

Principal's Public Report

Introduction

Despite the uncertain political climate, staff and students, including our EU cohort, continue to deliver outstanding concerts and innovative productions. An upcoming highlight in the calendar will be our first time collaborative venture with the Museum of London – an immersive exhibition entitled 'Beasts of London' which will be the last exhibition of the Museum before its move to West Smithfield.

Guildhall Live Events won the tender against a range of commercial companies and are now leading a team of staff, students and alumni in this major production for the School and the Museum. The team is already in build mode in the museum and a recent visit to the work in progress revealed the hugely innovative nature of this exciting project which marries museum artefacts with video mapping, sound scores and interactive opportunities for visitors. We hope this will be the beginning of many more collaborations with cultural organisations as our Production Arts department explores new territory as a stand alone faculty.

In January we welcomed Orla O'Loughlin to the role of Vice Principal, Director of Drama. Orla will be driving change within the Drama Department as we seek to refresh the acting courses and surround them with complimentary courses such as Directing and Writing for Performance. We have also made the decision to bring cross discipline courses such as Performance and Creative Entrepreneurship (PACE) and the reinvigorated MA in Leadership into the Drama department to take advantage of Orla's experience and expertise in cross arts work. More generally, we are hoping to increase the amount of cross discipline work that happens across the organisation and Orla will play a major role in helping us exploit our distinctiveness as a multi discipline school.

Highlights of current departmental achievements are grouped under two headings: Quality of Learning and Teaching and Organisational Sustainability.

Quality of Learning and Teaching

Music: Highlights

Notable performance highlights for this term include Andrew Watkinson (of the Endellion Quartet) who lead the Guildhall String Ensemble in a very fine concert of Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky, Rufus Reid (American Jazz bass player) with the Guildhall Studio Orchestra and Samantha Malk's curation of a vocal project based around the Great American Song Book.

The Director of Music (DoM) had a number of significant meetings in New York with Carnegie Hall, Evershed Sutherland, Juilliard and a number of education organisations. Discussions took place around an annual (rather than biennial) showcase in Carnegie Hall – one year being the conventional music recital with alternate years possibly being a cross arts performance involving Jazz, Production Art and Drama. Other discussions included a possible residency in Chicago (where Eversheds are about to set up a new office) which would form a strong audition base for the Mid-West.

Academic Year Working Group. A revision of the Academic Year timetable is underway. Pressure on space during term time and the need to accommodate both Short Courses and statutory maintenance on buildings and venues in holiday periods have all led to the need for

a wholesale review. The working group has considered two models; a two semester model as well as a reduction of two weeks for the Summer Term within the current three term model. **Cross School Collaboration** is an important element within this discussion both from a philosophical/education perspective as well as a practical timetabling and resource point of view.

Space Audit: Music is in the final stages of completing the space audit which is concerned with capacity building for new courses, a home for the Institute for Social Impact (prior to the construction of C4M) and increasing student numbers.

Culture Mile and Barbican Collaboration –both led for the School by Sean Gregory are becoming of growing significance within Music. Both areas have important implications for Music’s course design and concert programming as well as a broader cross-school significance for curation, commissioning, devising and collaboration.

Opera Course

The present OC2 were unprecedentedly successful in the round of international summer festivals, with, for the first time ever, every single singer receiving at least one offer and several juggling a number of prestigious options, including offers from Glyndebourne , ENO, Opera North, Salzburg, Pesaro and Garsington.

The same year group are also enjoying similar levels of success in the current Young Artist Programme auditions for next year, including successes at the Jette Parker Programme at ROH, La Scala Milan (a Guildhall first), the Bayerische Staatsoper, and Zurich Opera. We also have a candidate in the final round of the Lindemann programme at the Met in March.

Strings have enjoyed a period packed with many activities including a Viola Day with 30 young viola players, Harp Masterclasses with Andrew Lawrence-King, String platforms, an Ubu Ensemble performance with Artist diploma Maria Wloszczowska violinist performed Schnittke 3rd violin concerto, a Strings Open Day which included open lessons by eight professors, chamber music masterclass, lunchtime concert and a Q&A sessions, a double bass masterclass with Phoebe Russell, Queensland Symphony Orchestra and Mahler Chamber Orchestra principal, Strings Lab on Liszt with Paul Roberts and Chamber Music with Simon Rowland-Jones and members of the Endellion Quartet.

