

Tempo!

Scholars' Magazine

Introduction from the Chief Executive

Welcome to the 2019 Autumn/Winter issue of Tempo. We are delighted to be sharing the latest London Music Fund news with you all. It's been a fantastic year with many exciting events and success stories.

On 7 July we held our Gala at the Royal Academy of Music: the 2015-19 Scholars graduated, and 80 current and graduate Scholars gave the world premiere of Deborah Pritchard's *Above Earth*, a piece of music culminating from the workshops at our spring Playing Days. Over the summer we enjoyed reading our Scholars' end of year reports and hearing all about their achievements and performances. On 30 September we were absolutely thrilled to welcome 60 new Scholars – our largest cohort since 2014 – to City Hall for Awards Day. We are looking forward to hearing how they get on in their first term as LMF Scholars!

We really do have so many success stories and good news items to share with you that we haven't been able to fit them all into this magazine. We hope you enjoy reading about our Scholars and are as impressed by their talent and dedication as we are. Please do get in touch to let us know what you think.

Chrissy Kinsella, Chief Executive

**Music has
the power to
change lives**

R'wan's story

12 year old R'wan is an ambitious and enthusiastic musician who has thrived in the first year of his Scholarship.

This summer R'wan achieved a distinction for his Grade 5 Trumpet exam which is outstanding for a Scholar in their first year. When R'wan was nominated for a London Music Fund Scholarship his instrumental tutor told us that he is "an exceptionally gifted individual who at such a young age demonstrates a very high standard of musical talent and musicianship."

R'wan has had a spectacularly busy year of performances, including the Brent Music Service (BMS) Junior Musician of the Year competition (in which he was a runner up), a concert at Willesden Library with a brass ensemble, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra-led ConeXXion's project and a charity community fête performance with Brent Music Service's Concert Band. R'wan also loved performing at the Royal Academy of Music for our Gala performance of 'Above Earth' by Deborah Pritchard in July.

R'wan's dedication and commitment to learning the trumpet is clearly admirable and we are so proud to have him as one of our Scholars.

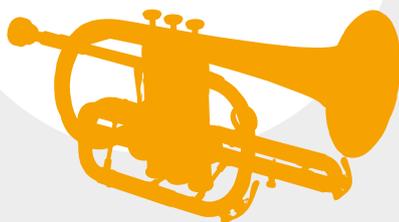
♪ R'wan's Mentor at Brent Music Service told us: "R'wan is an incredibly enthusiastic musician who has used every opportunity provided by the LMF. He has performed as a feature soloist in all of his school concerts. He is an extremely confident performer. On stage he seems totally at home – calm and professional but then playing with great gusto."

♪ R'wan told us: "Thank you very much for supporting me throughout this year – I am enjoying this experience so much! The London Music Fund has enabled me to do a lot more than I had been able to do before, for example I have competed in the finals for Brent Junior Musician of the Year and I've helped at a BMS 'play day' to encourage other children to learn instruments."



R'wan

**Brent Music Service
2018-2022**



Recent exam successes

We have had so many excellent grade exam results over the past few months so it was very tricky to only pick a few to publish! Congratulations to the following Scholars who have achieved brilliant grades in their exams.

🎵 **R'wan Robertson-Yebovi**, Brent
Trumpet ★ *Grade 5 (distinction)*

🎵 **Shreya Mulay**, Harrow
Flute ★ *Grade 5 (distinction)*

🎵 **Fjorela Dushi**, Barnet
Violin ★ *Grade 4 (distinction)*

🎵 **Kinga Tomasiak**, Ealing
Violin ★ *Grade 1 (distinction)*

🎵 **Ali Soualah**, Hounslow
Clarinet ★ *Grade 3 (merit)*

🎵 **Joy Carter**, Bromley
Flute ★ *Grade 5 (merit)*

🎵 **Francesca Fitzgerald**, Bromley
Oboe ★ *Grade 5 (merit)*

🎵 **Krishanth Sujeevan**, Harrow
Violin ★ *Grade 2 (merit)*

🎵 **Nathan-Asher Toluwanimi Oriakhi**, Newham
Drum kit ★ *Grade 6 (merit)*

🎵 **Jack Cain Philips**, Brent
Trombone ★ *Grade 2 (merit)*

🎵 **Sador Hailu**, Hounslow
Clarinet ★ *Grade 2 (merit)*

🎵 **Ciara McAuliffe**, Harrow
Violin ★ *Grade 1 (merit)*



Ellie

**Wandsworth Music Service
2018-2022**

Ellie's mum says: "The amazing journey that my daughter has been on since September 2018, thanks to London Music Fund, is beyond words but simply inspirational. From the opening ceremony on 17 September 2018, to playing with the fantastic Julian Bliss at the Guildhall, plus Ellie has been invited to Easter and Summer courses at the Guildhall. Thank you so much London Music Fund. You became a part of our family at the right time!"

