

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama	17 February 2015
Subject: Principal's General Report	Public
Report of: Principal	For information
<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>This report updates the Board on a number of current issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awards and Prizes • Milton Court • Research Excellence Framework • Admissions and Applications • Carbon Reduction <p>Recommendation: That the Board receives the report and notes its contents.</p>	

Main report

1. Awards and Prizes

James Fountain (BMus 3 (Hons) - Trumpet)

- Appointed principal trumpet, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Audun Breen (Guildhall Artist Masters – Trombone)

- Appointed co-principal trombone, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra

Fernando Martin- Peñasco Osorio (BMus 3 (Hons) – Piano)

- Winner of the Beethoven Piano Prize

Sophia Dee (BMus 4 (Hons) – Piano)

- Highly commended, Beethoven Piano Prize

Mishka Momen (Artist Diploma – Piano)

- 1st prize, Dudley International Piano Competition

Marina Koka (Guildhall Artist Master – Piano)

- 2nd prize, Dudley International Piano Competition

Alexander Soares (DMus Performance)

- 4th prize, Dudley International Piano Competition

Francis Gallagher (Guildhall Artist Master – Viola)

- Winner, Max & Peggy Morgan Viola Prize

Richard Bignall (Guildhall Artist Masters – Tenor)

- Joint winner of the English Song Prize

Nicola Said (Advanced Certificate – Soprano)

- Joint winner of the English Song Prize

Mihai Ritivoiu (Artists Diploma – Piano)

- 1st Prize, 2014 Beethoven Piano Society of Europe Senior Intercollegiate Competition

Seth Scott-Deuchar (BMus 4 Electronic Music)

- Rose Lawrence Horners' Award academic prize (2013-2014). With the dissertation 'Tradurre è tradire': Music in the Age of Digital Reproduction

Kristiina Rokasevits (Guildhall Artist Masters – Piano)

- Winner, Estonian Piano Competition

Alison Rose (Guildhall Artist Masters – Opera)

- Winner, Maggie Teyte competition

Jennie Witton (Guildhall Artist Masters – Opera)

- Winner, Miriam Licette award

Alex Edmundson (Alumnus, Horn, 2013)

- Appointed third horn, London Symphony Orchestra

Shabaka Hutchings (Alumnus, Clarinet, 2007)

- Winner, Paul Hamlyn Composer Award 2014

Students accepted onto the LSO String Experience Scheme

- Iurii Gavryliuk (BMus 4 (Hons) Double Bass)
- Monika Chmielewska (Guildhall Artist Masters – Violin)
- Paloma Mejias (Guildhall Artist Masters – Viola)
- Arthur Boutillier (Guildhall Artist Masters- Cello)
- Esther Kim (Guildhall Artist Masters- Violin)
- Katie Meyers (Guildhall Artist Masters - Violin (Orchestral Artistry))

Staff

MBA Ashridge

Professor Helena Gaunt (with Distinction)

MA in Teaching and Learning in Professional and Higher Education (Institute of Education)

- Kate Paterson, Vocal Professor
- Marie Vassiliou, Vocal Professor
- Jane Booth, Head of Historical Performance

Professional Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Professional and Higher Education (IoE)

- Francesca Carpos, Bassoon and professor at Centre for Young Musicians
- Lee Gibson, Jazz Vocal professor
- Rachel Sherry, Vocal Professor: Junior Guildhall
- Steve Watts, Double Bass Professor

Alumni

We have had a notable number of Alumni returning to perform at the School towards the end of the Autumn term 2014 and early Spring term 2015.

Highlights included:

- **Josephine Hart Poetry Hour**

As part of the First World War centenary commemorations, on 10 November the Guildhall School and the Josephine Hart Poetry Foundation presented an evening of WWI poetry in Milton Court Concert Hall. Novelist, poetry anthologist and Guildhall alumna Josephine Hart founded the Josephine Hart Poetry Hour in order to bring poetry in performance to a broader public audience.

Readers included some of the School's distinguished Acting alumni – Damian Lewis (1993), Dominic West (1995), Freddie Fox (2010) and the School's Director of Drama Christian Burgess. The event was in support of the Guildhall School's Scholarships Fund.

- **Toby Spence Masterclass**

On Thursday 20 November, one of the School's most distinguished opera alumni, Toby Spence (1995), presented a masterclass to Guildhall senior students. Toby Spence has sung with the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, the Paris Opera, English National Opera, Bayerische Staatsoper, Teatro Real, Madrid, Theater an der Wien, and the Hamburgische Staatsoper, and at the Salzburg, Aix-en-Provence and Edinburgh festivals.

