

Principal's Public Report

Introduction

The recent Board Away Day provided a welcome opportunity for staff and board members to address some of the challenges facing the School in more detail than normally allowed at formal board meetings and as a follow on from our Senior Management Team Away Day. Since those discussions, the City's Fundamental Review has moved into a second phase and no action has been taken thus far on the recommendations of the Augur Review (especially in the light of the resignation of the University Minister, Jo Johnson). The School has been revisiting its Brexit mitigation plan as part of an overall City-wide plan now that a No Deal departure from the EU is looking more likely. It will be important to be a part of discussions regarding policies to grow international education opportunities and the opportunities for education and research in future trade deals.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced a fast tracked one year spending round that will set departmental budgets for 20/21 and be completed in September 2019. UUK has been consulting with the Department of Education and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy on how the sector can strengthen the case for higher education, research and innovation. A full spending review will be held in 2020 where recommendations of the Augur review will be addressed.

We have made considerable progress on the three cross cutting themes of the strategic plan and we are continuing to develop strategies for each following the presentation of drafts at the Away Day and the compilation of board members' contributions. Final strategies will be presented at the November Board meeting.

The Widening Participation strategy represents an overarching direction for Widening Participation (WP) at the School, bringing together Access & Participation and Equality & Inclusion plans which will be delivered through a variety of initiatives including those in partnership with Creative Learning. The new Guildhall Young Artists division will be a major delivery mechanism as will the School's specific education and recruitment partners in and outside of London. 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 International strategy is continuing to develop against a backdrop of uncertainty around Brexit and Immigration regulations. UUK has continued to

lobby for a new kind of student visa and a more attractive proposal for international students and the Principal has been updating the City Remembrancer on the School's position.

The Digital Steering Group has benefited from the appointment of a new Business Systems Manager and the synergies with the Barbican are helping to develop relationships with major partners. The Digital Strategy, when finalised, will encourage greater collaboration across all departments of the School.

Some important events for the Autumn include Culture Mile's Fusion Prize Symposium on September 17, and the visit of Barbican/ Guildhall Associate Richard Tognetti and the Australian Chamber Orchestra. Please contact Amy Grimes for tickets to events.

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

Quality of Learning and Teaching Highlights since May 2019

**Academic Assurances:
student experience &
employability**

Music

Strings Highlights

- Bass alumnus Jose Moreira has been selected to join the Bass section of the London Symphony Orchestra, and will also be joining the Guildhall Strings faculty.
- Masterclasses with member of the National Arts Centre of Canada Orchestra Principal bass Joel Quarrington (orchestral excerpts) and Concertmaster Yosuke Kawasaki (concertmaster solos). Six bass students and four violin students participated.
- Cellist Pedro Silva's (MPerf) Artium Piano Trio released their debut album on the KNS Classical label. The CD is available on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon and Google Play.
- Violist Agnieszka Zyniewicz (MPerf) and cellist Ben Tarlton (MMus) performed in projects with the London Symphony Orchestra as part of the LSO String Experience Scheme.
- Violist Luca Casciato (MMus) is currently on trial with the LSO.
- Bassist Miguel Pliego (BMus 4) has been selected to join the Bass section of the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra
- Violinist Ruth Heney (MPerf) is on trial after successful auditions with Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the Hallé.

- Violist Agnieszka Zyniewicz (MPerf) was also selected to tour with the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchestre and to perform at the Gustav Mahler Academy in Bolzano. Bassists Piotr Hetman (MPerf) and Miguel Pliego (BMus 4) were also invited to perform at the Gustav Mahler Academy.
- Bassist Piotr Hetman is currently on trial with Philharmonia Orchestra.
- Harpist Bianca Watts (MMus) led a team of 6 musicians and actors of the acclaimed Wind-Up Penguin group for a residency in Mexico, organising two shows a day in orphanages, migrant centres, a women's prison, hospitals, street children's centres, markets, libraries and palliative care centres.

