

Committee(s):	Date(s):	
Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama	4 th February 2013	
Subject: Principal's General Report		
Report of: Principal	Public	
	For information/consideration	
<u>Summary</u>		
<p>This report updates the Board on a number of general issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awards and Prizes • Student profiles 2012/13 and 2013 admissions • Funding and the strategic plan • Milton Court • Partnerships • CYM regional centres • Enterprise summary • Recent Alumni Successes <p>Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the Board receives the report and notes its contents 		

Main report

1 Awards and Prizes

Kristiina Rokasevits (BMus Year 4, student of Joan Havill)

- Winner of the Beethoven Piano Prize

Walid El-Yafi (MMus Piano, student of Ronan O'Hora)

- Highly recommended at the Beethoven Piano Prize

Oscar Alabau (Artist Diploma Year 1, Cello, student of Louise Hopkins)

- Musicians Benevolent Fund Special Commendation Award at the Guilhermina Suggia Gift 2012

Minjung Baek (Artist Diploma, piano, student of Ronan O’Hora and Martin Roscoe)

- Winner of 1st Prize in the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe 2012 Intercollegiate Piano Competition

Rita Schindler (Postgraduate, harp, student of Imogen Barford)

- 1st Prize in the Third Central England Ensemble Concerto Competition

The Busch Ensemble

- Winners of the Tunnel Trust Award and Kirckman Concert Society award

2 Student profiles 2012/13 and 2013 admissions

Appendix A provides the annual update on **student numbers and profiles** as at the HESSES census date of 1 December 2012. Year on year comparisons show a net increase of 25.5 fte (11 fte undergraduate, 33 fte postgraduate against a reduction of 18.5 fte in other categories).

Appendix B summarises **applications for 2013 entry** as at 1 January (1 February data will be reported orally at the Board meeting itself). Movements overall are broadly in line with national trends and suggest that the initial impact of fee increases in 2012 is beginning to fade, but overall numbers of applications are still lower than in 2008. Continued falls in music applications are disappointing, but reflect the high cost of four-year undergraduate programmes and some anticipation of the ‘postgraduate precipice’ across the sector. Applications in music in particular require close monitoring and investment in remedial action, as indicated in the 2012 revision of the strategic plan.

In respect of **overseas recruitment**, during the autumn term 2012 the School held auditions for applicants in music for the first time in **Hong Kong**. Of the 17 applicants, eight received offers (four accepted, one accepted and subsequently withdrew, and three are pending), two are reserves, six were rejected and one cancelled and will be auditioned by CD.

Auditions in both music and acting were held in **New York** during the week commencing 21 January. This is the fifth year in succession that auditions for music have been held there. Of the 44 applicants called for audition in 2012, 19 received offers, ten are now enrolled, 5 accepted by subsequently withdrew and four declined. A further 44 candidates have been called for 2013.

The School is currently reviewing its strategies for recruitment, considering other global centres for audition and mobilising professorial staff to take a more active role in recruitment by giving masterclasses around the world. As the 2012 strategic plan

made clear, these and other approaches to international recruitment cannot be undertaken without some further investment.

3 Funding and the strategic plan

An application to the HEFCE **review of institution-specific funding** was not successful on the grounds that the 2005 funding agreement between CityCorp and HEFCE required four years notice on either side of major changes in funding policy. However, further discussion with HEFCE officers has opened up the possibility of some reconsideration and a letter containing further information about the additional running costs of Milton Court in particular has been sent.

On 13 December 2012 the **Resource Allocation sub-committee** of the Policy and Resources Committee considered a report from the Chamberlain concerning the investment required to support the School's 2012 strategic plan. The public minute of the meeting reads as follows:

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain concerning the funding arrangements for the Guildhall School's Strategic Plan. Whilst members supported the School's aspirations, it was agreed that the proposal should be referred back to officers to prepare a more detailed financial plan together with a monitoring framework.

The non-public minute is reported later in the agenda. A revised report is in preparation which will meet the sub-committee's request for further detail about return on investment and a monitoring framework. The revised report will be considered on or before the next scheduled meeting on 22 March 2012.

The HEFCE Board has agreed exceptionally not to make changes to **student control numbers (SNCs)** in 2013/14 so as not to create more turbulence in the sector following the major changes implemented in 2012. The School's SNC therefore remains largely unchanged at 248, (253 at top of the flexibility range and 223 at the bottom of the flexibility range). This is good news in view of the School's need to increase recruitment to meet the additional running costs of Milton Court in and after 2013/14.

Milton Court

Progress on Milton Court continues to be good and the official estimate of delay remains at seven and a half weeks for the School (11 weeks for the tower), which would take **practical completion to end April/early to mid May**. Remedial work to

the concert hall roof, which has resulted in the need to close Silk St for eight weeks, is not on the critical path for completion and is not expected to add to the delay. Commissioning and acoustic tests, which are on the critical path, have commenced or are commencing shortly. Once the outcome of these tests is known, the developer will be able to provide greater certainty as to the date of completion.

