

Crescendo

The Official Magazine of The Purcell School for Young Musicians

January 2019



INSIDE PURCELL: LET'S TALK STRINGS

An insight into The Purcell School's Strings Department led by Charles Sewart

PRIDE & MUSIC FEBRUARY 2019

Showcasing and celebrating the contributions made by LGBT+ composers and artists

THE PURCELL SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

A massive thank you to the students and parents who offered their services!



INSIDE PURCELL: LET'S TALK STRINGS

An insight into The Purcell School's Strings Department led by Charles Sewart

The Strings Department at Purcell has had success over many years with former students playing all across the globe following their time at the School. The past few months have been an exciting time for the department; we have recently seen the addition of three new teachers and another teacher coming to the department very soon.

Aiste Dvarionaite (Violin) is a fourth generation musician coming from one of the most famous musicians' dynasties in Lithuania. Both her grandparents from her father's side were piano professors at Vilnius Music Academy, one of which included Balys Dvarionas who was a well-known composer and conductor of the Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra. Aldona

Dvarionaite, Aiste's aunt, was a famous pianist, especially in Poland, and her brother Justas is a pianist and the current Vice President of EMCY (a network of over fifty international and national European music competitions for young people). Aiste's father Jurgis Dvarionas is a well-known professor of violin at The Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. Prof Jurgis Dvarionas was brought up by Prof Boris Belenky at the Moscow State Conservatory who was trained by another stellar violinist Leo Zeitlin.

No wonder that Aiste followed in her family footsteps and is fostering the best traditions of the best violin school. Aiste's learning began when she was only four year old, playing recitals from the age of six.

Also new to the department, Anna-Liisa Bezrodny (Violin), was born into a distinguished family of musicians in Moscow, and currently in great demand as a soloist, recitalist and chamber musician, receiving praise from critics about her performances around the globe. At the age of two she began her violin studies with her parents, and at the age of nine she enrolled at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland, in the class of her parents, Prof. Igor Bezrodny and Prof. Mari Tampere-Bezrodny. Her later years took her to London, winning the Gold Medal (2006), the most prestigious award from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, previously won by masters such as Bryn Terfel and Jaqueline du Pre.

Over the years Anna-Liisa has appeared as a soloist with orchestras in the most prestigious concert venues in the world, such as Royal Festival Hall, Barbican Hall, Wigmore Hall, Konzerthaus Berlin, Cologne Philharmonie,

Cadogan Hall, Finlandia Hall, Estonia Hall and the Moscow Conservatoire Great Hall. Anna-Liisa has worked with outstanding maestros such as Leif Segerstam, Nikolay Alekseyev, Eri Klas, Paavo Järvi, Olari Elts, Sian Edwards, Sascha Goetzel, Juha Kangas, Mihkel Kutson, Robin O'Neil, Arvo Volmer, Paul Magi, and many others.

Along with Aiste and Anna-Liisa, we welcome Leon Bosch (Double Bass), an internationally renowned classical double bass virtuoso. Leon grew up in 1960s and '70s South Africa, the son of the political activist Jonas Fred Bosch. He left the apartheid regime to study at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester after achieving the highest ever marks awarded for the B. Mus performance examination at the University of Cape Town. Remaining in the UK, he was soon appointed principal double bass with the acclaimed Academy of St Martin in the Fields. He left the post in 2014 to devote

himself to his solo career, to teaching and to establish his now thriving chamber ensemble, I Musicanti. He also conducts and has a passion for researching lost or forgotten music for double bass such as by the Catalan Josep Cervera and the Danish court musician, Franz Keyper.

With over a dozen solo CDs to his name, he regularly commissions repertoire for the instrument, making recital and concerto appearances around the world. Whilst teaching in London, he also gives masterclasses in the US, Europe, South Africa and the Far East, and coaches young eastern European musicians in the I, Culture Orchestra in Poland and the young South Africans who make up the Miagi Orchestra. He also acts as a mentor for South African musicians worldwide.

Coming soon to The Purcell School Strings Department is Joo Yeon Sir (Violin), a Korean-born British violinist and the winner of the prestigious Arts

Club Karl Jenkins Classical Music Award in association with Classic FM and the Royal College of Music's President's Award. She has performed at the Royal Albert Hall with Sir Karl Jenkins and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Festival Hall, Wigmore Hall, Manchester Bridgewater Hall and at St. James's Place for HRH The Prince of Wales. Joo Yeon also regularly appears on BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM. Her repertoire is striking and diverse. She has played concertos by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Barber, Dvorak, Sibelius, Walton, Bruch and Brahms; other concerto repertoire includes Haydn, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky, and a particular interest in 20th century works- Prokofiev, Khachaturian, Korngold, Elgar, Britten, Schnittke, Khachaturian and Shostakovich. In recital, she is equally at home in solo violin repertoire (Bach, Ysaye, Kreisler and Paganini) as she is in close collaboration with piano or guitar (the latter as one half of the Snowden-Sir Duo).



