

PRESS RELEASE
30 July 2018



The Guildhall School of Music & Drama announces its Autumn 2018 season

Highlights of the Autumn 2018 season include:

- *Hansel and Gretel (A Nightmare in eight scenes)* receives its London premiere, including specially commissioned poetry, chamber music, puppetry and animations, with music by Guildhall professor Matthew Kaner
- Contralto Lucy Stevens and pianist Elizabeth Marcus present *Grasp the Nettle*, a new play weaving together the words and music of Dame Ethel Smyth, as part of the City of London's Women: Work & Power season
- The Opera department presents Mozart's *Così fan tutte*
- Guildhall Symphony Orchestra is joined by acclaimed alumni singers to perform Verdi's *Requiem*, and Takuo Yuasa conducts Mahler's *Symphony No. 4* and Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*
- The Drama department present three plays this term: Philip Ridley's dystopian *Mercury Fur*, Steven Adly Guirgis's irreverent *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* and Eduardo de Filippo's *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*
- The Guildhall Jazz Showcase features performances from the Jason Rebello Trio and Molecatcher as well as student combos and an evening celebrating the jazz faculty
- Guildhall musicians work alongside the Australian Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Richard Tognetti
- Students from the Production Arts department return to the historic Waddesdon Manor for Christmas Carnival 2018
- A celebration of the jazz vocal, with the Guildhall Jazz Voice choir and Guildhall Jazz Singers
- Alumni Recital Series includes piano sensation Sa Chen and a Guitar Spectacular
- Collaborations this season include four LSO Platforms, an LSO Discovery Day with James MacMillan, and a concert as part of the BBC Symphony Orchestra Total Immersion: In Remembrance World War I

Music

Guildhall Symphony Orchestra and Chorus: Thursday 27 September, Barbican Hall and Guildhall Symphony Orchestra: Wednesday 28 November, Barbican Hall

The beginning of the term sees **James Blair** conduct the **Guildhall Symphony Orchestra and Chorus** in a performance of Verdi's choral masterpiece *Requiem*. Current students are joined by acclaimed alumni singers soprano **Gweneth-Ann Rand**, mezzo-soprano **Susan Bickley**, tenor **Gwyn Hughes Jones**, and bass **Derek Welton**, with chorus master **David Vinden**, on **27 September**. **Guildhall Symphony Orchestra** returns to the Barbican Hall on **28 November** with conductor **Takuo Yuasa** for a performance of Mahler's *Symphony No.4*, followed by Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*.

Faculty Artist Series – Ethel Smyth: Grasp the Nettle: Wednesday 3 October, Milton Court Concert Hall

Continuing the 2018 centenary celebrations of women's suffrage, contralto **Lucy Stevens** and pianist and Guildhall professor **Elizabeth Marcus** bring their new play to Milton Court on **3 October**, celebrating Dame Ethel Smyth. Imprisoned alongside Emmeline Pankhurst, Smyth was a suffragette, writer and composer, and wrote the anthem for the suffrage movement, *The March of the Women*. This new play, with music by Stevens and Marcus, weaves together Smyth's music, including from her greatest opera *The Wreckers*, with anecdotes from her confidants and her own writings.

Hansel and Gretel (A nightmare in eight scenes): Friday 12 October, Milton Court Concert Hall

This reimagining of the famous tale receives its London premiere on **12 October**, with music by Guildhall professor **Matthew Kaner**. With poetry, chamber music, puppetry and animations all projected live on screen, the two protagonists appear as table-top puppets struggling in an unforgiving world of wooden forests, desolate villages and a fearsome predator, in this sinister fable for our times. **Simon Armitage** reads the poetry while **Clive Hicks-Jenkins** and **Jan Zalud** operate the puppets and animations.

Australian Chamber Orchestra: Side by Side: Wednesday 24 October, Milton Court Concert Hall

Directed by **Richard Tognetti** on **24 October**, Guildhall musicians work alongside the **Australian Chamber Orchestra**, in a programme that is typically varied for the dynamic group. The repertoire includes the Suite from *Run Rabbit, Run* by Sufjan Stevens arranged by Atkinson as well as Bach's *Ricercar a 6 from The Musician Offering* arranged by Tognetti, and music by CPE Bach, Beethoven, Bingen, Verdi and Bartók. This is the orchestra's first residency as International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court, as part of the Barbican Presents season.