Vocal Studies Highlights

Young Artist Programme & Opera Company highlights for 2019-20:

- Valencia Opera Studio Centre Placido Domingo - Aida Gimeno Garcia (MMus)
- English National Opera Harewood Artists – Claire Barnett-Jones (Art Dip) & alumni John Findon, David Ireland & Elgan Llŷr-Thomas
- Estonian Opera Young Artist Studio – Heldur Põlda (BMus 4)
- Royal Opera House Jette Parker Young Artists – Andrés Presno (Grad Cert)
- Glyndebourne Touring Opera – Gethin Lewis (MMus)
- British Youth Opera – many Guildhall participants, incl. Liam Bonthron (MMus) as Ramiro in *La Cenerentola*
- Opera Studio Tenerife – Jacobo Ochoa Piedrahita (BMus 3) role of Belcore in *L'elisir d'amore*
- Opera Holland Park – incl. Thomas Mole (BMus 4) & Jack Holton (MPerf) as Count Horn & Anckarström in *Un ballo in maschera*
- Verbier Festival Academy – Olivia Boen (MMus) & Ema Nikolovska (Vocal Studies alumna, now Opera Course)
- Merry Opera – Florian Panzieri (MMus), Jack Holton (MPerf) & Shakira Tsindos (MMus) cast in *Don Giovanni* as Don Ottavio, & Zerlina on tour
- Richard Alston Dance Company – Katherine McIndoe (MPerf) solo soprano in *Shine On* tour

Opera Highlights

- Highlights: very successful summer opera double bill and Opera Makers productions. Graduating second years our most successful year group ever, making debuts straight out of school at ROH, ENO, Garsington, Glyndebourne and Salzburg Festivals.
- Gold Medal winner Samantha Clarke making debuts in lead roles at the Buxton Festival and Opera North.
- A higher number than ever before (at least 6 on current count) have also been taken on by highest-end agents.

Electronic Music Highlights

Illuminated River recording

Illuminated River launch

Illuminated River Documentary

'Musicality' Commission – Barbican/Culture Mile

Collaboration with Vocal Department for Sound Unbound

Launch Event for Guildhall Session Orchestra

Launch of masters pathway within Guildhall Artist Masters programme – with coverage in national press and radio

Wind Brass Percussion Highlights

New professors:

Rachel Gledhill (Royal Opera House) – percussion

Paul Stevens – saxophone

Mirjam-Luise Munzel – recorder

Continuing development of Widening Participation outreach work at The Sage, Gateshead

Peter Moore (principal trombone, LSO) begins teaching at Guildhall in Autumn 2019.

Academic Studies Highlights

- Completion of the first academic cycle with the important BMus revalidation changes.
- Good feedback from BMus external examiners.
- All BMus1 students met as part of a new feedback mechanism on overall results of Integrated Studies in Music 1 module.
- Awaiting Whole School Survey on impact of changes.
- Guildhall Artist Masters cycle with revalidation changes to be completed in a few weeks.
- Great development in VLA and partial implementation of on-line submissions and marking.

Chamber Music Highlights

Highly successful second instalment of the Guildhall Chamber Music Festival with acclaimed performances from professors and students alike, and overwhelmingly positive feedback from all involved in the collaborative process of the faculty/student mixed concerts in Milton Court Concert Hall.

Drama: Highlights

1. A Guildhall delegation will visit our partner organisation C.A.D in Beijing to revalidate the course this Autumn and to see the performance of the public production the students premiered here. As a result of the success of this programme, we are keen to pursue other partnerships in China.
2. Last term we enhanced our BA/MA Acting digital showcase offer, with 2nd year students recording professionally produced voicereels and self-taped showreels.
3. Our BA/ MA Acting Public Productions were announced as a year-long season and serve as a statement of intent for the direction of the programme. We have attracted a number of high calibre industry creatives and curated a vibrant season of representative, contemporary work. This has been warmly received by both students and industry.

Production Arts: Highlights

- The annual Production Arts Graduation Exhibition took place across the Studio Theatre, the Studio Bar and Rehearsal Room 2 and was the largest and most ambitious exhibition to date, including a large showing from the graduating students of the Video Design for Live Performance programme.
- Production Arts students and staff spent the first half of the summer term working on their season of special projects which included various Graduation Projects as well as collaborations on the Jazz Festival in the Studio Theatre.
- MA Collaborative Theatre PD students collaborated with Acting Studies students for their final production “A Journey” in the Milton Court Theatre.
- Production Arts staff and students collaborated to great effect on a double bill of operas: “Aminta e Fillide / Venus and Adonis”, Opera Makers and the end of year musical – “Merrily We Roll Along”.
- The Production Arts Skills Exchange (PASE) took place in Shanghai in early June – Gill Allen and Rhian Jones joined colleagues from the Royal Opera House and Anystage Productions to present a nine-day training programme to industry professionals. Discussions about continuing the model beyond current ACE funding are ongoing.
- Head of Performance Venues, Chris Wheal, is moving on to take up the role of Technical Director at the Saffron Hall. An excellent replacement has been recruited and will be starting work towards the end of October. In the meanwhile, the team is being led by Julian Hepple – Head of Audio Visual.
- The Performance Venues team have been hard at work over the summer:
 - maintaining our lighting and sound equipment and managing statutory inspections of our rigging and flying systems across all six performance venues.
 - Work on replacing the Silk Street stage floor has been completed.