Also a composer, Joo Yeon is a former winner of the coveted BBC/Guardian Young Composer of the Year and her works have been premiered and performed at the Wigmore Hall and on BBC Radio 3. Her latest work, written for herself and duo guitar partner, Laura Snowden, was premiered on BBC Radio 3 to celebrate International Women's Day 2017.

Along with new additions to the department, students are fortunate enough to take part in Masterclasses given by incredibly talented musicians. This year, we have already seen violinist and Chamber Musician in Residence at the Royal Academy of Music, Levon Chilingirian, give a Chamber Music Masterclass, renowned soloist and chamber musician Jack Liebeck take a Violin and Chamber Music Masterclass along with performer, editor and composer, Simon Rowland-Jones giving a Viola Masterclass.

The next few months will continue with this fantastic trend with Jack Liebeck returning to the School offering a Violin Masterclass on Wednesday 6th February and Alina Ibragimova; one of the most accomplished and intriguing violinists of her generation, leading a Violin Masterclass on Wednesday 27th February and Wednesday 13th March.

The School will also play host to British cellist Josephine Knight, one of the most sought after performers of her generation, who will be leading a Cello Masterclass on

Monday 6th March. Josephine has performed as a soloist with leading orchestras across the world and has worked with many conductors including Vasily Petrenko, Christian Zacharis, Richard Hickox and Jac Van Steen.

Described in *The Strad* as 'an uninhibited virtuoso, with soul and fabulous technique', the Romanian-born violinist Remus Azoitei, graduate of the Julliard School in New York will be taking a Violin Masterclass on Wednesday 20th March and Wednesday 3rd July. Remus has been a featured soloist of many prestigious ensembles including the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National de Belgique and Deutsches Kammerorchester.

Last, but not least, Guy Johnston, one of the most exciting and versatile British cellists of his generation will be giving a Cello Masterclass on Wednesday 1st May. Born into a musical family, Guy joined his brother in the world-renowned choir of King's College, Cambridge, where he recorded the famous carol *Once in Royal David's City*, under Stephen Cleobury. Guy then went on to achieve early success winning BBC Young Musician of the Year, the Guilhemina Suggia Gift, the Shell London Symphony Orchestra Gerald MacDonald Award along with receiving a Classical Brit Award. His mentors have included Steven Doane, Ralph Kirshbaum and Bernard Greenhouse.

"The last few months have seen outstanding work from string players of all ages and disciplines. The run-up to Music College auditions is always a challenging time for Upper-Sixth students and I am immensely proud of the commitment and resilience shown by our students throughout this process. The offers of places for further study is highly impressive and it is re-assuring to know that, as a result, students will have the finest opportunities to continue their studies after Purcell. In the middle-school I am delighted that we will have three string soloists performing concerto movements with the Sinfonia: Henrietta Dalglish – Barber Violin concerto, Tianao Pan – Shostakovich 'cello concerto, Ella Richardson- Lalo *Symphonie Espagnole* and the Lower School strings have recently excelled themselves with colourful and energetic interpretation of Rautavaara "Fiddlers" in our ensemble concert. The recent chamber music auditions revealed an incredible and broad range of work with of outstanding performances in a wide range of instrumental combinations and repertoire including students' own compositions; most impressive to me has been the eagerness for our students to self-motivate and learn to work independently. The quality of performance, dedication to practice and broad range of experience and insight offered by my professors is truly inspirational and I am honoured to be in a position to oversee and help to nurture this precious musical talent." - **Charles Sewart**

A COMPELLING LOVE LETTER TO ELGAR, TO MUSIC AND TO LIFE

This is a gem of a book, unlike any other work that I can think of. The stunningly gifted violinist Alda Dizdari fell in love with Elgar's violin concerto, and decided – against many odds – to introduce it to two South-East European countries where it had never been played before, Albania and Romania. The result is a fascinating book which does three things at once. It tells us about the concerto, from a soloist's point of view; it describes the experiences of a travelling musician, encountering unknown orchestras and unpredictable conductors; and it explores Alda Dizdari's own feelings and memories as she revisited Albania, the country of her early childhood, and Romania, where she spent some of her formative years. Interspersed with the text are extracts from recordings of the concerto; while they illuminate the book, the experiences she describes give them a richer meaning too.