Alumni Recital Series: Sa Chen: Wednesday 14 November, Milton Court Concert Hall

Born in Chongqing, China, **Sa Chen** came to prominence in 1996 when she was selected for the final of the Leeds International Piano Competition aged only 16. She came to the Guildhall School to study with Professor Joan Havill and returns on **14 November** to perform a Debussy-only programme: *Images Books 1 & 2* as well as *Études Nos 1-12*.

Alumni Recital Series: Guitar Spectacular: Tuesday 27 November, Milton Court Concert Hall

On **27 November** an exciting evening of music for guitar is performed by Guildhall alumni: **Neus Plana and Maria Camahort Duo** (flute & guitar); **Duo Atlantica: Gudrún Ólafsdóttir and Francisco Javier Jáuregui** (soprano & guitar); **Mēla Guitar Quartet**; and **Ahmed Dickinson Cárdenas** (guitar). The programme includes music by Walton, Marais, Stravinsky, Bowers, Assad, Brouwer and Martin, as well as Basque and Sephardic songs arranged by Jáuregui.

Masterclasses

A host of prestigious artists visit Guildhall School this Autumn to give masterclasses to senior students. These include Director of the Bavarian State Opera Young Artist Programme **Tobias Truniger** (10 October), **Sarah Walker** (11 October), **Mike Walker and Trio Lingvo** (15 October), **Karina Gauvin** (23 October), **Andrew Shulman** (25 October), **Alasdair Tait** (26 October), **Finghin Collins** (29 October), **Ilya Poletaev** (31 October), Director of the Zurich Opera Young Artist Programme **Brenda Hurley** (31 October), **Emerson Quartet** (9 November), **Read Gainsford** (12 November), **Anne-Sophie Bertrand** (13 November), **Sa Chen** (15 November), **Gidon Saks** (15 November) and **Richard Goode** (3 December).

Opera

Così fan tutte: 4 performances from Monday 5 November, Silk Street Theatre

This term's opera, conducted by **Dominic Wheeler**, is Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, which opens for 4 performances on **5 November**. He explores the frailty of human nature in this comic tale of narcissistic unfaithful lovers. Director **Oliver Platt** and designer **Neil Irish** join the creative team.

Jazz

Guildhall Jazz Showcase: Tuesday 23 October – Thursday 25 October, Milton Court Studio Theatre

Students, alumni and professors of the jazz department present a diverse range of performances celebrating the very best of jazz today. During the day free concerts showcase students and evenings bring performances from celebrated artists, including visiting professor and alumnus Jason Rebello (**23 October**) ECM artist and professor **Iain Ballamy** coming together with guitarist **Rob Luft** and bassist **Conor Chaplin** as Molecatcher (**24 October**), and a faculty showcase on **25 October**, for which repertoire will be drawn from the department's newly commissioned resource, *Real Book*, with featured professors including pianist **Simon Purcell** and newly appointed trumpeter and alumnus **Yazz Ahmed**.

Celebration of Jazz Voice: Monday 12 November, Milton Court Studio Theatre

Singers from the Guildhall School's Jazz course come together for an evening celebrating the range and emotional power of the jazz vocal. **James Rose** directs the Guildhall Jazz Voice choir and **Scott Stroman** directs the Guildhall Jazz Singers.

Drama

Mercury Fur: 8 performances from Monday 15 October, Milton Court Studio Theatre

The first play of the new academic year presented by the Drama department is Philip Ridley's *Mercury Fur*, opening on **15 October**. Set in a dystopian London, on a derelict estate in a deserted flat, two struggling brothers plan parties where the guests live out their wildest fantasies. Ridley's apocalyptic vision of the future is a profound indictment of the world we live in now. Director **John Haidar** and designer **Frankie Bradshaw** lead the creative team. (Contains violence, strong language and scenes of a disturbing nature.)

The Last Days of Judas Iscariot: 8 performances from Monday 22 October, Milton Court Theatre

Wyn Jones directs Stephen Adly Guirgis' *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, opening on **22 October**, designed by **Libby Watson**. A court in downtown Purgatory, deliberates over the ultimate fate of Judas Iscariot. This exuberant, witty and irreverent play challenges perceptions about faith and forgiveness. (Contains strong language and material that some people might find offensive.)