- The full team (including our new administrator Rosie Carter) passed the ABTT Bronze Award for technical training in order to align methods and understanding.
- Our AV team has completed:
 - significant upgrades to the Jazz studios which now look extremely impressive with a full refurbishment and installation of state of the art equipment and acoustic treatment.
 - significant improvements to the infrastructure in the Silk Street Music Hall including new recording and presentation systems.
 - installation of 12 new display screens in teaching rooms across all four teaching buildings
- Our graduates are moving out into the world of work and a summary of their successes will be included in the next report.

Organisational Sustainability

Advancement: Highlights

- Marketing & Communications have been promoting recent successes for the School including:
 - Research Department awarded £984,000 grant from the AHRC for social impact research led by Professor John Sloboda.
 - Guildhall composers and electronic musicians were commissioned by the Illuminated River Foundation to provide new music for the Thames bridges, which received coverage as part of an ITV documentary
 - Guildhall's Acting and PACE departments gave a 100% overall satisfaction rate in the National Student Survey, and the School jumped 60 places in the People & Planet University League rankings for sustainability
- Over 500 guests joined us for the receptions at the Gold Medal 2019 and we were delighted to welcome two alumni onto the judging panel – conductor Richard Farnes and bass-baritone Sir Bryn Terfel. The Gold Medal was awarded to soprano Samantha Clarke, in her second year on the Guildhall Opera Course.
- We entertained 270 guests at our two annual Summer Gala evenings around this year's musical *Merrily We Roll Along* in July raising over £15,000 for the Student Scholarships Fund.
- Forthcoming opportunities for governors to join events at Guildhall School this autumn term include: *Guildhall Symphony Orchestra, Chorus & Jazz Orchestra* reception and performance on 27 September, *The Wheel* reception and performance on 22 October and *La Fedelta Premiata* reception and performance on 6 November.

Guildhall Innovation: Highlights since May 2019

- Coaching & Mentoring have received confirmation that we can accredit our participants at Practitioner Level from the European Mentoring & Coaching Council
- Summer Schools were delivered with a total of 27 classes offered to approximately 600 students including a pilot for 12-15 age group.
- Our Creative Entrepreneurs Incubator has doubled our accepted cohort size for 2019-2020
- Guildhall Live Events has launched its new micro-website at liveevents.gsmd.ac.uk

Guildhall Young Artists: Highlights since May 2019

- Junior Guildhall student Leia Zhu made history as at age 12 she was the youngest British soloist to perform with the Mariinsky Orchestra at the Mariinsky Concert Hall in St Petersburg
- Junior Guildhall 2019 Lutine Prize was won by Alex Cuilin.
- The Junior Guildhall Brass Band performed with students from Brass Academy Alicante as part of the 8th International Brass Festival in Alicante
- Junior Guildhall students, Will Everitt and Lilly Vadaneaux, have both been highly commended in this year's BBC Proms Inspire competition.
- LSSO completed a successful tour of the Czech Republic and Slovakia.
- CYM Taunton won the 2019 Creative Business award in the Taunton Dean Business Awards.
- First year of GYA Islington ended with a highly successful concert at Highbury Grove School, attended by parents, friends, funders and Council Members.
- A second GYA Islington Satellite centre will open at Arts and Media School Islington in September 2019.

Guildhall Research: Highlights

- Two new Barbican Guildhall research roles will start in autumn 2019 – a Joint Doctoral Studentship and a Post-doctoral Research Fellowship, linked to the Creative Learning Esmée Fairbairn regional cultural education partnerships.
- Arts and Humanities Research Council – £984,010 FEC over three years for 'Music for social impact: practitioners' contexts, work, and beliefs', an international collaborative research project to be led by Prof. John Sloboda. This is the largest single research grant the School has ever received.