- **Shining Armour by Iain Burnside**

Roderick Williams (Opera Alumnus 1995) performed alongside Iain Burnside (Professor of Collaborative Piano) with Guildhall students Alison Rose and Victoria Newlyn as part of the Faculty Artist Series. Shining Armour cast a new light on Brahms's song cycle Die schöne Magelone, a tale of chivalric love, of knights in shining armour.

- **Guildhall Chamber Orchestra**

Boris Brovtsyn directed the Guildhall Chamber Orchestra at Milton Court on 29 January in a programme that included Elgar's Serenade for Strings in E minor.

Brovtsyn (String Alumnus 2004) has had a long standing association with the School, studied with David Takeno and won Gold Medal in 2004.

In addition to these events, the School has held successful alumni events in Beijing (11 November 2014), Hong Kong (14 November 2014), Tokyo (18 November 2014) and New York (20 January 2015).

2. Milton Court

The School, Heron and Sir Robert McAlpine (SRM) have concluded their discussions about outstanding snags, and have agreed a 'quid pro quo' whereby SRM will be relieved of their contractual obligation to rectify certain of the less important issues in return for dealing with more important snags that have emerged as the building has been used. As at 26 January 2015, there were technically three snags remaining of the 6,098 original ones, plus a further two of the issues that SRM agreed to rectify in lieu of other less important snags being waived. It is hoped that all of these remaining snags will be closed out within a matter of a few weeks.

Actual defects discovered post completion are also reducing rapidly. These fall into two categories. The majority are items of plant, equipment or fabric that have failed or deteriorated prematurely, which are the responsibility of SRM to rectify under the terms of the two-year defects liability period. The remainder are defects arising from a design error or omission, rectification of which has for the most part been paid for by Heron. Most of the outstanding items are relatively minor and are expected to be closed out within the next couple of months. The main exception is the problem of excessive heat in the fly tower which falls into the second category.

Fly Tower: As reported to the last meeting of the Board, the solution to install fan coil units directly above the heat-sensitive automation control cabinets in the fly tower is being implemented. A trial was carried out on one cabinet in December to make sure that there are no acoustic issues arising, and this trial was successful. Installation of the remaining units and connection to the building's chilled water supply is scheduled to take place over the Easter vacation. The total cost of this solution is currently estimated at £125,000. The Chamberlain is fully aware of the situation and negotiations are taking place between Heron and the City as to how the costs will be apportioned between the two parties.

Pavement leaks: The issue of the pavement lights that are causing serious leaks into the School's basement plant areas is neither a snag nor a defect. It's not the responsibility of SRM or Heron because it is a pre-existing condition that the City will have to solve. As previously reported, the City's Fire Officer has confirmed that those pavement lights that link into the car park areas must remain because they act as smoke extract vents. Earlier attempts agreed with City Surveyors and Highways to solve the problem by re-sealing the pavement lights with bitumen have failed to make any difference. The Highways Team continues to be on stand-by to implement a solution; the problem is in identifying one that is likely to be reliable. The School recently decided to approach a firm that specialises in the manufacture of pavement lights and smoke extract vents. This firm has installed many of the numerous pavement lights that are visible in the City, and they offer a technical survey of each site in order to

recommend a bespoke solution in each case. This survey is free, and includes recommendations on the interface between the footway and the pavement lights in order to ensure a completely waterproof solution. The survey took place on 26 January 2015, and the engineer's initial conclusions are that it is indeed the interface that's at fault. The firm will now liaise with City Highways, following which we expect to receive a report with their full recommendations. Again the Chamberlain is fully aware of the situation and of the likelihood that further costs will fall to the City.

Service Charge: Some Governors will already be aware that the level of service charge that is payable to Heron has not yet been finalised, which creates an element of uncertainty in terms of the School's financial position. The City's lease with Heron provides that a service charge is due based on the quantum of any services that are provided to the School by Heron or their managing agents. In practice this means two principal areas: the maintenance and cleaning of the external façades of the building, including glazing, which are Heron's responsibility under the terms of the lease, and management and maintenance of the rear service road. It was agreed at detailed design stage in 2009 that best value would be achieved by having a combined access and cleaning strategy for the building, rather than by each party acting separately, and an appropriate solution was designed accordingly. This involved a single BMU on the roof of the tower from which a cleaning cradle can be suspended to reach all areas of the building apart from the west elevation of the concert hall, the west end of the north elevation and the main foyers on Silk Street. These areas are reached by means of long-handled brush/hoses or a hired cherry picker. Similarly it was agreed in 2009 that one party would need to have responsibility for the service road, and that Heron should take on this role – not least because they are guaranteed to have security personnel on site 24 hours of every day. Some of the cost of managing the service road is attributable to maintenance of the security cameras. However for technical reasons all but one of the cameras are connected to the School's CCTV system, to which the tower has access in respect of these cameras only. A management charge from Heron in respect of monitoring the cameras is therefore appropriate, but not a maintenance charge.

