

Principal's Public Main report

- **Covid:** The School continues to maintain appropriate Covid measures and some limited online provision remains in place but service is largely back to normal. However, we remain alert and responsive to any new guidance from Government. The Outbreak Plan and risk assessment have both recently been updated.
- **Productions and Performances:** Autumn term main stage events included the Barbican opening season concert of Mahler Symphony No 2, Drama's productions of Emilia and Julius Caesar, the Chamber Orchestra's Appalachian Spring, the Opera Double Bill, and the Jazz big band. All were highly successful and well received.
- **Graduation:** It was a joy to return to a live graduation at the Guildhall with the Lord Mayor in attendance for the morning ceremony.
- **Enrolment:** In common with most HEI's we are still working through the implications of actual enrolment numbers for the current academic year, with a couple of students still temporarily enrolled (unusual at this time of year but owing to visa issues). The consequences of Brexit continue to impact the School with a reduction in EU students. However, the mitigations put in place for recruiting more Home and OS students has been highly successful and this year we have recruited slightly more students than usual. However, there are still EU students in the system who have "(pre-) settled status" and until this population has worked through the system we will not know the full impact of Brexit.
- **Parliamentary Debate:** Members may find it useful to read some of the transcript from this month's **All- Party Parliamentary University Group report on 5th November (relevant extracts):**

"On Monday 1 November, the Education Secretary, Nadhim Zahawi MP alongside Universities Minister, Michelle Donelan MP and Minister for Skills, Alex Burghart answered education questions from MPs. The session began with a question from Labour MP, Chi Onwurah on the reallocation of the Office for Students' (OfS) strategic priorities grant, away from arts courses. Answering on behalf of the government, the Education Secretary said that although he recognised the 'incredible role' of arts courses in enriching young minds and inward investment and exports from the UK, that the grant was reallocated to better suit the needs of higher cost and strategically important subjects like those in STEM. He also stated that the OfS would be providing an additional £10 million in funding for specialist institutions, many of which provided arts courses."

"Labour's Paul Blomfield MP and Conservative Dr Julian Lewis both highlighted their concerns about the rumoured government plans to lower the payment threshold for student loans. In response, the universities minister said that more details would be announced 'shortly' in the government's response to Augar."

"Finally, on the Higher Education (Free Speech) Bill, the minister was asked how the Bill would uphold the right to freedom of speech at university campuses, in relation to recent high-profile cases of harassment. The minister did not directly

address how it would address such cases but reiterated that the Bill would uphold and help promote free speech on campus more widely.”

“Rachael Maskell (York Central): To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of a reduction in student tuition fees. [62772] 7 Michelle Donelan (Chippenham): The department remains committed to a sustainable funding model for the higher education system which supports high value provision, meets the skills needs of the country and maintains the world-class reputation of UK higher education. We continue to consider carefully the recommendations made by the independent panel that reported to the Review of Post-18 Education and Funding. This includes their proposals relating to changes to tuition fee caps and the level of Strategic Priorities Grant funding that is paid directly to providers by the Office for Students. The department plans to set out a full conclusion to the Review in due course. The government has announced that maximum tuition fee caps for academic year 2022/23 will be frozen at their current levels to deliver better value for students and to keep the cost of higher education under control.”

Quality of Learning and Teaching

Music

Performances & Curriculum

**Academic Assurance:
student outcomes**

1. The Induction period culminated in a rousing return to in-person orchestral performance, with Mahler's Second Symphony in the Barbican Hall, conducted by Takuo Yuasa. The students' performance drew a spontaneous standing ovation. Meanwhile, Jazz, Keyboard, Composition and Electronic & Produced Music students presented their own well-received public induction events.
2. The Historical Performance Department is collaborating with the Museum of London to perform the Musicbooks of Emma Hamilton. This music in praise of Nelson has remained unheard since 1805. National media coverage of the project includes The Times, Telegraph, Guardian, Radio 4 World at One. Further Radio 4 and BBC London coverage is planned.
3. The Wind, Brass, Percussion Department has launched three new ensembles, running each term to increase performance opportunities for students: Guildhall Symphonic Wind Orchestra; Guildhall Brass Soloists; Guildhall Wind Soloists.
4. In Strings five students were selected to participate in a special project on 18 October in Milton Court, curated by pianist Mark Knopfler. Students performed side-by-side with the Plus-Minus Ensemble in a Celebration of composer/Guildhall professor Laurence Crane, recorded for future broadcast on BBC Radio 3. This event also included students from the WBP and Vocal Departments.
5. Renowned pianist Robert Levin returned to the School for masterclasses hosted by the Keyboard Dept and the School's Centre for Classical Improvisation.
6. The Opera Department's Autumn double bill included a neglected gem, *Cendrillon*, by Pauline Viardot in an acclaimed newly-commissioned chamber

