** hopes to travel when allowed but will maintain her links with the School through guardianship of one of our pupils.

Assistant Violin Teacher **Tereza Privratska** is leaving us after four years to focus on her work with the Jubilee Quartet and to enjoy the blue skies of Madrid.

Head of Philanthropy **Beth Quartermaine** leaves our Development Department this July to pursue a new role at Action for Children.

Jacque Whittingham will be handing back the reins to Shelley at the end of August, and is hopeful of having a good rest after the trials and tribulations of the last 18 months.

The boys in Harris House will greatly miss **Angela Williams** who is leaving to take some well-deserved time off.

Our much-loved Languages teacher **Petra Young** is retiring at the end of this term. Petra has been with the School for 20 years this academic year, and has instilled a love of language learning in countless pupils over the years. Her infectious positivity and commitment to the School will be hugely missed.



Petra Young

On a happier note, we were very pleased to welcome acclaimed violinist **Doriane Gable** to the Music department. Doriane has performed with some of the world's most famous ensembles in some of the most celebrated concert halls, and our pupils have benefited from her expertise as both Guest Leader to the Orchestra and as Principal Violin Teacher.

Debbie Groves joined us in the Box Office this term. With a background in the education and charity sectors, and experience in events admin and publicity, she enjoyed the buzz of working in the Hall during the Summer Festival, and looks forward to experiencing the running of the Hall in more 'normal' times!

We hope you will join us in extending a warm welcome to the newest members of our family, and in sending our very best wishes to those who are moving on.

Alumni news

Benjamin Baker released a new recording with Delphian Records in April. *1942* features sonatas by Copland, Poulenc and Prokofiev all written in the same year spanning three different continents and a variety of personal situations for the composers in what was a very challenging time in history.

Grammy award-winning violinist **Nicola Benedetti** released her new album *Baroque* in July. This is the first album she has released on a period set-up including gut strings, and is joined for the first time by the **Benedetti Baroque Orchestra**, a leading group of freelance baroque musicians.

Emmanuel Despax and **Miho Kawashima** have released a new album with Andrew Litton and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. *Brahms Piano Concerto No 1 and 16 Waltzes* is available from most streaming services and online retailers, including Amazon, Spotify and Hyperion.

Cheryl Frances-Hoad will be offering mentoring to the under-19s winner of the BDRS Composition



Nicola Benedetti

Competition. Open to composers of all ages and backgrounds resident in, or with connections to, the UK, and to all BDRS members, the competition aims to attract a diverse range of talented applicants.

Tasmin Little has won a BBC Music Magazine Award for *British Violin Sonatas Vol 3*, her final album with partner Piers Lane.

Breanainn Ó Mathuna, known professionally as Braynin, released his debut 'Butterflies', a catchy pop anthem exploring moments of

heartache wrapped up in a deceptively feel-good soundscape that blends elements of pop, trap and dance. The track is available to download from most streaming services.

Recent graduate **Viviane Plekhotkine** has just been awarded the Performer Prize at the RCM Contemporary Competition.

Violinist **Charlotte Saluste-Bridoux** is among the winners of this year's Concert Artists Guild Virtual Competition. Held in conjunction with the Young Concert Artists Trust, the competition aims to give talented young players mentorship and performance opportunities at the start of their careers.

The Sitkovetsky Trio has released an animated film depicting the composer Maurice Ravel in and around Paris, as a prequel to their July album release of Ravel's trio and Saint-Saëns' *Piano Trio No 2 in E minor Op 92*. The animation by artist Pavel Hudec illustrates some of the influences that are heard in Ravel's beguiling music written in 1914.

Staff news

Mariko Brown and **Julian Jacobson** have just released a new CD. Recorded in The Menuhin Hall just before the Fazioli moved out, *Manhattan to Montmartre* features dazzling keyboard arrangements of American giants George Gershwin and Leonard Bernstein, and is available from Spotify or www.somm-recordings.com.



Marco Galvani has released an album of choral works and electronic refractions with the award-winning vocal ensemble SANSARA. Recorded in the midst of the pandemic, *Invisible Cities* showcases Marco's distinct voice

through a synthesis of contrasting soundworlds, and features settings of well-known sacred texts, reflecting on the importance of community and hope in times of fear and uncertainty.

Matthew Taylor's 6th Symphony had its world premiere in May with Martyn Brabbins conducting the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. The Symphony was commissioned by the Arnold Trust, dedicated to the memory of Malcolm Arnold with grateful thanks to the Arnold family. A video of the performance is available online and the Symphony is due for broadcast on BBC Radio 3 shortly. The recording of Matthew's 4th and 5th Symphonies was named 'Recording of the Month' by Music Web International in June.



The Sitkovetsky Trio - The Journey of the Pantoum

Progress at the Menuhin School, Qingdao

Key appointments have been made to the senior staff of the Menuhin School in Qingdao, China.

