

Principal's Public Report November 2019

Introduction

On Friday 1st November we celebrated the graduation of 398 undergraduate, post graduate and doctoral students across two ceremonies in the historic Guild Hall. We were pleased to be able to welcome 733 guests in total on the day and in particular, Roger Wright CBE, as our honoured guest for the morning ceremony to deliver the occasional address. Sir David Wooten stepped in as Representative Lord Mayor for the evening ceremony and was joined by Sheriff Mainelli and Mrs Mainelli and Sherriff Chris Hayward and Mrs Hayward. Thank you to all those members of the Board of Governors who attended and contributed to these special events. Many parents and friends commented positively on the warm and welcoming environment created and staff are to be congratulated on delivering a memorable day.

Another highlight of the term was the Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning 10th anniversary celebrations held in the Conservatory and Garden rooms of the Barbican. Guests were able to interact with artefacts and watch a specially commissioned film for the occasion. Again, thanks to those board members who were there to support the creative learning team.

We continued to contribute to the thought leadership of the sector by presenting at the recent bi-annual Conservatoires UK Conference in Glasgow. Director of Guildhall Young Artists and Safeguarding, Alison Mears and Secretary and Dean of Students, Katharine Lewis delivered key note lectures on Access, Participation and Student Pathways.

It has now been confirmed that the new Lord Mayor, William Russell will launch the Institute for Social Impact in May of next year as an integral part of his mayoral year theme. We will also be holding a fundraising evening at Mansion House in October to celebrate the Guildhall School's 140th anniversary.

We are continuing to receive a great many new invitations from international institutions for academic and artistic partnerships including Australia, China, Korea and Russia. We are currently hosting production arts staff from Victorian College of the Arts, Australia.

There has been some positive movement in terms of education reform recently announced through the Durham Commission. The School has been campaigning for more creative arts time in the timetables of both primary and secondary schools and the recognition of the value of the arts to be recognised in the Ofsted inspection process. The Durham Commission on Creativity and Education report makes ten recommendations including a statement that 'young people should be better prepared for the changing world of work. They need the creative capacities that employers seek and which enable them to be resilient and adaptable, to pursue portfolio careers and engage in lifelong learning.' I would urge the members of the board to read the full set of recommendations which acknowledge arts and culture as an essential part of the education of every child.

This term we are beginning to see the benefits of increased investment in our digital environment including the streaming of key staff meetings, increased uptake of blended learning models by academic staff, the development of a pilot remote learning programme within Guildhall Young Artists and increased uptake by students of new digital programmes.

The new patron scheme launched this year is proving to be very successful. To date we have welcomed an increasing number of patrons and potential donors to two newly formatted Principal's Guest Nights focussed on performances of *The Wheel* and *La Fedelta Premiata*. We have also been awarding Guildhall Fellowships at high profile events. Director of the Australian Chamber Orchestra, Richard Tognetti was awarded an Honorary Fellowship at a concert in Milton Court and we are planning to award Michael Tilson Thomas his Honorary Fellowship during an LSO concert at Milton Court on 16 November.

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 September 2019 Music

Academic Assurances:
- enhancement of the
student experience
- student employability

Music is working on a number of key partnerships and collaborations at present. They include:

- A partnership between the Juilliard School New York, Sibelius Academy Helsinki and Guildhall on a joint international project for Spring 2020 involving singers and pianists.
- We have also invited Julia Bullock, a black American soprano, to become an Artist in Residence at the School. Julia is the go-to soprano for John Adams and Peter Sellers and has done some cutting edge work around political identity and the artist. Julia also works with Katie Mitchell, a theatre director who is a close friend of Orla's and who we hope to also involve in projects going forwards.
- The Australian National Academy of Music (Melbourne) has invited us to perform 2 Beethoven String Quartets in their "Quartetthaus". We have also been in talks involving the Barbican to bring the Quartetthaus building (a temporary structure with a revolving stage) to the Barbican in 2021. The Australian High Commissioner, George Brandis is also involved in these discussions.