- orchestration by Amy Cranksaw – Guildhall doctoral composer and a graduate of the School's MA in Opera Making & Writing programme.
7. The Vocal masterclass/in conversation series, generously supported by an anonymous donor, has begun with visits from singers Ann Murray DBE, Roderick Williams, Hera Hyesang Park, Davóne Tines and Alison Buchanan; and conductors and young artist programme directors Adrian Kelly (Zurich), Joshua Weilerstein, Craig Terry (Chicago), Tobias Truniger (Munich), David Gowland (Royal Opera House), and Richard Hetherington (ROH).
 8. String Department masterclasses have begun with visits from two violinists, Wolfgang Redik (Hans Eisler Academy, Berlin) and alumna Tasmin Little.

Student Recruitment

9. UK applications for 2022 entry to most Music programmes have closed and panels are assessing recorded auditions, while in-person auditions will return from the end of November.
10. New York auditions are scheduled for January 2022, after last year's pandemic hiatus.
11. The strategy for UK recruitment continues to develop, with staff visits to schools and specialist centres. This work has recently included visits to the Purcell School by the Heads of Strings and Chamber Music, to Chetham's School by the Strings Chamber Music Coordinator and to Wells School by the Interim Director of Music/Head of Vocal Studies.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

12. The Music Division has launched its EDI Advisory Group, facilitated by Roger Wilson from *Black Lives in Music*. Members include professors from Jazz, Research, Keyboard, Vocal and WBP, as well as the Interim Director of Music. The agenda of the initial meetings has covered topics such as staff training needs and the School's Wellbeing, Support and Complaints processes.
13. A Town Hall style meeting was held to discuss issues of prejudice experienced within the community. Also facilitated by Roger Wilson, this was attended by students, teaching staff, Heads of Departments, the Interim Principal, the Vice Principal for Innovation and the Interim Director of Music. Future Town Hall meetings are being considered, to expand attendance and embed the conversation.
14. The public performance programme continues to profile diverse repertoire, this term including the Chamber Orchestra's performances of Roxana Panufnik and William Grant Still, the Jazz Department's *Dizzier and Dizzier* and *Women in Jazz Day* projects, the Opera Department's presentation of Pauline Viardot's *Cendrillon* and an associated Vocal & Chamber Music Songs at Six performance of Viardot songs and chamber music.
15. Curriculum initiatives to diversify content and role models include classes dedicated to song by Black British and African American composers, Music & Politics talks and elective options, and masterclasses/in conversations across

departments with Alison Buchanan, Hera Hyseang Park, Davóne Tines, Felix Klieser and others.

16. The Harp Department's efforts to diversify repertoire and champion British women composers have led to several new commissions, among them a new harp solo from Hannah Kendall to be premiered by students at the Final Recitals in June '22.
17. The Jazz Department leadership team has begun a series of training sessions, 'New Paradigms in Jazz Leadership', facilitated by Guildhall Coaching Associates, to support a safer, more equitable environment for women in Jazz.