Saturday, Sunday, Monday: 7 performances from Friday 30 November, Silk Street Theatre

Eduardo de Filippo's *Saturday, Sunday, Monday* is adapted by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall, and opens on **30 November**. It follows the story of an extended Italian family and their friends gathering for the traditional Sunday ragù. The mother and father are at war and when the entire basis of family coherence is threatened by the inevitable volcanic eruptions it is the young daughter who unknowingly has the key to peace and harmony. **Joseph Blatchley** directs and is joined by designer **Dora Schweitzer** and lighting designer **Johanna Town**.

Production Arts

Waddesdon Christmas Carnival: Saturday 10 November – Wednesday 2 January, Waddesdon Manor

Returning to the National Trust's Waddesdon Manor for a second year, Guildhall School students from a range of courses have been commissioned to create a 3D installation projected onto the exterior of the Stables. Their wintry tale, made up of three sections, is part of Waddesdon's Christmas Carnival

festivities, and is inspired by the manor's art collections. Narrated by characters from Henri Gisse's 1653 costume designs for Ballet de la Nuit, the projection accompanies an outdoor audio trail which culminates in a family friendly immersive walk-through sculptural tunnel of light.

Collaborations

LSO Platforms: Guildhall Artists: Sunday 14 & Thursday 25 October, Thursday 1 & Wednesday 14 November, Barbican Hall

Senior musicians from the Guildhall School take to the Barbican stage before four LSO concerts this Autumn with free performances of complementary repertoire including: Smetana's *String Quartet No. 1* on **14 October**; a recital of Russian songs on **25 October**; Kodály's *Duo* with violinist **Ionel Manciu** and cellist **Leo Popplewell** on **1 November** and Debussy's *String Quartet* on **14 November**.

LSO Discovery Day–James MacMillan: Sunday 4 November, Barbican Hall & LSO St Luke's

In the morning session of this Discovery Day, the London Symphony Orchestra rehearses James MacMillan's *All the Hills and Vales Along*, conducted by **Gianandrea Noseda**, in preparation for the world premiere of this full orchestral version of the work in the evening. The afternoon features a talk and a side-by-side LSO and Guildhall brass ensemble playing music by James MacMillan.

BBC SO Total Immersion: In Remembrance World War I – Chamber Music: Saturday 10 November, Milton Court Concert Hall

As part of the BBC Symphony Orchestra's Total Immersion weekend commemorating the centenary of the end of the First World War, Guildhall School musicians present songs by composers who lost their lives in the war, including George Butterworth's *Love Blows as the Wind Blows* for baritone and string quartet.

www.gsmd.ac.uk

The Guildhall School is provided by the City of London Corporation

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Listings

Guildhall Symphony Orchestra & Chorus

27 September, 7.30pm, Barbican Hall
Verdi Requiem

James Blair conductor
David Vinden chorus-master
Gweneth-Ann Rand soprano
Susan Bickley mezzo-soprano
Gwyn Hughes Jones tenor
Derek Welton bass

Guildhall Symphony Orchestra & Chorus

Hansel and Gretel

12 October, 7.30pm, Milton Court Concert Hall

Matthew Kaner music
Simon Armitage poetry
Clive Hicks-Jenkins puppetry/animations
Jan Zalud puppets

Alumni Recital Series: Sa Chen

14 November, 7.30pm, Milton Court Concert Hall

Debussy *Images Books 1&2*
Debussy *Études Nos 1-12*
Sa Chen piano

Guildhall Symphony Orchestra

28 November, 7.30pm, Barbican Hall
Mahler *Symphony No.4*
Stravinsky *The Rite of Spring*

Faculty Artist Series: Ethel Smyth: Grasp the Nettle

3 October, 7.30pm, Milton Court Concert Hall

Lucy Stevens contralto
Elizabeth Marcus piano
Programme includes Smyth's music from her greatest opera The Wreckers, with anecdotes from her confidants and her own writings.

