

# Crescendo

The Official Magazine of The Purcell School for Young Musicians

February 2019



## INSIDE PURCELL: SIXTH FORM SUCCESS

Our Year 13 students have been receiving incredible offers for study after Purcell

## BILLY WATMAN HEADING ON TOUR

Ortega Guitars present a sensational double header 2019 UK Acoustic Tour

## CADOGAN HALL MEET THE ARTISTS

Getting to know Natalia Luis-Bassa, Cherry Ge and Ka Youn Yoo



# INSIDE PURCELL: SIXTH FORM SUCCESS

## Taking a look at the incredible offers our Year 13 students have received for life after Purcell

The past few months have been extremely busy for our Year 13 students, many travelling to auditions and preparing for life after The Purcell School. We are extremely proud of their achievements; getting offers from some of the top institutions for further music education, many of which included scholarship offers.

**“It has been a wonderful experience for me working with this current UVI cohort, and the range of offers they have received is testament to their talent, drive and overall excellence. We have had a huge number of students offered scholarships, and I’m proud of each and every offer that these students have worked so hard to get. We don’t have a final picture yet, because as well as applying to UK Conservatoires and Universities, we have had applications this year going to US Colleges and to European Conservatoires, both of which haven’t yet released their offers, but I’m sure we’ll have success there too! The weeks leading up to Christmas are very intense for our UVI as all the UK Conservatoire auditions fall in those few weeks, and some this year had multiple auditions on the same day: our record this year was four auditions in the final week of term with auditions at**

**the Royal College and Royal Academy on the same day! A huge congratulations to everyone, whether you’re taking up an offer this year or you’re taking a year out and applying next year, you’ve all worked incredibly hard and should be massively proud of yourselves.”**

(Mr Z Szafranski, Head of Sixth Form)

**63% of all Year 13 students have received scholarship offers to their first choice of study**

with places confirmed for the Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, Oxford University, King’s College London, Birmingham University, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and SOAS University of London.

**“Applying to Oxbridge was a challenging yet highly rewarding experience. The research needed to write my personal statement for the application did much to expand my knowledge of music, and through the written work and the interview itself, I developed a new critical understanding of the musicology and aesthetics, which has had a positive impact on my performance and academic work. I am looking forward**

**to finishing my A-Levels and preparing for what I hope to be an intense three years at Oxford!”**

(Hannah Capstick, Year 13, offer to study Music at Oxford University)

The Purcell School takes great pride in all students’ accomplishments and aims to put all our efforts into ensuring students can continue their musical careers with the teacher and at the institution of their choice.

We have seen great success from past Purcell students, and even in just the past year there have been a number of noteworthy mentions! In November, 19-year-old trumpeter Alexandra Ridout won the British Jazz Awards Rising Star title, having won the BBC Young Jazz Musician award two years previously. Alexandra says Purcell was the springboard to her success.

Last July former Purcell pupil and double-Grammy winner Jacob Collier gave an adventurous BBC Prom at the Royal Albert Hall, at the age of just 23, providing a cross-cultural and collaborative feast of mostly original music, while his second album, Djesse (Vol 1), has just been released and currently being played to audiences across the globe on his world tour.

We have no doubt that this year’s graduates will follow in the same footsteps and go on to lead fantastic careers in the world of music and we look forward to hearing all about their future success and endeavours!



ORTEGA GUITARS • EST 1994

ORTEGA GUITARS PRESENT A  
SENSATIONAL DOUBLE HEADER  
2019 UK ACOUSTIC TOUR



ORTEGA GUITARS • EST 1994



STAND OUT PERFORMANCES DRIPPING WITH  
ATMOSPHERE - ACOUSTIC MAGAZINE

**JON HART**

**&**

**BILLY WATMAN**

"SKY ARTS  
GUITAR STAR FINALIST"

5TH APRIL - CROYDON  
"THE FRONT ROOM"

6TH APRIL - CHESHAM  
"THE DRAWINGROOM"

12TH APRIL - SOUTHAMPTON  
"THE ART HOUSE"

14TH APRIL - THAME  
"PLAYERS THEATRE"

25TH JULY - WINDSOR  
GUITAR NIGHT  
"THE OLD COURT"

26TH JULY - MANCHESTER  
GUITAR NIGHT  
"THE THREE MINUTE THEATRE"

FOR TICKET DETAILS VISIT  
WWW.BILLYWATMAN.COM  
WWW.JONHARTMUSIC.COM



ORTEGA GUITARS • EST 1994

## BILLY WATMAN SETS OUT ON TOUR WITH JON HART

Year 13 student Billy Watman will be embarking on a UK tour sponsored by Ortega Guitars

Acoustic guitarist maestros Billy Watman & Jon Hart team up for a spectacular double headed UK Tour this spring and summer sponsored by Ortega guitars. In April, they will head South to Buckinghamshire (The Drawing Room, Chesham), Hampshire (The Art House, Southampton), Oxfordshire (Thame Players

Theatre, Thame) and South London (The Front Room, Croydon) where they will showcase new material from their upcoming releases along with gems from their old material. The Northern leg of the tour will kick off at the prestigious Manchester Guitar night in July, with further dates to be added soon. With a mix

of fingerstyle, classical, folk, rock and singer-songwriter all attendees will be blown away with not only two distinctive solo sets, but they will witness a short duo set with these two great guitarists.

