



The
Yehudi
Menuhin
School

The International
Music School founded
by Yehudi Menuhin

Registered Charity 312010

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Newsletter

Summer 2018

Welcome

YMS is an unusual school in many ways. Here there is no such thing as 'study leave'. Multitasking is an important life skill, and this term pupils calmly navigated the waters of public exams while maintaining their regular routine: lessons and practice, performances and backstage duties, masterclasses, sport and outreach. This newsletter provides a glimpse of school life at home, on tour, on the public stage and in the community.

The Summer term was framed by two of the most uplifting events of the year: Founder's Day and the Summer Festival. Parents, staff past and present, Friends and guests flocked to The Menuhin Hall to hear solo, chamber, orchestral and choral works, and enjoy picnics on the sun-drenched lawn. In spite of abnormally dry conditions, the flowerbeds and newly painted planters looked at their best. Pupils who had volunteered to be sales ushers did a roaring trade in school-related merchandise and raffle tickets to raise money for the YMS Student Aid fund. This benefits deserving pupils wishing to participate



in competitions or attend holiday courses. It also helps to fund tours, such as the Scottish Tour in May and the Spanish Tour this coming October.

July is when we bid a fond farewell to our leavers, both staff and pupils. The three-fold 'au revoir' to our Class of 2018 spanned the Wigmore Hall Concert, the Orchestral Picnic Concert - with the traditional presentation of scores - and the Jazz Party on the

last evening of term. This transitional time is bittersweet. One cohort moves on to pastures new, but another - 19 talented young musicians from 11 countries - is waiting in the wings to make its *début* in September.

Kate Clanchy
Head

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Max reflects on his time with the BBC

The BBC Young Musician experience was an amazing one, to say the least. It was beyond any of my expectations to get the Category Finals, let alone the Grand Final at Symphony Hall, and it really was something I will never forget.

To experience the Strings Category Final with Will was amazing; to have someone you know really well alongside you cannot be underestimated, and I truly believe it allowed me to play to the best of my ability, as we kept each other comfortable and out of the 'competitive' environment.

Winning the Strings Final was unexpected, as was getting through the Semi Final, but nothing compared to the excitement and adrenaline

of the Final performance. Playing in Symphony Hall with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra is an opportunity I never believed would happen to me, certainly not at this age, so I was really honoured to be a part of such an amazing event. It seems like a pressurising situation, but with the incredible amount of support from family, friends and the School, it was an opportunity I was able to enjoy and just play my very best.

The whole competition was such an honour to be a part of and I will be forever grateful to everyone who supported me throughout the whole journey.



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 the best part is our YouTube channel which we keep updated with awe-inspiring videos of our students playing Schubert, Poulenc, Vaughan Williams, Finzi, Wolf and more. Through this channel you can watch and listen to our students 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

This term our pupils have had impressive and unprecedented success at competitions across Europe.

Max and Will performed in the Strings Category Final of the BBC Young Musician Competition, with Max moving on to the Final. He performed at Birmingham's Symphony Hall with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra conducted by Mark Wigglesworth, and even though he ultimately did not take the top prize, it was an unforgettable experience. A full coachload of students, staff and Friends travelled from the School to cheer him on and it was an incredibly uplifting day, topped off with Will being awarded the Walter Todd Prize, given at the judges' discretion to a musician who showed immense promise but did not reach the Final.

Kyota and Tianyou were selected to compete in the Menuhin Competition in April. Tianyou came fourth overall and won the coveted Bach Prize. He was joined in Geneva by Zamira Menuhin-Benthall and teacher Diana Galvydyte.



Seoyul Kim

Seoyul was extremely proud to win Junior 1st Prize at the International Anton Rubinstein Competition in Dusseldorf. The prize was a one-year loan of a Carlo Bergonzi violin.

The Rubinstein Competition was doubly successful for YMS students as Otoha won the Promotion Prize.

Selina won 2nd Prize at the Schweizerische Jugendmusikwettbewerb with a stunning performance of Saint-Saens

Danse macabre – Poème symphonique Op 40 and *Ysaÿe Sonate für Violine Solo Op 27 No 2*.

SongHa and Coco competed at the Paganini Competition in Genoa. Coco was the youngest participant ever, and SongHa reached the Semi-Final with an inspiring performance.