Strings: Highlights

- Internal preselection auditions for the London Symphony Orchestra String Experience Scheme: 12 violins and 4 each of cellos, violas and double bass were selected out of 55 candidates.
- In October Guildhall hosted two of the four LSO orchestra audition workshops open to students in all London music colleges for the LSO String Experience Scheme auditions.
- Four violin concerto finalists selected by auditions for the Max & Peggy Morgan prize.
- Nick Vegas, DB (MMus) & Lorenzo Narici, Vln (MPerf) have won places in Southbank Sinfonia

- StringLab 11 November with Paul Roberts (Rethinking Liszt) and on 18 November Alasdair Tait, CEO of YCAT will discuss the future of young artists.
- The first Blind Mock Auditions for PG & Yr4 BMus was oversubscribed with 21 participants.
- Patricja Mynarska, violin (MPerf , '18) is on trial with the London Symphony Orchestra
- Strings Teaching skills seminar hosted lectures from the Head of Strings for CYM (Morley College), Head of Strings from Junior Guildhall, Creative learning project leader Sigrun Griffiths and Junior Guildhall instructor of Chamber Music, Maureen Parrington.
- New staff Jose Moreira has been assigned to oversee the re-organisation of the bass orchestra repertoire classes
- Staff taking advantage of Erasmus residencies and other external courses and masterclasses to enhance recruitment.

Vocal Studies

- Bavarian State Opera, Fixed Contract from 2020-21 season
 - Caspar Singh (Vocal BMus 2018)
- Glyndebourne Festival Opera Young Artist 2020
 - Nancy Holt (Vocal Masters)
- Garsington Festival Alvarez Young Artists 2020
 - Liam Bontrhone (Vocal Masters)
 - Florian Panzieri (Vocal Adv Cert)
 - Erin Rossington (Vocal Masters)
- Grange Festival Young Artist 2020
 - Kamil Bien (Vocal Masters)
- Buxton Festival Opera 2020
 - Eleanor Neate (Vocal Masters)
- British Youth Opera Basil Turner Award 2020
 - Liam Bontrhone (Vocal Masters)
- Shuck 'n' Jive play at Soho Theatre (October), written & directed by
 - Simone Ibbett-Brown (Vocal Masters)
- Charles Griffes CD recording project, incl. fundraising recitals
 - Alexandria Wreggelsworth (Vocal Art Dip)

Wind, Brass and Percussion

- Musicians from the Oslo Philharmonic gave masterclasses in October, during their tour in the UK. One was given by their principal trombone Audun Breen, a 2014 graduate.
- The British Horn Festival was hosted by the School on Sunday 13th October.
 - The event was led superbly by Jo Hensel. The focus of the day was not only on great horn playing, but on teaching and learning – empowering the teachers and inspiring the young players. Professors Richard Bissill and Chris Parkes were the official “star” players – and there were many more stars there too.
 - Over 370 people attended, and at least 280 of these were horn players! (the rest were parents and non-playing horn enthusiasts). This included around 90 x Under 18's who took part in multiple workshops, ensembles and Masterclasses.

- The impact factor on the young players (and their teachers) will have been high.
- It is also an excellent model for a WBP Open Day to stimulate recruitment in these challenging times.
- WBP Open Day took place on Thursday, 7th November
- WBP will host 11 masterclasses from the LA Philharmonic in two weeks' time.
- Current performance projects:
- Legendary clarinettist Michael Collins CBE will direct a performance of a Richard Strauss Wind Sonata with Guildhall students on Monday 2nd December
- Alums Tom Gimson and Joh Rittipo Moore worked with saxophone students on a programme of their own music with Jonny Greenwood (Radiohead), for a 11th Nov concert.

Electronic Music

- Highest application numbers at formal deadline - expected to exceed all time record.
- Public Masterclass in 'Sampling Technique' in Milton Court Concert Hall was fully booked.
- Recording Session with Guildhall Session Orchestra for new 'Idents' project.
- Illuminated River Launch Concert with Guildhall Session Orchestra
- Three separate projects as part of Barbican's "Beethoven Weekender":
 - 'Beethoven Plugged In';
 - Ludwig Animation Underscore;
 - Pastoral Installation in Conservatory.
- Links with Sundance Film Festival and Met Film School confirmed for our Film Music Principal Study.
- London Film School are wanting to collaborate with us.
- Music Catalogue Program agreed with marketing to provide underscore for Social Media videos
- London Music Conference partnership under discussion

