

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama	3 July 2017
<b>Subject: Principal's General Report</b>	
<b>Report of: Principal</b>	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report Author: Lynne Williams</b>	<b>For Information</b>

### **Summary**

This report updates the Board on a number of current issues:

- The first four months
- Guildhall School Silk Street Entrance
- China Update
- Awards and Prizes
- Student Union President

Recommendation: that the Board receives the report and notes its contents.

### **Main report**

#### **1. The first four months**

I am grateful to the Chair, the governors, staff, students and Barbican and City colleagues for their warm welcome and for the steady flow of information and ideas. I have found the School to be world-leading, not only in designation but in practice. I have been impressed with the highly professional approach of the staff in all matters and the collegiate way issues are approached. I believe that despite the uncertainties of the external environment, we are well placed to accelerate our positive trajectory.

In my first four months in post I have concentrated on people, places, activities and achievements. This has included meetings with Guildhall School all-staff, heads of departments, Students' Union representatives, Governors of the Board, Trustees, Barbican and City colleagues. I have also met with external stakeholders and colleagues including those within HEFCE, London Higher, CUK, UUK and many of our partner organisations such as the Globe and The Royal Opera House.

I have attended a wide range of performances of student work both at Guildhall School, Barbican Centre and within the wider City. Highlights include awarding the Gold Medal and awarding the Lutine Prize. I have also visited Young Guildhall and our CYMs in London and Norwich as well as outreach projects in Barking Dagenham. We have a new safeguarding action plan in place for the CYMs and I am meeting regularly with City colleagues to monitor progress.

The consultation undertaken as part of the development of the School's new five- year strategic plan has afforded an opportunity to meet with a wide cross section of staff and to hear their ambitious plans for the future as well as to forge closer artistic and educational ties with our Barbican colleagues. It is clear that we will need to access more teaching space if we are to fulfil the growth of business units which is an important part of the sustainability of the organisation going forward. We are currently looking at a number of spaces to rent which are close by within other higher education organisations and would allow us to construct a business model around an increased Summer School and weekend/evening class offer.

I have also been involved in Development events which have included The Legacy Tea, individual donors recitals and events and Take to the Stage. Development is a priority area of work and an interim Director of Advancement is being sought through Graham Pelton to lead a reimagined department and assist with the appointment of a permanent Director of Advancement and a newly focussed case for support for a fundraising campaign.

The next two months I plan to place emphasis on enhancing the student experience by addressing opportunities for digital learning and engagement, understanding Higher Education and Research Bill issues and our relationship with the Office for Students (OfS), reinforcing the social responsibility agenda, optimising our external profile and our visibility within the City's Cultural Mile.

I can confirm that we have not seen a drop in application numbers from EU students for 2017 entry. Given recent events, we will continue to contribute to lobbying for an improved situation for higher education through UUK, CUK and CIFA.

## **2. Guildhall School Silk Street Entrance**

The entrance to the School does not befit a world leading institution – it is not clearly visible from the roadside or footpath, it is unsafe because of its co-location with a vehicle parking entrance and as a former service entry, without sophistication. Visitors find the school difficult to locate for performances and events. The School is a major partner in the City's Culture Mile and as such there is an urgent need for an entrance which gives visibility and dignity. Following several conversations with City departments, I met with Aedas Arts team who worked on a space review for the

School in 2011, including a redesign of the front entrance. I have asked them to update their drawings to facilitate further discussion.

### **3. China Update**

#### **The Wager and The Elegant East**

Two successful events took place in May. The School was host to the Shanghai Grand Theatre during the week of 22<sup>nd</sup> May which began with a concert of traditional Chinese music. Our thanks to Sherry Madera (Special Advisor for Asia for CoL) for organising a reception before the concert which was attended by representatives of Chinese business in the City, many of whom were new audiences for the Guildhall School. The Lord Mayor welcomed the guests and I spoke about the importance of bringing culture and business together within the City.

The UK premiere of the Wager, a co-production between Shanghai Opera and the Guildhall School, took place on 26 & 27 May. Our Chinese partners were delighted with the production which included the work of technical theatre students and a Guildhall pit orchestra.

