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# Annual Report 2022/23

**GUILDHALL**  
SCHOOL





# About us

**Guildhall School of Music & Drama is a vibrant, international community of musicians, actors and production artists in the heart of the City of London.**

Ranked as one of the top ten performing arts institutions in the world\*, as well as the number one institution in both the Guardian University Guide music league table and the Complete University Guide arts drama and music league table\*\*, we deliver world-class professional training in partnership with distinguished artists, companies and ensembles.

A global leader in creative and professional practice, we promote innovation, experiment and research, receiving Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework\*\*\*. We are also one of the UK's leading providers of lifelong learning in the performing arts, offering inspiring training for children, young people, adult learners, and creative and business professionals.

\*QS World University Rankings 2023

\*\*Guardian University Guide music subject league table 2024; Complete University Guide Arts Drama and Music league table 2024

\*\*\*Teaching Excellence Framework 2023

[gsmd.ac.uk](http://gsmd.ac.uk)

# Foreword

**As you'll discover reading this Annual Report, 2022–23 was a busy year of successes for Guildhall School. Demonstrating the strength of the School's teaching, our students continue to strive for – and achieve – the highest standards across music, drama and production arts, resulting in world-class, often breathtaking performances and productions.**



Looking back over the year, there's much to celebrate. Once again, the School topped the Guardian University Guide music league table, and we also came top of the Arts, Drama and Music Complete University Guide League Table for the second year in a row.

Grant funding has been particularly strong. Among the highlights was the largest research-related funding award the School has ever received – a £900,000 grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to develop a new Extended Reality (XR) Production Arts research facility. Ongoing investment in the School's research is essential for maintaining and building upon

our success in 2021's Research Excellence Framework, which classed 56% of our research activity as world-leading, including 100% of our research impact.

International partnerships continue to demonstrate our global impact, and our commitment to delivering lifelong learning for people of all ages saw us formally launch Guildhall Young Artists (GYA), a network of six educational centres for students aged 18 and under. The announcement sees Guildhall School become one of the largest providers of specialist individualised performing arts education for school aged pupils in the UK.

We continue to make significant progress on our journey to ensure Guildhall School is truly inclusive for everyone, and we were delighted to welcome new Head of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Mohammed Ilyas. We are working towards ensuring our efforts are firmly embedded across all areas of our activities, both at the School and in the wider community.

For all the exciting successes, there are also some challenges.

The effects of Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic, inflation, the cost of living crisis and financial pressures on the School and its students remain thorny issues. Still, I have every confidence that we will rise to meet them with resilience and ingenuity.

Now, as we look to the future, we have a new Strategic Plan that features eight big visionary ideas that will reposition the School in the lead-up to our 150th anniversary in 2030. This bold vision is set out in more detail on across pages 5 and 6.

The excellent accomplishments shared in this Annual Report are down to the hard work, creativity and dedication of everyone in the School community. I want to thank all the staff and students whose sterling efforts and talent make Guildhall School such a huge success. I hope you enjoy reading about our achievements over the following pages.

**Professor Jonathan Vaughan**  
Principal



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# Our vision

## Our purpose is to

Be the home of exceptional training, research and partnership in the performing arts; helping people to live well, in a world worth living in

## We describe our mission as

Inspiring the extraordinary

## Underpinning our purpose & mission, we value being

### ATTENTIVE

to show decency and kindness in everything we do

### BOLD

to try new things and step up and act when we can make things better

### CURIOUS

to ask questions, listen and learn, and remain inquisitive in order to improve

### DEDICATED

to approach our work and each other with commitment, enthusiasm and care

# Our goals

This year, we launched our new Strategic Plan which is expressed through eight aims:

### An enhanced business model

We will implement a business and financial model that provides for fiscal stability and opportunities for development as a world-leading organisation.

### A refreshed and extended disciplinary scope and range

We will invigorate our currency in our specific subject areas, increase our research activity and grant capture, broaden our embrace of digital and technological innovation, extend our interdisciplinary study and practice profile, and enhance our capacity as an all-round teaching, training and research organisation.

### A focus on sustainability, civic responsibility and creative leadership

The scope of our work in sustainability and civic engagement will be extended for wide social benefit. We will also develop a sector-leading profile for training in artistic, cultural and creative leadership and innovation.