The lease provides that Heron should produce a Mutual Cooperation and Management Plan, in order to articulate those areas where there are joint operations and where services are being provided to the other party. It also provides that Heron produces a Service Charge Allocation Schedule, which defines the areas to be charged to the School and the proportion of the related costs that are attributable to the School. Both of these documents are to be approved by the City/School, following which the Service Charge Allocation Schedule becomes the template by which the annual service charge is calculated, based on the actual costs incurred for each area in each year. It is Heron's, or their managing agents', failure to produce these two documents in good time that has caused the delay. Several applications for payment have been made, but City Solicitors have advised that the agreement of these two documents is a pre-condition before any invoices are considered. Notwithstanding this, with agreement of City Solicitors, two 'without prejudice' payments totalling £60,000 have been made on account as a gesture of good will.

Good progress was made just before Christmas 2014, when a draft Mutual Cooperation and Management Plan was finally produced together with a service charge analysis that was a good deal more realistic than previous iterations. A meeting was held to discuss

these in December, attended by Heron, their managing agents and representatives from the School and from City Surveyors. A lot of the issues of disagreement were cleared up, and it was agreed that revised documents would be prepared to take account of the matters discussed and agreed. These were received on 23 January 2015, and are currently being reviewed by the School, City Surveyors and City Solicitors, following which another meeting is likely to be convened when it is hoped we will be able to reach final agreement.

As with all the other main outstanding issues, the Chamberlain is fully aware of the situation including the reasons for the long initial delays.

3. Research Excellence Framework (REF)

The REF is the means by which HEFCE conducts a large-scale assessment of research quality to determine the quality research (QR) element of institutional block grants. The exercise is conducted approximately every six years and the last assessment (the RAE) was carried out in 2008. The Guildhall School made a submission for the first time in 2008 and since then has received approximately £250,000 annually in QR.

The table below compares the School's performance in 2008 and 2014. Overall performance improved in the two categories that attract QR funding: 4* (world leading) and 3* (internationally excellent), with an overall grade point average of 2.44/4.00. The performance on impact (not assessed in 2008) was especially encouraging, with a GPA of 3.6/4.00.

Guildhall REF outcomes 2008 and 2014 comparison

	4* (%)		3* (%)		2* (%)		1* (%)		Unclassified (%)	
	2014	2008	2014	2008	2014	2008	2014	2008	2014	2008
Outputs	10.8	15.1	30.2	10.6	33.7	34.7	9.6	27.1	15.7	12.5
Environment	10	0	20	25	60	50	10	25	0	0
Impact	60		40		0		0		0	
Esteem		0		100		0		0		0
Overall quality profile	21	10	30	25	31	30	8	25	10	10

Feedback from the assessment panel was generally encouraging: the assessors found world leading and internationally excellent research across a number of disciplines and noted that composition research was particularly distinctive. They found evidence of impacts of 'very considerable and outstanding reach and significance'. They also noted progress in the consolidation of research infrastructure, but wanted a clearer distinction between research and high-level professional practice. Finally, they noted that staff engagement in collaborative ventures makes 'a major contribution to cultural life nationally and internationally'.

In comparative terms, the School was ranked 5/24 of the specialist institutions for impact, and 20 overall. The financial implications of the REF will not be known until preliminary grants are notified in March 2015.

4. Admissions and Applications

Annex A provides the annual snapshot of the current student population on the census date of 1 December 2014. The total population at that point was 947 (912 fte).

Annex B provides a snapshot of applications for 2015 entry as at 1 January. Overall applications showed an increase of 15% by comparison with the same date last year, but the final position may well be different.

The year-on-year decline of 10% in postgraduate music applications is being monitored closely. In the light of concerns about a possible downturn in postgraduate study in 2015, following the introduction of higher fees in 2012 (the 'postgraduate precipice'), the government has announced that the student loans scheme will be extended to postgraduate students in and after 2016. For the 2015/16 academic year, it has made available an additional £50m in the form of grants of £5,000 which have to be match-funded by institutions. The School has been allocated 25 studentships (£125,000) but it is unclear how many of these we will be able to use, as the majority of our postgraduate students will not be 'new regime' students who will have paid the £9,000 fee for their undergraduate programme (first-year MMus students entering in 2015 would normally be 'old regime' students who began their studies in 2011, not 2012).

5. Carbon Reduction - 2015 People and Planet University League

The People and Planet University league ranks universities by their environmental and social impact on the world. In this year's table, the Guildhall School was ranked 47/151, higher than any other specialist performing arts institution and higher than many large universities with dedicated sustainability teams. This is an excellent result, and thanks are due to Jennifer Kay and the School Sustainability Group for leading the strategy and compiling the data.

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