Jelena, Viviane and Darwin travelled to Fermo to compete in the Postacchini Strings Competition. They all performed extremely well and reported that they found the experience very rewarding and exciting. Congratulations to Darwin for reaching the Finals.

We are so proud of every one of our pupils. It is a testament, not only to their talent and discipline, but also to their courage and strength of character that they are able to achieve such consistently high results on the international stage. Thank you to the Music staff for all the hard work they put into preparing the pupils for these competitions.

Congratulations to everyone for such a successful term.



Tianyou Ma



Selina Staeheli

Founder's Day

The entire School community celebrated the birth of our Founder with two days of activities. On Sunday 22 April, many of our Friends and supporters gathered for a sold-out concert in The Menuhin Hall with Jeremy and Mookie Menuhin, and renowned cellist Gary Hoffman. They were joined onstage by some of our pupils, including the Junior Orchestra, conducted by Òscar Colomina i Bosch.

The following morning, the entire School had the morning off from lessons and came together in The

Menuhin Hall to watch the BBC film 'Who's Yehudi', after which teachers Boris Kucharsky and Thomas Carroll talked about their memories of Yehudi and played a short concert, accompanied by Svitlana Kosenko and Nigel Hutchison, much to the delight of the audience.

Choral Director David Condry then led the School in a rousing chorus of Parry's *I Was Glad*. The events of the morning had obviously warmed hearts, as after the singing, everyone spilled out onto the lawn for a joyful BBQ, and the Juniors raced around the grounds for their Founder's Day Treasure Hunt.



Edith Fischer

On 24 April, we were delighted to welcome back renowned pianist Edith Fischer to give a masterclass. Born in Santiago de Chile, Ms Fischer gave her first recital at the age of 11 and later studied with Claudio Arrau (as did our own Ruth Nye). In 1989, she and her husband founded the festival Semaine Internationale de Piano de Blonay-St.-Légier and Cours International in Switzerland.

Her wonderfully warm approach was most inspiring, and Ms Fischer remarked that she was extremely impressed by our students. Richard, Rebecca, Claire, Katie, Gorka, Viviana, Alasdair, Duru and the Brahms Trio all had the opportunity to spend time with her.

Scottish tour

The tour to Scotland, which was established and is still led by piano teacher Ruth Nye, is an annual event dating back 20 years. This time we broke with tradition and went in May rather than February, and were able to enjoy the spring flora along the Falls of Clyde and lambs gambolling in the fields at Blair Atholl.

First stop was Berwick-upon-Tweed, just south of the border, where we were joined for the concert by Richard and Elaine Hillier. Thence to Eyemouth

for a Coffee Concert overlooking the picturesque harbour. In New Lanark we were hosted by old friends Dr Jamie Hill and fellow members of Music in Lanark. We were privileged to tour the World Heritage Site village dating from the eighteenth century, and play in the Musicians' Room housing a piano dedicated to Ruth.

Next stop was Canongate Kirk in Edinburgh at the invitation of Sebastian Thewes, where our concert was in aid of the campaign to house our fellow music school, St Mary's, in the fine Greek revival Old Royal High School building. Our pupils

Mira, Finlay, Caterina, Stefanije, Duru, Rebecca and Claire featured in *The Herald*.

Our final two concerts were held at Blair Castle near Pitlochry, where hosts Lavinia and Andrew Gordon accommodated our whole party in their lovely house with its magnificent views over the glen. Each of us wrote a message in the visitors' book, which had been signed by all previous YMS visitors, including former pupils and current piano teachers Alexis White and Emmanuel Despax.



The Menuhin School in bloom

In spite of the dry spell, our grounds looked at their best for the Summer Festival. The planters outside The Menuhin Hall were filled with geraniums, gaura trailing petunias and spiral bay, and the spectacular white bed near the music studios with lupins, hydrangeas, daisies and silver birch.

We all take pride in our environment. Younger pupils have learned to grow potatoes, deadhead pansies, take cuttings and plant herbs. Our chef regularly uses homegrown oregano, sage and thyme in sauces and lavender in his special shortbread.



Wigmore Hall

Our Senior pupils did themselves, and the School, extremely proud at our annual concert at the Wigmore Hall on 29 June.