Music Therapy

- Recruitment is healthy in Music Therapy with 11 PG MA students enrolling in September 2019
- The recent Open evening and Open Day events were well attended with very enthusiastic feedback
- Staff achievements: Donald Wetherick, Anne Sloboda and 2 outreach tutors Marianne Rizkallah and Irene Pujol Torres gave Researchworks presentations in Milton court as part of the Social Impact of Music Series.
- MT: Graduate employment successes
 - 2013 alumnus and Guildhall Outreach staff member Eugenie Aitcheson appointed Arts Therapies Clinical Lead at Eden Academy Special Needs School Trust
 - 2015 Alumnus Alexandra Oliver appointed Head Music Therapist at children's charity Coram
 - 2016 graduate Roxanne Scott appointed as Lead Music Therapist at Haven House Childrens' Hospice
 - Hilary Davies has obtained a permanent full -time position in Nordoff-Robbins Scotland (the first ever Guildhall graduate to be employed there)
 - Laura Spencer has obtained a full-time position at Chiltern Music Therapy

- Nick Richards has obtained a position of Music Therapist at William Henry Smith residential school in West Yorkshire for boys with social and mental health challenges
- John Morcom and Lucy Osborne have been selected to do 3 months of outreach work with the charity ABCD which does therapeutic work for young people with disabilities in West Bank Palestine
- The Music Therapy Department staff and year 2 MA students hosted a visit from a community mental health choir in Silk Street music hall on 15th October

Historic Performance

- Guildhall Consort (HP/Vocal students), directed by Eamonn Dougan, collaborated with Milton Court Artist-in-Residence, Alison Balsom, former artistic director of the Globe, Dominic Dromgoole, and the English Concert in a revival of Alison Balsom's Restoration trumpet entertainment, Gabriel. As well as the opportunity of working in close proximity with world-class actors and musicians, this project gave our students valuable experience of the kind of performing and rehearsal processes increasingly expected by the profession. The project culminated with concerts in Saffron Hall and the Barbican.
- Artist Diploma student, Thomas Allery, has been appointed Assistant Director of Music at The Temple Church, a position to which he moves from Director of Chapel Music at Worcester College, Oxford.

Jazz

- We have been thrilled at the refurbishment of the basement studios, this has gone a long way to increase student and staff environmental conditions. Without doubt we now have the best rehearsals rooms of our competitors, both in acoustics and equipment.
- A major syllabus commission, with online learning, audio visual distribution using Planet eStream and student support at its core
- Studio Orchestra projects this year featuring entirely Guildhall Students, such is the level of their playing that it is not necessary to hire in professional support. We welcome Joe Stillgoe in January for a multi-media spectacular and in March present a concert of the music of the Beatles, reimagined; this concert will uniquely run with no on costs, as HoD will conduct his arrangements for BBCCO, all soloist roles performed by students.
- Widening and diversifying of staff body, in particular the appointment of Clare Wheeler to look after jazz vocalists. We welcomed Sigrun Griffiths and Nell Catchpole to our department, and whilst their work is across the school we are able to re-implement educational teaching
- The appointment of Assistant Deputy HoDs has brought the department into line with others in the school and has had a huge impact in communication and management
- We welcomed Adam Williams (MO) to supervise Jazz Ensembles and Equipment. Our combo performances take place in industry venues, Kansas Smitty's and Old Street Records, showcasing student performances beyond the walls of the campus and into our community
- Our Tuesday big band performance series continues to draw large audiences with visitors having to be regretfully turned away at the most recent concert.

Academic Studies

- Strong beginning of the year, adjustments made where feedback had been less favourable. Overall the new structure of BMus1 and 2 in Academic studies has been praised by the External Examiners.
- Great improvements of the interface and accessibility of VLA is have a positive impact on AS teaching. This is increasingly becoming well embedded into the teaching practices, including teaching material and videos of lectures.

Drama: Highlights

Acting Studies:

- All of the first cohort on returning for their final year at CAD were auditioned by the RSC for a co-production taking place in China. Awaiting results.
- The final Guildhall public production 'A Journey' was well attended and positively received both at Guildhall and back at CAD. Its innovative, devised nature was roundly commended.
- Our new cohort has settled in very well and is integrating wonderfully with the acting students.
- Danny McGrath has been appointed as the full time post of Acting Studies Programme Leader from the end of this term.

