

# Principal's Public Report

## Main report

### 1. Quality of learning and teaching environment

I am pleased to report continuing success in many areas of teaching and learning across the School. A recent highlight was the outstanding concert at Carnegie Hall, NY given by three senior students, Jonathan Ferrucci, Ionel Manciu and James Newby. The concert was also the focus of a development evening hosted by our corporate partner, Eversheds Sutherland where we introduced 70 of their global leaders and their guests to the work of the School.

The concert in New York took place during a busy period of audition for music, acting and technical theatre prospective students. The quality of student presenting for audition was extremely high and there was a great deal of interest in studying with us. We are the first choice for many Americans and Canadians and they quoted our flexible teaching and learning environment and the opportunity for tailor-made programmes of study as the reasons for their choice. The trip also gave opportunities to speak with US higher education professionals and practising artists regarding innovations and challenges.

The new Guildhall Studio Orchestra followed its successful launch with an equally dynamic second event featuring students from across the music division and led by the Jazz Department. Music students also took part in the BBC's Bernstein Immersion Day, receiving high praise from both audience members and BBC professionals. Technical Theatre students had a major success with a video mapping project *Imaginarium* at Waddesdon Manor throughout Christmas weeks. The first opera of the term, Menotti's *The Consul* was performed to great acclaim followed by an innovative presentation of opera scenes and a thought-provoking *Post Mortem* directed and designed by visiting artists Lucy Bailey and Bill Dudley. Thank you to board members in advance of a very busy production season. We appreciate your attendance at upcoming plays and opera and our concert programme.

### 2. Partnerships with Barbican and with the City of London

One of the key objectives of Culture Mile is to build an irresistible and valued destination in partnership with Barbican, the Museum of London, LSO and a range of developing partnerships both within the physical Culture Mile area and adjacent to it. Culture Mile Learning will be an important part of this and the School is working closely with our partners to ensure pathways into higher education and the activities of the School are included in the education offer.

The distributed model for management and for the delivery of a programme of future activities has been agreed and proposals for a budget to support this work has been proposed to the City of London. In the distributed model, the Guildhall School will be leading on partnerships. Working with consultant Sian Bird, we have already identified 40 potential partners who want to contribute to Culture Mile in some capacity.

The Centre for Music project has now entered an intensive phase of development following the announcement of the winning design team in 2017. A presentation to the School Board of Governors by a member of the design team, Diller, Scorfidio and Renfro will immediately follow the board meeting in February to provide an overview of the latest plans and to discuss the opportunities for the School to have a visible and dynamic presence in the Centre. The member of the design team is coming from NY especially for this presentation so it would be appreciated if Board members could stay on for an hour post Board meeting. There will also be a quick overview of fundraising plans to date. The School is a major partner in the proposal for a Centre for Music and as such needs all Board members to be fully aware of the facts going forward.

### **3. Under 18's Programme**

Our external consultant has presented early findings of the Under 18 Review to the Senior Management Team and these will be discussed in depth at the Board 'away day'.

Governors and staff are completing annual visits to regional CYMs and most recently, the Principal and Board member Christina Coker visited Taunton CYM. We were impressed with the care and attention to detail in this developing centre. The Head of Centre reported 70 students enrolled and is hoping to double this number over the next year now that they have resettled at Richard Huish College. The Under 18 Review will help us consolidate the current work of all CYMs under a Guildhall Young Artist banner and provide guidance in the extension of activities especially within new technology, acting and production arts.

### **4. Future Sustainability**

Jeremy Newton, the new Vice Principal, Director of Advancement will commence 3 April. Our Development consultant from Graham Pelton, the Head of Marketing and External Relations and the Principal are leading briefing sessions with the new Director in advance of his start date.

We continue to be involved on many fronts with organisations such as UUK, CUK, London Higher and CIF, providing information to the government in their Brexit deliberations. We are still concerned about issues of mobility including our students and staff. Free flow of creative industries' practitioners across Europe and the UK is crucial to the continuing cultural excellence and innovation of the Guildhall School, the City of London and the UK higher education sector.

