



The Purcell School
for young musicians

Annual Report

2016/17



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HRH The Prince of Wales

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Kirsty Von Malaisé MA

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Interim Head: Dr Bernard Trafford MA (Oxon), MEd PhD (Birmingham), FRSA

Deputy Head (Staff): James Harding MA Hons, PGCE

Deputy Head (Students): Christine Rayfield BA Hons, PGCE

Bursar: Aideen McNamara BA Hons

Listed as at July 2018

For a full list of teaching staff, please visit www.purcell-school.org



Chairman's Statement

One of the most pleasurable aspects of visiting The Purcell School is to experience the exceptional instrumental teaching which takes place on a daily basis. The dedicated instrumental teachers and Heads of the Music Departments are the backbone of the School, and the training which students receive here is nothing short of humbling.

This year has proved, once again, to be an eventful and remarkable one for the School. As you will see from the various features in this report, it has been a period of hard work, striking achievements and exceptional musicians.

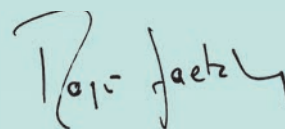
There have been some significant changes, as in December 2017 Mr Stephen Yeo, Head since January 2016, resigned and left the School. On behalf of the Governors I would like to express great gratitude to Mr Yeo for the contribution that he made to the School. Dr Bernard Trafford joined the School in January 2018 as Interim Head. Dr Trafford has a wealth of experience, having most recently been Head for nine years of Newcastle Royal Grammar School, and has provided leadership and continuity whilst the Governors and I recruit Mr Yeo's long-term successor. The arrival of a new Head and the now agreed decision to appoint a Director of Music provides the School with exciting opportunities for the future. The School is committed to developing the music programme to ensure that we remain at the cutting edge of music education, and wish to create international partnerships which will move us forward in a post-Brexit world.

Performance remains central to the music programme at the School and over the year students took part in 192 concerts. Highlights included two recitals at Wigmore Hall, performances at Milton Court Concert Hall, and orchestral concerts at the Watford Colosseum and Cadogan Hall, under the batons of Robin O'Neill and Dominic Greer respectively. The School's Contemporary Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra were also privileged to open the Deal Festival of Music and the Arts with the outstanding French trumpeter, Lucienne Renaudin-Vary.

A successful Gala dinner was held at Goldsmith's Hall in November 2016. As well as raising over £54,000 to support our Bursary Fund, the evening provided an opportunity to showcase the achievements of the School, thank current donors and benefactors and grow the School's supporter base. It is a long-term aim of the Governors to raise sufficient monies to fund all non-Music and Dance Scheme remissions. However, as this amounts to just over £500,000 per year, it is recognised that further work is required to reach this goal.

The Governors continue to see the financial challenges facing the School as a key area of risk. Constrained funding levels caused by five years of fee income freeze and current inflationary trends means that seeking additional income streams is essential. Ongoing reviews of expenditure and value for money exercises have taken place this year leading to savings in areas such as energy and expenditure on recruitment, which have helped to offset increased costs. Despite these challenges we remain committed to moving forward with capital projects and are hoping to launch an appeal for our next project in autumn 2018.

The Board and I would like to thank and congratulate the students and staff for all the work, energy and passion that they put into creating and maintaining this extraordinary place of achievement.



Sir Roger Jackling KCB, CBE
Chairman

Academic Accomplishments

The School remains committed to its educational philosophy of providing an inspiring all-round education with music at its heart. We know that the most creative musicianship is cultivated by a holistic cultural awareness and thus we aim to provide an excellent and engaging curriculum through all subjects that we offer.

Our 2016/2017 leavers achieved a characteristically strong profile of entry to top conservatoires. Out of the total year-group of 42 students, 36 went on directly to a conservatoire in the United Kingdom, and of these 20 received scholarships. 28 students went to one of the four London conservatoires, with 27 out of the 28 students going to the Royal Academy of Music, the Royal College of Music and Guildhall School of Music and Drama and one student to Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. Destinations beyond London included the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (Glasgow) and the Royal Northern College of Music (Manchester). Of those students going on to university, one went on to read Music and German at King's College London, one to read Music at Durham University and one to read English at Oxford (starting in 2018). The variety and strength of our leavers' destinations demonstrate that we are consistently effective in

guiding our students towards the next stage of their education: for the majority of our students that next stage is a musical one, but we also serve exceptionally well those who decide to take an alternative educational path on leaving The Purcell School.