The programme consisted of:
 Debussy *Sonata for Cello and Piano*,
 Gareth Wood *Duo*, Rachmaninov *Trio élégiaque No 1 in G minor*, Halvorsen *Passacaglia after a Theme by Handel*,
 Bartók *Piano Sonata* and Strauss *Metamorphosen* (arr. Rudolf Leopold for string septet).

Two coaches packed with students, staff and Friends travelled to London to support the performers, and the audience was further filled with parents, alumni and our generous group of patrons. We would like to thank our entire community for their continued support, and for sharing such a special evening with us.

If you were not able to join us, you can read a review of the

concert on classicalsource.com, which describes the performances as “heart-stopping” and “spine-tingling”, and the evening as “a remarkable occasion to witness...”



Concerts in the Community

The summer term included a visit to the Princess Alice Hospice in Esher, Cedar Court Care Home in Cranleigh and the Orchard Dementia Centre in Chertsey. The students showed great talent and professionalism as they

brought the magic of the concert hall to the dining halls and living rooms of the county's care homes. From the lyricism of Bottesini to the vigour of many a Spanish, Romanian and Hungarian dance, they touched the hearts of audiences, not only with the quality of their performances, but with the deep sincerity of their music-making.



Primary Schools Concerts

In July, The Menuhin Hall opened its doors to hundreds of local primary school children who listened to a recital of Summer Festival pieces, culminating in the combined performance of our older pupils and Cobham Free School's youngest. Elliott Perks' forty-odd students from our Chance to Play scheme played their tiny violins in unison on

a stage for the first time. With dozens of violins, the stirring accompaniment of the YMS students, and the voices of around 200 children, *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* could not have sounded more majestic.



Dorking Halls

It was with great excitement that the members of the orchestra saw the School's name 'in lights' as the coach delivered them to Dorking Halls for a concert in May organised by the Dorking Concertgoers Society. The School used to perform there regularly before The Menuhin Hall was built, but the current orchestral players had never been there before.

A programme consisting of Howells *Elegy*, with Boris Kucharsky playing the solo, Vivaldi *Concerto for Two Cellos* (soloists Juliet Wolff and Pere Puertas Masferrer), Vaughan Williams *Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis* and Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* Quartet transcribed for orchestra by Mahler was very well received by the audience with many enthusiastic comments afterwards.

Additional enjoyment for some of the pupils was engendered by the discovery of the open lift which gave direct access to the stage – ideal for getting the harpsichord and the double basses (and some pupils!) up and down.

Painshill Park

The weather forecast during the build-up to the Painshill performances was watched with particular care, especially by Max who recalled last year's concerts as the wettest of his life! However, this year the sun shone and the students spread their performances over two days to a small

but extremely appreciative audience in the grotto.

This year the programme included several complete quartets, and a pair of *Intermezzi* by Parry for string trio (Ezo, Hattie Q and Pere) which had been written for the Lushington family living at Pyports in Cobham (just opposite the parish church).



Brackenbury Art Show

The rich diversity of YMS students was reflected in this year's vibrant Brackenbury Art Show.

Visitors to the Summer Festival made their way across the lawns from The Menuhin Hall to the new exhibition venue, the elegant Kentner Room in Music House. They were treated to an abundance of art, poetry and music created entirely by the pupils. Included in the show were paintings, ceramics,

drawings, photography, mixed media and an installation entitled 'Peace Please'. The variety of artwork revealed the talent, enthusiasm and creativity of our students.

Martin Brackenbury and Kate Clanchy had the unenviable task of judging the exhibition. Both were very impressed with the high standard of the work. Pictured here are pieces by Mika (right), Judith and Rose (below).



New pupils



Giorgio Agnes (12, Italy) plays the piano and studies with Ruth Nye.



James Marshall (11, UK) plays the violin and studies with Boris Kucharsky.



Isla Schwarz (9, UK) plays the violin and studies with Lutsia Ibragimova.