Current Purcell student Billy Watman, is an award winning 17 year old Anglo-Brazilian classical / fingerstyle guitarist. In 2016, he reached the grand final of ‘Guitar Star’ for Sky Arts TV, broadcast in Europe, Australia and South America. His audition for the show, performing ‘Bohemian Rhapsody’ at London’s Royal Festival Hall was an internet sensation, altogether his videos have been seen by over 60 million people. In 2018 he successfully auditioned for, and was offered a scholarship at, the world renowned ‘Royal College of Music’ in London, where he will study with classical virtuoso Gary Ryan.

UK Fingerstyle Singer-songwriter Jon Hart has received critical acclaim from across the acoustic guitar world for his debut album ‘Reborn’ (co-produced by Chris Woods Groove), folk-fingerstyle album ‘Set Adrift’ with Daryl Kellie and three EPs ‘Defuse’, ‘Sticks & Stones’ and ‘Momento’ (the latter produced by Declan Zapala).

He has toured throughout the UK (recently with Maneli Jamal) and Europe, with performances at Isle of Wight Festival, London Acoustic Guitar Show, The Turner Sims Concert Hall, and Ullapool Guitar Festival where he co-headlined with fingerstyle legend Preston Reed.



# UPCOMING CONCERT - CADOGAN HALL: MEET THE ARTISTS

In a month's time, on Monday 25th March, the Symphony Orchestra will be giving a concert at London's Cadogan Hall.

We would like to invite you to come and hear them in a performance of Márquez's Danzón, the modern Mexican classic inspired by a Cuban dance; Ginastera's Harp Concerto with its dazzling virtuosity and percussive South American rhythms; Rachmaninov's iconic, exceptionally orchestrated Symphonic Dances; and a new piece written by student, Ka Youn Yoo, incorporating traditional Korean dance-like elements. The concert will be conducted by Natalia Luis-Bassa and our harp soloist will be Cherry Ge.

## Natalia Luis-Bassa - Conductor

Natalia began her musical studies at the world famous El Sistema in Venezuela. She



read music at the University Institute of Musical Studies (IUDEM), an institution that belongs to the Venezuelan musical system, being the first person to obtain a degree in Orchestral Conducting in her native country.

After some years Natalia completed her studies at the Royal College of Music in London, where she held the RCM Junior Fellowship in Opera Conducting for two years. Her relationship with the RCM still continues nowadays, as she is a Professor of Conducting. Natalia holds a Master's Degree from The University of Huddersfield and has been appointed Elgar Ambassador. She is currently Musical Director of the Hallam Sinfonia in Sheffield, the National Children's Orchestra London Regional, Principal Conductor of the Wellington College Symphony Orchestra.

## Cherry Ge - Harp Soloist

Born in Singapore, Cherry Ge started the piano aged four, with the harp following a year later. At the age of 8, she was a finalist in the 2009 Thailand International Harp competition, winning a special award for the Youngest Harpist in the Under 16 Category. The following year, she achieved First Prize in the Under 15 category at the 2010 Malaysia-Singapore Harp competition, and also gave a performance on both harp and piano for achieving the highest national score in her respective ABRSM



exams in Singapore. In 2011, the same year she joined The Purcell School, she won 1st Prize in Category A at the Young Pianist of the North International Competition in Newcastle. The next year, she was awarded the Finalist 1st Prize of Category B along with the special prize; 'Citta di Taurisano', at the 12th European Grand Prize of Music, in Taurisano, Italy.

Cherry has since won numerous First Prizes in Bromley, Beckenham and North London Music Festivals, and in 2014, was awarded the Beckenham Young Musician of the Year Prize and the Tom and Pat Sowerby award.

At present, Cherry performs regularly both as a soloist and as part of chamber ensembles. Winning numerous school competitions in both harp and piano have also granted her opportunities to perform in venues such as Wigmore Hall

and Southbank's Purcell Room, among others. As a dedicated orchestral harpist, she was Principal harp in the National Youth Orchestra, Barbican Youth orchestra, National Children's Orchestra, and is currently Principal harp of The Purcell School Orchestra.

