

Principal's Public Report September 2018

Introduction

The 2017/18 academic year proved to be an outstanding year for students, staff and alumni. Productions, concerts and events received critical acclaim and the School collaborated on a wide variety of programmes which highlighted our commitment to artistic citizenship and community engagement. Highlights of departmental achievements across the year are grouped under two headings: Quality of Learning and Teaching and Organisational Sustainability.

Quality of Learning and Teaching

**Academic Assurance:
training for the professions**

1. Music Department

Keyboard

Earlier this year pianist Michael Sikich took part in the Bernstein Total Immersion weekend. As a result of this the BBC invited him to perform in the Cadogan Hall lunchtime Prom with soprano Wallis Giunta last week. It was an excellent recital, broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 and given a four-star review in the Guardian.

Ashley Fripp (current Keyboard DMus student) has released his first CD and received excellent reviews in the Sunday Times and the Observer.

Jean-Selim Abdelmoula (recent graduate) is through to the second round of the Leeds Piano Competition.

Strings

Violinist Patrycja Mynarska won trials with RPO, BBC NOW and WNO, and bassist (Emanuel Oliveira BMus 3) won an audition for the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra.

Bassist Lewis Reid won auditions for deputy work with the Philharmonia, Bournemouth Symphony, BBC Symphony, and successfully auditioned for Britten Pears Young Artists programme, and Glyndebourne Touring Orchestra.

Cellist Yoanna Prodanova was selected for masterclasses with Ralph Kirshbaum at IMS Prussia Cove (April) and has been actively touring in recital and with the Barbican Quartet.

Cellist Jacky Siu (OA) and bassist Mario Torres (OA) completed their term in the highly selective LSO String Scheme; Mario successfully won a trial for a position with the LPO.

Violinist Dan-Iulian Drutac (BMus 3) was a finalist in the Gold Medal competition.

Cellist Gabrielle Yuen was invited to be principal cellist of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

Violinist Andrea Timpanaro was co-leader and principal 2nd violin of the Orion Orchestra at the Aberswith Music Fest.

Violinist Lyrit Milgram (OA) played with LSO, ECO and Royal Northern Sinfonia, and was invited to Lucerne Festival Academy, Pacific Music Festival (Japan), and the Schleswig-Holstein Orchestra Academy.

Arisa Nemoto (OA) was selected for the Tiroler Festspiele Erl Orchestra Academy.

Yuriko Matsuda (BMus 2) was selected as leader and assistant tutor for the LSSO (April) concert in the Barbican.

Laurens Price-Nowak (Bmus 4) finished his contract as Teaching Apprentice at CYM.

Exceptional successes for harpists: Elin Samuel won the place as harpist for the Schleswig-Holstein Orchestra Academy and Festival, Helena Ricci was selected as the harpist for Santander Orchestra Academy. Lise Vandersmissen was selected for the London Sinfonietta Academy

Wind Brass and Percussion

WBP, led by staff members Jo Hensel and Beth Randell, performed in the Processions event in central London on Sunday 10th June. A 75-player all-female brass and percussion ensemble performed works by female composers in Parliament Square and during the march from Trafalgar Square. The ensemble's age range was 10-70, and included players from CYM and Junior and Senior Guildhall as well as professional, community and Conservatoire musicians from across the UK. The Processions Ensemble event received coverage on Radio 3 and BBC 1.

Vocal

In April, Masters soprano Harriet Burns was in the recording studio with Guildhall Piano Accompaniment professor Graham Johnson to record Brahms songs for Volume 8 of Hyperion Records' complete Brahms Song series: another major break for Harriet, following recent Wigmore Hall recital successes through Guildhall. Also appearing in regular high-profile recordings will be Masters baritone James Newby, who was named in June as a BBC New Generation young artist for 2018-20, an achievement that follows hot on the heels of his role debut this summer as the Count in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Neville Holt Opera.

In addition to James, an array of Vocal Department singers spent the summer working with a variety of UK opera companies: Glyndebourne Festival Opera (including Masters bass William Thomas, who also won this year's Kathleen Ferrier Award, as a Jerwood Young Artist at Glyndebourne), Garsington Festival Opera (including Lara Marie Muller who took the role of Papagena in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*), Holland Park and Grange Festival. And in news from further afield, Masters soprano Victoria Songwei Li made her role debut as Blanche in Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites* with New Singapore Opera, while in the Netherlands, Masters soprano Irene Hoogvelt created a new role in the premiere of Dutch opera *Thijs*.

