

# Principal's Public Report May 2019

## Introduction

The School continues to explore new initiatives across all departments with a subsequent increased awareness externally of the breadth of work being undertaken and the partnership opportunities. We have noticed an increase in the number of proposals for collaborative projects from both national and international organisations.

We marked the launch of two significant partnership projects with two well-attended events - the opening of the exhibiton 'Beasts of London' in partnership with the Museum of London and the launch of Music Education Islington with Islington Council and the City of London. The School is taking the lead in the delivery of music activity and numbers of students enrolled in the programme have already risen from forty starters to over one hundred regular attenders. We are in discussion with Islington about rolling out the model to other parts of the borough.

We are now in a transition stage with cross discipline programmes the BA in Performance and Creative Enterprise (PACE) and the reinvigorated MA in Leadership, moving them both from Creative Learning to the Drama department. There has been a great deal of consultation with staff and students to ensure everyone understands the importance of nesting these programmes firmly within one of the School's higher education departments.

Senior Management Team will hold an Away Day on 9 May to discuss the School's contribution to the City's Fundamental Review, as well as our continuing space requirements, the draft digital strategy, the draft international strategy and our Access and Participation plan, to be submitted to the Office for Students.

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

### Strings

- Strings at Six: MC recital with harpist Lise Vandermissen & violinist Sabine Sergejeva.
- Masterclasses:
  - Harp masterclasses with Helga Storck, Masumi Nagasawa and Anaïs Gaudemard
  - Double bass mas with Jurek Dybal, Associate Principal double-bass in the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra and Vienna State Opera Orchestra.

- Fine performances from strings in both Spring opera (Britten *Midsummer Night's Dream*) and Guildhall Symphony (Shostakovich 10 and Dvorak 8) projects. Year 1 and 2 strings also performed in Studio Orchestra with John Lubbock conducting.
- Forthcoming Canadian National Arts Centre Orchestra orchestral solos Masterclasses, with concertmaster Yosuke Kawasaki and principal bass Joel Quarrington
- Accendo Quartet (Juliette Roos, Sabine Sergejeva, Alex McFarlane, Daniel Benn) performed Mozart's K. 428 as part of the Hans Keller Centenary at Wigmore Hall with lecture/demo by Guildhall professor Levon Chilingirian.
- Jubilee Quartet (including Artist diploma cellist Toby White and Year 3 BMus violist Lorena Canto Wollteche) celebrated their debut CD with a sold-out concert at Conway Hall
- ResearchWorks participation: Junior Fellows Nadine Nigl, violin and Emma Besselaar, cello performed in a quartet with 4<sup>th</sup> year Undergraduate violinist Paula Gorbanova and 1<sup>st</sup> year Masters violist Abigale Bowen as part of the book launch for the first biography of Hans Keller.

#### **Chamber:**

- GSMD chamber faculty members the Heath Quartet, and visiting ensemble Decoda, were the subjects of two highly successful 'Meet the Ensemble' events combining performance, masterclass and discussion forum
- Chamber Faculty members announced for the Guildhall Summer Chamber Festival, including Andrew Marriner, Levon Chilingirian, Philippa Davies, Nick Daniel, Richard Lester, Bryn Lewis and many more.

#### **Vocal Studies**

Vocal Masterclasses (supported by Peter & Corinne Young donation): Birgid Steinberger, Michael McMahon, Elizabeth MacDonald, Jordan De Souza, Michael Fabiano, Kevin Murphy, Kamal Khan, Madleyne Renee

- Project on songs of Judith Weir (Master of the Queen's Music), led by Judith Weir, incl. Concert, Public Masterclass & Workshops
- BBC Total Immersion Ligeti & Boulanger Sisters – outstanding press reviews for student singers
- Concerts including Opera Scenes (January & March), Song Recitals (all year), Wigmore Hall Side-by-Side with Alisdair Hogarth (March), Song Guild with Graham Johnson (March) + American Songbook (first such venture)
- Heldur Poldā (BMus 4 Tenor) singing Tony, West Side Story, Estonian Opera Summer 2019 + accepted to Estonian Opera Young Artist Programme from September 2019
- Kirsty McLean (Masters Soprano) cover Jano in Royal Opera House production of *Jenufa*

## Composition

- **Quatuor Bozzini visit: March 10-12<sup>th</sup>** Postgrad Composer workshop took place in March.