The School has prepared a range of **contingency plans** to cope with a delay of up to ten weeks without significant impact. Any further delay would adversely affect the School's ability to train staff and students and get the building fully open for the autumn term. An up-to-date oral report will be given under the risk item on the non-public agenda.

Partnerships

The School has agreed or is in the process of agreeing formal memoranda of understanding with the **London Symphony Orchestra (LSO)** and the **Royal Opera House Covent Garden (ROH)**. The former relates to the inauguration of the Orchestral Artistry masters pathway, to be taught in association with the LSO from autumn 2013, and the latter relates to the doctoral composer in residence scheme, which will also begin in September 2013, and a new masters for opera makers to begin in 2014.

These are high-quality and extremely high-profile partnerships and the agreements will embed collaborations which are well established. That with the LSO continues and develops the work of Centre for Orchestra, funded to date by HEFCE as part of its SDF grant for Milton Court. That with the ROH will offer a deeper, more enriching model of opera development that allows a range of practitioners more substantial creative research experience in the development of operatic practice. The partnership was referenced in Covent Garden's recent announcement of its forward programme and has been well received in the press and on line.

The School's long-standing collaboration with the **BBC Symphony Orchestra (BBCSO)** is also moving from strength to strength. Following its successful performance of Mahler's 2nd Symphony under James Gaffigan in February 2011, the School provided the chorus for a performance of the same work with the BBCSO at the Barbican on 1 December, and on 15 December six actors collaborated with the orchestra under the direction of Mark Minkowski in a complete, semi-staged version of Grieg's *Peer Gynt* which met with critical acclaim in the *Times*, the *Guardian* and on line, and was broadcast in full on Radio 3 on Sunday 23 December. Appendix C gives a summary of critical responses. The continued support and initiative of Paul Hughes, CEO of the BBCSO and Guildhall School governor, is greatly appreciated.

The School is continuing its collaboration with the **BBCSO's *Total Immersion*** series and it is intended to submit this project, which began in 1997 for the next round of Queen's Anniversary Prizes.

Guildhall Young Artists ~ CYM regional centres

As reported at the last Board meeting, CYM has continued its investigations into the possibility of establishing a small number of regional centres working with the music education hubs that have been established under the National Music Plan.

Following earlier discussions with the University of East Anglia about the possible use of their redundant music school as a base for a regional centre, attention has turned to identifying a more suitable, and more affordable, site elsewhere in **Norwich**. Some half dozen alternative venues have been investigated and the City of Norwich School has emerged as the preferred partner, together with the Norfolk Music Hub. A detailed business plan is under development and a source of local investment has been identified. A full proposal will be brought to the Board at its May meeting.

Under the emerging model, the partnership would provide a full range of Saturday music activities along the lines of the London CYM, including singing, one-to-one instrumental lessons and a range of ensemble options. The School would lead on curriculum design, selection and appointment of staff, access to ensembles, staff development and quality assurance; responsibility for engaging and paying teaching staff and collecting fees would lie with the Norfolk Music Hub; and the City of Norwich School would provide the premises and other relevant support. The attraction of the model is that the Guildhall School, and therefore the CityCorp, would not be exposed to any financial risk.

The position in **Taunton** is more complex and is taking longer to resolve than expected, as the local music education infrastructure is less well developed than in Norwich. The proposed pilot scheme to be run at Hestercombe House, as approved by the Board at the previous meeting, is therefore not yet in place. Instead, the School will be mounting a music education open day at Hestercombe on Saturday 16 February at which a number of CYM and Guildhall ensembles (CYM piano trio, Guildhall wind quintet, Junior Guildhall brass and percussion and Guildhall jazz) will take part in an event designed to raise the profile of music education in Somerset and underline the potential contribution of the Guildhall Young Artists division. The BBC will be filming at Hestercombe that day, which should increase the exposure of the initiative. A coach will leave the Barbican at 6.30 am should any governor with CRB clearance wish to join the expedition.

There is very strong support from the board and management of Hestercombe for this project and the intention is to put in place a business model similar to that envisaged for Norwich. An approach has been made to a potential sponsor, and the School has enlisted the support of several local providers, including Wells Cathedral School and the South West Music School. The continued support of Sir Andrew Burns, chairman of the Hestercombe Gardens Trust and Guildhall School governor, is greatly appreciated.

Enterprise summary

Appendix D provides a summary of summer schools, short courses and other enterprise activities to be undertaken in 2013.

Recent Alumni Successes

Appendix E provides a brief overview of some recent alumni and their successes.

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