- Leverhulme Trust – c. £150,000 over three years for two Early-Career Fellowships: ‘Transforming the operatic voice’ (Dr Toby Young) and ‘The flexible text: Reuniting oral and written traditions in 19th-century music’ (Dr Kate Wadsworth). These are the first such fellowships the School has received, and an important element in the latest phase of our strategic development of the research environment, the building up of a post-doc culture.

Widening Participation Strategy: Highlights

- Following a very useful roundtable discussion at the Guildhall School Board of Governors away-day, the Widening Participation Strategy will be further developed in Autumn 2019, led by the Director of Creative Learning.

Students’ Union

The Students’ Union has a new executive committee for 2019/20 as follows:

- SU President: Dave Muncey
Dave is a recent graduate of the School after studying classical trumpet for 4 years.
- Vice President of Academic Affairs: Thomas Plater.
Tom is a saxophonist on the postgraduate Artists Diploma programme
- Vice President of Events: Megan Landeg
Megan is a fourth year classical percussionist.
- Vice President of Finance: Elizabeth Baumberg
Lizzie is a French horn player in her third year of study.
- Vice President of Welfare (2nd year of office): Sophie Walker
Sophie is a fourth year classical bass student,

Prizes and Awards

External

Piotr Hetman (MA Orchestral Artistry)

- Invited to participate in the Gustav Mahler Academy masterclasses with members of the Mahler Chamber Orchestra. The masterclasses will be in second part of July in Bolzano (Italy)

Pietari Willey (BMus Cello)

- Central Finnish Cultural Fund: 14 000 euros towards the purchase of an instrument
- Wolfson Foundation Music Awards: £5000 towards the purchase of an instrument.

<p>Academic Assurance: employability</p>

Anna Garde & Penka Petkova

- Selected to play in a masterclass with Steven Isserlis at the Herfordshire Festival of Music, 13th June 2019.

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

- Winners of the Cavatina Intercollegiate Chamber Music Competition
- The only British group chosen for the live rounds of the Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition

Joël Terrin & Matthew Gemmill (Advanced Certificate (baritone) & Artist Diploma (Piano Accompaniment))

- 2nd Prize in the Somerset Song Competition

Current chamber music fellows, Marmen Quartet

- Joint Winners of the Grand Prize in the Bordeaux Quartet Competition
(Prize: 20,000 euros, 3-year international tour and photo session)

Aida Gimeno Garcia (Guildhall Artists Masters (Vocal Studies - Soprano))

- Selected for further study at opera studio in Valencia, she was hand-picked by Placido Domingo

Jacobo Ochoa & Alexandra Lowe (BMus Baritone/Bass & Artist Diploma, Opera Studies (Soprano))

- Awarded Drake Calleja Trust scholarships

Mark Christian Bautista (Vocal Studies)

- 1st Prize at the Dean and Chadlington Summer Music Festival and Singing Competition 2019
(Prize: £2000)

Seán Boylan (Advanced Certificate - Opera Studies)

- Winner of the Helen Clarke Award at the Garsington Opera Awards 2019

Bianca Andrew (Guildhall Artist Masters, Opera Studies (mezzo-soprano))

- Winner of the Leonard Ingrams Award at the Garsington Opera Awards 2019

Karnsiri Prim Laothamatas (Artist Diploma (Piano), student of Ronan O'Hora and Martin Roscoe)

- 2nd Prize in the 2019 Birmingham International Piano Competition

Will Everitt and Lilly Vadaneaux (Junior Guildhall) have both been highly commended in this year's BBC Proms Inspire competition: Will for a piano piece called *The Olympians*; and Lilly for her setting of Yeat's *Cloths of Heaven*.

Every young artist repetiteur position in the UK is now occupied by a recent Guildhall repetiteur student.

- **Nathan Harris is the new Trainee Repetiteur at ENO.**
- **Mairi Grewar, has been the Young Artist Repetiteur at Opera Holland Park** this summer, and continues with their post-festival outreach work, while studying at the National Opera Studio.
- **Michael Papadopoulos is the new Young Artist Repetiteur at Scottish Opera.**
- **And Ed Whitehead and Patrick Milne continue as the Opera Conductors and Repetiteurs on the Jette Parker Programme.**

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