Sir Noel Malcolm, Senior Research Fellow, All Souls College, Oxford; author of *George Enescu: His Life and Music*

www.aldadizdari.co.uk



KISS ME AGAIN

A Memoir of Elgar in
Unusual Places
ALDA DIZDARI

KISS ME AGAIN: A MEMOIR OF ELGAR IN UNUSUAL PLACES

Alda Dizdari, of The Purcell School Strings Department, talks about her latest venture

Albanian born Alda Dizdari's passion for things English echoes that of Byron's – a love affair with an adopted country and its best music and culture. England is more than Alda's home for the past 10 years. She says that British values, way of life, culture, liberal thinking and democracy are qualities she loves about her adopted home. And for her as a passionate musician, Elgar's music is the heart of England. "If I bring Elgar's music alive and the English countryside visible to the eyes of every person I play to, be that in Albania, Poland, Russia or Romania, then my mission is completed. Everybody must

have some Elgar in their life!" English values are worth living and fighting for she says and musically she is a great promoter of the essence of everything English exemplified by the music of Edward Elgar. Following her travels, Alda released a memoir entitled "Kiss me again, a diary of Elgar in unusual places", recording the journey with the music of Elgar in some unusual unbeatn tracks of Eastern Europe. Much more than just a book about music, this is a journey that blazes a trail through time and explores Alda's relationship with her dramatic past, the world she left behind as a young girl in

Albania and later as a young woman in Romania. Elgar is the meeting point of her past and her present.

"This concerto is a symphony with a soloist. My dream is to perform and to have people not commenting on my playing but just recognising the power and beauty of Elgar's music. I have had no difficulty sharing this great love of mine with people that knew nothing about British music. Because of his love of music and the violin' Elgar speaks to this still largely rural people. His evocation of land and water and nature, forests and mountains in his music get to them in ways that amazed me."

Alda will be giving a lecture recital and book signing at The Purcell School on 3rd July 2019. Booking information will be published in the Summer Concert Guide.

PRIDE OF MUSIC: OLD COLOURS, NEW LIGHT

Celebrating the artistic contributions LGBT+ artists have made in the realms of music and beyond

Year 13 student, Josh Mock has curated two unique events which will take place during LGBT+ History Month (February) to showcase LGBT+ composers and artists.

The first event, taking place at The Purcell School on February 6th, will feature new works written by Purcell School students, who have been inspired by LGBT+ artists and creators, performed by the innovative PRISM Ensemble.

The second event at St. John's Church, Waterloo on February 8th will feature LGBT+ music from across the centuries – everything from Tchaikovsky to arrangements of Queen and Britney Spears, and will be a celebration of LGBT+ art, music, and culture.

This week, we were able to sit down and interview Josh with a Q&A to get his thoughts on the project, and here's what he had to say..

Why is this concert important to you?

This concert is chance for me to showcase and celebrate a small section of the wonderful musical output that the LGBT+ community, a community I am proud of, has produced across time.

Hopefully I can highlight the importance of their work and

show other young people - queer or not- that their identity should not be a barrier to expression and that they should take pride in the communities they are apart of.

Why do you think there is a need to highlight LGBT+ music?

When I asked a group of young composers to name as many LGBT+ composers as they could, I was met with many blank sheets of paper! LGBT+ composers have been cornerstones of classical music, and I think it's important that audiences learn more about who these colossal artists are and which communities they were a part of.

In addition we still live in a world that, despite becoming more progressive, still oppresses LGBT+ people, and by showcasing their music I hope to highlight the good and beauty that all people gain from the LGBT+ community and how we are a force for good.

How did you choose the repertoire, and why are you focusing on some less well-known composers/pieces?

My initial stages of research were simply to put "LGBT+ composers" into Google! As trivial as it sounds, this brought up a wealth of information for



me to sift through. I discovered lots of composers who I'd never heard of, but who I thought were fascinating and iconic nonetheless.

It was important to me to include pieces by queer female composers, who are often under-represented in concerts. Ethel Smyth was a natural choice for the concert, as her story as a queer suffragette composer is nothing short of amazing!

I also wanted to make the concert as accessible and as friendly to those who wouldn't usually choose to go to a classical concert, which is why I included the Nutcracker Suite, as it's recognisable and can be narrated to bring it alive to the audience.

What has it been like as a student curating and organising these events?

Although organising these events have been extremely challenging, it has been an invaluable learning experience. I've had to approach

individuals and organisations out of the blue, organise rehearsals, hand out flyers, attend meetings etc.

In the process I've learnt how to pitch my ideas effectively, the importance of clear communication, and people management skills.