Singing in School

Every now and then a so-called 'Lesson from Life' surfaces and is widely discussed in the media. Recently the following message has been reported: *Singing daily for at least 10 minutes reduces stress, clears sinuses, improves postures and can help you live longer.*

At YMS, the inclusion of singing in the pupils' daily routine has been steadily increasing. In September Oscar introduced the singing of a chorale in Morning Meetings, and 80 copies of

the Riemenschneider Chorale Book were bought for this purpose. Cathy Whitnall's new Junior Choir gave its first performance at the Supporting Studies concert in June, with a rendering of Purcell's *Sound the Trumpet*. Sometimes the pupils can be heard doing singing exercises as they walk between classes!

In April, David Condry was appointed Choral Director to take the School Choir on Saturday mornings, and to give individual lessons as a supporting study. The Choir opened

the Orchestral Picnic concert with Parry 'My soul there is a country', from *Songs of Farewell*, and will perform again at the Christmas concerts.



Summer Festival

The sun shone every single day of our Summer Festival this year for what was an incomparable celebration of the pupils and their incredible achievements throughout the year. Every child had the chance to perform on The Menuhin Hall stage and each one did so with professionalism, artistry and flair, and the special moments were far too numerous to mention!

The concerts were well-attended as always, by a mixture of family from across the globe who flew in for the occasion (or cycled in, as the case was for one couple!), and our dedicated Friends and supporters who form the backbone of our audience base all year round. There were picnics on the lawn throughout the week, beginning with the sold-out Orchestral Picnic,



straight through to the last evening Showcase. Our thanks goes out to everyone who supported the pupils in whatever capacity.



Junior Plant Sale

In preparation for our annual plant sale for charity, the Juniors sowed some vegetable seeds before the Easter holiday. Janet then took them home and carefully looked after them.

On a beautiful sunny morning in May, we held our plant sale on the lawn. The plants we sold included Little Red Devil chillies, cucumbers, courgettes, tomatoes, Cotoneasters, Alchemilla Mollis, Geraniums, Osteospermums, roses, fuchsias, and orach lettuces.

We sold many plants but still had some left over so we held another sale before the Friday Lunchtime Showcase Concert later that week where we sold all the remaining plants!

Our chosen charity this year is Guide Dogs for the Blind, and we are sponsoring a Labrador-cross Golden Retriever puppy called Oscar! Guide

Dogs not only supply the blind with extremely well trained dogs, but they also pay for the vet bills and food for the dogs.

In total, we raised £239 - our highest total yet! We would especially like to thank Janet Poppe (Junior School teacher) Philippa Brown (Junior classroom assistant), Delphine Wellington and our magnificent gardener Caroline from The Surrey Garden, who donated some lovely flowering plants. In



addition we would like to thank everyone who supported the sale.

By: James and Rebecca

Charles Darwin's House

This term, the Senior Science students went on an outing to Charles Darwin's house. After exploring the the house itself, we were allowed a privileged look at his extended bird, beetle and barnacle collection. We saw original drafts of *On The Origin of Species*, and the long lists of observations about which Darwin was known to be obsessive. We also saw a

replica of Darwin's boat cabin in which he spent five years travelling the world. The boat was only 24ft long and 10ft wide, and yet he managed to stay on it for that long! There were also guns, minerals and some other items that Darwin took with him on his voyage.

Outside, we saw the very tree that Darwin's children used to climb out of their windows and a small garden in which Darwin carried out plant experiments. We traced

his steps in the Sand Walk which he used to do every day to improve his health. A highlight of the visit was the greenhouse in which there were many exotic plants including Venus fly traps, *Sarracenia psittacina* and *Drosera capensis*. A great way to spend a day.



Weald and Downland Museum

Weald and Downland Museum

In June, Jeanne took the C1s to Weald and Downland Museum. This is an outdoor living museum containing rural buildings set in a beautiful landscape. It tells the stories of the people who lived and worked in them

from the Medieval to the Victorian period.

The trip enriched our knowledge of lifestyle evolution, and how, food, clothing and buildings have changed through the years.

Duke of Edinburgh

This term both the Bronze and Silver D of E groups have been busy planning and carrying out their practice expeditions.

The seven pupils in the Silver group camped for two nights in the South Downs. They had very wet weather on the first day and spent the evening huddled under a tarpaulin cooking on their Trangias but the rain stopped enough for them to enjoy a speedy camp fire and some well-toasted marshmallows. They finished at Beachy

Head on the South Coast, with some spectacular views of the cliffs and sea. Their navigational skills were excellent and their enthusiasm in rainy and cold conditions was a pleasure to see.