#### **An update on the BA (Hons) in Acting Studies double degree programme in collaboration with the Central Academy of Drama (CAD), Beijing**

<b>Academic Assurance: Partnerships</b>
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**Student numbers:** 12 students have met the English language proficiency requirements for the issuing of a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) which is necessary to obtain a Tier 4 student visa. The remaining students will receive their IELTS results on 20 June. Additional requirements for the issuing of a CAS include evidence of financial viability and a medical screening. Students will then have to undertake a credibility interview with a representative of the Home Office as part of the visa application process. The exact number of students eligible for a CAS should be clear by 30 June, and current projections indicate that at least 14 students will be able to progress onto Year 2 of the programme at the School.

**Administrative preparations:** The School's Registry and Drama departments have been in regular contact with colleagues at CAD and the students of the programme to ensure all students are fully supported in meeting the requirements of a CAS and applying for a Tier 4 visa. Preparations have also been made to ensure students are welcomed and fully integrated into the wider School community on their arrival. Once all eligible students have received their CAS, which should be by mid-July, they will begin the visa application process. Most applications of the Tier 4 visa are processed within 10 days but the actual processing times may vary depending on a range of factors.

**Upcoming visits:** The Registry and Programme Leader Daniel McGrath have been liaising with colleagues at CAD to organise the first visit of the External Examiner for the programme between 16 and 26 June. From 3 to 5 July a small delegation of 3 colleagues from CAD will visit the Guildhall School, headed by the Dean of CAD's Acting Department, to discuss further details.

#### 4. Awards and Prizes

Academic Assurance: Employability
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James Hoyle (Composition, Artists Masters Composition)

Sophya Polevaya (Composition, BMus)

- Chosen to be participants on the Panufnik Composers' Scheme  
(*Prize: work with LSO writing for the Orchestra*)

Ryan Drucker (MMus Piano, student of Ronan O'Hora)

- Winner of the Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe 2017 Piano Scholarship  
(*Prize: between 1000-2000 Euros*)

Sian Dicker (Artist Diploma Violin)

- Special Achievement Award by the International Classic Music Awards (ICMA) as part of a Group

Jack Sheen (Fellow, Conducting)

- Winner of the RCM Junior Fellow in Conducting

Daniel Kidane (PhD Composition)

- Winner of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) composition opportunity

Heather Ryall (Guildhall Artists Masters)

- Winner of the D'Addario Single Reed Wind Prize  
(*Prize: £500*)

Manon Browning (BMus Year 4, student of Imogen Barford)

- Winner of the Nansi Richards Harp Scholarship 2017  
(*Scholarship: £1500*)

Mirjam Mesak (Vocal Studies, Masters, student of Rudolph Piernay)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize in the 2017 Somerset Song Prize

Michael Sikich (Student of Peter Bithell & Julius Drake)

- Pianists Prize in the 2017 Somerset Song Prize  
(*Prize: £1000*)

Gideon Brooks (Trumpet, Masters)

- Winner of the 2017 Christopher Horn Trust Award  
(Award unknown)

Oliver Wass (Harp, Masters, part of the Pelleas Ensemble)

- Elias Fawcett Award for Outstanding Chamber Ensemble
- Royal Philharmonic Society's Henderson Chamber Ensemble Award

Daniel Evans (Piano, BMus Year 4, student of Joan Havill)

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize in the 2017 Sheepdrove Piano Competition  
(Prize: £500)

Ryan Drucker (MMus Piano, student of Ronan O'Hora)

- Winner of a Boise Scholarship

Corinne Cowling (Vocal Studies, Masters, student of Sue McCulloch)

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize in the Patricia Routledge National English Song Competition  
(Prize: £1000)

Samuel Blenkin (BA Acting)

- Cast in Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

### **Kathleen Ferrier**

James Way: 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (Vocal Studies, Masters)

Eduard Mas Bacardit: Finalist (Opera Course)

Daniel Shelvey: Finalist (Opera Course)

Dylan Perez: Finalist – accompanist (Artist Dip Accompanist)

Natalie Burch: (Artist Dip Accompanist)

### **Alumni**

Mica Levi (Composition, Graduated 2008)