There were some very promising examination results from Purcell students across the board in summer 2017, with excellence particularly evident at GCSE level, where a promising element of 'value added' was present. There were strong results in GCSE and IGCSE Music, Art, English, English Literature, French, German and Mathematics. In GCSE Music, Year 10 Purcell students achieved 100% A and A* grades, with 67% of students achieving the top A* grade. In IGCSE English Literature, Year 11 students achieved 71% A and A* grades.

Integral to our philosophy of providing a creative hinterland to our students' musical education

is the programme of activities designed to enrich what is learned in the classroom. In the 2016/2017 academic year this programme included visits to Virginia Woolf's London and a production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, a visit to Oxford, a school double-bill production of *The Erpingham Camp* by Joe Orton and *The Real Inspector Hound* by Tom Stoppard, visits to London museums in support of Science, visits to London museums in support of History and gallery visits to London in support of Art.

In line with our educational philosophy, the curriculum itself continues to develop, with the recently-adopted pre-U qualification in Music providing a new level of rigour and inspiration for all our Sixth-Form students. In September 2017 a new subject was added to the sixth-form curriculum in the form of the Cambridge pre-U in Philosophy & Theology.

1:4

Teacher to
student ratio

78%

Purcell leavers went to
4 London conservatoires

56%

Purcell leavers awarded
music college scholarships

100%

Year 10 students
received A* or A
in GCSE Music

71%

Year 11 IGCSE English
Literature students
received A* or A





192

Performances
in 2016/17

9,350

People attended
a performance
in 2016/17

Musical Excellence

The School undertook its customary large number and wide range of standout musical performances in 2016/17.

We continued to build audiences for our annual showcase events; two solo recital evenings at Wigmore Hall, the Freddy Morgan Piano Recitals at Milton Court Concert Hall, and orchestral concerts with Purcell student concerto soloists at the Watford Colosseum, conducted by Robin O'Neill, and at Cadogan Hall, conducted by Dominic Grier.

Further highlights of the year included an all-Mozart concert given by the full-school choirs and orchestra at the Royal Academy of Music, chamber ensemble performances at Wigmore Hall and at the Proms at St. Jude's Festival, and the opening concert for Deal Festival, where our orchestra performed with outstanding young French trumpeter, Lucienne Renaudin-Vary.

Two inspiring student-led events took place: 'Voices Beyond Division' at St. James', Piccadilly, the culmination of a project working with three primary schools from different faiths, for children in Syria, organised by student Asha Parkinson, who raised all funds herself. Our student-led orchestra,

Philomel, directed by sixth-former Noah Max, gave a concert at St. George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, in an ambitious programme of Stravinsky *Concerto in D*, Nielsen *At the Bier of a Young Artist*, and Verdi (arr. Robert Max) *String Quartet* arranged for String Orchestra.

We also welcomed over twenty celebrated visiting musicians this past year to give a wide range of masterclasses and workshops to the students. The School is very grateful to the many professional musicians who have given time from their busy schedules to share their knowledge and experience with our students and support their musical development. Visitors included Adam Walker (flute), Chi Yu Mo (clarinet), Robert Cohen (cello), Nikolai Demidenko (piano), Anne Denholm (harpist to The Prince of Wales), Phil Cobb (trumpet), and Patrick King (timpani).

'I don't think I would have developed musically as much as I have, had I not come to this School. The tuition and performance opportunities make for an incredibly focused and musical environment.'

Purcell Student



Chamber Music

Chamber Music is a core part of the music programme at The Purcell School.

It is our strong belief that the disciplines of working together, listening, reacting and interacting are essential skills which all students should acquire early in their musical lives. There is also no question that, particularly for string players, the chamber music repertoire provides a wealth of musical literature as seen especially in the works of the great masters, Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert.

Each week between 30 and 40 ensembles meet, coached by members of the Instrumental Teaching staff and by Heads of Department, they also have a dedicated rehearsal time in which they are expected to work independently and to develop their skills through exploration of repertoire.

Groups often centre on the string quartet but also range from piano duos and wind quintets to larger string groups, small choral groups and percussion groups. Every ensemble has an opportunity to audition for our showcase chamber music concerts held each year at The Wigmore Hall and St James's Piccadilly.

