

Tempo!

Scholars' Magazine

Music has
the power to
change lives

Welcome to the Spring/Summer issue of Tempo

This is our first issue in nearly two years, as 2020 and 2021 brought a move to online content and then our 10th anniversary year, which we marked with an extensive Impact Report and gala concert, which kept the LMF team very busy!

2022 has been a wonderful year so far for the London Music Fund. We were thrilled to award **90 new Scholarships** in September 2021, at the Royal College of Music, where we were also pleased to be able to **celebrate the graduations of our 2016-20 and 2017-21 cohorts**. Then in November some of our Scholars enjoyed a creative music-making Playing Day with the RIOT Ensemble at Morley College. In February 2022 our '*LMF at 10: A Celebration*' concert at the Southbank Centre brought together nearly 200 young musicians who have benefited from our work over the last decade and was a joyful celebration of the power of music.

We continue to be so inspired by the young musicians we support, who have shown such resilience, dedication and perseverance over the last two years. It has been a huge pleasure for us to put together this selection of updates, achievements and stories; the challenge has been keeping it to just a few pages, as we had so many pieces of good news and success to choose from! We hope you will enjoy reading about what some of our Scholars have been up to.

Chrissy Kinsella, Chief Executive

Hargeet's Story

13 year old Hargeet is a dedicated clarinetist who has had a brilliant four years of her Scholarship.

Hargeet has worked incredibly hard on perfecting her clarinet playing since becoming a London Music Fund Scholar in 2018. Whilst learning with Hounslow Music Service she has engaged with as many musical activities as possible including theory lessons, choir, clarinet ensemble and junior wind ensemble! If that wasn't enough, Hargeet is also starting to explore jazz articulation on the clarinet; playing pentatonic scales and improvising in this style.

We love reading Hargeet's reports as her commitment to playing the clarinet and improving her musicianship always shines through. In her most recent report, her teacher told us that she is working to improve her music theory and sight-reading through challenging herself with new pieces of music. Hargeet's dedication is reflected in her progress, and she is now working towards her Grade 4 exam, having passed her Grade 3 with Merit in the summer of 2021.

Hargeet is a keen performer and has grown in confidence through taking part in concerts with the Hounslow Wind Ensemble. In their 2021 Christmas chamber concert Hargeet played a solo which was very well received and as a result she is looking forward to more playing opportunities. Hargeet is graduating from her Scholarship this summer and whilst we are sad to see her go, we are very excited to follow her musical journey over the coming years.

- 🎵 **Hargeet's parent told us:** "I would like to thank you for the opportunities that this Scholarship has allowed my daughter. Hargeet has consistently practised to become a better musician and as a result we are very happy to see how much she has improved and the knowledge she has gained in music."
- 🎵 **Hargeet's Mentor at Hounslow Music Service told us:** "Hargeet is a very keen member of our clarinet ensemble, where she not only leads the group but also helps out the younger players with their parts. I am really impressed with the level of commitment she has towards our Saturday Music Academy as well as her leadership skills."



Hargeet

Hounslow Music Service
2018-22



LMF at 10: Looking back on our 10th Anniversary Gala Concert at the Southbank Centre

On Wednesday 23 February 2022 at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, we were thrilled to host a spectacular showcase of young musicians supported by the London Music Fund over the last decade.

Hosted by LMF Ambassador, Saxophonist and Broadcaster **YolanDa Brown**, the concert featured Scholars past and present and a variety of musical projects supported by LMF. The programme included a new arrangement of 'A Celebration' by Oscar-winning composer, **Rachel Portman OBE**, originally commissioned by LMF for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee River Pageant. Our Patron, the Mayor of London, **Sadiq Khan**, attended and gave a speech highlighting the importance of music education. The event was sponsored by **Allianz Global Investors** and **Classic FM**.

We were delighted to showcase two ensembles which are ongoing legacies of projects funded through our Partnership programme: Hackney's **Classical Meets Jazz** ensemble, and the **Animate Orchestra**. We were also thrilled to feature **South London Samba**, one of the organisations to benefit from our Amplify London funding programme in collaboration with **YouTube Music**. The programme also included performances from our newest LMF Scholars who created a brand new piece that very day, our specially-formed LMF Wind Ensemble, and the remarkable **Ignacy Stefanowicz**, former LMF Scholar, who is now studying violin at the Yehudi Menuhin School.