Ellie's Music Service Mentor told us: "Ellie has a keen interest in singing as well as playing the guitar and so she has taken on one of the lead vocalist roles in our Intermediate Pop Band – also playing the guitar. She has had a great first year as a scholar and I am sure she will continue to progress well."

Scholar of the month

Every month on our website we celebrate the achievements of our Scholars with a 'Scholar of the Month' feature. Ellie featured in November.

11-year-old Ellie from Wandsworth is in the second year of her Scholarship and is making amazing progress on the electric guitar. She is a hardworking and dedicated student and really makes the most of every opportunity. She has been to several LMF Playing Days this year and has taken part in numerous performances all over London. Ellie is also a budding singer!

We asked Ellie about her musical journey so far...

Why did you decide to play the guitar?

In Year 3, all of the pupils had to pick an instrument to play. My first choice was the drums and second was the guitar. I didn't get my first choice and I was very disappointed. When I told my Mum she said that my grandfather would be proud and it was blessing that I was playing the guitar. I never imagine how much my life has changed. I started playing the acoustic guitar and now I'm a pink electric guitarist. After two years, I have passed 4 Rock School exams with merit and distinction. I love it. My next ambition is to start playing the piano.

Has your music taken you to some cool places? If so, where?

The fantastic Royal Academy of Music, The Royal Albert Hall, The Royal Festival Hall, Morley College, Rudolf Steiner House, Southwark Cathedral and I will be going to The Hideaway in 2020.

What music do you like playing the most?

Rock music.

If you could perform alongside someone famous who would it be? Or what musician do you look up to?

If Kurt Cobain was alive it would definitely be him. His music is amazing.

Has the Scholarship enabled you to have new opportunities?

I am one of the lead singers and guitarist as part of a band at the Wandsworth Music Academy.

What advice would you give Scholars who will be starting their Scholarship in September?

Being a Scholar requires effort, perseverance and motivation. You will only get where you want to be if you try your absolute best!



Good news stories from Scholars' End of Year Reports 2019



Nathan-Asher

Newham, 2016-20
Drum Kit/Percussion

Nathan has had another astonishingly impressive year not only as a drummer but in all aspects of his musical life. In the last year he has taken Grade 4 piano (achieving a merit), Grade 5 Theory (pass), Grade 6 drum-kit (merit) and Grade 1 saxophone (merit). Nathan has joined Newham Youth Jazz Collective and the Bridging Sounds Orchestra, both of which offer him a wealth of exciting and varied performance opportunities. We are delighted that Nathan-Asher has now started at the Junior Guildhall School of Music where he gained a scholarship place as a percussionist. Studying orchestral percussion as well as the drum kit and his other instruments is a real credit to his hard work! Nathan is a model Scholar and asset to all the groups he plays with, and we can't wait to see what he will achieve this year.



Katie

Tower Hamlets, 2015-19
Double Bass

Recent Graduate Katie made incredible progress throughout her Scholarship and was working at Grade 4 level when she graduated in July 2019. As well as attending the THAMES Saturday Centre, Katie manages an extremely busy schedule of music activities at school: singing lessons, tuned percussion, Vox Anima (a small harmony group), Drum Works, orchestra, and double bass lessons. She also played Sarah Brown in the school musical, Guys 'n' Dolls. Having reached Grade 4, Katie was invited to join the Tower Hamlets Youth Orchestra. We are delighted that this will enable her to continue with high-quality orchestral playing now that she has graduated from her Scholarship.



Charlie

Brent, 2016-20
Viola

Charlie has made excellent progress this year and is becoming a very accomplished violist. His teacher tells us he always plays with energy, enthusiasm and musicality. His knowledge of music theory is improving and his sight-reading is coming on very well; he is on track to take his Grade 5 exam at the end of term, which is most impressive at the age of 12. Charlie leads the violas confidently in his school String Ensemble and is the youngest member of the school's Philharmonic Orchestra. He has also recently taken up the saxophone! As his Mentor told us, "Charlie is thriving in every aspect of his music-making."