PACE

- The programme made a successful physical move into Drama. The students, staff and administration team now inhabit the same building which has led to a sense of unity and opened up new possibilities for positive and practical creative exchange.
- The annual Residency in Salford was a huge success, not least because all the students attended.
- It was hugely valued by staff and students that Kenny Mukendi's family were hosted at Graduation. His memory being honoured by presenting them with his posthumous award was a powerful moment of remembering and closure.
- Many good news stories from last year's graduates including the news that Katy Bunting has a full time post at The Royal and Derngate Theatre as part of the Education and Outreach team there.
- Following a rigorous recruitment process, and meeting with a very strong field, we have made an offer of employment to a new Head of Interdisciplinary Practice. This new role will take on Programme Leader of the programme and lead on developing new BA and MA programmes as well as leading on collaborative, interdisciplinary ambitions across the school.

Acting

- Noticeably increased industry interest in 3rd year public productions. Lots of interest from casting directors and agents in this cohort.
- Some very positive media and audience response to the first 2 shows. Very strong ticket sales.
- Lots of success from this year's graduates including: Mirren Mack (BBC) Joseph Potter (Orange Tree) Jasmine Lee Jones (Royal Court, Young Vic) Kalungi Ssbandeke (Almeida theatre)
- The revalidation process has enabled the team to start work on implementing more robust structures around timetabling, planning cycles and communication.

- Successful delivery of ground breaking workshops on resilience and creativity by Polly Teale (Shared Experience)
- Continuation of ensuring high profile and diverse industry figures to work as visiting practitioners.

Production Arts: Highlights

Highlights since September 2019

- Production Arts staff and students collaborated to great effect on three productions: “Red Velvet”, “The Wheel” and “La Fedeltà Premiata”.
- Ben Sumner and Rhian Jones travelled to Beijing where the Central Academy of Drama and Guildhall School co-presented a three-day seminar on performance Production Management. They were joined by presenters from the Barbican, the National Theatre and Anystage Productions. It is hoped that this may lead to further collaborations and may make connections that would allow the Production Arts Skills Exchange project to continue in a new format beyond the current ACE funding via the Royal Opera House.
- A new Head of Performance Venues – Charles Haines – has been appointed. Charles was previously Head of Production at Setsquare Staging. Previous roles include Chief Technician for the Millennium Dome and Technical Director of the Royal Albert Hall. Charles is already very familiar with our venues as for many years he undertook inspection and maintenance of our flying and rigging systems in his capacity of Director of Hall Stage; other Charles is also a Guildhall graduate and has a passionate interest in Production Arts training.
- Our graduates are moving out into the world of work. Highlights include:
 - Bethan Senior: full time Production Management Assistant at Smyle
 - Jess Case: freelance Scenic Artist at Eton
 - Marcus Lim: freelance Scenic Artist (last jobs - concrete bridge for artist Mark Leckey at the Tate Britain and work for Netflix)
 - Anthony Morton: Freelance Scenic Carpenter at Globe theatre
 - Isabel Walters: MA in costume at RADA and working freelance as a props/costume maker for Cirque Beserk
 - Lucy Smart: freelance propmaker
 - Anna Metcalfe: freelance Scenic Artist (currently designing murals)
 - Mia Nielson - LSO
 - Megan Carey stage crew “Dear Evan Hansen”
 - Abi Palmer - ASM/ book cover “Everyone talking about Jamie”
 - Juliet Hague - DSM Tour of “Posh” & now ASM on “Les Miserables”
 - Jack Sheffield - ASM at Rose Theatre Kingston
 - Chloe Siller - internship in New York
 - Chloe Hardy - ASM at Trafalgar studios
 - May Howard-Shigeno - undertaking the Assistant Director fellow with the Guildhall Opera Department
 - Tamsin Youngson - stage crew at The new Bridge Theatre
 - Natasha Holdaway - ASM at Almeida Theatre