The New Scholars' Ensemble

The concert was opened by our newest Scholars, children who received their LMF awards in September 2021. During a workshop with Lincoln Abbots and musicians from ABRSM during the afternoon they had created a brand new piece, 'TEN'. Their performance was met with well-deserved rapturous applause from a full Queen Elizabeth Hall audience!

"Learning music should be a right, not a privilege"

LMF Patron and Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, gave a speech during the concert, and said:

"Music has a remarkable power to bring people together, broaden horizons, and even change lives. That's why it's so vital that all young Londoners have the opportunity to access musical education."



The LMF Wind Ensemble

Created specially for this event, the Wind Ensemble brought together some of our most advanced current and former Scholars, several of whom are now at music schools and conservatoires. Led by LMF Ambassador, clarinettist Julian Bliss, they wowed the audience with their performances of 'Summertime' and 'Clog Dance'.

The Celebration Ensemble

The concert was brought to a close by our Celebration Ensemble, an orchestra made up of current and former LMF Scholars, spanning all cohorts and representing every London borough. Led marvellously by 17-year-old Rejus Jakas, who was a 2013-17 Scholar from Barking & Dagenham, the ensemble performed Rachel Portman's piece 'A Celebration' under the baton of conductor Leon Bosch. It was the perfect end to an incredible evening!





Good news stories

Warda

2019-23, Hounslow, Trombone

Since achieving a Merit for her Grade 3 trombone exam last summer Warda has continued to make excellent progress and is becoming a very fine trombonist.

She plays all her Grade 4 pieces very well and has worked on a variety of other music from the various ensembles she plays with. She always puts in 100% effort in lessons and private practise. Warda's technical ability is excellent, producing a strong, controlled sound with an awareness of tuning and her slide technique. Her theoretical understanding and sight-reading skills are strong and her listening skills are constantly improving. She is working on her breathing and air flow now that she is playing on a full size trombone.

Joel

2018-22, Camden, Violin

Joel has had a great final year of his Scholarship, working towards his Grade 5 ABRSM exam.

He has worked through the repertoire rapidly, and his technique has improved alongside this, particularly his intonation. He has become noticeably more serious and committed about his violin playing this year, more willing to accept challenges and more confident at doing so. He shows creativity and freedom in personalising his technical exercises to make these musical and engaging too. Joel is a role model and leader both at school and in Camden Concertante, encouraging and supporting fellow students.

Danielle

2018-22, Lambeth, Clarinet

Danielle has been a model Scholar for the last four years.

In the words of her teacher, "*she is truly amazing and will make a fantastic musician!*" She is playing at Grade 6 level and preparing for Grade 5 Theory. Her performance skills are beyond her years; she plays in a beautifully musical and mature manner. She loves jazz and is inspired by listening to lots of different jazz clarinetists. She has a fantastic ear, often working things out aurally, and can improvise very creative melodies. Danielle performed in the LMF Wind Ensemble at our concert at the Southbank in February, and totally held her own alongside a number of Graduate Scholars who are at music schools and conservatoires.

Lyan

2018-22, Hackney, Piano

Lyan's progress is constant and outstanding. He loves music and enjoys putting in the work.

He is dedicated, respectful and sensitive; his teacher loves teaching him! Lyan has a wide repertoire and highly developed performance skills well beyond his years. His ability to play by ear is hugely impressive and he has a beautiful feel for improvisation. He is working hard to bring his sight-reading and theoretical skills up to the standard of his playing, and is showing weekly improvement here. In addition to his weekly piano lessons Lyan attends Hackney Borough Youth Orchestra, Youth Choir and the Classical Meets Jazz Ensemble.

Mohammed

2021-25, Newham, Piano

Mohammed is a remarkable pianist and all-round musician.

He achieved a distinction for his Grade 7 exam in 2021 and is now studying extended works by Bach and Brahms at Grade 8 level. He continues to develop his technique through the study of scales and exercises. He has a good understanding of chords and harmony and is an excellent sight-reader. This year Mohammed performed Beethoven's Fur Elise in a Newham Music concert and played xylophone in the LMF 10th Anniversary Concert. He enjoys playing in Newham Music Training Orchestra on Saturdays.