As well as spending the weekend hiking in the local area for their expedition, the Bronze group have been raising lots of money for charity. They organised a cookie sale where they baked fresh cookies for the whole School, which was very popular. Their expedition went very successfully and they are looking forward to their assessed weekend in July.



Leavers' Destinations

Vivana-Zarah Baudis (19, Germany)

gap year

Max Calver (18, UK)

The Royal College of Music, London

Ketan Curtis (19, UK)

The Royal College of Music, London

Aïda Lahlou (19, Morocco)

St John's College, Cambridge

Katie Morgan (18, UK)

Conservatorium van Amsterdam

Joseph Pritchard (18, UK)

The Royal Academy of Music, London

Otoha Tabata (18, Japan)

The Royal College of Music, London

Juliet Wolff (19, Germany)

The Juilliard School, New York

Cricket match

The end of term cricket match pitched two equally inexperienced teams together in perfect English summer weather on Monday 2 July. The two captains were Otoha and Max, and they recruited pupils of all ages (and managed to capture some teachers too!) The pitch had a tinge of green and the bounce was not completely true. The game was played in good spirit and we had a delicious barbecue between innings. In an exciting finish Otoha's team won by four runs.



Football

Anyone who has been reading the biographies of the pupils in the new programmes at

Showcase Concerts in The

Menuhin Hall will know that

there are a lot of keen

football fans at the

School. This term has

been a good one for

our footballers, not

least because of the

World Cup, but also

because, once a week,

two coaches from the

Chelsea FC Foundation just

up the road have been visiting the

School to put the pupils through their paces on

the top field. There are many a casual kickabout

during downtime as well.



Tennis

This term the tennis court received a much-needed resurfacing. A coach from Take Tennis Lessons now comes once a week to work with our pupils, who also enjoy playing each other in the evening and at weekends when they have free time.



Before resurfacing



Activities Day

The day after the Summer Festival was reserved for non-musical activities, and all the children were taken off-site by various members of staff for a day of fun. The trips on offer included bowling, aqua sports, the Guildford Lido, Wild Wood Challenge, a nougat factory in Lille (which required a 4am wake-up call!), and the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and Mary Rose Museum.

All of the outings provided opportunities for the pupils to unwind after the busy weeks of exams and performances, and a great time was had by all.



At the Mary Rose Museum

Swimming

Swimming is always popular at YMS, both for fitness and for fun, with pupils having several sessions per week. This

term a large group of staff undertook the National Rescue Award for Swimming Teachers and Coaches so a greater number of pupils can participate in programmed poolside activities.



This term in The Menuhin Hall

Looking back at the activities in the Hall this term, it seems like such a long time ago since the incredible Founder's Day concert with Jeremy and Mookie Menuhin in April. They were joined by the wonderful cellist Gary Hoffman, who spent an afternoon with our cello pupils. What better way to commemorate Lord Menuhin's birthday?

Imogen Cooper provided a night of exquisite music in June. Her performance of Beethoven's *Diabelli Variations* was the highlight of an exceptional evening.

The pupils' Showcase Concerts this term have been outstanding, with audience numbers through the roof. It is a real testament to the hard work of every one of the pupils that they can perform so brilliantly whilst also revising for, and sitting, academic exams. Well done to them all.

Those audience members who were lucky enough to get a ticket to the sold-out Orchestral Picnic Concert were treated to an absolute feast of orchestral gems, with the little-performed Schubert *Death and the*



The Menuhin Duo

Maiden (orchestrated by Mahler) stealing the show. Of course, the leavers presentations were full of joy, emotion, and a few revelations!

An academic year at The Menuhin Hall would not be complete without the Summer Festival, and not only was the music superb, but the sun shone. All our pupils, along with their instrumental teachers, can be so proud of their achievements this year, and after so many incredible performances, we hope everyone has a well-deserved break over the Summer.

I cannot sign off without a special mention to both Kate Clanchy and Òscar Colomina i Bosch, who have both done so much for the Hall, be it planting flowers and scrubs around the grounds, introducing new and exciting merchandise to be sold at concerts, or programming such wonderful music for us all to enjoy. The Menuhin Hall is going from strength to strength, and we are all looking forward to another fabulous year.