YMS alumnus, celebrated violinist and Qingdao native **Lu Siqing** will join as President. Hailed as one of the most outstanding Chinese violinists of his generation, Mr Lu was invited at the age of 11 by Yehudi Menuhin to join the School, and has since performed to critical acclaim at some of the world's most famous concert halls in more than forty countries throughout North and South America, Europe and Asia.

Mrs Zheng Ren will lead the new school as Headmistress. Mrs Zheng is an esteemed leader with years of experience in education.

Mark Stringer has been appointed Deputy Head, and will take the lead on all musical activities. A highly experienced senior leader and musician, Mr Stringer is currently Director of Music at Wells Cathedral School, and previously directed the academic and commercial operations of Trinity College London in 60 countries. As a performer, lecturer, adjudicator and examiner, he has worked in the US, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Australasia and Europe.

Mr Stringer said: "I am delighted to have been appointed Deputy Head at the Menuhin School Qingdao.

This ambitious, exciting venture will establish a world-renowned specialist music school which will recruit the finest young musicians from China,



Building works progressing at YMSQ

Asia and further afield. Our high calibre teachers will coach and equip the next generation of performers for the international stage. Building on the ethos and values of Yehudi Menuhin and the School he founded in the UK, the Menuhin School Qingdao will nonetheless have its own distinctive dynamic and identity. Its inspirational architecture, world-class acoustics, unparalleled facilities and technical infrastructure combined with a pioneering, progressive curriculum will ensure that the School becomes one of the world's elite centres of learning and training."



Mark Stringer

He will benefit from a collaboration with The Yehudi Menuhin School's current Director of Music, **Ashley Wass**, who will act as a musical consultant to the Chinese school. This appointment will facilitate close links between the two schools,

and ensure that Yehudi Menuhin's founding ethos remains strong.

During the appointment process, The Yehudi Menuhin School was assisted by executive search specialists Saxton Bampfylde, who assembled an extremely impressive field of candidates for these key roles.

Chair of Governors, **David Buckley** said: "I am thrilled to announce the new team at the top of YMSQ. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with our partners in Qingdao to appoint the founding leadership team and look forward to the School's grand opening in September 2022. The two schools look forward to a very close relationship in the near future, and recent developments in technology promise exciting and regular collaborations between YMS and YMSQ from the early stages."

We could not have done it without you!

Your donations and overwhelming messages of support over the past 12 months have provided an absolute lifeline to our pupils and to the School, during what has probably been our most challenging year yet.

Thanks to you, we were able to support every family who came to us for additional financial assistance linked to the impact of the pandemic. Gifts to the School also allowed us to buy high quality tablets to loan to

pupils who were relying on outdated laptops or even mobile phones when our learning moved online. Many of you also supported us with general funding, allowing us to respond to critical developments over the year, **providing vital PPE and other equipment to secure the school site.**

Thanks to your generosity we were also able to **support 21 pupils this year** through our Bursary Fund. Many pupils were also able to apply for extra

support through our **Student Hardship Fund** to take part in long-awaited summer courses and other activities.

It has been such a joy to finally start to meet some of you face-to-face again during our Summer Festival. A huge thank you to all of you for your steadfast support and I very much look forward to seeing many more of you in person next year.

Alix de Mauny
Development Director

Celebrating Sir Clifford Curzon

We were delighted to finally welcome several of the **trustees of The Wallace Curzon Charitable Trust** to The Menuhin Hall for the formal, public inauguration of our new **Steinway Model D, which we purchased last year thanks to a substantial grant from the Trust.** Fritz Curzon, Sir Clifford's adopted son, told audiences a little bit more about the personal connection between his father and Yehudi Menuhin.

Together, they recorded pieces by **Lili Boulanger** at the request of Lili's sister **Nadia Boulanger** (who taught at YMS), and also shared the same yoga teacher, who used to visit them both every Saturday in their homes in Highgate. As the Trust wound down earlier this year, we were truly privileged that they chose us for their final generous gift, which we hope will bring joy to our pupils, staff and audiences for years to come.



Culture Recovery Fund Success

The Menuhin Hall received a lifeline grant of £51,000 from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund to help offset the impact of almost a year of closures.

The funding has been vital in helping us to continue to run the Hall and make plans for the future when the Hall's income has been so adversely affected over the past year.

While much of the funding is being used to cover core costs, some of it has also allowed us to explore options for a more developed version of our Virtual Menuhin Hall, allowing us to

build on the digital transformation of the past year and reach out to new audiences far beyond the physical confines of the Hall.



Menuhin Circle: Save the date!

The next gathering of The Menuhin Circle will take place in London on 24 November in a private home. Guests will be treated to a short concert by some of our pupils followed by an update on the progress of our sister school in Qingdao. We are delighted that their new Deputy Head, Mark Stringer, will join us at the event to tell us about his plans for this exciting new venture.

The Menuhin Circle welcomes supporters who commit to making an annual donation to our Annual Fund of between £1,000 and £5,000 for at least three years.

For more information, please contact Marion Chow at marion.chow@menuhinschool.co.uk.