Closer to home, during the Summer Term, movement teacher Victoria Newlyn collaborated for an intensive week with a visiting tutor from Finland's Sibelius Academy on an Erasmus Staff

Mobility-sponsored project, devising a piece with Guildhall students based on vocal works by Bernstein. And for the Department more widely, the Summer Term saw the usual extensive programme of performances, including the latest highly acclaimed Wigmore Hall Side-by-Side recital with students joining Alisdair Hogarth and members of *The Prince Consort*, the premieres by undergraduate and postgraduate singers of songs written specially by Guildhall composers for the Courtauld Gallery and Wigmore Hall, and the culmination of various performance projects, among them our year 3 undergraduates delighting a packed Music Hall for two nights of Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*.

Opera

Another very exciting term for Opera, which saw two highly successful productions in the "Dinner Double Bill" and Opera Makers, and which also saw, apart from the usual raft of competition successes, very exciting professional achievements outside Guildhall, with three first year singers already securing significant international contracts (at Glyndebourne, Zurich and ROH) for when they finish next summer, and our Repetiteurs dominating the market to such an extent that there are currently no high-level trainee repetiteurships in the UK which are not occupied by a recent Guildhall alum (ROH x2, ENO, Scottish Opera, Opera Holland Park), not to mention posts at Zurich and Berlin, secured by two current graduates.

Our partnership with ROH has now developed into an active mission to recruit exceptional talent from around the world, especially countries where supremely gifted students lack the resources required to come to study in London. This started this summer with ROH and GSMD partnering to send Dominic Wheeler to lead a short summer course and conduct a masterclass mini-tour in South Africa, the whole venture being organised by Guildhall alumnus, Njabulo Madlala. Further trips to India, Sri Lanka and South America are planned.

Composition

Composer Cassandra Miller has been appointed as our new Associate Head of Composition.

4.48 Psychosis by doctoral graduate Philip Venables was revived by the Royal Opera House this summer to yet more acclaimed review; the opera is now being toured to New York.

Mamzer by doctoral composer Na'ama Zisser was premiered with great success by the Royal Opera House at the Hackney Empire.

Masters composition student Claire Elton has been accepted on to the London Symphony Orchestra's distinguished Panufnik scheme, following on from other recent Guildhall composers on the scheme including Alex Tay, James Hoyle and Dongoon Shin.

Jazz

Jazz has enjoyed continued growth in student numbers. There have been a number of high profile staff recruitments with a trend towards part-time staff teaching exclusively for the school.

The department continues to work on developing the curriculum ready for the launch of a new course, offering highest level of education to improvisers across styles of popular and world music and incorporating emergent technology.

New for 18/19 is an Artist Realisation provision which involves a team of young, successful artists who mentor our graduating students to help them develop successful career paths.

Electronic Music

The department has established 6 new EM pathways to make a total of 7 Principal Studies within EM.

It has also established a new public masterclass series with 2 presentations at Milton Court and Barbican Cinema 1 with online video distribution approaching a quarter of a million views so far.

EM provided music for the Waddesdon Manor Imaginarium project with a 41 day run and estimated audience of 120,000. A first performance collaboration with the Vocal Department produced a successful 'songs at six' recital. The department also provided music for the school's new promotional video. Our collaboration with Barbican Silent Film continues this year with new music for the 1925 feature length 'Phantom of the Opera'.

Music Therapy

In Spring, the department hosted the British Association of Music Therapists international conference at Guildhall / Barbican Centre, attended by more than 400 delegates and with an opening address by the Principal. All our music therapy team attended and gave papers as did many of our alumnae and placement providers.

A National PHD symposium for Music Therapists was led by Donald Wetherick

The Music Therapy outreach programme continues to develop with a new contract with Charterhouse almshouses providing a placement for a music therapy trainee and a new pilot project at City Hackney academy.

The outreach team gave a presentation at the AESOP (Arts Enterprise with a Social Purpose) conference in Milton Court in April.

The music therapy MA programme was approved by the HCPC (Health and Care Professional Council).

Emma Windle, (2017 graduate) has gained a full time research position in the music therapy team at East London Foundation Health Trust.

2. Acting Department

We continue to retain pre-eminent status within the sector at the very top of the country's leading drama schools. Nearly 3000 young people audition a year for 28 places and we have a very high

acceptance rate at about 85-90%. We consistently see graduates go on to high profile acting work, across all media.