### A commitment to lifelong learning

We will remodel our portfolio, building on our strengths in Under-18 and Short Course provision, to become a sector leader in Lifelong Learning, providing continuous educational opportunities for all.

### Deeply worked equity, diversity and inclusion

We will further our work in equity, diversity and inclusion, to be a reflective and developmental organisation where education and social justice work in tandem. We will create a community where everyone feels safe, differences are celebrated, and we support each other to learn, change and thrive.

### Excellent people who do exceptional work

We will recruit and retain excellent staff and students and provide a working environment where all can achieve their full potential in a community that treats everyone with dignity and respect.

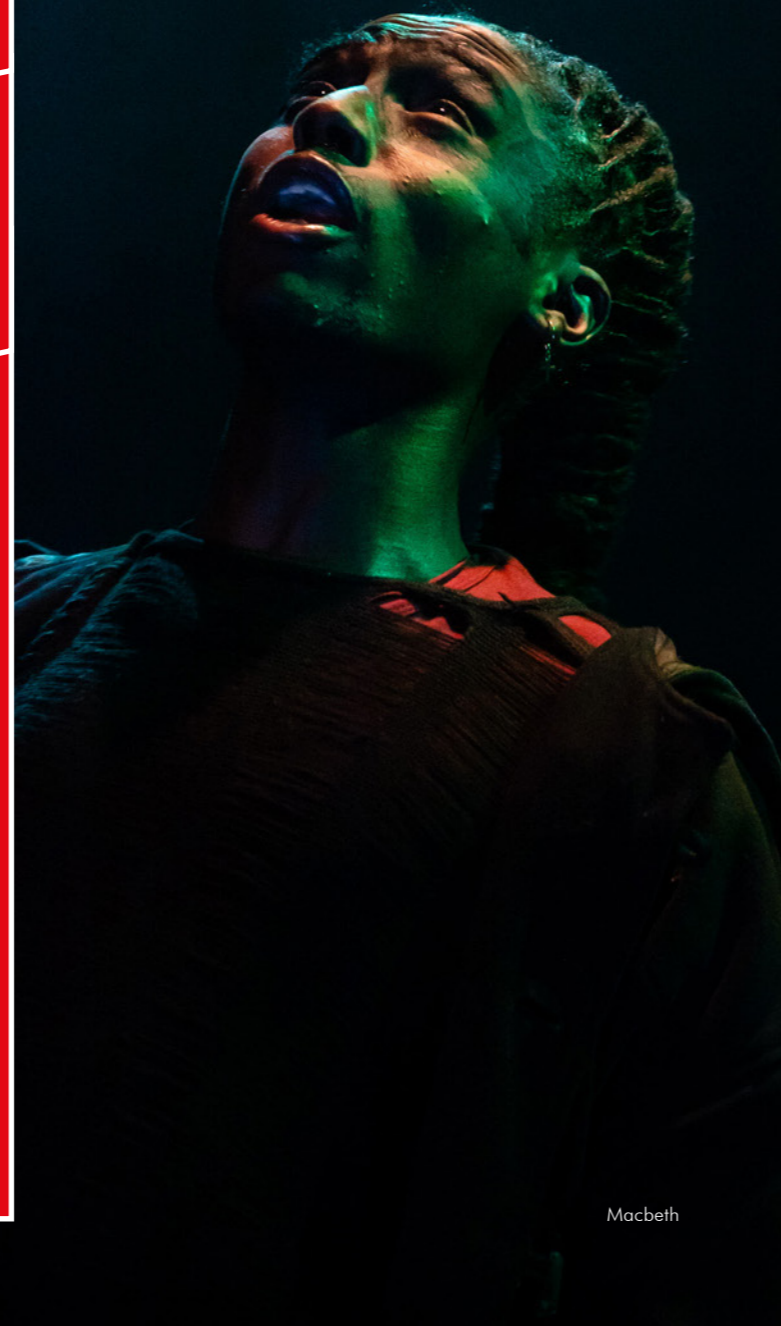
### State-of-the-art technology and infrastructures

Through our cutting-edge technologies, we will pioneer new forms of performing arts presentation for the digital age. Our institutional management structures will be updated to support our work in contemporary contexts, and we will renew and extend our infrastructure.

