

Crescendo

The Official Magazine of The Purcell School for Young Musicians

December 2018



CONGRATULATIONS TO FIORE O'SULLIVAN

The winner of the 'Name the new School Magazine' competition! #Crescendo!

ESSENTIAL ADVICE FROM SIR SIMON RATTLE, CBE

Seven essential pieces of advice for young musicians in 2018 from our President

THE PURCELL SCHOOL'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA

Another fantastic gala in aid of the School, an evening of fine-dining and great music



THE PURCELL SCHOOL FUNDRAISING GALA 2018

An evening of fine dining and wonderful music to help raise vital funds for the School

On Tuesday 27th November, The Purcell School hosted its annual Fundraising Gala at Drapers' Hall. An evening such as this gives us the opportunity not only to celebrate all that is good about the Purcell School but also to reflect a little on what it is that makes it truly special.

Those who attended the event witnessed some magnificent performances throughout the night by Purcell students. The 'Vocal Group' consisting of Jaison Jeyaventhan, Gayatri Nair, Emily Price, Elissa Street and Ka Youn Yoo led by Edward Longstaff (Staff) gave a stunning performance of Debussy 3 Chansons de Charles d'Orléans and Passereau Il est bel et bon.

Violinist Octavian Pirlea, accompanied by Deborah Shah (Staff), gave a wonderful rendition of Ysaÿe Caprice d'après l'étude en forme de valse de Saint-Saëns, Op. 52 No. 6. The Purcell 'Wind Quintet' consisting of Francesca Biescas Rue, Verity Burcombe, Joseph Longstaff, Elissa Street and Ellen Wilkinson gave an incredible performance of Taffanel Wind Quintet which was followed by an Introduction by Principal Paul Bambrough and 'Reflections on Purcell' by current student Gayatri Nair and alumnus Andrew Garrido.

"Building on everything The Purcell School does well, my vision is of a school which is recognized throughout the

world as the place of first choice for any prodigiously gifted young musician. It will be a place which continues to empower and enable young people to be the very best versions of themselves, where students rub shoulders with the finest teachers in the world, where they receive guidance from the most distinguished musicians in the world, where their studies are supported by a range of exceptional performance opportunities hosted by the best venues in the worlds and broadcast by the finest broadcasters of the world.

Most of all, I want to see a School which feels like one large extended family, a place where all who contribute feel they belong, whether they are current or former students, staff, visiting artists, valued supporters, audiences, partners or parents.

I want all who encounter The Purcell School to be transformed by it." (Principal, Paul Bambrough)

The latter part of the evening saw the 'String Quartet', which included Natalya Gilfillan, Abigail James, Yasmin Strevens-Chen and Jasmine Blackshaw-Britton, performing Schumann String Quartet No.1 in A minor and the 'Jazz Quartet', Daniel Higham, Miles Mindlin, Lorenzo Morabito and Jack Thomas, perform It Could Happen To You, On The Sunny Side of The Street and Beautiful Love. Both performances were outstanding and received great praise from all those who attended.

Closing the performances, and the evening, was Purcell's Gala Scholar Yumeka Nakagawa. Her performance of Ravel *La Valse* was nothing short of spectacular and was met with many a round of applause.

"My previous school didn't

specialise in music and so, when I was offered a place at Purcell I was delighted! It has given me the opportunity to flourish and significantly increase my knowledge and enjoyment of music. As a student at Purcell I'm able to develop, not only as a soloist, but also as a chamber musician and accompanist. Music is so important to me and it constantly amazes and inspires me. Receiving such a rich and broad musical education, alongside my academic studies is a challenging, but life-changing experience. The fundraising focus of the evening is to raise much needed funds to support the Gala Bursary. Without



the help of this bursary and indeed the money raised at the Fundraising Gala events, I would be unable to experience life at Purcell. "
(Yumeka Nakagawa)

The School is incredibly proud of all those who performed throughout the course of the evening and are honoured to be represented by such talented young musicians. Many guests of the evening have said the performances this year were by far the

best they have seen at any Purcell fundraising event and were extremely impressed by the overall high standard of musical performance.

By all accounts, the night was a tremendous success and the School would like to thank everyone involved; the generous 2018 Gala Benefactors, all those who attended and supported the event, and all those who donated raffle and auction prizes.





PURCELL STUDENTS EXPLORE THE THEME OF 'GREED' THROUGH POETRY

This month, we are pleased to feature poems written by two Year 6 students entitled 'Greed'

Why does it ask for more? It's like a cup overfilling with tea The sound of money clashing down on the ground Can't you see?