Zainab

Waltham Forest, 2018-22
Flute

Zainab has made extraordinary progress this year and has stood out as being dedicated and hard working. She has exceeded her tutor's expectations in terms of progress and it is clear that the scholarship has been of enormous value to her. Recently we were delighted to welcome Zainab to City Hall for our Business Breakfast event with the Mayor of London. Zainab gave an inspiring speech about her love of music and what her Scholarship means to her. The guests at this special event were very impressed with Zainab's speech and gave her a round of well-deserved applause!



Chenese

Greenwich, 2017-21
Trumpet

Chenese has had a fantastic year, achieving a merit for her Grade 2 jazz trumpet exam in the spring and being crowned joint winner of the Royal Greenwich Young Musician of the Year in July! As well as playing with Greenwich Music Hub Chenese is part of a large trumpet section in her school band. She has taken part in some very exciting performances with them this year including the Music For Youth Festival at the Royal Festival Hall. Congratulations Chenese, we are very proud of you!



Tyrone

Newham, 2017-21
Cello

We are absolutely delighted to share the news that Tyrone, who studies at the Junior Department of the Royal College of Music, is the first winner of the prestigious new Dame Collette Bowe award. Each UK conservatoire was asked to nominate one student for the award, which provides funding towards musical studies for talented cellists. Tyrone is an incredibly deserving Scholar and we are so proud of his amazing achievements.



Awards Day 2019

On Monday 30 September we were delighted to welcome 60 new Scholars to City Hall for Awards Day.

This is our largest cohort of Scholars since 2014 and comprises young musicians from all 32 London boroughs. The Scholars gave a fantastic performance following a workshop with musicians from ABRSM, and were then presented with their certificates by LMF ambassador and clarinettist Julian Bliss.

It was a wonderful morning and we were so impressed by the talent, dedication and potential shown by our new Scholars. We look forward to following their progress and celebrating their achievements over the next four years. Many thanks to Julian Bliss, Lincoln Abbots and the ABRSM team for an excellent day.

Here is a selection of the feedback we received from our new Scholars about their Awards Day experience:

Natasha

"I have learnt to have fun in music! I feel like I've been waiting all my life. It makes me feel like a butterfly because I can be free."

Albie

"I have learnt that no matter how good you are at an instrument, you can still be part of something. I am super excited about starting my Scholarship, it makes me feel amazed and thankful because I never knew I would be chosen."

Angeline

"Today I have learnt how to believe in myself more and to be more confident. I'm definitely excited and very proud of myself!"

Jayleen

"I am really excited about the Scholarship because I can have more fun! This makes me feel as happy as anything in the world! When I got the Scholarship my friends started jumping around when I told them."

Dafina

"I feel very proud and powerful since I now have proof that I am capable of so much more."

Arwa

"I am excited because I get to do something that I'm passionate about. I think my family are very proud of me for always being hard-working with music."

Denis

"I have learnt how to harmonize with other people. I am excited and I feel accomplished. My family and friends are saying things like 'My friend/son has a Scholarship.'"

Graduation and Gala 2019

On Sunday 7 July we brought together 100 Scholars for the culmination of a year's worth of workshops, to perform the premiere of Deborah Pritchard's 'Above Earth' at the Royal Academy of Music.

This has been the first time in seven years that we have held a progressive series of Playing Days, resulting in a final large-scale performance. We commissioned composer Deborah Pritchard to write a special piece of music just for our Scholars which was very exciting for everyone involved. After working on the piece during Playing Days and an additional rehearsal in June the Scholars performed the premiere of 'Above Earth'

to an audience of family, friends and special guests. After the performance our 2015-19 Scholars were presented with their graduation medals by Miloš Karadaglić, guitarist and LMF ambassador. Overall the Gala was a great success and a fabulous celebration of the Scholars' hard work at this year's Playing Days and rehearsals. We are very excited to share our new video of this special day with you, please visit the 'News' section of our website to view it. Photos from the workshops are also available to view on Facebook.

Many thanks to Lincoln Abbots, Spencer Down and the ABRSM team for an excellent day, to Deborah Pritchard for her composition, and to Miloš for his inspiring speech.



"Sé comes away from Playing Days feeling inspired and excited about playing in an ensemble."

Mother of Sé

"The more workshops and rehearsals Joy attends, the more she falls in love with her instrument and music. She carries a feeling of being part of something special."

Mother of Joy

Contact us

London Music Fund
City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA
t: 020 7983 4258 🎵 e: info@londonmusicfund.org
www.londonmusicfund.org