- Winner of an Oscar for Best Score

Sioned Gwen Davies (Vocal, Graduated 2012)

- Finalist in BBC Cardiff Young Singer of the World Competition)

Philip Venables (Composition, Graduated 2016)

- Nominated for an Olivier Award in Best New Opera Production Category for 4.48 Psychosis

Freddie Fox (Acting, Graduated 2010)

- Nominated for an Olivier Award in Best Supporting Actor Category for Travesties

Neil Austin (Technical Theatre, Graduated 1992)

- Winner of an Olivier Award in Best Lighting Category for *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*

Yolando Bruno (Music, Graduated 2015)

- Winner of the Isabel Overton Bader Canadian Violin Competition

Katya Poplyansky (Student of David Takeno, Graduated 2016)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize in the Isabel Overton Bader Canadian Violin Competition

Sarah Lancashire (Acting, Graduated 1986)

- Winner of a BAFTA for Best TV Actress for *Happy Valley*

### **Staff**

Sally Burgess appointed to the Board of the ENO

Mahan Esfahani BBC Music Magazine Award

- Instrumental Award for *J.S Bach Goldberg Variations*

Julian Anderson BBC Music Magazine Award

- Premiere Award for *In lieblicher Bläue, Alleluia, The Stations of the Sun*

### **5. Students' Union President**

My thanks to Tom Steer, current Students' Union President, who has made himself available on many occasions to assist me with tours for high profile visitors and to contribute to meetings. The newly elected Students' Union President for 2017/2018 is Felicity Chilton. Felicity will take up the position on 1 August 2017 and will attend her first Board meeting in September. A brief biography can be found in Appendix A.

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## Appendix A

### Felicity Grace Chilton

Spotlight View Pin: 2852-0193-1941

Mobile: 07827920317 E-mail: [flick\\_chilton@yahoo.com](mailto:flick_chilton@yahoo.com)

Height: 5'4" Hair Colour: Light brown Eye Colour: Brown Playing Age: 16-24

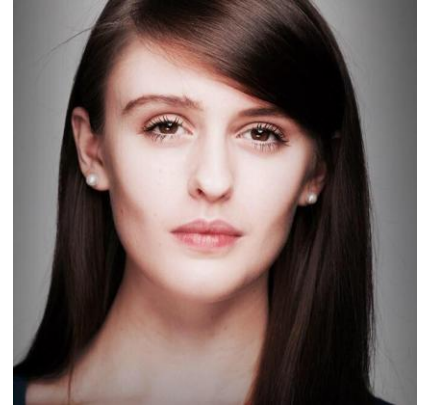
#### Training:

**Guildhall School of Music and Drama:** BMus (hons), performance major

**The Actors Class:** Foundation, Intermediate, Advanced

**Arts Educational School, Tring:** Two-year Acting Course

**Leeds College of Music:** Yorkshire Young Musicians, Junior Conservatoire Training



#### Credits, Theatre:

2017, actor-musician/composer, DICK TURPIN, Theatre N16, Dir: Steffi Walker

2017, producer, SQUIRM, King's Head Theatre, Dir: Chris Davis

2016, Miss Amelia/stage pianist/composer/producer, A LITTLE PRINCESS, Theatre N16/Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Dir: Steffi Walker

2016, Salome, SALOME, Theatre N16, Dir: Izzie Price, Ellie Gauge

2015, Fury, vocal & dance ens., THE FURIES, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Dir: Leo Mylonadis

2014, Tobias Ragg, vocal & dance ens., SWEENEY TODD & THE STRING OF PEARLS, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Dir: Dave Spencer

2014, Patricia, vocal & dance ens., THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Dir: Dave Spencer

#### Credits, Music & Pit Orchestra:

2017, clarinetist/flautist/saxophonist, A CHORUS LINE, Bridewell Theatre, Dir: Ed Curry/Greenwood Theatre, Dir: Shamariah Bennett (2016)

2017, clarinetist/flautist/saxophonist, GRAND HOTEL, Margaret Howard Theatre, Dir: Jordan Li Smith