Also in March: Public concert works by current and former faculty including new work by Paul Newland, and works by Cassandra Miller, Laurence Crane and James Weeks. Recorded for broadcast on BBC radio 3. (Bozzini recording of Paul Newland's quartet for release on NMC)

The composition department is now in conversation with the Quartet to explore the possibility of developing an on-going relationship.

- **Laurence Crane residency at Camden Arts Centre. Feb 5-9<sup>th</sup>:** One week of workshops with PG composers led by Laurence Crane (faculty professor) - public concerts running concurrently with exhibition of work by filmmaker and artist Beatrice Gibson and featuring new music by Laurence.
- **Exaudi: Exposure March 21-22<sup>nd</sup>:** a series of public events of contemporary work for vocal ensemble curated in association with director/composer James Weeks and including new pieces for EXAUDI by GSMD PG composition students

## Electronic Music:

- **Illuminated River** An external partnership has been developed with the Illuminated River Foundation (IRF), led by the Head of Electronic Music. The initiative is enabling Guildhall School composers to write short new pieces tied to those bridges on the Thames that the IRF is lighting up.
- Recorded & produced all of the 'Beasts of London' Soundtrack and 90% of the sound-design.
- Commissioned to produce one of the 10 site-specific pieces in partnership with 'Musicity' for Culture Mile's "PLAY THE MILE" initiative (Smithfield Rotunda). Delivered last week.
- Successful installation at the 'Getting it Right' research day in March

## Drama Highlights

1. Successful review of Acting Studies BA completed. A thorough, compelling and welcome review of the relatively fledgling programme was carried out by Christina Coker. The results of which will contribute towards the future evolution of the course.
2. Impressive west-end showcase by the 3<sup>rd</sup> year Acting BA and MA students in April. This combined with 4 public productions across the Spring term has led to the vast majority being signed with high calibre agents and a number already in or offered work in both film, tv and theatre including a ten part Netflix series, HBO series, West End.

3. Wonderful evening of the Josephine Hart Prize for Poetry hosted by Lord Maurice Saatchi for our 2<sup>nd</sup> year Acting students. 5 finalists were chosen and they will perform at the British Library in June.
4. A very impressive BA Acting Studies performance was shared with staff and students which has led to a greater understanding and appreciation of the power and potential of international exchange and collaboration across the department.
5. In collaboration with AV have purchased new equipment for self-taping which means we can have a high-spec pop-up self-taping facility in the TV Studio.
6. Beasts of London collaboration.

### **Production Arts: Highlights**

- Beasts of London opened to critical acclaim and record box-office sales – this was a massive undertaking for the new Guildhall Live Events unit, with collaboration from not only the Video Design for Live Performance students, but also from students studying Scenic Art, Lighting, Stage Management, Sound, Electronic Music and Acting.
- MA CTPD students completed a very successful residential project at the Centre de Creation near Bergerac developing a short circus piece.
- Production Arts staff and students collaborated to great effect on “Towers”, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”, “Orestes” and “Opera Scenes”.
- Production Arts Skills Exchange (PASE) will take place in Shanghai in early June. Ongoing discussions about continuing the model beyond current ACE funding.
- The new proposal for a BA (Hons) Design for Performance has been approved by PA Programme Board and will now move on to Academic Board.