- Katie Wilson -Costume Assistant on “Les Miserables” - concert & now new production
 - Marnie O'Ceallaigh - Costume Assistant Birmingham Royal Ballet – “The Nutcracker” and now at the Royal Albert Hall.
 - Lydia Comer-Naroway- Costume Assistant - on a film and now Costume Assistant on the RSC season at the Barbican.
 - Megan Rider - PA at Dewynters Ltd - Theatrical Marketing company
 - Giovanni Rossi has been on tour all over the world as Video Designer to HUGE audiences for electronic music artists.
 - Laurie Lumley is creating VR visualisation working for Projection Artworks.
 - Mia Kosminsky has done a video design for the Southbank and is presenting her art at Lumiere Festival Durham.
 - Toby McManus is the video technician on the biggest projection event at Lumiere this year and works full time for QED.
- The proposal for a new BA in Design for Performance is progressing through the Programme Board and is expected to go to a validation exercise in the Spring Term with a first intake in September 2021 **subject to suitable space being identified and procured.**

Organisational Sustainability

- Marketing & Communications have been promoting recent successes for the School including:
 - The official ‘launch’ of Guildhall Live Events, with a new website
 - Awarding of honorary fellowships (see list below)
 - The appointment of two Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship in Research
 - The tenth anniversary of Creative Learning
 - The appointment of the next Composer in Residence at the Royal Opera House/Guildhall School
- We opened the academic year and autumn season with a reception for 70 supporters, prospects and friends around the GSO, Chorus & Jazz Orchestra concert on 27 September at which the Principal delivered a welcome speech and launched our new Patrons programme, a philanthropic giving initiative in support of Guildhall’s exceptional artistic training. Since its launch 16 Patrons have come on board (including four members of the Board of Governors) and their names are now featured on the Patrons page of the Guildhall School website which can be found here:
https://www.gsmd.ac.uk/support_the_school/how_you_can_help/guildhall_patrons/
- The first two reformatted Principal’s Guest Nights took place around *The Wheel* on 22 October and *La Fedelta Premiata* on 6 November with 100 guests entertained over these two nights. The Principal and creative teams delivered speeches and staff and students represented the School. Costumes, props, production photographs and model boxes were on display from Production Arts. All prospects will be invited to join the supporter programmes available at the School.

- The next opportunity for governors to join a similar event at Guildhall School will be in the spring term: *Guildhall Symphony Orchestra* reception and performance on 11 March 2020.
- Please save the date of 20th October 2020 to join us in celebrating the School's 140th anniversary year with a fundraising gala in the presence of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of the City of London in the Egyptian Hall at Mansion House. Governors and Trustees of the Guildhall School Trust are warmly encouraged to buy tables for this special occasion and use it as an opportunity to introduce potential new supporters to the School. Tickets for the event will be promoted in the new year.

Guildhall Innovation: Highlights since September 2019

- Working in the partnership with the Museum of London, Barbican Creative Learning and Production Arts staff, WP students have been invited to take part in a day of activities based on the Beasts of London experience, including workshops, tours and a visit to the Museum of London looking at the making of the exhibit. This has been organised by Creative Partnerships Manager Jo Chard and Widening and Participation officer, Ashleigh Hope in connection with Culture Mile learning.
- Guildhall Live Events with Creative Partnerships Manager, Jo Chard, delivered a successful VR experience at the August Bank Holiday "A Very Beastly Street Party", funded by the Arts Council. The five-minute story featured animals staged around a grand animal tea party. The event was re-staged at the Museum of London as part of their October half-term offer.
- This year's Creative Entrepreneurs cohort comprises eight businesses, including three that have come through the Barbican Guildhall Young Enterprise Lab.
- For the first time one of our participants in Creative Entrepreneurs is on a full scholarship generously donated by the Guild of Entrepreneurs
- After the success of the summer schools which welcomed 592 participants to the School over three weeks, the Open Programmes team has been working on the 2020 programme of short courses and summer schools. The programme is continuing to expand with seven evening courses starting in January 2020 and two new music short courses for adults in the spring.

Guildhall Research: Highlights since September 2019

- A new cohort of doctoral students began their studies, including the second holder of the Guildhall-Barbican doctoral research studentship and the fourth of the Guildhall-Royal Opera House doctoral composer in residence award
- Two new post-docs, Maia Mackney and Kate Wadsworth, began their research, funded by Guildhall-Barbican Creative Learning/Esmée Fairbairn Trust and Guildhall/Leverhulme Trust respectively
- A further post-doc, Alessandro Mazzola, has been appointed to work alongside John Sloboda on his AHRC-funded project on socially impactful musical practices
- The culminating event of Cormac Newark's AHRC-funded project on the operatic canon was held at the Royal Opera House, attended by representatives of funders and political decision-makers, as well as opera companies, journalists and academics

- A new bid of just under £700k has been submitted to the AHRC for a project on the Guildhall-Barbican archives.