Vocal Dept

Vocal Masterclass series supported by gift from Peter & Corinne Young continues: recent classes with Ann Murray DBE, Gidon Saks & Prof Edith Wiens. James Conlon (Music Director, Los Angeles Opera & Principal Conductor RAI National Symphony Orchestra, Italy) has asked to come and coach some of our Vocal/Opera singers on 8 February – demonstrating further international recognition & impact. Armin Zanner (Head of Vocal Studies) gave masterclasses during Asia audition tour in Seoul Arts High School, Seoul Kyung Hee University & Tokyo College of Music.

Drama Highlights

Orla O’Loughlin joined as Vice Principal and Director of Drama and there was some strong media interest and coverage.

Following the first round of 3rd year shows a significant amount of 3rd year acting students are signed with major agents. A number of 3rd years have been seen for and/ or offered high profile work in both theatre and TV, here and in the USA.

The Department has achieved gender parity for the first time in the recruitment of visiting directors. The directors include Ameera Conrad and Nicole Charles both of whom are women of colour, working at the top of their game with recent productions at the Royal Court, St Annes Warehouse (NYC), The Globe and West End.

The Department will be offering a richer variety of repertoire for 3rd year productions, including more contemporary plays and a collaborative devised process.

Production Arts: Highlights

Director of Production Arts is currently undertaking a phased return to work having been absent during the Autumn Term. The Production Arts team and PA & Drama Administration have kept everything working well in his absence. Key functions were divided between Head of Stage Management and Costume and Head of Theatre Technology.

Guildhall Live Events has now been established, with a small team employed on a fixed-term two-year basis. The Christmas lights project at Waddesdon Manor, though slightly smaller scale than the previous year, was very successful

State of the art animations and light installations, which took 175,000 visitors on an enchanting journey, were created by circa 40 students and 25 recent graduates from Production Arts and Electronic Music. The team is now engaged in mounting a major exhibition at the Museum of London. "Beasts of London" which will open in April.

Production Arts Skills Exchange (PASE). Preparations are being made for a further nine-day technical training course in Shanghai in June. This will be the fourth and final course to be funded by the Arts Council England through a grant made to the ROH at the China UK People to People meeting in 2014. The course has been very successful, and consideration is being given to continuing the training programme on a commercial basis in the future.

Organisational Sustainability

Advancement: Highlights

We are delighted to have been awarded a grant of £490,000 to support Leverhulme Arts Scholarships over the next three years, by the Leverhulme Trust. This includes major scholarship support for postgraduate musicians, Junior Guildhall and Centre for Young Musicians. The grant also includes support for undergraduate musicians and the School's Production Arts faculty for the first time in recent years. This is the largest Leverhulme award to any conservatoire.

We are very grateful to have been awarded a grant of £90,000 over three years, from the Wolfson Foundation. The Wolfson Music Awards will support scholarships at Junior Guildhall and provide vital support for instrument purchase for undergraduate musicians.

After a competitive process, we are delighted to announce the appointment of a new Head of Development who will join the School in April 2019. Caroline Hawley joins the team from Royal Holloway, University of London, where she is Director of Development. She previously worked as Director of Development at RADA.

On 8 and 9 July 2019, the School will stage its annual Summer Gala, this year featuring a performance of Stephen Sondheim's *Merrily We Roll Along*. Guests will be warmly welcomed for a 2-course dinner in the Barbican Conservatory, before joining our final year acting students for a public performance in the Silk Street Theatre. All proceeds will directly support our students.

Graduation Day took place in November, where fellowships and honorary fellowships were awarded to several high profile alumni, staff members and collaborators in attendance. These included actress Hayley Atwell, composer Tansy Davies and Joint Artistic Directors of Boy Blue, Mikey Asante and Kenrick 'H2O' Sandy.

City of London / Islington Partnership: Highlights

The quarterly City/Islington steering group meetings are now being convened by the Corporate Affairs Office at the City, jointly chaired by Catherine McGuinness (Chair of Policy & Resources) and Richard Watts (Islington Council Leader). Meetings will now also alternate between being held in the City and Islington. A successful City/Islington networking event took place following the December meeting at the Guildhall City Centre, attended by Members/Councillors and Officers from both local authorities. A presentation was given by Culture Mile Partners followed by a useful discussion about how the two boroughs could collaborate more closely, particularly for the benefit of stakeholders and local communities

Widening Participation: Highlights

A draft strategic framework is in development that represents an agreed overarching direction for Widening Participation (WP) at the School, bringing together, amongst other things, Access & Participation and Equality & Inclusion.

A WP steering group comprising key internal staff, and external advisors, will support the delivery of the strategy – ensuring it delivers against its multiple aims and to its range of stakeholders.

The timeline continues towards bringing the framework to the Guildhall School Board in May 2019, for implementation at the start of the autumn 2019 term.

