

Tempo!

Scholars' Magazine

Music has
the power to
change lives

Welcome to the 2020 Summer edition of Tempo.

A great deal has changed since our last edition. In November we held our first Playing Day of the year, at Morley College. This was a wonderful occasion, with Scholars learning, rehearsing and performing an arrangement of Holst's *Jupiter* in one morning. It was lovely to see so many of our new 2019-23 Scholars. In February, we received our Scholars' mid-year reports from their instrumental teachers, letting us know about their progress and achievements since September. The reports were full of success stories, and excitement about concerts and Grade exams that were due to happen at the end of the spring term.

Unfortunately, of course, schools closed and then lockdown was announced in late March, before the end of term. This meant the cancellation of end-of-term concerts, productions, assemblies and exams, and an abrupt end to face-to-face music lessons. We were devastated to have to cancel our March Playing Day. We didn't realise then that we would also have to cancel our June Playing Day, July Gala and 2020 Scholars' Graduation.

Outside of their musical learning, our Scholars' lives were turned upside down: many of them are key workers' children; many live in flats without a garden or much space for the whole family; many are from vulnerable communities; many rely on free school meals. It was clear to us that the children we support would be among the most adversely affected by the results of the pandemic.

London's Music Services worked extraordinarily hard during the initial period of immense uncertainty to implement instrumental lessons or alternative provision remotely, using video conferencing software such as Zoom.

We launched a *#ScholarsMakingMusic* video competition to encourage our Scholars to keep playing and to cheer everyone up in the difficult times. Scholars also took part in all kinds of remote activities and ensembles, and some even played on their doorsteps for the *#ClapforCarers*.

Although we haven't been able to welcome our Scholars to a Playing Day yet this year, we have been keeping in touch with them – through parents/carers and through music services – and we can safely say that for all of them, music has played a crucial role in their wellbeing and their processing of this difficult period. Our Scholars' resilience, perseverance and self-motivation have astounded us and we are very proud to be supporting them. They have affirmed the fact that music really can be a unifying force for good and, as one of our Scholars said, *"a light in the darkness."*

Chrissy Kinsella, Chief Executive

Scholars Making Music Competition

As so many of our Scholars had concerts and Grade exams cancelled at the end of last term, we decided to create a video competition, both to ensure that their hard work could reach an audience, and to spread some joy online amidst the gloomy news.

The video submissions we received from our Scholars – covering a wide variety of instruments, ages, boroughs and musical styles – were so inspiring, and choosing the prize-winners was very difficult. Thanks to our Founder Trustee, Veronica Wadley CBE, we were able to award the children with vouchers to spend on musical items to help with their learning.

When choosing the winners we considered the following things:

- Presentation of introduction – clarity of speech and an engaging introduction telling us why they like being a Scholar.
- Presentation of performance – this was not based on advanced technical ability, but posture, presentation, performance of the piece to the best of their ability.

Head over to our website to watch the winners' videos and the many others we received during the competition.

After much deliberation, we chose our winners:

★ **1st Place** (£100 voucher for musical items)

Parastesh – Age 11, Barnet, 2019-23, Violin

★ **2nd Place** (£60 voucher for musical items)

Adar – Age 12, Enfield, Flute, 2018-22

★ **Joint 3rd Place** (£40 voucher for musical items)

Danielle – Age 11, Lambeth, Clarinet, 2018-22

Amelia – Age 10, Haringey, Bassoon, 2019-23

★ **Special Community Award**
(£50 voucher for musical items)

Matthew – Age 13, Bromley, Violin, 2015-19

★ **Runners Up** (£20 voucher for musical items)

Bishop – Age 11, Ealing, Drums, 2019-23

Ellie – Age 12, Wandsworth, Electric Guitar, 2018-22

Francesca – Age 10, Bromley, Oboe, 2019-23

Adar and Bishop with their new items bought with their prize vouchers





Maxwell

Lambeth Music Service
2016-2020

We are so proud to have supported Maxwell over the last four years. We can't wait to see where his musical journey takes him next, and look forward to inviting him back to LMF events as a Graduate Scholar!

From Maxwell's letter to us at the end of last year: "All the time I am meeting new people and interacting with them as we put together masterpieces of music, it's all been a wonderful experience for me. So, I would like to thank everyone at the London Music Fund for all the support they give to people like me, helping us improve our instrumental skills, social skills and also our listening skills. Once again thank you guys for your amazing endless support."