The acting department achieved 100% satisfaction from undergraduate students in the 2018 National Student Survey. Many students commented positively on the comprehensive nature of our feedback process, with every student receiving tailored, one-to-one feedback with each core teacher after each project, providing the sensitive pastoral care required to support emotional stretch of a training that has excellence at its core.

We continue to lead the sector when it comes to our commitment to continuous craft training on voice and body, with our voice and movement practitioners working extensively on the cutting edge of the industry.

The transformative journey designed for each student prepares them for the rigours of an immensely challenging and competitive profession, and this has developed our reputation for consistent excellence amongst agents, casting directors, directors and producers.

We have diversified our student intake across intersections of race, class and socio-economic background. We have been able to do this through an enhanced widening participation programme, rooted in the values of the department, and using alumni to deliver dynamic and innovative outreach workshops in disadvantaged communities.

3. Production Arts Department

Earlier this year the Technical Theatre department changed its name to Production Arts. The name more accurately reflects the broad range of work undertaken by the department's three programmes, much of which is creative and design based and not limited to work in theatre. At the same time the Director of Technical Theatre, Ben Sumner, became Vice Principal, Director of Production Arts.

Work is progressing well on the development of our new business unit – currently known as Guildhall Live Events although that name is under discussion. The unit has recently received 150K from City of London “Priorities Investment Pot” to purchase new equipment. Recruitment of the new team is complete and includes staff from across the organisation as well as new expertise. The unit is currently working on a repeat of the very successful Waddesdon Manor project in November and a major exhibition for Museum of London, opening April 2019.

This year's graduates mounted an excellent exhibition which was attended by around 100 industry professionals. Many of our graduates have moved directly into work, for example at English National Opera, Nottingham Playhouse, Matilda, Wexford Festival and the Albany theatre.

As usual the department collaborated on the Schools high quality productions with the Acting, Opera and Leadership programmes, producing 7 Dramas, 3 Operas, 3 Opera Scenes, a Musical and the Dialogue Festival as well as our own video work at Waddesdon Manor, Tower Bridge and in the Guildhall Square

Organisational Sustainability

4. Advancement Department

Following the arrival of Jeremy Newton as Vice Principal & Director of Advancement in April, rapid progress has been made in unifying the newly formed Advancement Team into a fully integrated Division of the Guildhall School.

The remit of 'Advancement' brings together the three areas of Marketing & Communications, Alumni Relations and Development/Fundraising. A major objective of the new Vice Principal is to ensure that 'the whole' swiftly becomes greater than 'the sum of the three parts', with the team acting as an engine for broader institutional growth and progress (ie advancement in the fullest sense of the word).

The main functions of the Division are to maximise the School's potential for philanthropic and other types of support, strengthen engagement with all members of the wider School community and ensure the School continues to recruit the most talented students in an increasingly competitive market.

Key successes in recent months include:

- Full Team away day to develop thinking for creation of comprehensive Advancement Strategy
- Strategy drafted and submitted to Board (under separate agenda item for this meeting)
- Secured additional funds (incl. £150,000 from City of London Project Investment Pot for Video Projection Business Unit; £25,000 per annum for 4 years from Goldsmiths Company for scholarships; a total of over £200,000 pledged by several other Livery Companies; a donation of £28,000 per annum for 3 years from the Amar-Franses & Foster-Jenkins Trust; and renewal of 'Principal Corporate Partner' contract with Eversheds Sutherland at £20,000 per annum)
- £1.7million draw-down from Guildhall School Trust (GST) for 18/19 scholarships
- Exhaustive GDPR compliance exercise completed
- Several high profile alumni engagement events involving Alfred Molina, Lily James, Alison Balsam and Freddie Fox
- Full School Open Day run for second time very successfully
- 2018 Student recruitment on or above targets for almost all courses
- Launch of three-year engagement strategy, with SMT support

- Continued success and reader engagement for PLAY alumni magazine
- Changeover in scholarship funding cycle has been well received by donors and significant amounts have been pledged for 2018/19 onwards. More donors than ever have made multi-year pledges off the back of these conversations
- Strategic overhaul of the prospect pools has resulted in a more efficient and strategically focused major gifts team.

5. Research and Innovation Department

An interim arrangement for steering Guildhall Innovation has been put in place for this academic year, following Helena Gaunt's departure. This structure will aim to strengthen the collaboration between the Guildhall School and the Barbican and scope the future role and positioning of the department.