Since September 2013 The Purcell School, thanks to generous funding from the Albert and Eugenie Frost Music Trust and the Radcliffe Trust, has been able to introduce the Chamber Music Academy. Led by Charles Sewart (Head of Strings) 30 string players meet roughly once a month during the academic year to study and perform Chamber Music.

Each session is coached by eminent musicians who teach, perform, demonstrate and inspire the students. Visiting groups this year have included members of the Chilingirian, Endellion, Piatti, Elias, Doric and Jubilee Quartets. Students also benefit from informal recitals and demonstrations given by visiting artists which provide a valuable insight into performance at the highest professional level.

A special feature of the Chamber Music Academy is that students from outside The Purcell School are invited to take part, perform and make friends with our own students. This has not only proved transformational for several young guests but has also provided the opportunity for our own students to mentor and guide less experienced musicians.

'I loved working with some amazing coaches and exploring new repertoire I've never played before – it's a really wonderful opportunity and so fun!'

Chamber Music Academy Student



Individual Highlights

Our students enjoy frequent success in competitions locally, nationally and internationally, and 2016/17 was no exception.

Alumni Honours

London Philharmonic Orchestra

Juliette Bausor was appointed Principal Flute.

Grammy Awards

Jacob Collier won two awards for Best Arrangement, Instrumental or A Cappella (for *You and I*) and Best Arrangement, Instruments and Vocal (for *Flintstones*) at the 59th Annual Grammy Awards.

Oscar and BAFTA Nominations

Mica Levi was shortlisted for both awards for her soundtrack for the film *Jackie*.

International Classical Music Award

Yevgeny Sudbin received the 2016 award in the Concerto class for his recording of the Medtner *Piano Concerto No. 3* and the Scriabin *Piano Concerto*.

Nestle and Salzburg Young Conductors Award

Kerem Hasan won the Nestle and Salzburg Young Conductors Award, and was also a finalist in the Donatella Flick Conducting Competition.

Student Triumphs

Legacy Award in Memory of Princess Diana

Asha Parkinson was one of twenty outstanding young people from across the world to be bestowed the inaugural Legacy Award in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales. The award was presented in recognition of Asha's extraordinary project, 'Voices Beyond Division', which was conceived in response to the crisis in Syria.

BBC Proms Inspire Competition 2017

Composition students Chelsea Becker and Juliana Niu won the Lower Junior Category (12-14 Years) with their pieces *New York* and *A Short Fantasy*, respectively.

British Flute Society Annual Flute Competition

Francesca Biescas Rue won the Under 18 Years award.