Barbican Guildhall Creative Alliance: Updates since September 2019

- Ahead of a meeting with Guildhall and Barbican Board Members scheduled for Monday 2nd March, we will be reviewing the Bridging Document (and strategic projects) to reassess the goals & project areas so that the document more accurately reflects current priorities. We will be bringing this for discussion at the joint awayday, along with specific examples of collaborative work across the organisations.

Guildhall Young Artists: Highlights since September 2019

- 10 Junior Guildhall students progressed to the Guildhall School BMus course in September. This was out of a total cohort of 51 leavers (some of whom are singers who are generally advised to study a different course before applying to Guildhall when their voices have matured).
- 3 of the students progressing to senior Guildhall went straight into the second year having completed the first year academic requirements whilst at Junior Guildhall.
- LSSO gave a highly acclaimed concert at the Barbican in September featuring the music of composer Eleanor Alberga and in collaboration with the Elmhurst ballet school.
- GYA Islington Satellite centre has now opened a second centre at Arts and Media School Islington.
- Student numbers have increased in the GYA regional centres. In September 2019 student numbers are up to nearly 500, an increase of 18% from the previous year
- Students are travelling to the x4 GYA regional centres from 15 English counties/unitary authorities – representing nearly one third of the country.
- During September 8 regional centre students started at a UK conservatoire/university (x2 at Oxbridge) to study a music related course (centres have been open for between 3 to 5 years) – our first cohort to come through.
- The Saffron CYM centre now has a signed partnership agreement with Saffron Hall, Essex County Music Hub and Saffron Walden County High School
- A horn student at CYM London progressed to the Guildhall School BMus course in September.
- The first Cohort from the Primary Years Programme have progressed to joining the full Music Programme this year.

Prizes and Awards

External

Manon Parry (BMus)

- 1st Prize in the Junior Ferrier Competition

Leif Tse (BMus)

- 2nd Prize in the Junior Ferrier Competition

<p>Academic Assurance: employability</p>

Mark Christian Bautista (Vocal Studies)

- Winner of the Dvořák Society for Czech and Slovak Music Prize for the best performance of a song by a twentieth or twenty-first century Czech or Slovak composer at the Emmy Destinn Young Singers Award 2019

Nicholas Kennedy (Guildhall Artists Masters)

- 1st Prize in the The Young Scholars' Chopinological Essay Competition

Alumni

Carl Wheatley (Technical Theatre, Graduated 1992)

- Appointed Chief Executive of Hull's Northern Academy of Performing Arts

Omar Lye-Fook MBE (Music, Graduated 1989)

- Winner of Ivors Academy Gold Badge 2019

Harriet Burns (Music, Graduated 2018)

- 2nd Prize in the The Wigmore Hall and Independent Opera International Song Competition

Michael Pandya (Music, Graduated 2019)

- Pianists Prize in The Wigmore Hall and Independent Opera International Song Competition

Emma Martin (Violin 1992) & Deian Rowlands (Harp 2002)

- Appointed as the first ever Ensemble in Residence for The Commonwealth Resounds as part of the Dionysus Ensemble

Gethin Lewis (Graduated 2019)

- Joined Glyndebourne Touring Opera

Neo Jessica Joshua (Nao) (Jazz 2012)

- Nominated for Mercury Prize

Osian Gwynn (Music, Graduated 2011)

- Appointed Director of Pontio Arts at Bangor University's Arts and Innovation Centre

Lorena Paz Nieto (Music, Graduated 2014)

- Vocalist of the year at the LUKAS: UK Latin Awards

Mirjam Mesak (Music, Graduated 2016)

- Winner in the Performing Arts Category at the Bavarian Art Prize 2019

Rosalind Ventris (Music, Graduated 2011)

- Selected as a 2019 CMF Artist (viola) by the City Music Foundation

Cem Mansur (Music, Graduated 1981)

- Appointed as General Art Director at Cemal Resit Rey (CRR) Concert Hall in Istanbul

Miguel Pliego, double bass (BMus '19)