### **Organisational Sustainability**

#### **Advancement: Highlights**

- The School is delighted to announce a major fundraising event which will take place on Thursday 5 December 2019. In celebration of alumnus Sir George Martin, the School has been given exclusive rights to screen *Yellow Submarine*, with live orchestra. The event will include a champagne reception, 3-course gala dinner, and silent auction, and raise vital funds for the School.
- The Gold Medal will take place on Friday 10 May, welcoming back alumnus Sir Bryn Terfel to the judging panel. The Development office will lead on hospitality for the event, ensuring that donors, alumni and honoured guests are stewarded appropriately.
- Our annual Summer Gala evenings will take place on Monday 8 and Tuesday 9 July, with a gala dinner and reception ahead of performances of this year’s musical, Stephen Sondheim’s *Merrily We Roll Along*. The evenings will raise funds to support scholarships at the School.

- The School's third annual Undergraduate Open Day took place on Sunday 24 March. 650 visitors attended (342 prospective students and 308 accompanying guests). Feedback was almost universally positive, with 82% of survey respondents saying they were more likely to apply to the School as a result of attending the day. The event is a key student recruitment initiative, involving over 200 members of staff and student volunteers, and showcases programmes and activity across the School.
- Music Education Islington, the music education hub for the London Borough of Islington for which the School is the lead delivery partner, was officially launched on 1 April, with an event hosted by Catherine McGuinness, Policy Chair of the City of London, and Richard Watts, the leader of Islington Council. The event gave Advancement the opportunity to engage media and the arts and education industry in this ground-breaking partnership.
- The School was named in the top ten institutions for performing arts in the world in the QS University Rankings 2019. This will be rolled out across the School's promotional materials going forward.

### **Creative Alliance: Highlights**

City of London / Islington: highlights since February 2019

- The partnership between the City of London and London Borough of Islington continue, jointly led by the City's Policy Chair and the Leader of Islington Council, with the most recent steering group meeting taking place on 21 March. A key development has been the launch of Music Education Islington, which took place at the Barbican on the 1 April and consisted of a daytime conference for music educators and music organisations. Alongside the conference was an evening launch reception for school leadership and governors, key stakeholders and industry professional to celebrate the start of this ambitious programme.

### **Guildhall Young Artists: Highlights since February 2019**

- Junior Guildhall student Leia Zhu has been invited to perform as a soloist with the Mariinsky Orchestra at the Mariinsky Theatre in St Petersburg, Russia. This is an outstanding achievement for any professional musician let alone a conservatoire student and particularly one at just 12 years of age.
- CYM London was included in the Parliamentary Review and the Head of CYM London attended the Parliamentary Review Gala at the Houses of Parliament on 28th March
- CYM Taunton is a finalist in the Taunton Deane Business Awards Creative Industries category Award
- The Interim Head of Regional Centres continues to visit regional centres to understand local issues and to build a clear future structure for each centre.

### **Guildhall Innovation: Highlights since February 2019**

- Guildhall Live Events completed an installation, Beasts of London, for the Museum of London which received positive reviews

- Our Coaching & Mentoring programme will be offering training to the British Council and the City of London Corporation
- After a successful first year in 2018, our Easter Short Courses offer grew, including Easter Music Camp which had a 20% increase in the number of bookings in 2019 with very positive feedback
- Evening courses have had much success, with the Music Production course receiving 100% positive feedback and with most students registering for the second level course
- In its second academic year, the Employability Programme engaged with National Careers Week by creating a series of careers interview videos with the School's senior management
- Guildhall Innovation has strengthened its relationship with Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning, included four Creative Careers Sessions attended by young people through Young Barbican. Board Members are welcome to attend the Big Pitch Event for Creative Entrepreneurs on June 25 at Milton Court.
- We put out a call to all students to provide content ideas for Culture Mile's Play the Mile programme, with great success: within a two-week turnaround, we had received 39 applications from across the School, many of which were interdisciplinary. 19 applications were approved in principle, with 8 projects confirmed for Summer and 11 projects in planning.

### **Guildhall Research: Highlights since February 2019**

- We provided an institutional response to Research England's consultation on the proposed Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF), outlining key positions for the institution and conservatoire sector – including the need to ensure that financial metrics and traditional knowledge transfer outputs are not valued above other forms of exchange (including community impact).
- Began a series of discussions with Music Therapy on future collaborations and had a first meeting with a possible future external partner, the Central and North-West London NHS Trust.
- Our most over-subscribed ResearchWorks presentation to date took place by Sarah Doxat-Pratt (University of Nottingham) on Music in Prisons.