Scholar of the month

13-year-old violinist Maxwell from Lambeth is one of our 2016-2020 Scholars, and had it not been for the pandemic, he would have had his graduation ceremony this month.

Maxwell is an incredibly talented and dedicated musician, and has been a model Scholar. He was nominated for a Scholarship back in 2016 when he showed promise and enthusiasm for music after two terms of group violin lessons at primary school. Three years later, he achieved a merit for his Grade 5 last summer, and is now playing at Grade 6 level. This rate of progress is truly remarkable, and a credit to Maxwell's talent and hard work.

Maxwell enjoys playing in the Lambeth Youth Symphony Orchestra and Senior Strings. He has been working on technique, expression and sight-reading, and has also grown in confidence as a solo performer. On Remembrance Day he played for hundreds at the Imperial War Museum, and his performance demonstrated maturity, self-control and artistic flare. In a glowing mid-year report, Maxwell's teacher described his brilliant work ethic, growing confidence and rapidly developing technical & musical skills. We were delighted to read the following passage:

"Maxwell is always on time, never misses a lesson or a rehearsal and demonstrates great commitment to all musical activities he takes part in. He is an example for other members of the orchestra, particularly since he travels for more than an hour to get to the lessons. He is developing into a mature, confident young artist, ready to overcome any musical challenge in front of him. He is developing a sensitive artistic personality, taking his own informed choices in performance and repertoire."

We asked Maxwell a few questions:

What have you enjoyed most about your London Music Fund Scholarship?

During my Scholarship I have enjoyed meeting talented musicians and being given opportunities to go to amazing concerts.

Tell us about your proudest or happiest moments.

My happiest moment in my Scholarship would be when I went to Britain's Got Talent The Champions because of the fun I had and the experience with the judges coming over to our seating area.

Thinking back to your Awards Day at City Hall in 2016, how would you say you've grown or changed since then?

Since my awards ceremony at City Hall I have gained more musical knowledge and confidence in playing with others, and especially by myself.

What three words would you use to describe your experience as a LMF Scholar?

Exciting, interesting and challenging.

Do you have any words of wisdom or advice for younger musicians at the beginning of their Scholarship, or children who are starting to learn an instrument?

For people starting their Scholarship I would say don't give up and always challenge yourself, whether it's picking a harder piece of music or choosing to perform a solo. And lastly always practise!

Now that you're graduating from your Scholarship, what are your goals for the future?

Now that I am graduating my goals for the future are to join the National Youth Orchestra and complete my music up to Grade 8 at the Guildhall School of Music.

Scholars learning at home

Since schools closed and lockdown was announced in late March, musical learning – and life in general – has been very different for LMF Scholars. We asked our Scholars to let us know how they have been continuing their learning at home, what the challenges have been, and how this new way of learning has affected them as musicians.

We absolutely loved reading their responses! Though experiences of and attitudes towards online remote learning vary hugely between the Scholars, what their responses all have in common is the importance of music at the moment. We have been so impressed, proud, and moved by their resilience, motivation and positivity during this difficult time. We can't wait until we are able to bring them all together to make music in real life again!



Rendys

Age 11, Lewisham, 2019-23
Guitar

“ During the lockdown, I have been practising my instrument 20 minutes per day from Monday to Friday. At first, learning my guitar at home by myself without any help was a bit challenging because I was unable to have support with music and notes that I don't understand. However, now that I've had my 1-to-1 Zoom sessions with my new guitar teacher, I feel more confident with the music. Although learning at home is different than learning in a classroom, I actually really like this because it saves me time travelling to and from the music centre.”



Eleanor

Age 10, Lambeth, 2019-23
Violin

“ During lockdown I practise my violin every day. I try to research how to play some difficult scales, pieces and arpeggios online. Luckily, Lambeth was able to arrange online lessons every Saturday, which I am very grateful for. Playing music helps me to relax and take my mind off the hard times in quarantine. There are lots of challenges when learning at home, sometimes issues with the technology and connection problems. Being an LMF Scholar makes me a very fortunate person and I really appreciate it.”



Ellie

Age 12, Wandsworth, 2018-22
Electric guitar

“ Normally, I would be attending my music classes every Wednesday and Saturday, but now I have them online. At first, I was pretty worried that it would be difficult for me to progress as well as I normally would have done. Yet, as time has gone by, I have been able to get more and more used to being on Zoom with my music tutors from the pop band and choir that I attend. Even in these dark times, I appreciate the opportunity that I have been able to experience because of my Scholarship. I feel very fortunate to have my Electric Guitar Tutor. Thank you London Music Fund.”