I could not have done this alone, and I'm so grateful to all those who've helped with organising, spreading the word, and giving sage advice, as well as all the students who have so graciously (and keenly!) taken part! I would encourage young

musicians to put on events, as the skills you learn in the process will stand you in good stead for being a professional of any kind.

Who are your LGBT+ role models?

I'm quite lucky in that I am involved with an LGBT+ Youth Project in Manchester called The Proud Trust, who work tirelessly to support queer youth and the wider community, and so many of the volunteers and workers there have been inspiring and nurturing.

I'm also a huge fan of Vicky Beeching, a former Christian recording artist who chose to come out and leave her career as a musician in order to advocate for better inclusion of LGBT+ people across society, especially within the church. Her vulnerability is admirable, and I am in awe of her intellectual abilities! I would recommend that everyone read her book and follow her on Twitter!

My final role model is Harvey Milk, the first openly gay person to be elected to public office in America. He worked fearlessly and tirelessly to further the LGBT+ cause, until he was murdered by a colleague.

I highly recommend the film Milk if you want to find out more- but make sure you have tissues nearby!

We would like to say a massive thank you to Josh for his work in creating these two events.

For tickets to the second event being held at St. John's Church please click [here](#). (Tickets are £5 in advance)



 **The Purcell School**
for young musicians

PRIDE AND MUSIC

OLD COLOURS NEW LIGHT

**Celebrating the artistic contributions LGBT+ artists
have made in the realms of music and beyond**

Featuring...

- PRISM Youth Ensemble
- Tchaikovsky Nutcracker Suite arr. for Piano Four Hands
- Ethel Smyth String quintet
- Queen Bohemian Rhapsody and Britney Spears *Toxic*
arr. for Bassoon Quartet
- New music by talented teenage composers
- ...and much more!

Wednesday 6 February 7.00pm
The Purcell School, Bushey
Free Admission, no ticket required

Friday 8 February 7.00pm
St. John's Church, Waterloo
Admission £5
prideandmusic.eventbrite.co.uk

COMING UP

Sinfonia Orchestra

Friday 1st February
19:00
The Purcell School, Constance
Pilkington Hall
Concerto soloists:
Henrietta Dalglish - Violin
Ella Richardson - Violin
Tianao Pan - Cello
Admission is free

Pride and Music: Old Colours New Light

Wednesday 6th February
19:00
The Purcell School, Constance
Pilkington Hall
Admission is free

Friday 8th February
19.00

St Johns Church, Waterloo
Tickets: £5
prideandmusic.eventbrite.co.uk
01923 331109

Chamber Choir and Prism Ensemble

Saturday 9th February
19:30
Stanborough Park Church,
Watford, WD25 9JL
Copland - In the Beginning
Paul Newland - 12.04.19
Pauline Oliveros - Wind Horse
Josh Mock - Tides
Alex Papp - Adrenaline
Plus new works by Lauren
Marshall and Rio Harada-Parr
Admission is free

Concert for the Friends of Benslow Music

Monday 11th February
15:00
Benslow Music, Benslow Lane,
Hitchin, Herts, SG4 9RB
Radu Stoica, Lucia Breslin, Lydia
Cochrane, Fiore O'Sullivan and
Ivan Varchenko, Benji Lock,
Rebeca Lazar, Anya Blue Robins,
Catherine White and Tianao Pan
Tickets are £8 on the door only

Three Rivers Music Society

Wednesday 13th February
13:00
Baptist Church, High Street,
Rickmansworth, Herts, WD31EH
Deniz Cengiz, Zara Williams,
Magdalene Ho, Alpay Inkilap,
Emily Henderson, Billy Watman
and Petar Jovanovic
*Tickets are £6 on the door. Free
for under-25's*

Middle School Chamber Ensembles

Wednesday 27th February
19:00
The Purcell School, Recital
Room
Programme to include
Schubert's Trout Quintet and
works for clarinet trio, jazz
trumpet, voice, bassoon, violin
and piano
Admission is free



GET IN TOUCH

General Enquiries- School Office
01923 331 100
schooloffice@purcell-school.org

Concert and Ticket Information
concerts@purcell-school.org

PR & Communications / News
publicity@purcell-school.org

KEEP UP TO DATE

www.purcell-school.org

Facebook: @PurcellSchool

Twitter: @PurcellSchool

Instagram: the_purcell_school

YouTube: The Purcell School

FIND US

The Purcell School
Aldenham Road
Bushey, Hertfordshire
WD23 2TS

Nearest Stations:
Watford (Met Line)
Bushey (London Overground)
Stanmore (Jubilee Line)