Guildhall Young Artists: Highlights

The Interim Head of Regional Centres has been visiting regional centres to understand local issues and to build a clear structure for each centre

Closer working relationships are helping to improve staff morale. There was a positive awayday and "Christmas lunch" in January for all Head of Regional Centres and administrators together with CYM and JG staff for the first-time meeting as a new GYA group

GYA Islington Programme has exceeded target numbers with 92 students now attending the centre from an initial 40 in September.

Junior Guildhall student Leia Zhu has just completed a high-profile concert tour of Israel received glowing reviews and television broadcasts.

LSSO Barbican concert in January met with positive critical acclaim.

Guildhall Innovation: Highlights

Guildhall School was the lead applicant on a joint research funding bid to the EU Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska Curie Innovative Training Networks, a proposal for an Arts and Health doctoral network worth €2.5m, led by Dr Alex Mermikides, with four university partners, seven cultural and creative industries partners, and five healthcare organisation partners, across four EU countries.

The Guildhall Innovation Strategy was approved by Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee and Senior Management Team in November.

Guildhall Innovation Team held a staff away day in November, taking the opportunity for the relatively new team to get to know each other, embed understanding of the Guildhall Innovation Strategy, and generate ideas for the future that align with the strategy.

Culture Mile's Strategic Partnerships team is now firmly embedded in Guildhall Innovation and key achievements have included completing the research Culture Mile: Creative Enterprise & Innovation, presenting on this at the Lord Mayor's Digital Skills Summit, and delivering an inspiring workshop with the Culture Mile Network on creativity and play in business settings (including with new partner Nuffield Health).

The draft Code of Practice for identifying staff and outputs for submission to REF2021 was approved by Academic Board and circulated to all staff for consultation. The establishment and membership of the REF2021 sub-committee of Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee was also approved, and the Sub-committee met for the first time.

Student number snapshot

Attached as an appendix is the annual snapshot of the higher education students at the HESES census date.

Prizes and Awards

External

Michael Pandya, Artist Diploma, Piano Accompaniment

- Winner of the Gerald Moore Award

(Prize: unknown)

Academic Assurance: employability

Andrés Presno (Vocal Studies Masters, tenor) –

- selected for Royal Opera House **Jette Parker Young Artist**

Junior Guildhall

Annie Chown (Composition Studies with Paul Whitmarsh)

- Highly Commended in BBC Proms Inspire Competition Lower Junior Category, for her piece Conflict and Resolution.

Alumni

Tim Crawford, Amarins Wierdsma, Christoph Slenczka, Yoanna Prodanova

- Winners of RPS Albert and Eugenie Frost Prize at RPS Music Awards Instrumental Prizes as part of Barbican String Quartet

Elsbeth Robertson, Lydia Gosnell, Miriam Nerval, Caoimhe de Paor

- Winners of Early Music Young Ensemble Competition as part of Palisander

Paapa Essiedu (Acting, Graduated 2012)

- Named Breakthrough Brits 2018

Luke Russell (Music, Graduated 2012)

- Appointed Principal Piccolo in the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

Robert Reid Allan (Music, Graduated 2018)

- Appointed Apprentice Composer-in-Residence for Birmingham Contemporary Music Group

Emily Peasgood (Music, Graduated 2003)

- Winner of British Composer Awards - Sonic Art

Neil Austin (Production Arts, Graduated 1992)

- Nominated for WhatsOnStage Awards 2019 for Best Lighting Design for *Company*

Daryl Jamieson (Music, Graduated 2003)

- Winner of 3rd annual Toshi Ichiyanagi Contemporary Prize

Richard Watkin (Music, Graduated 2006)

- Appointed Principal Trombone of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Lauren Fagan (Music, Graduated 2014)

- Awarded Dame Heather Begg Memorial Award

Fraser James (Acting, Graduated 1991)

- Nominated for Best Breakthrough Performance at the National Film Awards

Natasha Gordon (Acting, Graduated 1999)

- Winner of Evening Standard Theatre Awards 2018: Charles Wintour Award for Most Promising Playwright

Sioned Gwen Davies (Music, Graduated 2008)

- Shortlisted for BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2019

Thomas Adès (Music, Graduated 1989)

- Nominated for British Composer Awards 2018 in the Stage Works category for *The Exterminating Angel*

Raymond Yiu (Music, Graduated 2014)

- Nominated for British Composer Awards 2018 in Choral category for *Mielo*

Cevanne Horrocks-Hopayian (Music, Graduated 2004)

- Nominated for British Composer Awards 2018 in Sonic Art category for *Two Machines* with Hugh Jones as 'Crewdson & Cevanne'

Lynne Williams, Principal, Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Tel: 020 7382 7141

Email: principal@gsmd.ac.uk