Sean Gregory will work closely with Sian Bird and Sian Brittain, leading the Guildhall School's involvement with Culture Mile, overseeing the development of the Creative Entrepreneurs programme, and Barbican/Guildhall Alliance work in relation to creative learning, evaluation, impact and the archive.

Jonathan Vaughan will work closely with Cormac Newark and Aoife Shanley, overseeing developments around the School's Research strategy, Doctoral programme and related Knowledge Exchange work, as well as ensuring the School continues to strengthen its position as a conservatoire leading positive cultural change in society.

Jeremy Newton will work with Sian Brittain on specific Enterprise projects, principally the development of the Leadership Academy.

The three existing leaders in Innovation – Sian Brittain, Aoife Shanley and Cormac Newark – will continue to drive forward the various areas of their expertise, and have joined the School's Senior Management Team for the duration of this year.

Key successes in recent months include:

- **Research Activity:** the summer saw the culmination of a successful research year, with the completion of workshops for the Wellcome Trust-funded Aerial project and the Leverhulme Trust-funded Phantom on Film project and submission of a major application to the AHRC (the largest submission the School has made and with three international partners). The doctoral programme recruited successfully, with 8 students (including 3 staff members) to start in September, of whom two will undertake studentships: one funded by the SIMM network, one funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund. We received the successful outcome of the AHRC doctoral training partnership led by RHUL Techne2, of which Culture Mile will be a partner – this partnership was successfully negotiated by the department.

- **Culture Mile Partnerships:** The new distributed model for Culture Mile has resulted in the Strategic Partnerships team moving to be hosted within Guildhall School's Innovation Department, as the champion organisation for this strand of Culture Mile activity. The insight into external partners' needs and the connections that the Partnerships Team brings offer exciting opportunities to develop new collaborations across the area and strengthen Guildhall's leadership role in this field.

Culture Mile Partnerships now has a strong community of 26 organisations, from a range of public and private sectors - making a public commitment to work with the core partners to address shared issues/opportunities and transform the area.

- **Guildhall Live Events:** The School's Video Project Mapping team – bridging Enterprise and Production Arts - has delivered over 25 projects over the past 5 years and the scale, prestige, public visibility and revenue from these projects have continually grown year-by-year. In order to exploit its full potential, the School is now implementing a new phase of development, into a fully resourced live events unit. On behalf of the project the Director of Advancement led the School's first bid to the City of London's Priorities Investment Pot (PIP). The application was successful, receiving £150k in funding towards new technology. A new staffing structure is also being implemented to support project sustainability and growth. Major upcoming projects include Waddesdon Manor and an exhibition at the Museum of London.
- **Short Courses:** Summer 2018 was the busiest yet for summer schools. **26** courses across the breadth of Guildhall disciplines welcomed **over 550** participants from **39** countries. A new 5-year plan is now in development for launch in 2019, aiming to substantially grow the Guildhall short course offer.

6. Under 18s Programmes

Islington Council, in partnership with the Guildhall School and the Barbican, is launching a new **Islington Music Education Hub** from October 2018. It is the first time a Music Education Hub will be led by a local authority, working with an internally renowned conservatoire and in alliance with a leading arts centre. The Islington Music Education Hub presents an unprecedented opportunity for the Barbican and Guildhall School to support and strategically lead the delivery of music and cultural education in schools, offering Islington young people access to world-class artists, resources and experiences, with Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning also providing opportunities to engage with an international arts and learning programme.

Background

In February 2011 the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) and Department for Education (DfE) jointly commissioned and published an independent report reviewing music

education in the English school system, authored by Darren Henley. The report outlined a national plan, with a key recommendation calling for the creation of Music Education Hubs in each Local Authority area. The Government implemented this recommendation in 2012 and further extended funding in 2016 for a further 4 years.

The lead organisation for Islington's Music Education Hub since 2012 has been Arts First, a Community Interest Company working alongside other partners to deliver music education opportunities for children and young people in the borough.

An application to lead a new Islington Music Education Hub was submitted to Arts Council England (ACE) on 26th June by London Borough of Islington (LBI) with the Guildhall School of Music & Drama as the lead strategic partner, working in close partnership with the Barbican Centre.

On 27th July 2018 Islington Council received confirmation from Arts Council England that its application had been approved and a grant agreed in principle for delivery of Music Education Hub activity.

