

PRESS RELEASE

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The Guildhall School of Music & Drama announces six new appointments this autumn

The Guildhall School is delighted to announce six new appointments this autumn, all starting in September 2017. The Vocal Department welcomes bass-baritone **Jonathan Lemalu**, baritone and alumnus **Stephan Loges** and mezzo-soprano and alumna **Ruby Philogene** as Professors of Voice. The Wind, Brass and Percussion Department has appointed alumnus **Nicholas Betts** as permanent Professor of Trumpet and **Nicolas Fleury** as Professor of Horn. Alumna **Sa Chen** joins the Keyboard Department as Associate Artist, a role which is to include regular masterclasses with Guildhall musicians, individual teaching sessions and performances at the School during her tenure.

Grammy-award winning New Zealand bass, **Jonathan Lemalu**, studied at the Royal College of Music and has won numerous awards including the Tagore Gold Medal/Queen Elizabeth Rosebowl and the Kathleen Ferrier Competition (2001) and was a BBC3 New Generation Artist (2002). His interpretations of the leading operatic bass roles from Mozart to Britten have taken him to the Metropolitan Opera, Royal Opera House, the BBC Proms and Edinburgh Festival amongst others. Equally at home on the recital platform, Lemalu has performed at prestigious venues including New York's Carnegie Hall, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Berlin's Philharmonie, London's Wigmore Hall and the Barbican Centre.

Born in Dresden, the German bass-baritone **Stephan Loges** was a member of the Dresdner Kreuzchor before going on to study at the Hochschule der Künste Berlin and with Rudolf Piernay at the Guildhall School. In 1998 he was a winner at the Young Concert Artists Auditions in New York and in 1999 won First Prize at the Wigmore Hall International Song Competition. He has given recitals throughout the world, including Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall and Concertgebouw Amsterdam. Opera appearances include: Begearss in Milhaud *La mère coupable* at Theater an der Wien; Golaud *Pelléas et Mélisande* for English Touring Opera; Bruno in James Macmillan *Parthenogenesis* for Royal Opera House and Count *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Schaunard *La Bohème*, Mercutio in Gounod *Roméo et Juliette* and Demetrius *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Opera North.

Born in London, **Ruby Philogene-Doran** studied at the Guildhall School and then took her Masters at the Curtis Institute Philadelphia, USA. Prizes have included the Kathleen Ferrier Competition and in 2003, she was made a Member of the British Empire (MBE) on the Queen's Birthday Honours list for her services to music. Philogene-Doran has performed throughout Europe and the United States at prestigious venues including the Royal Opera House, Deutsche Oper Berlin, La Monnaie Royal Opera Brussels and the San Francisco

Symphony. Opera roles have included *La Duchessa* in Verdi's *Louisa Miller* and *the Page* in Strauss's *Salome* at the Royal Opera House and the lead role of Bizet's *Carmen* at Opera North. Recent work has included Benjamin Britten's *Phaedra* in a site specific staged production by Sophie Hunter for the Happy Days Beckett Festival in Ireland. Upcoming work includes Gustav Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder* staged by director Netia Jones and the role of Baba in Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* at Wilton's Music Hall.

Nicholas Betts studied at the Guildhall School and was Principal Trumpet of the Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra whilst he was a student and later, Principal Trumpet of the European Community Youth Orchestra. In 1989 he won the Barry Kerry and Leonard Rice Memorial Prize for Trumpet and the Philip Jones Prize for Brass. After graduating, Betts' diverse freelance career combined working in television, film, West End musicals as well as playing for the London orchestras. In 1995 he left London to become Principal Trumpet with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra in Norway, returning two years later to become Principal Trumpet with the City of London Sinfonia. In 2002 Betts joined the London Philharmonic Orchestra as Co-Principal Trumpet. He performs regularly as a soloist, and in recent years has performed the Haydn and Hummel concertos.

Nicolas Fleury began his studies of Natural and French horn at the age of eight. Upon completing his studies at in Nantes Conservatoire and later in Rueil Malmaison Conservatoire, he continued his education at the Royal College of Music under guidance of professors Timothy Brown, Timothy Jones and Sue Dent. He graduated in 2009 with distinction and The Tagore Gold Medal. Fleury is now the Principal Horn of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Aurora Orchestra. Prior to that, he was Principal Horn in the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. He appears frequently as a guest Principal Horn with numerous orchestras around the world including the London Symphony Orchestra, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen, the Academy of St. Martins-in-the-Fields, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de Chambre de Paris, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra among many others.

Over the past decade, **Sa Chen** has established herself as one of the most charismatic pianists today. Born in Chongqing, Chen first came to prominence in 1996 when she was just 16, competing in the final of the Leeds International Piano Competition. The year after, she received a full scholarship to study at the Guildhall School with Professor Joan Havill. She went on to earn critical acclaim at the International Chopin Piano Competition in 2000 and the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2005 which began her professional performing career. In recent years, Chen has performed with many renowned conductors and prestigious orchestras, including: the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, WDR Symphony Orchestra, and the China Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Guildhall School of Music & Drama is provided by the City of London Corporation.

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Notes to Editors

About Guildhall School of Music & Drama

The Guildhall School is a vibrant, international community of young musicians, actors and theatre technicians in the heart of the City of London. Twice-rated No.1 specialist institution in the UK by the Guardian University Guide, and recently selected as one of the top ten institutions for performing arts in the world (QS World University Rankings 2016), the School is a global leader of creative and professional practice which promotes innovation, experiment and research, with over 900 students in higher education, drawn from nearly 60 countries around the world. It is also the UK's leading provider of specialist music training at the under-18 level with nearly 2,500 students in Junior Guildhall and Centre for Young Musicians. The School is widely recognised for the quality of its teaching and its graduates, and its new building, Milton Court which opened in September 2013, offers state-of-the-art facilities to match the talent within its walls, ensuring that students enter their chosen profession at the highest level. Milton Court is part of the unique Guildhall School/Barbican partnership delivering world-class arts and learning. The City of London Corporation together with the Barbican, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London Symphony Orchestra and the Museum of London, are leading an ambitious and transformational initiative, Culture Mile, to create a vibrant cultural area in the north-west corner of the City over the next 10 to 15 years.