



The Purcell School  
*for young musicians*

# Annual Report

2015/16



## ROYAL PATRON

HRH The Prince of Wales

## PATRONS

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Vice President: Baroness Warnock DBE  
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Chairman of the Education Committee: James Fowler MA  
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Ian Odgers MA  
Mark Racz BA, MFA Hon, FBC Hon, RAM  
Julia Somerville OBE, BA  
Joanna Van Heyningen OBE MA, MA, DipArch, RIBA

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

Headmaster: Stephen Yeo BMus Hons, LTCL MusEd, NPQH  
Deputy Head (Students): Christine Rayfield BA Hons, PGCE  
Deputy Head (Staff): James Harding MA, PGCE  
Bursar: Aideen McNamara BA Hons

Listed as at December 2016

For a full list of teaching staff, please visit [www.purcell-school.org](http://www.purcell-school.org)



# Chairman's Statement

I am delighted to introduce our Annual Report for 2015/16.

We started the academic year with 48 new students, bringing our total to 182, and in January 2016 we were thrilled to welcome Stephen Yeo as our new Headmaster.

You will see from the various features in this report that 2015/16 was an exciting and eventful year. Our Sixth Form students were particularly successful with college and university applications and we were proud that 15 students won scholarships.

Achieving a well-balanced academic and music programme is an important challenge for the school. During this year we began a detailed review of our strategic plan, enabling ourselves to fashion a new vision and development path which will ensure the very best opportunities for our talented young musicians.

Particular mention should be made of Alexandra Ridout who won the BBC Young Musician Jazz Award 2016, as well as our outstanding concerts at Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, Wigmore Hall and Milton Court.

Other notable highlights were the arrival of our new Fazioli piano and the masterclass and concert by Angela Hewitt at which Paulo Fazioli granted us the honour of becoming the first Fazioli Centre of Excellence.

Underpinning the success of our students, is the work of a large team of dedicated staff. I thank them all most warmly, as I do our very committed group of governors who give so freely of their time to the school.

An overriding priority is to sustain a safe and supportive environment in which our young musicians can thrive. In order to make this possible, the school adheres scrupulously to the provisions and requirements of legislation governing child protection and the safeguarding of children and young people. Extensive training and monitoring ensures our pupils receive excellent pastoral care and support in achieving their musical objectives.

We are hugely grateful for the financial assistance received from the Department for Education. However, costs are rising faster than our funding and without the support of our other donors and benefactors we would be unable to maintain the same number of young musicians. We are immensely grateful for all of the support we receive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Roger Jackling". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized hand.

Sir Roger Jackling KCB, CBE  
Chairman

# Academic Accomplishments

This was another year of excellent academic results, of which our students and staff can be justifiably proud.

The thirty six 2015/16 Purcell School leavers secured an impressive tally of entry to top music colleges, of which 52% were awarded scholarships. 66% of the year group went to one of the four London conservatoires, and destinations beyond London included the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (Glasgow), the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (Cardiff), the Hochschule für Musik (Cologne) and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music (USA).

Amongst those taking the university path was Tom Sparkes, outgoing Head Boy and first study composer, who went on to read Music at Girton College, Cambridge. Other 2015/16 leavers went on to the University of Bristol, the London School of Economics and Royal Holloway, University of London.

GCSE and IGCSE results were strong across year 11, with excellence in a number of key subjects, including Music, English, English Literature, French and German. 93% of Year 10 GCSE Music pupils achieved either A\* or A grades; 87% of Year 11 GCSE Art pupils secured A or A\* grades. In the spring of 2016, the Incorporated

Society of Musicians' awarded The Purcell School their Gold Certificate for summer 2015 results in GCSE Music, ranking the school as no.1 in the UK.

When measured against a representative national sample of GCSE performance, the Year 11 pupils demonstrate that they are achieving better grades in most of their GCSE subjects at The Purcell School than they would had they not attended the school. In Music, French and German, the Year 11 pupils achieved on average over a whole GCSE grade better, and in Art and English just below a whole GCSE grade better.

In spring 2016, no fewer than six Purcell School pupils were awarded Gold Certificates in the National Maths Challenge.