London Philharmonic Orchestra

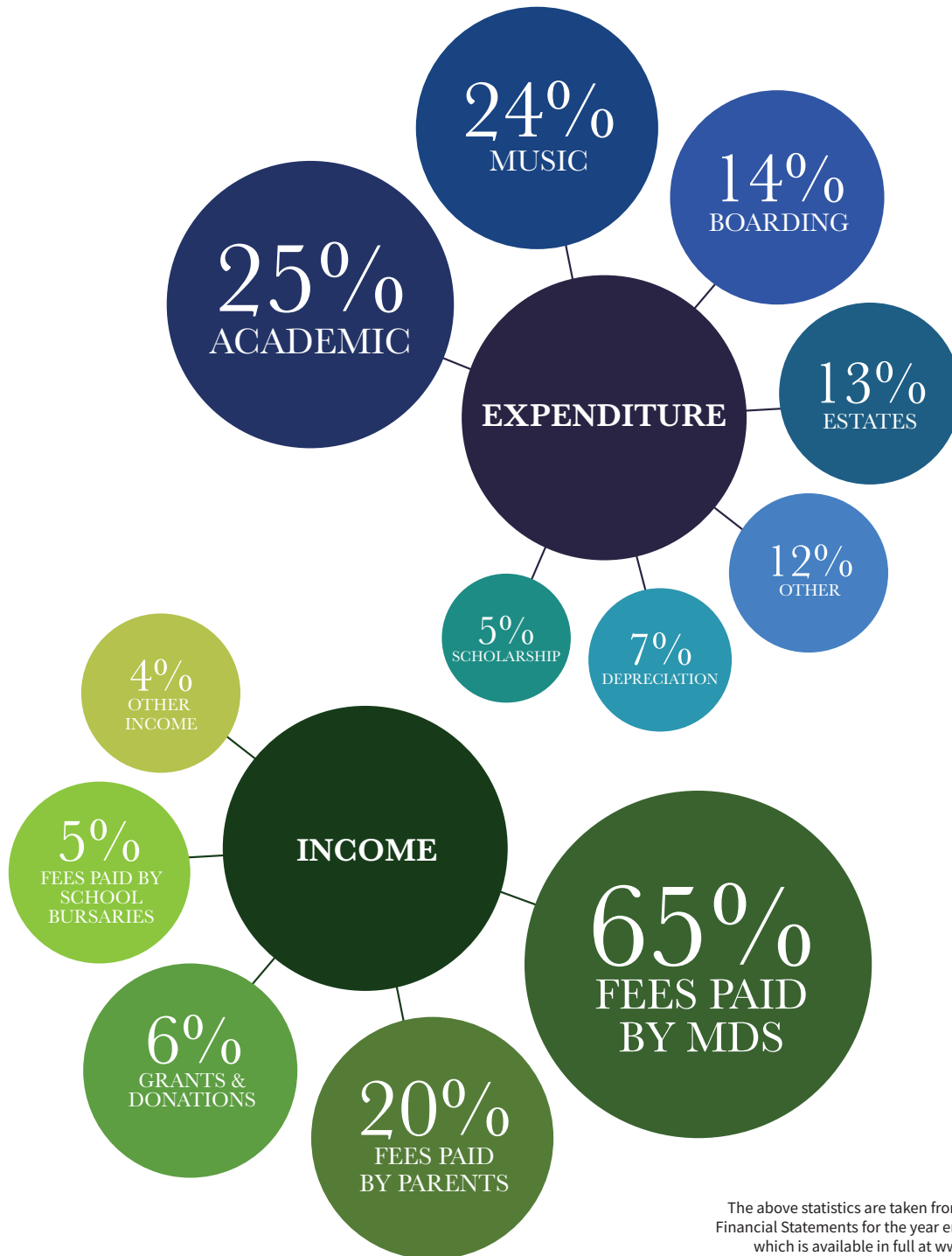
Flautist Daniel Swani joined as a junior artist.

National Youth Orchestra (NYO)

Lauren Marshall was appointed Principal Composer to the NYO and composed an original piece, *Suspended Between Earth and Air*, to open the NYO's 2017 winter tour. Lauren was also commissioned to write a piece of music for the Morgan Stanley garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Royal Concertgebow Orchestra (RCO)

Violinist Olivia Ziani performed in the 'Side by Side' project with the RCO as part of the RCO Meets Europe Concert Tour.



The above statistics are taken from 'Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2017', which is available in full at www.purcell-school.org

Securing the Future for Young Musicians

The staff of The Purcell School work hard to find more efficient ways to work and operate so that every penny we receive is used as effectively as possible.

Students at The Purcell School are privileged to receive funding from the Music and Dance Scheme. There is however pressure on fees as increases (1% in 2016/17) do not keep pace with increasing operational costs. This places pressure on the School to carefully manage costs and ensure that the resources we have are used wisely. Each year this becomes more challenging and additional support is essential in helping to deliver a world-class education. The School remains hugely dependent on the generous support of donors and benefactors.

Ongoing reviews of expenditure and value for money exercises have taken place this year leading to savings in areas such as energy and expenditure on recruitment, which have helped to offset increased costs.

Governors have continued to set aside budget for minor capital works and during this year significant roof and building repairs were undertaken, the music technology suite was upgraded and improvements made to the acoustics in the Dining Hall. In addition one of the Steinway Concert Grand pianos was extensively refurbished and five new upright pianos for teaching rooms purchased.

It is also important for the School to look to the future. To this end much consideration has been given to the long term needs of the School through development of a new strategic plan. From this, work has been done to update the building masterplan and the School is expecting to announce its next major capital project towards the end of 2018.





Fundraising and Development

It has been a busy, productive year for the Fundraising and Development team. The main aim of the department remains to raise much needed funds for bursaries so that every young musician can attend The Purcell School based on their musical talent and not their ability to pay.

As the demand for places and the need for financial support continues to grow, raising funds for the School's Bursary fund has never been more crucial.