Student Employability

18. Recent Vocal graduate Jade Phoenix made her debut with Wexford Festival Opera while Vocal graduate Erika Baikoff made her Metropolitan Opera debut and sang the role of Musetta in *La Bohème* at the Verbier Festival.
19. BMus 4 violinist Krystof Kohout received a Hattori Foundation Junior Award (he is the second Guildhall Undergraduate to receive this distinction this year) and was invited to join the award-winning string ensemble LGT Young Soloists for concerts at Konzerthaus Berlin and Musikverein, Vienna.
20. BMus 3 violinist Luna del Mol performed Mozart's 4th violin concerto with orchestra three times at the Arte Amanti International Chamber Music Festival, gave three solo recitals in Belgium and one in the Netherlands, and played the first concert with a newly formed piano trio in Brussels (now booked for multiple concerts in 2022) and was invited to join the international Ensemble Esperanza.
21. Violinists Violetta Suvini (MMus) and Zoe Hodi (BMus 4), along with violist Georgia Russell (BMus 3) are members of the Orchestra For the Earth project which recently recorded a traditional song by the Noke Koi tribe (arr. Misha Mullov Abbado) documenting the devastating effects of the Rubber Boom on indigenous communities. It featured at the COP26 Conference where the ensemble played at the delegates' arrival. Violetta Suvini is also participating in a new, multi-sensory chamber opera production of Michael Gordon's *Van Gogh*. It charts major points of Van Gogh's life and aims to build a synaesthetic environment for the audience using innovative AI technology, featuring scent dispersal, visual projections and a tasting menu.
22. The Fibonacci Quartet (all BMus 3-4 students) continues broadening its European network, being selected for workshops and concerts in Milan, Amsterdam and Paris.

**Academic Assurance:
student employability**

Drama

Highlights

1. Every single graduating student from the 2021 cohort has representation. Many of these graduates are working at the very highest industry level.
2. We successfully launched our new acting programme revalidated in September.

**Academic Assurance:
student employability**

3. We began our in depth training on consent with the School of Sexuality. All students on the acting programme and full time staff have now begun this training.
4. Our bi-monthly departmental staff Reflective Space sessions continue into their second year and provide a vital space for staff to reflect on the challenges and opportunities of the culture change ongoing within the department. This space has enabled us to move collectively, strategically and confidently towards our ambition to provide a more equitable and inclusive teaching and learning environment.
5. We celebrated Black History month with a student-led rehearsed reading of a Debbie Tucker Green play. It was very well attended and supported.
6. The first 2 3rd year public productions of Emilia and Julius Caesar were produced successfully. Very good houses and positive audience responses with many of the actors are already securing representation.
7. We have overhauled our auditions process, including updating recruitment methods and training for panellists and the audition criteria itself to ensure equity of opportunity in staffing and relevance to the new acting programme.
8. There has been much media and industry interest in the work of the department, including coverage in *The Stage* of our philosophy on decolonisation of the curriculum, our training initiative with the School of Sexuality and an invitation to meet with the artistic team at the RSC to discuss engaging with Shakespeare in the 21st century.
9. The ongoing restructure of the acting programme means we are finally now in a position to recruit for the 2 fulltime senior posts of:
Head of Acting and Programme Leader and Head of Acting Practice. Once these positions are filled we will be in a position to recruit for the 2 new acting tutor posts.

Production Arts Highlights Highlights

The Production Arts Department held a busy and well-received Industry and Alumni Networking Reception on 6 October. The event took place across four floors of Milton Court. It replaced what would have been Graduate Exhibitions for the cohorts of 2020 and 2021, which we had been unable to programme due to the pandemic.

**Academic Assurance:
student employability**

Jonathan Vaughan (Interim Principal) introduced the evening. Andy Lavender (Vice Principal and Director of Production Art) spoke about the department's activities and vision, and the Chair of the Board of Governors presented a Fellowship of Guildhall School to Prema Mehta, lighting designer, alumna and founder of Stage Sight (an organisation that promotes an offstage workforce that is more reflective of our society today, inclusive of ethnicity, class and disability). Prema spoke movingly about her journey from Guildhall to her current eminence as a practitioner and leader

in culture-change. Jason Barnes (a Production Manager at the National Theatre for over thirty years) spoke briefly about the Hazel Sharples award, which commemorates a Black British stage manager, before Prema made the award to its winner in 2021, Max Rodriguez-Thorp (Design Realisation pathway). It was particularly enjoyable for these presentations to occur in person in front of a co-present audience – and a welcome return to a kind of conviviality and celebration that we'd previously taken for granted.