A strong programme of co-curricular activities support our academic subjects and enrich our pupils' general education. In spring 2016, the Academic Music department under the direction of Mary-Kate Gill, Head of Department, staged a performance of Henry Purcell's iconic

opera *Dido and Aeneas*. Drama pupils attended a number of live theatre productions in London; the annual school play was a double bill with scintillating productions of *Cagebirds* by David Compton and *The Musicians* by Patrick Marber, directed by Paul Elliott, Head of Drama.

There were also educational visits to a number of other locations, including the National History Museum, the Science Museum, the Imperial War Museum and the Wallace Collection in London, as well as to Hampton Court Palace. Year 8 pupils enjoyed a cultural trip to London at the end of the summer term, which included a visit to the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where they attended a lunchtime concert and had a tour of the facilities.

## 2015/16 Entry to London Conservatoires

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC	10
ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC	6
GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC & DRAMA	6
TRINITY LABAN CONSERVATOIRE OF MUSIC & DRAMA	2

# 1:4

Teacher to student ratio

# 66%

Purcell leavers went to 4 London conservatoires

# 52%

Purcell leavers awarded music college scholarships

# 93%

Year 10 students received A\* or A in GCSE Music

# 87%

Year 11 GCSE Art students received A\* or A





185

Performances  
in 2015/16

9,220

People attended  
a performance  
in 2015/16

## Musical Excellence

The school undertook its customary large number and wide range of standout musical performances in 2015/16.

Highlights included two concerts at Wigmore Hall and a performance at Milton Court Concert Hall, as well as the Freddy Morgan Piano Recitals at Kings Place, which marked our first event at the home of the London Sinfonietta and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

The students also played orchestral concerts at the Watford Colosseum, conducted by Jacques Cohen, and at the Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall, where our symphony orchestra gave an inspiring performance to a big audience, under the baton of Karina Canellakis, an exciting young American conductor making her UK debut, with piano soloist Alim Beisembayev, winner of the prestigious Cliburn Junior Competition 2015.

Other outstanding moments have been the piano department concert tour to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the Fazioli Concert Hall Sacile, Italy. Following this, The Purcell School was bestowed the title of Fazioli Centre of Excellence and hosted a recital by Angela Hewitt on our new Fazioli piano.

We also welcomed over twenty celebrated visiting musicians this past year to give a wide range of masterclasses and workshops to the pupils. 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 pupils and support their musical development. Visitors included Judith Weir (Master of the Queen's Music), David Pyatt (horn), Jackie Ross (violin), Marisa Ross (harp) and Angela Hewitt (piano).

*"It gives me great hope for the future of the music profession when I hear what these young people are capable of."*

Sir Simon Rattle CBE

# 13,875

Music lessons  
every year



## Instrumental Tuition

The Purcell School is extremely fortunate to be able to welcome 57 professional musicians to the school each week to work on an individual basis with our pupils.

Personalised instrumental tuition is a key and remarkable part of a young musician's education at The Purcell School. A pupil will spend two to three hours a week with their principal study teacher, working both technically and musically on their chosen instrument, and is afforded unrivalled exposure to a musician at the peak of their profession.

Tessa Nicholson and Tom Marandola are two such instrumental teachers.

### Tessa Nicholson Piano

Tessa has had a lifelong career as a solo pianist, chamber musician and teacher. She currently teaches at The Purcell School and the Royal Academy of Music. She has played numerous concerts all over the world and, in more recent years, has become renowned for the successes of her students, many of whom are prize winners and successful concert pianists.

Of her experience at The Purcell School, Tessa explains:

*"It has been a delight to see these young people develop and flourish both musically and personally . . . I have had several pupils who have won top prizes at major international competitions, such as*

*Alim Beisembayev, who won first prize in the 2015 Cliburn Junior Competition . . . Many of my former students are now making important recordings and playing in concert halls worldwide. In fact, it is true to say that the music world abounds with ex-Purcellians!"*

### Tom Marandola Voice

Tom has sung with many of the leading opera companies in the UK, and was a member of the original D'Oyly Carte Company. His broad range of repertoire and styles have seen him sing in musical theatre productions, as soloist in choral society concerts, on radio broadcasts, as well as recordings for several major record and TV companies.

Of teaching at The Purcell School, Tom comments:

*"It has been hugely satisfying to work with the talented young singers who have studied here and who have gone on to take up places at the major conservatoires or choral scholarships at universities. Equally satisfying has been my work with the second study singers who are all excellent musicians and players. To see them rapidly developing their vocal skills to what is sometimes first study standard is very rewarding. I still feel a great sense of honour and privilege to work in the exceptional environment that is The Purcell School."*



## Individual Highlights

Our pupils enjoy frequent success in competitions locally, nationally and internationally, and 2015/16 was no exception.