Although we receive funding from the Government's Music and Dance Scheme this does not cover all the pupils who require financial support to study at Purcell. Each year the School relies on the generosity of Trusts, Individual Benefactors and Friends of the school, who all share our passion for developing musical talent in young people.

Since 2013, we have organised a Purcell School Annual Fundraising Gala Dinner at a Livery Hall in the City of London. Since its inception, over 600 guests have attended and raised over £250 000 to support the School.

The format of the evening is a drinks reception and three course dinner interspersed with musical performances from our young musicians. Apart from showcasing the breadth of talent of many students, the aim of the evening is to raise much needed funds for bursaries.

Thanks to the generosity of those attending the dinners, as well as other supporters, the development team has been able to create a Gala Bursary. The support and generosity of guests at each dinner enables us to continue this bursary, which is currently allocated to lower VI form student and cellist, Sebastian Kozub.

The Purcell School Fundraising Gala Dinner is now a marked annual fixture in the Purcell calendar and one that we hope we can continue to grow successfully in future years.

Our Benefactors and Donors

We would like to thank the generous benefactors and donors who have supported The Purcell School during the academic year 2015/16.

The Albert & Eugenie Frost Music Trust
The Andor Charitable Trust
Angus Allnatt Charitable Foundation
The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust
The Brian Mitchell Charitable Settlement
The John S Cohen Foundation
Dunard Fund
The Favourite
Fazioli Pianoforti
The Gosling Foundation
The Helen Roll Charity
The Hobson Charity
The Jacqueline and Michael Gee
Charitable Trust
Jaques Samuel Pianos
The Lawton Trust Limited
The Leverhulme Trust
The Estates of the late Sir Charles
and Lady Mackerras
The Mills Williams Foundation
PF Charitable Trust
The Radcliffe Trust
The Robert Fleming Hannay
Memorial Trust
The Samuel Gardner Memorial Trust
The Stanley Picker Trust
The Steel Charitable Trust
The Estate of the late K Stubley
The Taurus Foundation
The Wall Trust

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Mrs J Arwas MBE
Mr & Mrs M Garner
Mr P Hardy
Mr R Jacobs
Miss B Jarman
Mr G Meyer
Mr D Morgan
Mr M Saunders
Mr P Sawyer
Mr G Smallbone MBE
Mr J Smillie

The Friends of Clumber Studio
The Friends of The Purcell School
Guests, Suppliers and Benefactors of
The Purcell School annual Gala Dinner

In addition we would like to thank our Royal Patron, HRH
The Prince of Wales, and the patrons of The Purcell School
for their ongoing support of the School and its young
musicians.



There are currently many challenges in raising funds to support young musicians and many ways in which you can get involved:

Bursaries

A bursary could be to support a specific student, perhaps for the duration of their time at the School, or could be a contribution to the general Bursary Fund.

Event Sponsorships

The School holds a series of concerts each year at various prestigious events in London, as well as an Annual Fundraising Gala Dinner. Sponsorship of these events ensures we keep our costs to a minimum.

The Friends of Purcell School

By becoming a Friend you support the work of the School. You receive discounted tickets to School events, an invitation to the exclusive annual Friends' concert and three newsletters per year. Friends' support the 'Friends' Scholar'.

Corporate Support

In order to ensure we are able to direct the maximum amount of money to the students who need our support, there are opportunities for organisations to sponsor various aspects of the School calendar, including our showcase concerts and masterclasses throughout the year. Organisations or groups also have the opportunity to select The Purcell School as their preferred or nominated charity.

Legacies

Making a will is a significant personal responsibility and the people and causes you remember in your will are a positive recognition of all that is important to you. We appreciate that the welfare and concern of those closest to you will be your first priority. Just as a will brings security to your family's future, a legacy to The Purcell School plays a crucial part in maintaining and developing the school for the benefit of future generations of young people.

Online Fundraising

A straightforward method to raise money for The Purcell School when doing your shopping online, or even booking a holiday. Our charity, The Purcell School is registered on the website www.easyfundraising.org.uk

For more information about Fundraising and Development or to discuss these ways to help, please contact Ruth Blake, Development Manager, on 01923 331131 or r.blake@purcell-school.org





The Purcell School
for young musicians

Aldenham Road, Bushey, Hertfordshire WD23 2TS
Tel: 01923 331100 Fax: 01923 331166 info@purcell-school.org
www.purcell-school.org

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