Alice Benzing, Menuhin Hall Manager



Next season

Òscar has put together a fabulous programme of events for our Autumn Winter 2018/19 season, including alumna Alina Ibragimova, a public masterclass with Natalia Gutman, the Piccadilly Dance Orchestra and our wonderful pupil Showcase Concerts.

Christmas at The Menuhin Hall lasts a whole month this year, with visits from The Grange and Peter Medhurst,

and our ever popular Christmas Showcases in between.

We also have performances from two exceptional pianists, José Ramón Méndez and Artur Pizarro, who will be presenting unique and varied programmes.

Wherever your musical interests lie, we look forward to seeing you soon.



Artur Pizarro



Alina Ibragimova



José Ramón Méndez

Coming up @ The Menuhin Hall

SEPTEMBER

THURS 20 SEPT	7.30pm	JOSÉ RAMÓN MÉNDEZ
THURS 27 SEPT	7.30pm	SHOWCASE CONCERT

OCTOBER

THURS 4 OCT	7.30pm	ENDELLION STRING QUARTET
MON 8 OCT	10.30am	THE GENIUS OF GILBERT AND SULLIVAN WITH PETER MEDHURST
FRI 12 OCT	2.30pm	NATALIA GUTMAN MASTERCLASS
TUES 16 OCT	7.30pm	SHOWCASE CONCERT

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

Christmas Concerts

This year we will be running our Christmas Showcase Concerts over two days instead of holding two concerts on the same day. The afternoon concert will be at 3pm on Monday 10 December and the evening concert will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11 December.

These concerts are hugely popular so do book your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

Alumni news

Nicola Benedetti became the new ESTA (UK) President in June. She succeeds David Le Page in the role.

Prach Boondiskulchok collaborated with former YMS Artist-in-Residence Geraldine van Heemstra on a recent project which combined artwork and music inspired by Jorge Luis Borges's faux-medieval bestiary *Book of Imaginary Beings*. Geraldine's paintings and prints echoed Prach's compositions, responding to the colours and shapes of the music intertwined with the narrative of the texts.

Prach also performed at The Menuhin Hall earlier this year with the Linos Piano Trio.

Konstantin Boyarsky's *Pushkin*, a lyrical opera in two acts, had its UK premiere with Grange Park Opera on 11 and 12 July.

Jean-Francois Carrière won 1st Prize in the Enrico Mainardi Competition in Salzburg in May.

Dillon Jeffares shared 2nd Prize in the Leonid Kogan Competition Brussels (no 1st Prize was awarded).



Dillon Jeffares



Cheryl Frances-Hoad

Cheryl Frances-Hoad's *Beyond the Night Sky* was performed at the funeral for Professor Steven Hawking at the end of March. Cheryl was commissioned last year by Gonville and Caius, her former college, to write a piece of music for the Caius Choir to perform in honour of the Professor's 75th birthday. It centred around the theme of space, with influences from scientific texts, NASA recordings and the children's poem, *Universe*, by the American poet Stephen Schnur.

At the birthday celebrations in 2017, Professor Hawking said the music "captured the vastness of space, and a sense of wonder at the universe and the earth, [taking] us all on a mental journey around the universe", he said, adding, "I probably won't need to take up my promised place on Richard Branson's spaceship now." He then concluded: "It puts into lyrical form one of my quotes: 'Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist'. Perhaps I can be forgiven for saying that tonight I am wondering no longer."

Alina Ibragimova will play the world première of Rolf Wallin *Violin Concerto* at The Proms on 21 August.

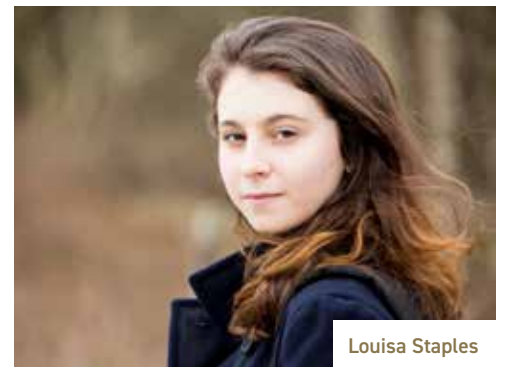
Cordelia Lynn's play *One For Sorrow* was at the Royal Court Theatre from

20 June to 11 August, and was hailed by *The Stage* as "a riveting, quicksilver thriller".

Lucy Parham recently performed at the Guildford Spring Music Festival, of which she is also Artistic Director. Additionally, she was one of the commentators of the Piano Final of BBC Young Musician 2018 and will appear in a new BBC 4 TV documentary about women composers, discussing Clara Schumann.