At The Purcell School, Cherry is generously supported by the Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust. She is joint first-study in piano and harp, and is very grateful to her respective teachers, Christopher Elton and Charlotte Seale.

## Ka Youn Yoo - Composer

Ka Youn Yoo was born in South Korea in 2000. She began her musical journey when she was seven years old as a member of the Little Angels Academy which is a Korean folk performing arts group and choir. In 2010, she had the opportunity to visit sixteen United Nations countries and performed as a soloist with her choir for the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Korean War. Ka Youn went on to study at the Yewon Arts Middle School, majoring in vocal



studies, and then to Seoul Arts High School, majoring in composition. She is currently studying composition, voice, piano and conducting at The Purcell school. In 2018, she was a winner in the Royal Opera House Fanfare Competition, and was invited to the Royal Opera House on two occasions: to attend an orchestration workshop with educator/composer Steven Berryman, and then to hear the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House record her piece under the direction of Music Director Sir Antonio Pappano. Her Fanfare will be played at performances throughout the 2018/19 Season.

Her particular interests in music are ethnomusicology and the classical era. When she leaves Purcell she wants to study music at university in the UK.

*Check out our weekly highlights next week for an interview with Ka Youn about her new piece!*



**The Purcell School**  
for young musicians

**RACHMANINOFF**  
**SYMPHONIC DANCES**

**GINASTERA**  
**HARP CONCERTO**

**MÁRQUEZ**  
**DANZÓN NO. 2**

**KA YOUN YOO**  
**TAEPYEONG**

Natalia Luis-Bassa - conductor  
Cherry Ge - harp  
The Purcell School Symphony Orchestra

Monday 25 March, 7:30pm

Tickets: £20, £17.50, £15, £12.50

Concession (students/under 18s) £5 off

Transaction fees apply

Box Office: 020 7730 4500 [www.cadoganhall.com](http://www.cadoganhall.com)



# COMING UP

PHILOMEL ORCHESTRA  
Tuesday 5th March - 19:00  
The Purcell School, CP Hall  
Admission is free

LEEDS INTERNATIONAL  
CONCERT SEASON  
Wednesday 6th March - 13:05  
The Venue, Leeds College of  
Music, LS2 7PD  
Ellen Wilkinson - Oboe  
Alpay Inkilap - Violin  
Kasparas Mikuzis - Piano  
Admission is free

JOHN TURVILLE QUINTET  
feat. FULIAN ARGUELLES  
*HEAD FIRST TOUR 2019*  
Wednesday 6th March - 19:00  
The Purcell School, CP Hall  
An all-star group, led by  
award-winning pianist John  
Turville, featuring a frontline  
of the lyrical and multi-faceted  
trumpeter Robbie Robson and  
world-renowned composer and  
saxophonist Julian Arguelles.  
Admission is free

JOHN ASHTON THOMAS & THE  
PURCELL SCHOOL BIG BAND  
Monday 11th March - 19:00  
The Purcell School, CP Hall  
Featuring the music of John  
Ashton Thomas. Thomas has  
written music for a wide range  
of film scores, from Robert  
Zemeckis's "A Christmas Carol"  
and "Ice Age" 2, 3 and 4 to three  
of the "Bourne" series, and has  
composed dozens of pieces of  
production and TV music.  
Admission is free

PIANO SHOWCASE -  
CELEBRATING ISAAC ALBENIZ  
Wednesday 13th March - 19:00  
The Purcell School, CP Hall  
Isaac Albéniz is best known  
for piano music that brilliantly  
evokes the spirit of Spain.  
Admission is free

SYMPHONIC DANCES  
*THE PURCELL SCHOOL  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA*  
Wednesday 29th March - 19:30  
Cadogan Hall, 5 Sloane Terrace,  
Belgravia, London, SW1X 9DQ  
Tickets: From £12.50 - £20  
(Under 18s get a £5 discount)  
(£3 online transaction fee)  
[www.cadoganhall.com/whats-on/purcell-school-symphony-orchestra-190325](http://www.cadoganhall.com/whats-on/purcell-school-symphony-orchestra-190325)

SOUND IMAGE MOVEMENT  
Thursday 28th March - 19:30  
The Purcell School, Recital  
Room  
Programme to include excerpts  
from Stravinsky's *Soldier's Tale*  
with dancers from the Bearfoot  
Dance Company, electronic  
music, film scores, multi-media  
and improvisation.  
Admission is free



**FREDDY MORGAN**  
**PIANO RECITALS**

 **The Purcell School**  
for young musicians

**Monday 29 April | 7:45pm**  
**Purcell Room, Southbank**

Tickets: £10 - £15  
Booking fee: £3.00  
[southbankcentre.co.uk](http://southbankcentre.co.uk)

## GET IN TOUCH

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01923 331 100  
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PR & Communications / News  
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## KEEP UP TO DATE

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