Australian Chamber Orchestra: Side by Side

24 October, 7.30pm, Milton Court Concert Hall

Bach arr Richard Tognetti *Ricercar a 6 from The Musical Offering*
CPE Bach *Sinfonia in B minor Wq 182/5*
Sufjan Stevens arr Atkinson *Suite from Run Rabbit, Run*
Beethoven *Scene and Aira, 'Ah! perfido'*
Bingen *Ave Maria, o autric vite*
Verdi *'Ave Maria' from Otello*
Bartók *Divertimento*

Alumni Recital Series: Guitar Spectacular

27 November, 7pm, Milton Court Concert Hall

Neus Plana and Maria Camahort Duo
flute and guitar
Duo Atlantica: Gudrún Ólafsdóttir and Francisco Javier Jáuregui soprano and guitar
Mela Guitar Quartet
Ahmed Dickenson Cárdenas guitar
Music by Walton, Marais, Stravinsky, Bowers, Assad, Brouwe and Martin, as well as Basque and Sephardic songs arranged by Francisco Javier Jáuregui

Così fan tutte

5, 7, 9, 12 November, 7pm, Silk Street Theatre

Dominic Wheeler conductor

Oliver Platt director

Neil Irish designer

Jazz

Jason Rebello Trio

23 October, 7.30pm Milton Court Studio Theatre

Jason Rebello curator

Molecatcher

24 October, 7.30pm, Milton Court Studio Theatre

Iain Ballamy curator

Iain Ballamy saxophone

Rob Luft guitar

Conor Chaplin bass

Jazz Faculty Showcase

25 October, 7.30pm

Milton Court Studio Theatre

Guildhall jazz professors

Celebration of Jazz Voice

12 November, 7.30pm. Milton Court Studio Theatre

Guildhall Jazz Voice directed by **James Rose**

Guildhall Jazz Singers directed by **Scott Stroman**

A programme that celebrates the range and emotional power of the jazz vocal

Drama

Mercury Fur

15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 October, 7.30pm

16, 18 October, 2pm, Milton Court Studio Theatre

By Philip Ridley

John Haidar director

Frankie Bradshaw designer

The Last Days of Judas Iscariot

22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 October, 7.30pm

23, 25 October, 2pm, Milton Court Theatre

By Stephen Adly Guirgis

Wyn Jones director

Libby Watson designer

Saturday, Sunday, Monday

30 November & 1, 3, 4, 5 December, 7.30pm

3 & 5 December, 2pm, Silk Street Theatre

By Eduardo de Filippo

Adapted by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall

Joseph Blatchley director

Dora Schweitzer designer

Johanna Town lightning designer

Production Arts

Waddesdon Christmas Carnival

10 November – 2 January, Waddesdon Manor, Bucks

Guildhall students

Collaborations

LSO Platforms: Guildhall Artists

14 October, 5.30pm, Barbican Hall

Smetana *String Quartet No 1*

Guildhall musicians

LSO Platforms: Guildhall Artists

25 October, 6pm, Barbican Hall

A recital of Russian songs

LSO Platforms: Guildhall Artists

1 November, 6pm, Barbican Hall
Kodály *Duo* **Ionel Manciu** violin
Leo Popplewell cello

LSO Discovery Day: James MacMillan

4 November, 10am, Barbican Hall/LSO St
Luke's
James MacMillan *All the Hills and Vales
Along*
Shostakovich's *Symphony No 4*
LSO and Guildhall Brass Ensemble

**BBC SO Total Immersion: In
Remembrance World War I –
chamber music**

10 November, 7.30pm, Milton Court
Concert Hall

*A programme of songs by composers who
lost their lives in the war, including George
Butterworth's Love Blows as the Wind
Blows for baritone and string quartet*

LSO Platforms: Guildhall Artists

14 November, 6pm, Barbican Hall
Debussy *String Quartet*

Notes to Editors**About the Guildhall School of Music & Drama**

Guildhall School is a vibrant, international community of young musicians, actors and production artists in the heart of the City of London. Rated Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework and ranked as the UK's top conservatoire in the Guardian University Guide 2019 for Music, the School is a global leader of creative and professional practice which promotes innovation, experiment and research, with over 1,000 students in higher education, drawn from nearly 60 countries around the world. The School 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 the Centre for Young Musicians.

www.gsmd.ac.uk

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