### **Academic Assurances**

Under *The Higher Education Code of Governance* the governing body is required, amongst other things:

- (i) to receive assurance that academic governance is effective. This sits alongside the annual academic assurances required by HEFCE/OfS each December.

<p><b>Academic Assurance: continuous improvement of the student experience</b></p>
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### ***Academic quality and standards***

In November 2018, the Board considered the Academic Board's annual report for 2017/18 and associated action plan. The action plan forms a key part of the evidence informing the

annual assurance relating to the continuous improvement of the student academic experience and student outcomes. This interim report (annex 1) shows the progress to date. A final update on the action plan will be referenced in the 2018/19 Academic Board annual report submitted to the November Board meeting

## Prizes and Awards

### External

**Leyla Cemiloglu** (BMus Piano)

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize in the Oxford Piano Competition

*(Prize: unknown)*

**Alexandra Lowe** (Artist Diploma, Opera Studies (Soprano))

- Opera Prize and Audience Vote for Clonter Opera Prize

*(Prize: unknown)*

**Joon Yoon** (Artist Diploma (Piano))

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in 18th International Piano Campus Competition in France

*(Prize: unknown)*

**Ben Reason** (BMus Baritone/Bass)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize in The Association of English Singers & Speakers Courtney Kenny Award 2019.

*(Prize: £500)*

**Jubilee Quartet** (Lorena Cantó Woltèche (BMus 3) and Toby White (Artist Diploma))

- Named Associate String Quartet at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

**The Mithras Trio** (Ionel Manciu (Artist Diploma, Violin), Leo Popplewell (Guildhall Artist Masters, Cello) and Dominic Degavino (Guildhall Artist Masters, Piano))

- Strings and Piano Ensemble Section Prize at 67th ROSL Annual Music Competition
- Winners of the Kirckman Concert Society award

**Benson Wilson** (Advanced Certificate, Year 2)

- Winner of the Kathleen Ferrier Award 2019)

**Ema Nikolowska**

- Winner of the Loveday Song Prize at the Kathleen Ferrier Awards 2019

**Ben Tarlton** (First year MMus, Cello)

- selected for Park Lane Group concerts

<b>Academic Assurance: employability</b>
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### **Andrés Presno (Masters Tenor)**

- Accepted onto Royal Opera House Young Artist Programme from September 2019

### **Current chamber music fellows, Marmen Quartet**

- Winners of second prize and special prize for the contemporary work in the 8th international Joseph Joachim Chamber Music Competition

### **Alumni**

#### **Luke Swaffield (Production Arts, Graduated 2008)**

- Finalist for Sound Design for *Forgotten* at the Arcola Theatre at the Offies

#### **Monica Dolan (Acting, Graduated 1992)**

- Finalist for Female Performance in a Play for *The B\*east*s at the Bush Theatre at the Offies

### **Appointments**

#### **Oliver Pashley (Music, Graduated 2014)**

- Sub-Principal Clarinet of Britten Sinfonia

#### **Graham Coatman (Music, Graduated 1975)**

- Choral Director at Pewsey Male Voice Choir

#### **Jose Moreira (Music, Graduated 2017)**

- Bass section of the LSO

#### **Isabelle Peters (Music, Graduated 2018)**

- ENO Chorus as one of the first four BAME Chorus Fellows

### **Olivier Awards**

#### **Nominated**

#### **Natasha Gordon (Acting, Graduated 1999)**

- BEST NEW COMEDY for *Nine Night* at National Theatre

#### **Neil Austin (Production Arts, Graduated 1992)**

- WHITE LIGHT AWARD FOR BEST LIGHTING DESIGN for *Company* at Gielgud Theatre

#### **Roderick Williams (Music, Graduated 1995)**

- OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN OPERA with David Butt Philip for their performances in *War Requiem* at London Coliseum