Shadows on the wall looking for wealth
Thunder covers the sky with power
Why don't animals share their prey?
Bees snatch pollen from the flower

A storm of money is all they dream
Enough is never enough
Can't they control themselves?
The power is too tough

The hands loosening with weakness
Light has won,
darkness has lost all
"Why is it growing and never stopping?"
"Greed is the power that will never fall"

by Hana Shah

Never satisfied Always wanting more, Stealing stuff selfishly Not one single thought for the poor.

Hundreds of clanging coins Money dancing in their eyes, Blinded by their heart's desires Entering a money lover's paradise.

Having a full feast of food Blissful sighs crescendo around, Craving for more and more Selflessness is never found.

Emeralds, rubies, diamonds and pearls
Glittering like midnight stars,
Not caring about sharing
Concealing a mountain of gold bars.

A room full of expensive possessions with no space to breath
Our thirst for wealth made us full

Tull,
Thoughtlessness and selfishness
took over them
What greed has reaped is shown
before us all.

by Arunima Peshwe



NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA 2019

The National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain (NYO) has announced its 2019 orchestra and season. The 164 teenage musicians represent every region in the country and have been selected following 76 days of auditions held in 11 cities across the country where 710 musicians took part in auditions.

The Purcell School is extremely proud to have 8 students chosen to be part of this year's NYO; Yasmin Strevens-Chen (Co-Leader Violin 1), Lily Harwood (Principal Violin 2), Isabelle Norwood (Double Bass), Joseph Longstaff (Horn), Bethany Caswell (Principal Harp), Alexander Papp (Composer), Sasha Scott (Composer) and Rhys Concessao (Rotational Orchestra Keyboard).

The 2019 NYO recently met for the first time, rehearsing in residence at the University of Warwick with conductor Kirill Karabits (Chief Conductor of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra). Their first performance will take place on Friday 4th January at the Warwick Arts Centre. More information can be found here.

SEVEN ESSENTIAL PIECES OF ADVICE FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS

Sir Simon Rattle CBE, President of The Purcell School, gave a candid interview for the BBC on advice for young musicians in 2018

- 1. "Music may be your passion, but relationships deserve just as much hard work. At the end of your life, it's family and the people you love that you're going to remember."
- 2. "Everyone messes up at some point, it's how you deal with it that matters. I don't think there is anybody in the music business who hasn't had some really bad experiences."
- a little vulnerability. We all have problems, we all have to face them, and everybody understands.
 You would be amazed how generous people can be if you show a little bit of vulnerability."

3. "Don't be afraid to show

- 4. "Being an amazing musician doesn't make you an amazing grown-up. It is possible to have absolutely no practical knowledge of what goes on the world."
- **5. "Even world-famous** musicians have identity crises. In my 20s, I wasn't really sure whether I liked the musician in me. Often I would listen to the music I was making and think: 'Who the hell IS that person?' So I took a sabbatical to find out whether I could exist for a year without music."
- **6.** "The bonds you make with fellow musicians will be intense. There are very few professions in which people get to know each other so profoundly."

7. "And the secret to success is work like hell, stay curious, and realise that people around you are actually much nicer than you think they might be. Everyone's going to support you if you go into this business. We will all do our best because we all started there and we've all been in it."



We all feel we're in the same boat together. That, I hope, you can trust.



COMING UP

Senior Soloists

Wednesday 16th January 19:00

The Purcell School, Recital Room

Lea Kozokaro- Harp Yenglik Karassartova- Piano Carl Davis- Trombone Hugo Max- Violin Sofiia Matviienko- Flute Admission is free

Milton Court Showcase Sunday 20th January 19:30

Milton Court Concert Hall, 1 Milton Street, EC2Y 9BH

Brian Luo- Piano Alexandra Peel- Violin Elissa Street- Voice Cherry Ge- Harp Chea Woom Lee- Piano

Tickets: £15
miltoncourt.eventbrite.co.uk

01923 331109

Lower School Ensembles Wednesday 23rd January 19:00

The Purcell School, Constance Pilkington Hall

Programme to include the Junior String Ensemble performing Rautavaara's The Fiddlers, and works for Oboe Trio, flute, piano and harp. Admission is free

Purcell Chamber Choir Monday 28th January 13:00

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ Programme to include: Copland- In the Beginning Parry- My Soul, There Is A

Country
Admission is free with a
suggested donation of £3.50

Romanian Connection Tuesday 29th January

13:00

St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 4JJ

Rebeca Lazar- Violin
Radu Stoica- Piano
Ioan-Octavian Pirliea- Violin
Kira Frolu- Piano
Iohan Coman- Violin
Admission is free with a

Admission is free with a suggested donation of £3.50

Thomas Hancox Flute Recital Wednesday 30th January 13:20

The Purcell School, Constance Pilkington Hall

Thomas Hancox works regularly as guest principal flute with the UK's leading orchestras including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Admission is free



GET IN TOUCH

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