The Reception featured exhibitions of graduates' work (undertaken as Guildhall students), including costumes, hats and masks, props, scenic items and video designs. We also featured some examples of individual graduation projects by students. These included Matt Dean's portable production desk, which can be set up in any auditorium to support technical rehearsals prior to opening; Finlay Anderson's Lightshare, a new piece of lighting software that allows a lighting team to manage information for a show in a collaborative way, in real-time, by sharing design and programming information in the cloud; and Sam Levy's video game, a quest/journey set in a club in which the game-player finds themselves standing in for a drummer suddenly taken ill at a concert.

This work – and other projects like it – is inventive, innovative and has wider industry application. We've been discussing it with colleagues in Guildhall Innovation, with a view to establishing an incubation hub to help students find partners and support for onward project development and explore entrepreneurial and commercialising prospects.

Innovation and Engagement Highlights

- We have launched a new funding opportunity for Guildhall alumni. The Guildhall Futures fund has been created with the purpose of providing professional support to our alumni community in order to address issues raised during the period of crisis for the creative industries. We have received 77 applications in response to the first call out. A will be reviewed and shortlisted by a panel this month, with funding awarded in December.
- Open Programmes: The autumn season of evening courses is going well. The season comprises 11 courses: 7 online and 4 in person, and we have a total of 160 participants. New courses include; 'In the Studio: Music Production with Glen Scott', 'Introduction to the Music Business' as well as new courses in collaboration with Barbican 'Women in Architecture' and 'Understanding Contemporary Art: Painting Today'. Spring 2022 evening courses opened for booking on 1 November. We are also working on the launch of the summer 2022 programme.
- Guildhall Coaching Associates have commenced delivery of a major training initiative in resilience coaching for the Homelessness Sector. Working with City

**Academic Assurance:
continuous improvement of
student experience**

Bridge Trust, HomelessLink and 12 Organisations in London, we are finding the work on resilience is helpful in other professional or organisational development contexts, such as Leadership.

- We are currently delivering Leaders on (and off) Stage for orchestral leaders. The interim feedback is incredibly positive. Participants report belief that the challenges they have faced in their professional lives can be addressed, supported and resolved. Participants have joined from a range of leading orchestras, including London Symphony Orchestra, Chineke!, the Academy of St-Martin-in-the-Fields, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, English Concert and Royal Northern Sinfonia attending as well as participants from Denmark and Holland.
- In October Guildhall Coaching Associates delivered training for the Fishmongers Company in public speaking and presence.
- Partnerships & Programming: Music Bank with Age UK East has continued with a series of in person interactive 'juke box' sessions with a memory group in Golden Lane. This will continue into next year as we build our partnership with them.
- We are producing an event with the Museum of London with performances from the Historical Music Performance to celebrate the discovery of songs dedicated to Horatio Nelson. The project has gained significant media interest.
- Guildhall Live Events: The team has had a very busy autumn, co-delivering a large number of in-person events ranging from *Arrival* (a major projection onto the Millennium Mills building in Victoria Dock), *Harmony* at London Wall Place (an augmented reality project with Culture Mile for Brookfield Properties), to Bloomsbury Festival (projection onto the British Library to mark 50th anniversary of Bangladeshi independence & on Holy Cross Church in Cromer Street).

Research

- The recently announced funding allocations from Research England (i.e. the last before the new ones derived from REF2021, of which we expect to have confirmation in August 2022), continue to put us in a strong position with respect to our immediate comparator institutions. We really need to leverage this to put ourselves in the best possible position, whatever the results of REF2021.
- We have been awarded funding from the Natural Environment Research Council for the very first time. *Raise a Voice: A Rebellious Songbook for Our Time* is an innovative music-based project run by Toby Young (one of our Leverhulme Early Career Fellows) that uses choral singing to challenge how we think about climate culture. The project will centre around a new 25-minute choral composition for adult and youth choirs to perform together, that celebrates ways that humankind benefits from the natural world whilst challenging listeners with the reality of what we risk losing from climate change. Songs from the songbook will be written in collaboration with environmental researchers and policy makers, and highlight multiple aspects of the climate emergency, with accompanying material such as programme notes and pre-concert talks acting as a catalyst for discussion and education. Project partners include the City of Bristol Choir, Bristol Youth Choir,

poet Jennifer Thorp, Prof Alix Dietzel (University of Bristol) and Prof James Longhurst (University of the West of England). It's being evaluated by Dr Maia Mackney at Guildhall.