Elliot Perks has released a CD with Guitarist Tom Ellis. The album, recorded in The Menuhin Hall, is called *Marchenbilder* (Fairytale Pictures) and is inspired by Germanic text.

Louisa Staples won 2nd Prize at the 2018 Carl Flesch International Violin Competition in Mosonmagyaróvár, northwestern Hungary. Later in June, she performed a recital of Prokofiev, Debussy and Ravel at the Harrogate Music Festival.



Louisa Staples

Tanja Roos will be featured in the first Mellon Music Festival in the US, organised by cellist Eunghye Cho. The aim of the festival is to 'challenge traditional notions of classical music performance by creating an inclusive and community-oriented environment while continuing to provide high-quality performances of life-changing repertoire.'

Staff news

The students and staff were very sad to lose **Richard Tanner** (Director of Studies and Maths teacher), **Ann Sweeney** (Head of Pastoral Care, School Nurse and Assistant Housemistress) and **Janet Poppe** (Junior School teacher) who all retired at the end of this term.



Richard has been here for 11 years, and during that time he guided pupils and academic staff with wisdom and sensitivity. Ann has been an essential part of the School's pastoral care, dealing with issues of health and wellbeing at all hours of the day and night. Her experience and empathy have been invaluable over the past five years. Janet has been here for 20 years and, in that time, has taught all of our youngest children in various disciplines, giving them a solid grounding for the next phase of their school life. We wish them all the very best in their retirement.



Òscar Colomina i Bosch has been named an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music. The award was announced in this year's Royal Academy of Music Honours List. It is only given to past students of the Academy who have distinguished themselves in the music profession and made a significant contribution in their particular field. The School is tremendously proud.

Staff leavers

At the end of the term we were sad to say goodbye to a number of staff. **Chris Owen**, School Nurse and **Kendra Shute**, Housemistress and English teacher, will be missed by the students, especially those in Music House. **James Young** and **Shu-Wei Tseng** left the General Music Department to develop further their performance careers.

Earlier in the term, **Melanie Smith** and **Edward Romain** left to pursue other opportunities.

Kate Hylands will no longer work part-time in the Finance Department but we are very pleased that her friendly face will still be seen behind the bar in The Menuhin Hall.

We thank them all for their work and wish them well.

New staff



Matthijs Broersma is our new Assistant Cello Teacher. He is an alumnus of YMS, and studied at the Guildhall and the Hochschule der Künste, Bern. Matthijs is a member of the Gémeaux Quartet, a prize-winning Swiss ensemble.



Alison Packman joined the School in May as Compliance Officer. After 25 years in the Oil and Gas Industry, she moved into the Education Sector in 2016.



Philippa Stanfield is the School's new Accounts Assistant. She is a qualified Chartered Accountant and has been a governor at a local primary school for several years.

From the Chairman

Dear Friends

Another academic year has ended. I'm sure you, like me, have found it amazing and fascinating. There have again been some outstanding student Showcase Concerts. A number of familiar faces whom we have seen mature and develop as talented musicians have left us for conservatoires and universities. Will we see their like again? They are so good it seems impossible to imagine, and yet year after year comes along another cohort of gifted pupils to inspire us. To all of us who attend concerts and engage with the pupils, YMS is the gift that keeps on giving.

And the year has been memorable too for the arrival of new leadership in the form of Kate Clanchy as Head and Óscar Colomina i Bosch as Director



of Music. They bring a new style and new enthusiasm to the School, and it is clear from the foyer gossip that you have embraced them both enthusiastically.