- Winner of the ORR/Monteverdi Choir academy and first prize at the "Amsterdam Viennese days" competition

Emanuel Oliveira, double bass (BMus '18)

- tutti position at the Flemish Opera (Antwerp/Gent)

George Tarlton (Guitar, Graduated 2015)

1st Prize in the London International Guitar Competition

Celia Quartet invited to join the string quartet network "Le Dimore del Quartetto"

Erika Baikioff (Vocal Masters 2018)

- 1st Prize in the Helmut Deutsch International Song Competition

Joel Terrin

- 2nd prize, Lausanne Kattenburg Competition

Harps made a clean sweep at the 5th International Harp Competition in Slovenia in October: Oliver Wass (MPer, '18) 1st prize in the under-28s, and Lise Vandersmissen (Junior Fellow, MPerf, '19) 1st prize in the under-25s.

Junior Guildhall Composition Alumni

- **Benjamin Wallfisch** composer of David F. Sandberg's box office #1 film SHAZAM!, Andy Muschietti's IT, the highest grossing horror film of all time, and co-composer of Denis Villeneuve's acclaimed BLADE RUNNER: 2049 (with Academy Award winner Hans Zimmer), Benjamin Wallfisch has worked on over 75 feature films and has received Golden Globe®, BAFTA®, 2x GRAMMY® and Emmy® nominations. He just finished scoring IT: CHAPTER TWO for New Line/Warner Bros. Benjamin was among the first cohort of students who studied composition with Jeffery Wilson at Junior Guildhall.
- **Alex Woolf** studied at Junior Guildhall with Jeffery Wilson and has gone on to great things. 'One of the UK's freshest new composing voices' (PRS For Music), and has written music for a wide variety of artists and ensembles; these include Sir James Galway, London Symphony Orchestra, the Tallis Scholars, the BBC Philharmonic, and the Choir of St John's College, Cambridge. Alex has received commissions from organisations including the Royal Philharmonic Society, BBC Radio 3, the Lutheran Church of America, Classic FM, The Arts Society, and Aldeburgh Music.
 - "A major presence in starry company" — Gramophone
 - Alex graduated with a double First from St John's College, Cambridge University, subsequently completing his Master's degree at the Royal Academy of Music, where he studied with David Sawer, Huw Watkins, and Oliver Knussen.

- **Matthew Sheeran** attended Junior Guildhall as a composer quite often with his younger brother in tow carrying a guitar! Most of us are familiar with British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran, who is regularly sweeping the popular charts, but there is another Sheeran who is dominating the music scene under the radar: Matt Sheeran.
 - A highly accomplished musician in his own right, the brother of pop star, Ed, is one of music's best kept secrets. The classically-trained composer already has numerous impressive projects under his belt. Equipped with sought-after composition skills for crossover commercial success, in recent years he has been busy reworking chart-toppers such as Stormzy's 'Blinded by Your Grace' and Ed Sheeran's 'Perfect', as well as arranging scores to promote Oscar-winning film *The Shape of Water* and Russian series, *Viking*.
 - With the new announcement that Matt has signed exclusively to BMG, it's likely that we'll be hearing a lot more from the talented composer in future. He is the first composer to join the full-service sound agency for publishing across both the commercial and production music divisions.
 - Speaking on the news, Matt says: "I always planned to go into composing for commercials and films after university. This was an opportunity that presented itself. I saw three different publishing companies that were all really good, but BMG was really exceptional. It wasn't a difficult decision. It definitely felt like the right place to go."

- **Kate Whitley** (b. 1989) is a composer and pianist based in South London. An alumni of Junior Guildhall where she studied composition with Jeffery Wilson and Cambridge University
 - She runs The Multi-Story Orchestra with conductor Christopher Stark, which performs in car parks around the UK: "forget fusty concert halls, the future of music is emerging in a municipal car park" (*The Times*).
 - She writes music for concert, ballets, choirs and orchestras and her music has been broadcast on Radio 3 and performed as part of the BBC Proms.
 - Her piece *Speak out to words* by Nobel prize winner Malala Yousafzai was commissioned by the BBC for International Women's Day 2017 in support of the campaign for better education for girls: 'a powerful statement, full of kinetic energy' (*Wales Arts Review*) and has since been performed by orchestras around the world.
 - Her pieces for children's choir and orchestra include *Alive to words* by poet Holly McNish, which won a 2015 British Composers Award and was described as "a remarkable feat" (*The Telegraph*), and *I am I say to words* by Sabrina Mahfouz, described as "a tremendous work" (*The Times*).
 - In 2018 she wrote *Sky Dances* for the London Symphony Orchestra, which was performed by an orchestra of over 100 in Trafalgar Square conducted by Sir Simon Rattle.
 - Winning a 2018 Critics Circle Award, she has been described as a composer with "a strong, distinctive voice who, without compromising,

communicates directly to a wide audience, within the concert hall and beyond”.