All staff have been required to undertake a new on-line Safeguarding course through EduCare as part of our commitment to regular safeguarding training. We continue to remain vigilant and have revisited processes and procedures especially as they pertain to our Under 18 programme.

We are planning a Graduates' Fair at the end of the 2017/18 academic year, drawing on experience gained from the Employability Week of 2014/15. We intend to open this event up to alumni and

external parties to share knowledge and experience with graduates entering the profession. This will also be an opportunity to raise awareness of the School's Alumni offering.

## 5. International

The first cohort of Chinese drama students from the Central Academy of Drama, Beijing have settled in well. Staff members will be travelling to China in the next few weeks to finalise audition processes for the second cohort who will commence in September 2018. More emphasis will be placed on English language skills than with the first cohort as this is an acting studies course where repertoire can be limited by inadequate understanding of English. Our technical theatre training programme delivered in China in association with our industry partners continued with further formal courses delivered in Beijing and Shanghai in November and December 2017.

The VP, Director of Guildhall Innovation, Helena Gaunt has been leading on the development of our new international strategy as part of the joint working planned with the Barbican. There are many areas of international programming in both organisations which need to be captured early in the planning cycle if we are to capitalise on visiting artists, companies and ensembles and provide students with the international experiences and opportunities for networking which give such a distinctive flavour to our courses. Ideas for progressing the strategy will be discussed at the Board's 'away day'.

## 6. Awards and Prizes

<b>Academic Assurance: employability</b>
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### External

Emma Nikolovska, Vocal Artists Masters – Performance, student of Susan McCulloch

- Winner of the first prize and the audience prize at the Maureen Lehane competition in the Wigmore Hall (*Prize: £2000 + £250*)

Michelle Alexander, Artist Diploma (Opera Studies, Soprano), student of Susan McCulloch

- the Audience Prize, the Presidents Prize and 2nd overall Prize in the Wagner competition (*Prize: Public masterclass with Dame Gwyneth Jones and Bayreuth Busaries*)

Soohong Park, MPerf Piano, student of Ronan O'Hora

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize in the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe Intercollegiate Piano Competition (*Prize: Complimentary years membership of the society*)

Ming Xie, MMus Piano, student of Ronan O'Hora

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize in the Concurso Internacional de Interpretacion Musical Diputacion de Valladolid (*Prize: 3000 Euros*)

Scott MacIsaac, MMus Piano, student of Ronan O'Hora

- 3rd Prize in the Dudley International Piano Competition (*Prize: £2000*)

Ryan Drucker, MPerf Piano, student of Martin Roscoe and Ronan O’Hora

- 4th Prize in the Dudley International Piano Competition (*Prize: £750*)

## **Juniors**

### **National Youth Orchestra places for 2017/18 season**

Patrick	Bevan	violin	Leader of Orchestra *
Charlotte	Ward	trumpet	
Clara	Falkowska	trumpet	
Lawrence	Schofield	trombone	
Seren	Nickson	violin	String Leader
Sebastian	Brooks	violin	
Kilian	Meissner	viola	
Erin	Cacace	viola	Co – Principal viola
William	Emery	viola	Principal viola
Felix	Rosenboom	cello	
Matteo	Walls	double bass	

Patrick left the School in the summer 2017 to go to Cambridge Uni but still fits the age profile so is an honorary Junior Guildhall student.

## **Alumni**

Dario Marianelli, FGS, Composition

- Nominated for a BAFTA for Best Original Soundtrack for ‘Darkest Hour’

Ewan McGregor OBE FGS, Acting

- Winner of a Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actor in a Limited Series or a Motion Picture Made for Television for ‘ Fargo’

Alfred Molina, Acting

- Nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in a Series, Limited Series or Motion Picture Made for Television for ‘Feud: Bette and Joan’

British Composer Awards

- Tansy Davies nominated for ‘Forest’ in the Orchestral category
- Philip Venables winner for 4.48 Psychosis in Stage Works Category
- Laurence Crane nominated for Oomloop Het Ives’ in Small Chamber Category

**Staff**

Laurence Crane

- Awarded Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Artists 2017

Professor John Sloboda

- awarded an OBE in the 2018 New Year's Honours List for services to psychology and music

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