Aaron-Felipe & Ann-Marie

Age 11, Bexley, 2019-23
Violin & Cello

“ We are not being taught online, but we practise at home as much as we can. Being a Scholar has helped us learn to be independent, more confident of our abilities and to continue working hard so we can achieve our dreams.”

“ During these tough and unusual times, I have been practising my cello daily and sticking to a routine and writing my own music. I adore music. Learning at home is extremely different compared to learning in a music room because your parents and family are able to observe you. The challenges are that I don't have a teacher next to me to support me if I have any doubt. Being a Scholar has helped me in learning to overcome challenges, to improve and to keep entertained at home.”

2016–20 Graduates

We're sorry to say this year's graduation ceremony for our 2016-20 cohort was cancelled due to the pandemic. However, we are doing as much as we can to celebrate these Scholars' hard work and dedication to their music over the past four years even though we cannot meet in person.



This year's Graduate Scholars at their Awards Day in 2016

We are compiling a 2016-20 Graduates celebration video to showcase the Scholars and share some of their Scholarship memories with you. As well as this we will also be sending the graduates their congratulatory letter from our Patron, the Mayor of London. Finally, we know that nothing can beat a celebration in person so we are working hard to plan a proper celebration for when restrictions are relaxed and we can give our graduates the send-off they deserve.

We are incredibly proud of our LMF Graduates and all they have achieved in their Scholarships. Reading their responses to our recent survey was inspiring and as a way of marking our 2016-20 cohort graduation we are delighted to share the following reflections with you:

Iris

Age 12, Southwark, 2016-20 🎷 Flute

“ I have definitely developed as a musician and have begun to incorporate my music with my love of animation. Plus, I have been part of exciting musical collaborations since lockdown. For me being exposed to a variety of music venues such as Handel's church to The Guildhall, musical styles, tickets for concerts, being tutored by professional musicians and meeting fellow Scholars – it all has shaped my development so far. I will miss the LMF and thank you for a fantastic 4 years.

Sophia

Age 12, Barnet, 2016-20 🎷 Trombone

“ I really enjoyed the Playing Days, I love playing with lots of other skilled young musicians and I feel empowered when I get to experience these moments.

Jaden

Age 13, Enfield, 2016-20 🎷 Violin

“ I feel different from when I first started and I have a lot more confidence playing in front of large groups of people. One of the most exciting experiences was the workshop with Nicola Benedetti, at the Royal Academy of Music. That was amazing!

Samuel

Age 14, Hackney, 2016-20 🎷 Jazz Piano

“ I've honestly enjoyed the experience so much. It has enabled me to have a deeper connection with music and I have been able to connect with other jazz musicians across the country. Furthermore, my musical professionalism has improved.

Olukayode

Age 14, Southwark, 2016-20 🎷 Saxophone

“ I have developed as a musician and the Scholarship has helped me in so many ways. I have had so many opportunities such as being to many great places such as the Royal Albert Hall and also going on amazing courses.

Princetta's story

13 year old Princetta from Lewisham was nominated for a London Music Fund Scholarship back in 2016 after her teachers noticed how she showed excellent initiative with her flute playing.

They told us that her playing was fluent and strong and that she worked calmly and maturely with the musical group she was learning in. Throughout her Scholarship Princetta embraced a wide variety of opportunities including taking part in an 'Animate' music course, LMF Playing Days and joining her school choir. As well as developing her own musical skills she also worked as a musical leader within her primary school, supporting other children with their practice and preparation towards musical performances.

Princetta is now at the end of her four years with us and has come a long way since the start of her Scholarship. She is now playing the flute at Grade 4 level, having started at Grade 1 in 2016 which is a fantastic

achievement. Princetta also plays in Lewisham Music's intermediate wind band and puts her aural music skills to work in the Creative Composition group she is part of and loves to share her ideas with the rest of the participants.

🎵 **Princetta told us:** "I feel as if I have developed greatly as a musician and have learnt a lot about commitment in terms of learning instruments. My experience has influenced me to try new instruments while also meeting those who have similar interests to me at Lewisham Music. My Scholarship opened me up to the idea of doing GCSE Music at my school and I hope I'll be inspired to push my music further once I finish secondary school."

We are incredibly proud of all that Princetta has achieved and think she is a brilliant example of a Scholar who has made the most of everything her London Music Fund Scholarship has offered.



Princetta

**Lewisham Music Service
2016-20**

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