

## **Guildhall School Partnerships Report**

### **Guildhall Young Artists**

#### **1. Guildhall Young Artists (GYA) centre model and Overview 2018/19**

**Vision** – Delivering a national training network transforming the potential of school age performers/creatives of all backgrounds with clear pathways to higher education or employment within the creative sector and beyond.

- The Guildhall School is the largest provider of pre conservatoire arts training in the UK through its GYA division. Primary and secondary age students attend our centres for specialist training on Saturdays or after school. Music is currently the largest element of our work, but we are now introducing Drama and Production Arts to reflect the School's Higher Education offer.
- GYA annually reaches 1.6k under 18's across 7 centres (excludes Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning and Senior School outreach/recruitment activities). In London this includes: Guildhall School (Junior Guildhall - JG), CYM London (Lambeth) and Islington. 4 regional centres are found in Norfolk (Norfolk), Peterborough City, Essex (Saffron Walden) and Somerset (Taunton).
- Learners predominately access sustained intermediate and advanced level training in music on a variety of programmes for 2 to 10 hours, 30 weeks per year. Benefits include development of interpersonal and personal skills as well as musical advancement (fusion skills).
- A suite of shorter holiday/summer schools and other projects are being introduced to explore drama, production arts, and a wider range of more contemporary music disciplines such as music tech/digital production, song-writing and jazz.
- Each centre (excluding JG), whilst operationally run by the Guildhall School, partners with local providers including a host school, Music Education Hub (MEH) and a regional theatre/venue.
- Links are maintained with Guildhall School/Barbican Centre via a national and local management team, regular senior school student visits, referred tutors (Guildhall alumni), preferential access to events/courses and quality oversight e.g. staff development and continuing professional development (CPD) for tutors.
- A mixed-income funding model is employed and includes fees (parents and carers), trust and foundations, national Music & Dance scheme, music hub commissioning and Guildhall School funds (Access bursaries)

#### **2. Access and diversity**

GYA is developing talent pathways across the country connecting and supporting a fragile creative education infrastructure within rural as well as urban communities and for pupils from all social backgrounds. GYA believes it can offer cultural provision to support a shift away from the social disconnectedness many feel in deprived areas of the country, with 'rebalancing Britain' now a national priority.

GYA's development of programmes for disadvantaged under 18 students is a central part of Guildhall Schools' Access and Participation Plan from 2021 to 2025. This plan was signed off by the Office for Students in 2019.

Over 150 concerts and events are programmed every year across the division, most of which are free and open for local schools to attend. Junior Guildhall has devised a "Big Gig" project in collaboration with the Associated Board (ABRSM, which is now based within the City's Culture Mile), providing free workshops for people of all ages and experience to get together, create and take part in a musical performance. The Guildhall School (in close partnership with the Barbican) is also leading the National Open Youth Orchestra London partnership, giving talented young disabled musicians a progression route by participating in a pioneering ensemble.

## **2.1. Numbers engaged in 2018/19**

- 1,626 students were enrolled in the 7 centres, an increase of 11% from 2017/18. Centres outside of London saw further attendance increases of 18% from 418 to nearly 500 in September 2019, and the newly created centre in Islington attracted over 100 new students in less than a year.
- Students come from every London borough and 15 English counties/unitary authorities – geographically representing one third of the country. In all centres there are students who travel more than 50 miles to attend. At Junior Guildhall students travel from across the UK and sometimes abroad to access the specialist training on Saturdays. Over 60% of Junior Guildhall Music course students travelled from outside the Greater London area and 3% from overseas in 2018/19.
- The majority are state schooled: 100% Islington, 80% for regional centres, 74% CYM London and Junior Guildhall (43%)
- Demographic profiles broadly represent centre geographies/catchment areas. Nearly 40% of CYM London students come from black and minority ethnic backgrounds (BAME). In Peterborough this is 30% and Somerset 17%. Junior Guildhall has 36% of students from BME profiles.
- Social mobility statistics regarding POLAR4 (social mobility) and Indices of Multiple Deprivation are steadily being collected. For 2018/19 a partial dataset exists. Data for regional centres shows nearly 30% of students (excluding Essex) come from POLAR 4 quintile 1 and 2 areas, or those who

are the very least likely to access higher education. Nearly 50% of Peterborough students come from POLAR 4 quintile 1 and 2 areas.

- Around a third of all students attending GYA centres receive bursaries, scholarships or other types of financial support.

### **3. Impact and progression**

There are a variety of different indicators we are working to in measuring progression of GYA students. These include:

- Retention - correlation in all educational settings between student attendance and attainment
- Performance, academic assessment and contribution within other ensembles
- Progression into higher education or employment connected to involvement in music, performing arts or other creative courses

#### **3.1. Outcomes**

- There are high levels of retention for this 'beyond school' training, including those who are economically disadvantaged. Data collected from autumn 2019 indicates that of the 86 recipients of Access bursary support 70% are continuing from the previous year.
- 12 students from GYA were accepted for 2019 BMus courses at Guildhall senior School (nearly 10% of the total annual co-hort). This included 10 from Junior Guildhall.
- Over 60% of leavers from Junior Guildhall, 25% of CYM London leavers went onto music conservatoires or university to study music and 8 from the first cohort of the regional centres.
- Many students make a rich contribution to the cultural life of the UK. Some Junior guildhall students already have international performance profiles. 12-year-old Leia Zhu made history in being the youngest violinist to perform a concerto with the world famous Mariinsky Orchestra in St Petersburg, Russia. Students from every centre are members of various national and regional ensembles.
- Alumni of the most established GYA centres have gone on to a wide range of careers including Dido (singer/songwriter), Douglas Booth (actor), Jonathan Dove (composer), Thomas Ades (composer), Alison Balsom (trumpet soloist), Lucy Parham (concert pianist), Mylene Klass (pianist/presenter), Naga Machetty (BBC journalist), JB Gill (popstar).

### 3.2. What did students, parents and carers say?

*"Thank you so much for organising the wonderful trip to London to watch the Magic Flute. We all thoroughly enjoyed it."* **Peterborough Student**

*"Just wanted to send a quick note - E was struggling this week. She'd been very focused on revision and not sleeping very well this past week and I think it got the better of her. She was so grateful for all the support she got from the staff - so much empathy and advice without making her feel 'childish' or out of order. She'd been worried about letting people down or them thinking she was being 'silly' - a particular thanks to Steve and David whose advice and reflections really helped. And the reception ladies who helped her...I was reminded of the quote about it taking a village to raise a child and thought this was the musical village. Another fabulous example of how valuable this experience is - for both music and life."* **Parent**

*"So sad that the government undervalues the sense of well-being, achievement, community, teamwork etc that comes from such events, but so glad the boys have got the CYM connection. We're really grateful to you and the amazing staff for providing such a great facility".* **Parent**

*"I chose to come to Junior Guildhall because the moment I walked in I felt alive with the buzz of the music. It was everywhere!"* **JG student**

*"NCYM exposed me to music I had never experienced before, opening up an entire world of chamber music."* **Norwich student**

*"It was so rewarding to see that our Peterborough children are so musical!"* - **Parent**

*"Saturday is my favourite day of the week: I love every minute of it. I feel extremely lucky to do so many exciting musical activities in a day, in such a friendly and supportive centre of excellence. I cannot imagine my life without Junior Guildhall!"* **Junior Guildhall Student**

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