Under 18

- 5 Senior School ensembles (17 students) will lead mini residencies in all CYM centres and host schools/colleges during November 2021. This is the first time a full in-person programme has been possible in 6 terms.
- Autumn recruitment across the GYA division, following strategic marketing campaigns and busy holiday courses, has seen numbers return to 2019/20+ levels. There are currently 1,517 students enrolled in programmes across the division which incorporates 6 physical centres and a small online offering at present which we hope to develop in the near future.
- The July 2021 integration of Norfolk County Youth Orchestra into Norfolk Centre for Young Musicians has already seen two successfully holiday/performance courses delivered. July and October programmes featured Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No.2 respectively.
- Junior Guildhall student Leia Zhu is currently musician in residence with London Mozart Players and has recently returned from concert tours in Dubai and Switzerland.
- As part of our development, a new Guildhall Young Artists brand identity to ensure that we have a coherent look and feel will be rapidly rolled out across the network. During November and early December 2021 Guildhall Young Artists Taunton, Saffron Walden, Norwich, and Junior Guildhall will have publicity materials and media changed. A range of merchandise will also be available in time for Christmas.
- Our Music Education Islington partnership continues to strengthen, with recent performances by young people taking place at Music for Youth Royal Albert Hall event and a free-stage performance at the Barbican linked to the *Up for Grabs* concert commissioned by the Barbican in association with Mark Anthony-Turnage / Arsenal football club / BBC SO.

Advancement

- In September, the Development team was delighted to close scholarships fundraising for 2021/22 at £1.1m against the £910k target. The team has also raised £650k so far towards the £1.4m target for scholarships for the 2022/23 academic year. This target is an increase of £500k on last year and the team needs new introductions and help from all parties to achieve this lift.
- The School is in the early planning stages for the £50m fundraising campaign to mark our 150th Anniversary in 2030. As well as building the Campaign Board, we are scoping out the potential for support from existing and new donors and preparing the campaign narrative in a vision brochure for leadership gift prospects.
- The Campaign Board, dedicated to raising funds towards the campaign, is taking shape and now has the following external members: Professor Chris Wood

(Chair), Sir Andrew Parmley, Prem Goyal, Catherine McGuinness (from April 2022), Graham Packham and Deborah Lincoln.

Prizes and Awards

The Paddington Trio (Tuulia Hero, Patrick Moriarty & Stephanie Tang)

**Academic Assurance:
student employability**

- 2nd Prize in The first International Piano Chamber Music Competition at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre in Tallinn

Ami-Louise Johnsson (BMus Viola)

- Joint 2nd prize and Prize for the best interpretation of Oskar Nedbal Romantic Piece op.18

Hannah Hughes (BMus Soprano)

- 1st Prize in The 4th New Talent British International Youth Music Competition and Festival

Alumni

Ewan McGregor (Drama, graduated 1992)

- Winner of a 73rd Primetime Emmy Award for lead Actor in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie

Mimi Doulton (Music, graduated 2018)

- Winner of the 2nd prize at the John Cage Interpretation awards

Cerys Ambrose-Evans (Music, graduated 2016)

- Appointed to Principal Bassoon of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Simon Baker (Production Arts, graduated 1992)

- Winner of the Tony Award for Best Sound Design in a play

Jon Roskilly (Music, graduated 2011)

- Appointed Principal Trombone in the Kuopio Symphony Orchestra in Finland.

Nikesh Patel (Drama, graduated 2010)

- Nominated for National Comedy Award for Outstanding Comedy Actor

Caleb Roberts (Drama, graduated 2017)

- Nominated for Black British Theatre Awards for Best Supporting Male Actor in a Musical

Staff

AV Awards: The School won in two categories for Best Education Project & Best Event / Entertainment project

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