### Student Triumphs Alumni Honours

**BBC Young Musician Jazz Award 2016**  
Won by trumpeter Alexandra Ridout

**Junior Guildhall Lutine Prize 2016**  
Won by violinist Didier Osindero

**National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain**  
Violinist Millie Ashton was appointed leader and accepted the 2015 Ensemble Award on behalf of the Orchestra at the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards

**The Liszt Society Piano Prize 2015**  
Pianist Bocheng Wang was awarded second prize

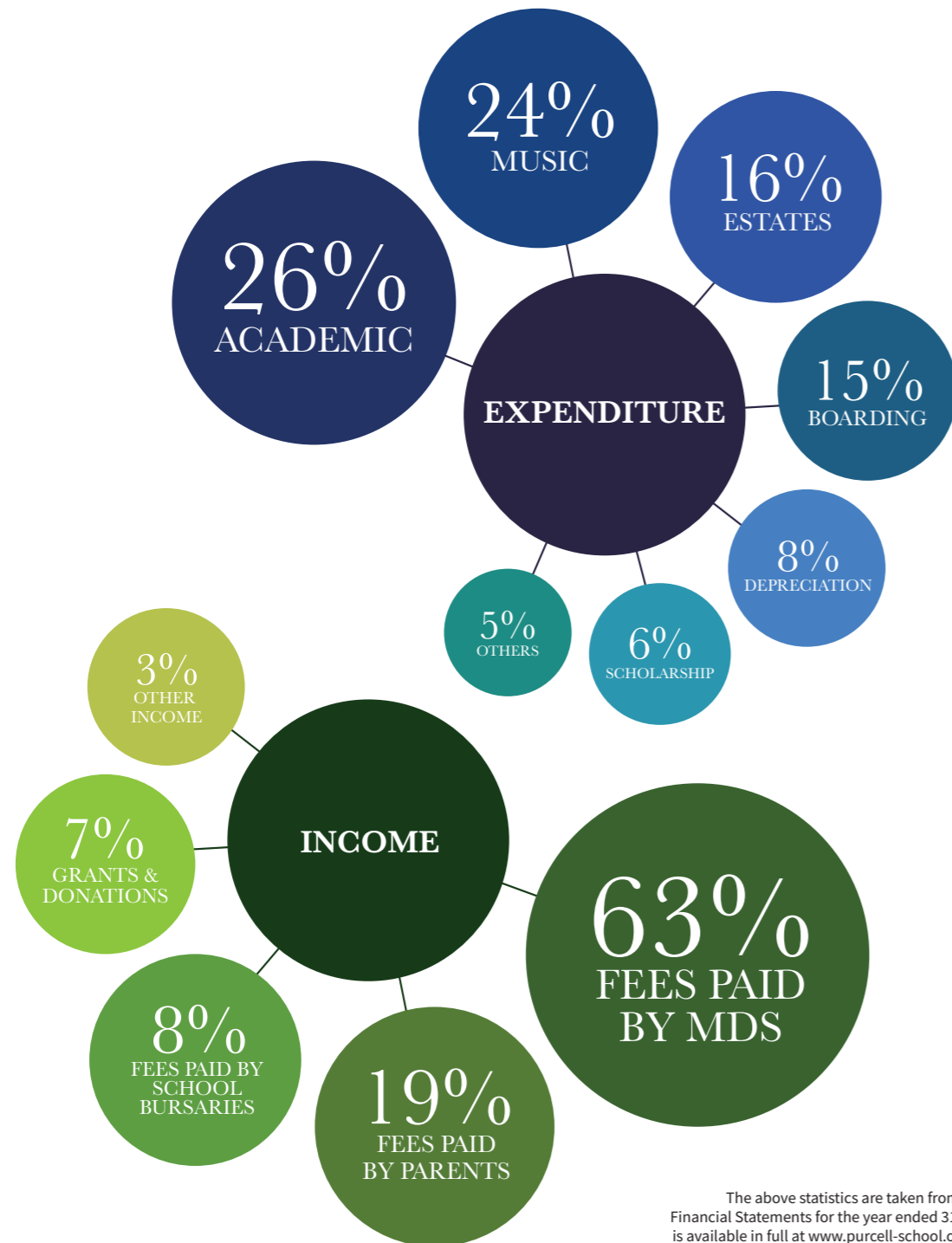
**Queen's Medal for Music**  
Awarded to conductor-composer, Oliver Knussen