Albie

2019-23, Bromley, French Horn

Albie is making fantastic progress and is preparing for his Grade 5.

He works incredibly hard and shows improvement in every lesson. He has strong listening skills and makes a great sound across a range of repertoire. He is working on his tonguing technique and this is improving steadily, as is his sight-reading. Albie attends every lesson on time and comes having practised in advance. He performed in LMF's Celebration Ensemble at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in February, playing a part on his own alongside much older musicians.

Alejandra

2021-25, Ealing, Violin

Alejandra is a highly motivated individual who is developing well as a violinist.

She is currently preparing for her Grade 3 exam and has a strong sense of what she wants to achieve in her exams. Alejandra's teacher told us that she has a lovely manner when she plays the violin. She was very personable when she was introducing her pieces for her performance exam and is an expressive violin player. Alejandra performed a solo at a recent school performance and takes every opportunity to perform in and out of school.



Recent exam successes

🎵 **Albie**, Bromley
French Horn ★ *Grade 4 (Merit)*

🎵 **Ellie**, Croydon
Violin ★ *Grade 3 (Pass)*

🎵 **Vincent**, Bromley
Viola ★ *Grade 6 (Distinction)*

🎵 **Fareed**, Havering
Violin ★ *Grade 1 (Merit)*

🎵 **Francesca**, Bromley
Oboe ★ *Grade 6 (Merit)*

🎵 **Joaninha**, Barnet
Clarinet ★ *Grade 4 (Pass)*

🎵 **Max**, Haringey
Bassoon ★ *Grade 4 (Merit)*

🎵 **Raymi**, Islington, Flute
★ *Grade 5 (Distinction – in practical & theory exams)*

🎵 **Entiola**, Barnet
Violin ★ *Grade 3 (Pass)*

🎵 **Zehao**, Harrow
Violin ★ *Grade 6 (Distinction)*



Scholar of the month

12-year-old Frank is one of our 2019-23 Scholars, so he will be coming to the end of his four-year award next summer. Over the course of his Scholarship Frank has progressed brilliantly on the violin, and he is now playing at Grade 5/6 level.

Frank has violin lessons at Richmond Music Trust Centre, attends Music Theory class and is a member of Richmond Youth Training Orchestra. He practises for 45 minutes every day, always preparing everything needed for his next lesson. In his mid-year report, his teacher told us that Frank was learning his second concerto and that he had improved massively both in terms of technique and musicality.

Frank has been developing various new techniques over the last year including an improved bow hold, more articulations, double stops, and 3rd and 4th positions. His sight-reading is excellent and he is now working on double-stopped sight-reading. He also has strong aural skills and listens to his own playing with a critical ear. He is a wonderful, hard-working student.

Frank has always made the most of his LMF Scholarship. He loves attending our Playing Days, and in February he performed as part of our Celebration Ensemble at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Frank is looking forward to our Playing Day & Graduation Ceremony at the Royal Academy of Music on Sunday 3 July, where he will perform to an audience of LMF family & friends.

Thinking back to your Awards Day at City Hall (all those years ago...) how do you feel you've developed as a musician since?

I've loved my time as an LMF Scholar and I personally think that not only my musical skills have developed but also my personality skills. I feel like over the years of my Scholarship I've developed very well and very far.

What's been the best moment of your Scholarship?

The best moment at my LMF scholarship would definitely be the 10th Anniversary Gala concert.

How have you found your first year at secondary school? Have there been new and exciting musical opportunities there?

The first year in my secondary school was a bit stressful but music helped me get through it. I've had many school opportunities such as playing for my school orchestra and also playing for many concerts. I also started to play on piano which helps me to understand music theory.

What are you hoping to do next with your music, or what are you looking forward to in the future?

Right now I am looking for a chance to get into a music school and hopefully play for a professional orchestra.

How would you sum up your experience of being a LMF Scholar in one word?

Absolutely fantastic (one word was too tough!)

Here's our Q&A with Frank

Contact us

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