#### **Ben Miles (Acting, Graduated 1988)**

- BEST ACTOR with Adam Godley and Simon Russell Beale for *The Lehman Trilogy* at National Theatre - Lyttelton

#### **Simon Russell-Beale (Acting, Graduated 1983)**



- BEST ACTOR with Adam Godley and Ben Miles for The Lehman Trilogy at National Theatre - Lyttelton

**Charlie Smith (Production Arts, Graduated 2013)**

- BEST NEW MUSICAL - Charlie was Associate Sound Designer

**Eileen Atkins (Acting, Graduated 1953)**

- BEST ACTRESS for The Height Of The Storm at Wyndham's Theatre

**Tom Curran (Music, Graduated 2014)**

- Outstanding Achievement in Music for Six – Original score, orchestrations and vocal arrangements

**BBC Cardiff Singer of the World 2019**

Finalists: Lauren Fagan and Luis Gomes

**Royal Overseas League**

Finalists: George Tarlton & Jiva Housden (String Ensemble Prize)

Winners: Juliette Roos (Len Lickorish Memorial Prize for a String Player of Promise) & Alexander McFarlane (ROSL Golden Jubilee Trust Prize for a String Player of Promise)

**Carlos Verperinas García (Music)**

- Winner of the Edinburgh Quartet 2019 Apprentice competition

**Freedom of the City**

Awarded to: Jodi Whittaker & Kate Royal

**Monica Dolan (Acting, Graduated 1992)**

- Nominated for BAFTA TV Awards in Supporting Actress Category
- Winner of Olivier Award for BEST ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE for All About Eve at Noël Coward Theatre

**Barbican String Quartet (Amarins Wierdsma, Tim Crawford, Christoph Slenczka, Yoanna Prodanova)**

- Winners of the Joseph Joachim chamber music competition

**Emily Berrington (Acting, Graduated 2012)**

- Winner of the King's Distinguished Alumni Awards

**Tasmin Little (Music, Graduated 1986)**

- Named BBC Music Magazine Personality of the Year

**Caravaggio Piano Quartet** (Federico Piccotti, Matteo Mizera, Bernat Català)

- Recipient of the XXXVIII Italian National Critics Award "Franco Abbiati" - category "Premio Farulli" for the emergent chamber music ensemble

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## Academic Board

*Meeting to be held Wednesday 8 May 2019*

and

## Board of Governors

*Meeting to be held on 13 May 2019*

### Update on Academic Board Action Plan as at 30 April 2019

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Assigned</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
1)	to develop a new Teaching and Learning Strategy and Action Plan in line with the School Strategic Plan for approval during 2019.	TBC	December 2019
	<b>Update as at April 2019</b> <i>Job description for new (part-time) Associate Dean of Teaching &amp; Learning is being drawn up. The role holder will take the strategy forward, along with other matters.</i> <i>The Teaching and Learning Strategy will reflect the School's main strategy and work is already underway on aspects of that strategy in respect of programme development and the use of digital learning technologies.</i>		
2)	to monitor the School's performance in the TEF4 metrics in preparation for Subject TEF in 2019/20 and 2020/21	Quality Assurance Officer (Programme Development) - when appointed	March 2019
	<b>Update as at April 2019</b> <i>Appointment of Quality Assurance Officer (Programme Development) has been delayed for a variety of reasons.</i>		
3)	to review the School-wide regulation on discretion for upgrade at a classification boundary.	Programme Leaders	Summer 2019 (for 2019 regs)
	<b>Update as at April 2019</b> <i>Discussions have taken place at programme leaders group although no consensus was reached. A proposal from the Secretary &amp; Dean of Students is to be considered at the May Academic Board to remove from the regulations provision for discussions on aggregate marks below the boundary.</i>		
4)	to consider, as part of Teaching Strategy discussion, the tension between the School's previous whole-School approach to assessment criteria and the desire of the External Examiners to see greater programme/module/assessment-type specificity.	Programme Leaders	ongoing
	<b>Update as at April 2019</b> <i>Discussions have taken place at programme leaders group and there is consensus within the programme Leaders Group that there should be greater flexibility. Revised overall descriptors of the grade boundaries have been agreed for implementation next academic year. Guidance will be developed in due course by the Associate Dean of Teaching &amp; Learning</i>		