**Official Harpist to HRH The Prince of Wales**  
Anne Denholm was appointed to this role and is the fifth artist to hold this position since its reinstatement in 2000

**BBC Magazine Premiere Award 2016**  
Awarded to oboist and conductor, Nicholas Daniel, for his recording of oboe concertos by Vaughan Williams and Sir James MacMillan

*"We were enchanted by Alexandra's presence as a musician, her sound, but I think most importantly there was a relationship with the blues and swinging that sounds important in her playing"*

Julian Joseph, Chair of the BBC Young Musician Award Jury



The above statistics are taken from 'Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2016', which is available in full at [www.purcell-school.org/other-documents](http://www.purcell-school.org/other-documents)

## Securing the Future for Young Musicians

The funding the school receives from the Government's Music and Dance Scheme is essential in ensuring that talented young musicians are able to fulfil their potential, regardless of financial circumstances.

Funding from the Music and Dance Scheme was stagnant from September 2010 to September 2015 and, whilst the school was grateful for the 2.7% increase received in September 2015, this barely covered the costs associated with pension auto-enrolment and changes to teacher pension arrangements.

Diversifying our income streams has become an important part of what we do. At the end of each term the school changes character as it becomes a venue for a plethora of music courses. The fundraising team work tirelessly to promote the work of the school, to develop and encourage our patrons and benefactors to support our work.

Staff work hard to find more efficient and cost effective ways to work and operate so that every penny we receive is used as effectively as possible.

Recently, we have spent some time researching our history and a search through the archives has reminded us that the school's finances have been a challenge ever since it was founded.

Staff and pupils will rely, as we have for the last 50 years, on the imagination, ingenuity and support of governors, our loyal Friends of The Purcell School, patrons and benefactors to look forward with optimism, to the future.





## Fundraising and Development

It has been a busy and productive year for the fundraising and development team. A key priority for the department is to ensure every young musician can attend The Purcell School based on their musical ability 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 Scholarship and Bursary fund has never been more essential.

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

Since 2013, we have held an Annual Fundraising Gala Dinner at a Livery Hall in the City of London and, since its inception, over 500 guests have enjoyed the event and a total of over £135 000 has been raised. 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 pupils, 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 which commenced in 2014/15. The support and generosity of guests at Goldsmiths' Hall in November 2015, enabled us to provide a full bursary for talented Year 11 cellist, Sebastian Kozub, who is flourishing at the school in both his academic and musical studies.

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	Anonymous
The Andor Charitable Trust	Mr & Mrs H Amar
Angus Allnatt Charitable Foundation	Mrs J Arwas MBE
The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust	Mr & Mrs M Garner
The John S Cohen Foundation	Mr P Hardy
Dunard Fund	Mr R Jacobs
The Ernest Cook Trust	Miss B Jarman
Fazioli Pianoforti	Mr G Meyer
Garfield Weston Foundation	Mr D Morgan
The Gosling Foundation	Mr M Saunders
The Helen Roll Charity	Mr P Sawyer
The Hobson Charity	Mr G Smallbone MBE
The Jacqueline and Michael Gee Charitable Trust	Mr G Wallace
Jaques Samuel Pianos	
The Lawton Trust Limited	The Friends of Clumber Studio
The Leverhulme Trust	The Friends of The Purcell School
The Estates of the late Sir Charles and Lady Mackerras	Guests, Suppliers and Benefactors of The Purcell School Goldsmiths' Gala Dinner November 2015
The Mills Williams Foundation	
The Ormiston Trust	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.
PF Charitable Trust	
The Radcliffe Trust	
The Robert Fleming Hannay Memorial Trust	
The Samuel Gardner Memorial Trust	
The Stanley Picker Trust	
The Taurus Foundation	



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

### Scholarships and 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, are able to attend an exclusive annual Friends' concert, receive regular updates about the school and help support the 'Friends' Scholar'.

### Corporate Support

In order to ensure we are able to route 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 on line or even booking a holiday, our charity, The Purcell School is registered on [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) website.

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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](mailto:r.blake@purcell-school.org).

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# The Purcell School

*for young musicians*

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