One initiative on which the Friends Management Committee has been working is YMS Young Friends. It is our general ambition to bring new Friends into the School, and the reality is likely to be that new Friends will typically be found amongst the same senior citizenry as already now constitutes the majority of existing Friends. The School itself has a lively outreach programme to local schools that brings other students in to take part

in musical events. We want the Friends to be part of these plans, and we hope that, over time, Young Friends will convert as they grow older into Friends and Best Friends, and that their families and friends will want to join with them.

We also hope this initiative will help the School in its effort to forge greater links with the wider community, giving local people of all ages the opportunity to benefit from the musical centre for excellence in their midst.

Best wishes,

Sir John Baker, Chairman

Bridge Tea

Sheila Rice-Smith and the Friends Events Committee of Janet Burr, Diana Foster-Kemp, Janet Kefford and Angela Symes outdid themselves this year with our most successful Bridge Tea event to date.

The Menuhin Hall foyer was absolutely full with 22 tables of players who spent a lovely afternoon playing Bridge and enjoying a tea prepared by the School chefs. After the raffle was drawn, the guests were treated to a few words about the benefits of becoming a Friend, followed by a short concert, much to their delight.

The event raised a profit of £728 - our best yet. Our heartfelt thanks to Sheila and the Committee for their dedication and hard work.

Natalia Gutman masterclass

FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER – 2.30pm

We are excited to announce our second open masterclass. Natalia Gutman is one of the most distinguished cellists of the 20th century. The special musical relationship she built with Claudio Abbado since the early 1980s has resulted in many performances with him, and with such orchestras as the Berlin Philharmonic, the European Community Youth Orchestra, the Gustav Mahler Orchestra, and the Mozart Orchestra. From 1992–2002 together with Abbado, Gutman directed the Berliner Begegnungen chamber series in Berlin, and she was a regular section leader in the resident orchestra in the Lucerne Festival.



This is a unique opportunity to see this great artist work with students from The Yehudi Menuhin School, sharing her musical knowledge and expertise.

Friends will receive a special discounted ticket price of £5 (Young Friends free). Please see your *What's On* brochure for more details.

Young Friends

This Autumn we are proud to be launching our Young Friends programme, to enable more young people to attend concerts in The Menuhin Hall.

Young Friends is open to anyone under the age of 30*. The membership is free and will offer members the chance to attend concerts at a reduced price, and also to take advantage of last-minute, free ticket offers when we have seats available in The Menuhin Hall. Membership includes:

- £5 tickets to selected Showcase and Celebrity concerts
- access to last-minute, free tickets (subject to availability)
- free tickets to selected masterclasses
- invitations to an annual post-concert celebration
- discounts at local businesses

How it works:

Email friends@menuhinschool.co.uk to let us know you would like to join. We will add your name to the Young Friends email list and this will enable you to book £5 tickets in advance, and you will then be eligible for last-minute free ticket offers. Further information, and terms and conditions will be included in your welcome email.

*under 16s require the permission of a parent or guardian.



Join us - Become a Friend today

Lord Menuhin founded the Friends in 1971 together with a few local supporters of the School. Since then the Friends have grown to over 750 supporters from all over the globe, offering financial assistance to the School and a warm, supportive presence at concerts. Many of our Friends enjoy following the journey of our pupils as they progress through the School and into the wider world as professional musicians.

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

If you enjoy listening to outstanding music and supporting emerging talent from around the world, become a member today. Membership starts at only £35 per year. Simply get in touch with the Development Department to request an information pack, or pick one up in The Menuhin Hall foyer.

For more information contact friends@menuhinschool.co.uk or 01932 584409.

New offer from The Wine Reserve for the Friends



The Wine Reserve in Cobham has generously agreed to offer the Friends their case price for single bottles. The case price is the price for six bottles or more that usually works out approximately 10% less than the one to five bottle price.

The shop stocks an extensive collection of hand-picked wines from around the world. Just show your concert tickets or a copy of this page when purchasing to claim your discount. For more information, please contact Carol Edwards or Tim Walker on info@thewinereserve.co.uk or 01932 866682, or visit their lovely shop at 7 Oakdene Parade, Cobham KT11 2LR.



Photography by Nigel Luckhurst, Kate Clanchy, Óscar Colomina I Bosch, Jenny Dexter, Dave Greenwood, Sarah Lee, Richard Lewisohn, Sarah McDonald, Tamas Reti and Cathy Whitnall.