	to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of (re)validation	Head of Registry Services/ Quality Assurance Officer (Programme Development)	During 2018/19
5)	<p><b>Update as at April 2019</b>  <i>BA in Video Design for Live Performance was validated for three years. The AB received a report in respect of the conditions which were accepted but the action related to the publishing of assessment deadline dates in the programme handbook did not happen due to uncertainties with projects and staffing. The Programme Leader has advised that the team has now confirmed all final submission deadlines with the administrative office for inclusion in next year's handbook.</i></p> <p><i>In respect of a repository of good practice in assessment a new VLE was not introduced but the new Learning Technologist is working with staff to use the existing platform Moodle as effectively as possible. The new video / media server Planet E Stream is up and running.</i></p> <p><i>A report on consideration of the recommendations is due at the next Production Arts Programme Board and final Academic Board of the year.</i></p> <p><i>BMus programmes was validated for five years. The conditions were actioned prior to the start of the academic year. Two of the three recommendations have been actioned (VLE induction and recruitment strategy) and the third is of an ongoing nature (viz supporting students to investigate areas of learning outside the bounds of their current learning).</i></p> <p><i>The Guildhall Artist Masters programme was validated for five years. The conditions were actioned prior to the start of the academic year. Two of the four recommendations have been actioned (recruitment strategy and clarifying the expectations of assessment for Performances B and C), one is a longer term consideration (a separate Opera programme), and the fourth recommendation (alternative forms of assessment) is also for longer term consideration.</i></p>		
6)	to monitor the implementation of programme action plans (yearly action)*	Programme Leaders group	During 2018/19
	<p><b>Update as at April 2019</b>  <i>Report due at final Academic Board of the year</i></p>		
7)	detailed action plans from Departments to address NSS scores (by November 2018)	Identified Departmental Heads	November 2018
	<p><b>Update as at April 2019</b>  <i>Reported to the Board of Governors at both November and February meetings.</i></p>		
8)	Programme Leaders to explore quantitative and qualitative feedback from WSS with their Annual Programme Evaluations.	Programme Leaders	By Spring 2019
	<p><b>Update as at April 2019</b>  <i>Included in APEs for 2017/18</i></p>		
9)	Acting programme team to articulate a recruitment strategy as part of the revalidation process, taking into account the disability and gender issues noted	Acting programme Leader	By revalidation Spring 2020
	<p><b>Update as at April 2019</b>  <i>Not due yet</i></p>		
10)	All programme leaders to consider whether there are identifiable factors discouraging applicants from specific minority groups.	Programme Leaders	During 2018/19
	<p><b>Update as at April 2019</b>  <i>Programme Leaders to consider further the most recent equality analysis.</i>  <i>It was noted at the March Academic Board that the OfS had asked the School to look at why fewer students from a British Asian background applied to the School. Whilst there was plenty of anecdotal evidence as to why there were fewer applicants, the OfS expected institutions to challenge assumptions (Theory of Change) and also to be able to demonstrate that all reasonable steps to encourage applications from particular</i></p>		

	<i>underrepresented groups had been undertaken. This was being taken forward as part of the School's 2020 Access &amp; Participation Plan.</i>		
<b>11)</b>	RDAP preparation survey to capture current levels of staff engagement in scholarly activities (eg external examinerships, membership of learned societies etc)	<i>Quality Assurance Officer (Programme Development)</i>	<i>During 2018/19</i>
	<b>Update as at April 2019</b> <i>This is a joint project with Research to feed into the preparations for the REF. Some delay due to ongoing lack of Quality Assurance Officer (Programme Development).</i>		