Current Position

Following the successful bid to ACE, Islington Council in partnership with the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, will launch a new Islington Music Education Hub from October 2018. In reaction to the news, teams across both partner organisations are now moving swiftly to agree the timeline for implementation.

The new Hub will be led by the council working in partnership with the Guildhall School alongside leading local music education providers and Islington school leaders. Through the Creative Alliance between the Barbican and Guildhall School the offer will be significantly enriched by the opportunity for children and young people to engage with the widest range of music and multi-arts performances.

The new Hub's vision is that all children and young people aged 5–18, regardless of their background, can experience the joy of making music through high quality and sustained music education activities. This will be achieved by providing regular opportunities to sing, learn a musical instrument and play in ensembles and by ensuring clear progression routes for all in a wide range of styles and genres. In particular, opportunities for children and young people in challenging circumstances will be widened and deepened, and affordable progression opportunities will be provided for primary school children.

Priorities will include:

- Ensuring that every child aged 5–18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument through whole-class ensemble teaching programmes for a year (minimum of a term).
- Providing opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform from an early stage.

- Developing a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil sings regularly, and that choirs and other vocal ensembles are available in the area.
- Offering Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to school staff, particularly in supporting schools to deliver music in the curriculum.
- Providing an instrument loan service, with discounts or free provision for families on low incomes.
- Providing access to large scale and / or high-quality music experiences for pupils, working with professional musicians and performing artists through the Barbican, Guildhall School and other Partners.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

The Music Education Hub is part of a wider initiative between Islington Council and the City of London Corporation, developed over the past year, to establish closer working ties and advance shared priorities across the City / Islington border. Immediate shared priorities include music and cultural enrichment, skills development, strategic planning and economic development. Culture Mile adds significant value to this partnership, particularly through Culture Mile Learning.

In driving forward the priority of cultural enrichment for children and young people, the Hub is in alignment with the Strategic Objectives in the City of London Cultural Strategy 2018–2022.

The new **Guildhall Young Artists (GYA) Strategy** is almost complete, the culmination of 8 months of consultancy work by Nikki Shepperd. This strategy has been born of a process of desk-based research, a review of projects and programs currently undertaken by Junior Guildhall, Centre for Young Musicians (CYM London and regional satellites), and Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning. It has included a needs analysis, extensive user insight, interviews with education and performing arts experts and partners (including City of London Education and LSO Discovery), as well as wider consultation with the Creative Industries sector. This final draft will be presented to GYA colleagues at an Away Day on the 18th September with the plan then finalised by the end of the month. First steps towards new governance structure are in place

7. Recent Awards and Prizes

External

Lauren Lodge-Campbell, Vocal Studies Fellow

- Winner of Le Jardin Des Voix, Les Arts Florissants' baroque academy for young singers.

Academic Assurance: employability
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Carmen Artaza Insausti, Guildhall Artist Masters

- Winner of the audience prize, the young talent prize and the first prize of the competition Luis Mariano (*Prize: 8000 euros*)

Mark Christian Bautista, Vocal studies, student of Susan Waters

- 2nd Prize, Pendine International Voice of the Future
(Prize: unknown)

Benson Wilson, Opera Course

- Winner of the Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonyngel bel canto foundation award plus audience prize
(Prize \$30,000 & \$1000)

Filipe Manu, Guildhall Artists Masters

- 3rd in Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonyngel bel canto foundation competition plus Mozart Aria Prize
(Prize \$5000)

William Thomas (about to commence the Opera Course)

- Winner of the John Christie Award
(Prize: Scholarship to fund private study)

Alumni

Matt Dickinson (Graduated 1996)

- Appointed percussionist for Phantom of the Opera

Shabaka Hutchings (Graduated 2007)

- Shortlisted for the 2018 Mercury Prize

Ben Cook (Graduated 2018)

- Appointed Deputy Stage Manager at English National Opera
- Winner of the Stage Management Association Student of the Year Award 2018 (announced in June 2018)

Andrew Robb (Graduated 2012)

- Winner of the 2018 European Society of Bassists

Luis Gomes (Vocal Studies 2008-10; Opera Course 2010-12)

- Joint winner of Zarzuela prize plus joint audience prize winner therefore benefiting from Rolex watch! At Plácido Domingo's massive "Operalia" competition.

Johannes Kammler (Vocal Studies 2013-15)

- 2nd Prize Neue Stimmen
- Final of Operalia

Contact:

Lynne Williams

Principal, Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Tel: 020 7382 7141

Email: principal@gsmd.ac.uk