2017, clarinetist/flautist/saxophonist, WEST SIDE STORY, Vivo d'Arte, Dir: Erika Gundesen

2017, clarinetist, MY FAIR LADY, Bridewell Theatre, Dir: Erika Gundesen

2017, clarinetist/bass clarinetist, PARADE, Greenwood Theatre, Dir: Luke Bullard

2017, clarinetist/flautist/saxophonist, LONDON MUSICAL THEATRE ORCHESTRA, Dir: Freddie Tapner

2016, clarinetist/saxophonist, URINETOWN, The Ditch, Shoreditch Town Hall, Dir: Jordan Clarke/Millfield Arts Centre, Dir: Erika Gundesen

2016, clarinetist/saxophonist, LONDON ROAD, Bridewell Theatre, Dir: Jordan Clarke

2016, clarinetist, SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET, Vivo d'Arte, Dir: Erika Gundesen

2016, soprano, BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST, Barbican, Dir: Adrian Leaper

2015, clarinetist/saxophonist, BUGSY MALONE, Millfield Arts Centre, Dir: Erika Gundesen

2015, stage musician (clarinet), DRACULA! MR SWALLOW: THE MUSICAL, Dir: Freddie Tapner, Nick Mohammed

2014, clarinetist/flautist/saxophonist, GIRLFRIENDS, Union Theatre, Dir: Freddie Tapner

2014, soprano, BEETHOVEN'S 9<sup>TH</sup> SYMPHONY, Barbican, Dir: Richard Agarr

#### Credits, GSMD:

2016, clarinetist/saxophonist, AN EVENING ON BROADWAY, Milton Court Theatre, Dir: Giles Thornton

2016, clarinetist/saxophonist, WHEREVER THE WIND TAKES YOU (ballet premiere), Milton Court Theatre, Dir: Giles Thornton

2015, stage musician (clarinet/bass clarinet/saxophone), LULU, Silk Street Theatre, Dir: Christian Burgess

2015, clarinetist/saxophonist, GUYS & DOLLS, Silk Street Theatre, Dir: Michael Haslam

2015, saxophonist, SONGS OF SOLACE, Milton Court Concert Hall, Dir: Christian Forshaw

#### Credits, Arts Ed., Tring:

2013, Jean, SKIRMISHES, Markova Theatre, Dir: Louise Montes

2013, spirit, actor-musician, ens., THE TEMPEST, Markova Theatre, Dir: Heather Loomes

2013, vocal & dance ens., TO DANCE WITH THE GODS, Markova Theatre/Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, Dir: Edward Applewhite, Rachel Rist

2013, Joyce, TOP GIRLS, Arts Educational School, Tring, Dir: Jane Applewhite

2013, Verity, FIND ME, Markova Theatre, Dir: Zenelle Oosthuizen

2013, Retty, Mrs Rolliver, ens., TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES, Markova Theatre, Dir: Edward Applewhite

2012, Puck, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (excerpt), Arts Educational School, Tring, Dir: Dominic Yeates, Anthony Bessick

2012, Maid, LA RONDE, Markova Theatre, Dir: Dominic Yeates

2012, eunuch, ens., THE VISIT, Markova Theatre, Dir: Edward Applewhite

2011, Stella, A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE, Arts Educational School, Tring, Dir: Jane Applewhite

#### Skills:

**Accents & Dialects:** American – standard, English – standard, London, Northern, RP, Yorkshire (native)

#### **Music & Dance:**

Ballet, modern, contemporary, jazz, musical theatre

Soprano, mezzo-soprano, clarinet, saxophone, flute, piano, conducting/musical-direction, sight-reading/singing, composition, music teacher

#### **Performance:**

Actor-musician/singer, immersive/interactive performance, Meisner Technique, musical theatre, physical theatre, presenting, promenade theatre, public speaking, radio drama, recording artist, sight-reading (non-musical), theatre-in-education, verbatim theatre

#### **Sport:**

Badminton, horse-riding (pony/small horse), netball, sailing, squash, swimming, yoga

#### **Other Skills:**

Car driving license, Alexander Technique, assistant stage manager, barista, bartender, computer literate, DBS checked, first aider (qualified), workshop leader