From the Chairman of the Friends

Dear Friends

I am delighted to be writing this message as The Menuhin Hall is finally able to reopen to audiences for the spectacular Summer Festival events. I know that many of you have greatly missed hearing the pupils performing live, and are more than eager to get back into the concert hall to support them. Although the Hall is operating at a limited capacity to accommodate social distancing, the buzz of live performance will be a joy. We look forward to the Autumn season when we hope the Hall will reopen at full capacity.

I wanted to thank you all for your support of the **Friends 'refresh' programme, which will launch on 1 August**. I am extremely grateful for your continued support and look

forward to sharing with you some of the new virtual benefits next year.

At the June meeting of the Friends Management Committee, the School Leadership Team presented us with a new proposal for the **Friends to support: a Bursary Fund for the new Virtual Menuhin School** which is officially launching in September this year. As a Committee we felt that supporting these talented young musicians from around the world, with the hope that we are creating a future pipeline of young pupils for the School, was something the Friends would support wholeheartedly, and so awarded a **grant of £10,000 to this fund**. You can read more about the Virtual School on these Friends pages. The Committee also awarded a **grant of £15,000 to the usual Bursary Fund at YMS**.

I must also let you know the news that **Beth Quartermaine** will be leaving YMS on 16 July, to take up a new role at Action for Children. You can still contact **Barbara Thwaites**, Development Officer, about any membership enquiries, and our Development Director, **Alix de Mauny**, remains in post. We look forward to introducing you to **Marion Chow**, who will be taking over as Head of Individual Giving later this summer.

With best wishes,

Sir John Baker



Chairman of the
Friends of The Yehudi Menuhin School

Friends at 50 celebrations

It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the Friends 50th celebratory concert on Friday 2 July. Whilst we were disappointed not to be able to host the reception complete with champagne and cake, we hope you still enjoyed the concert! **We will be rescheduling the celebration for the Autumn term – keep an eye out for the date!**

In the meantime, there are some online celebratory videos for you to enjoy. Previous Headmaster, Nicolas Chisholm, and previous Director of Music, Malcolm Singer, came together to wish the Friends a happy 50th birthday and to introduce the very first concert at The Menuhin Hall back in



2006. Hopefully you received this by email on 1 July – if not please get in touch at friends@menuhinschool.co.uk and we will be happy to send this on to you!



Following on from Melvyn Tan's interview in April, we will have videos from alumni Cheryl Frances-Hoad and others coming soon!

Introducing the Virtual Menuhin School

This academic year, YMS has been piloting a new initiative to reach even more young talented musicians from across the globe.

An unexpected benefit of the global pandemic is that we found it is quite possible to teach to a very high standard online. Whilst there can never be a full replacement for in-person teaching and performance, it is possible to remove the geographical barriers that might prevent some talented young musicians from accessing the excellent musical education offered here at YMS.

The Virtual Menuhin School combines instrumental tuition and guidance with tailored lessons in musicianship, music theory and composition. Pupils have a highly individualised timetable that includes online social interaction with their peers, as well as a sense of



community and engagement with the rest of the YMS pupils and staff.

The aim of VMS is to provide these young musicians with the tools they need to apply to be full-time pupils on site in the coming years. The full Virtual Menuhin School is launching in September 2021, with 10 pupils from around the globe. **We are delighted that**

the Friends Committee have awarded the School a grant of £10,000 to support bursaries for these pupils next year. We look forward to introducing the pupils to you fully in September, and wanted to share how some of the pupils from this pilot year have been getting on. *We are grateful to The Linbury Trust who provided funding for the pilot project initiative.*

Meet some of the VMS pupils

Brando, 9-year old Italian violinist

Brando is a very sweet boy, full of fire and Italian character! Brando is working on his English; luckily VMS tutor **Marco Galvani** speaks some Italian and hopes to continue improving, conducting lessons fully in Italian whilst Brando develops his English. Of working with Brando, Marco said, **"Brando is a lovely student who is always very committed and passionate about his studies."**

Lyana, 10-year old Armenian cellist

Lyana is incredibly talented and is a polite and diligent pupil. She has perfect pitch and enjoys being pushed in her lessons, which really



helps the amount of work that can be done. Lyana is very interested in different types of music, in addition to classical. After her first lesson, her mum sent a video of her and her sister doing a Michael Jackson medley! She also loves jazz; her VMS tutor Marco suggested she listened to John Coltrane, and she thought it was

the most amazing thing. Marco said: **"Lyana is a fabulously creative student who tackles difficult exercises with assurance and motivation."**

Margaret, 8-year old French cellist

Margaret was our first VMS pupil, and she has eagerly soaked up all that VMS has to offer. She studies with YMS violin teacher **Elliott Perks**, and they have a wonderful ongoing dialogue on Teams about their favourite Beethoven violin sonatas. She applies herself wholeheartedly to her studies, with Marco commenting: **"Margaret is a pleasure to teach, and it is always a joy to see her working through examples methodically, striving to get them completely right."**