- NMC Recordings released a CD of her music in March 2017, called *I am I* say: “unpretentious, appealingly vigorous and visceral” (The Guardian); a fresh and individual creative voice” (BBC Music Magazine); “make no mistake, Kate Whitley is a composer to watch” (Gramophone).
- **Cevanne Horrocks-Hopayian**, born in Suffolk, England and of British/Armenian descent, she trained in composition at Junior Guildhall School of Music and Drama with Michael Christie and Jeffery Wilson before gaining a first in Music from Girton College, Cambridge, where she was awarded the Rima Alamuddin Composition Prize in 2004, the Turle Scholarship for Music in 2006, and the Gamble Prize for Research in 2006. She held a scholarship at Trinity College of Music in London in 2006–07.
 - Horrocks-Hopayian began working with the London Symphony Orchestra in 2010-11, as a participant in their Panufnik Scheme. She wrote for the London Symphony Orchestra Community Choir in 2017. The London Symphony Orchestra also commissioned her to arrange a traditional Gamelan piece, 'Ngedas Lemah', for première at the Barbican Centre with the LSO Community Gamelan and LSO Strings. She is a London Symphony Orchestra Soundhub Associate and has broadcast for their show on Resonance FM.[7]
 - She was inaugural composer-in-residence for the London Symphony Orchestra at Khadambi Asalache's House, 575 Wandsworth Road from 2015-2017.] Horrocks-Hopayian's work has a strong visual and tactile element, which she calls "Eye Music", structuring rather than simply decorating her music.
 - Horrocks-Hopayian was composer-in-residence at Handel House Museum from 2012-2014.] In February 2016, she launched Handel House Museum's opening of Jimi Hendrix's flat to the public by performing original material in collaboration with Jessica Hynes, bassist Calum Gourlay, guitarist Christopher Montague and artist Maya Ramsay.
 - Sound and Music (formerly spnm) awarded her their Artistic Director (then Kuljit Bhamra) Project: 'Bhangra Latina', in 2007
 - An Arts Council England Award enabled her to record her first (experimental pop) album, 'Big Ears', which was inspired by her experience of partial deafness. She won another Arts Council England Award for her oratorio, *The Evolution of Eve*. (2012)
 - In 2013 she gained a PRS award for Consortium5's commission *L'envoi*, commemorating the death of suffragette Emily Wilding Davison.
 - *The Evolution of Eve* was developed in 2013 with Sveriges Radio into a broadcast, 'DJ Helga', aimed at young people, It reached the last five at the international Prix Marulić, hosted by Croatian Radiotelevision in 2015.

- In 2015, Horrocks-Hopayian was commissioned to write 'Ser Uṭṭ (Love)' for the London Jazz Festival, performed by herself alongside guitarist Christopher Montague.[21] She developed the piece for SATB choir in 2017, which won a BASCA call for works by BAME composers. It was premièred by the BBC Singers, and recorded for BBC Radio 3.
- Trish Clowes commissioned Horrocks-Hopayian to write 'Muted Lines' for her project "My Iris" in 2016. "Muted Lines" won the BASCA British Composer Award in 2017.
- In 2018, Melodia Women's Choir of New York City commissioned Red Bird for its Women Composers' Commissioning Award, with world premiere performances in New York City.
- She was finalist for two BASCA British Composer Awards in 2017: "Muted Lines" was nominated for the Jazz Composition category, and "Khadambi's House" was nominated for the Chamber Ensemble category.

She was finalist, with Hugh Jones, as Crewdson, in the BASCA British Composer Awards in 2018 in the Sonic Art category for "Two Machines". This featured a new musical instrument developed by Horrocks-Hopayian and Crewdson.

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