### Strategic and impactful national and international partnerships

We will develop a national and international leadership role through formal partnerships with selected organisations, nationally and internationally, to increase our capacity in specific areas, enhance our profile and impact, and extend opportunities for staff and students.

### [Please click here to read our Strategic Plan for 2023-2030 in full](#)



Macbeth



# Reputation & rankings

**Guildhall School's reputation as a leader in training for professional practice in music, drama and production arts is reflected in its top rankings in international and national league tables.**

**Guardian University Guide 2024**

The School topped the Guardian University Guide music league table for the second year running and was ranked eighth out of 84 in the drama and dance table.

**Complete University Guide League Table 2024**

The School was also ranked top of the Arts, Drama and Music Complete University Guide League Table 2024 for the second year in a row. The table compares specialist arts colleges and institutions using data from the National Student Survey, Research Excellence Framework and the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

**National Student Survey 2023**

Graduating students across Music, Drama and Production Arts gave a 90% overall positivity measure for their course teaching and academic support at Guildhall School in the National Student Survey 2023. The School scored above sector benchmarks in overall course teaching, learning opportunities and academic support. Notably, 100% of the School's Acting students agreed staff were good at explaining things and made the subject interesting, and that their course was intellectually stimulating and challenged them to achieve their best work.

**Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2023**

Guildhall School was awarded an overall rating of Gold in the TEF, a key indicator of teaching quality on undergraduate programmes across UK universities. The School received Gold (outstanding) in the two sub-categories, or 'aspects', assessed in the exercise: the Student Experience and Student Outcomes.



← Guildhall Chamber Orchestra conducted by Joshua Weilerstein

# Alumni & student successes

**Guildhall School's reputation for excellence attracts exceptional students and challenges them to work to the highest levels of their profession. Our training enables them to succeed on the world stage, as demonstrated by the successes of our students and alumni highlighted here.**

## Drama

Demonstrating the School's tradition of training extraordinary theatrical talent, Guildhall alumni are frequently recognised in some of the most prestigious theatre awards events.

At the Olivier Awards, **Zubin Varla** (Acting 1992) won Best Actor in a Supporting Role in a Musical for his role in *Tammy Faye*, the story of the TV evangelist, which featured a score by Sir Elton John, lyrics by Scissor Sisters' Jake Shears and script by the renowned playwright James Graham. **Clive Rowe** (Acting 1987) was nominated for Best Actor in a Supporting Role in a Musical for his performance in *Sister Act*.

**Joseph Potter's** (Acting 2019) solo role in *The Poltergeist* saw him nominated in The Offies in the Solo Performance category. *Theatre Weekly* described his portrayal of Sasha in Philip Ridley's play as "a tour-de-force performance".

**Joe Bolland** (Acting 2018) was also nominated in the Supporting Performance category for his portrayal of Jack in the uplifting LGBTQ+ coming-of-age story *Paper Cut* at Park Theatre. At the same awards, **David Shields** (Acting 2019) was nominated in the Set Design category for *Grindr The Opera* at Union Theatre.

At The Stage Debut Awards, **Emily Fairn** (Acting 2020) was nominated for Best West

End debut performer for her performance as Alma in the Jonathan Butterell-directed production of *Brokeback Mountain* at @sohoplac.

Guildhall School alumni and students continue to be cast in some of the country's foremost theatre productions. Third-year Acting student **Abdul Sessay** won the role of Arsenal and England footballer Bukayo Saka in the hugely successful National Theatre production of James Graham's *Dear England*. And **Aaron Gill** (Acting 2022) was cast as Hari in the Royal Shakespeare Company's production *The Empress*. Directed by Pooja Ghai, Tanika Gupta's story set during the reign of Queen Victoria was described by *The Guardian* as "outstanding".

## Guildhall drama productions: critical acclaim

### October 2022

*Hyde & Seek*

"The cast of 12 from the Guildhall School are all brilliantly talented, breathing life into their characters and entertaining the audience throughout." The Reviews Hub

### December 2022

*Our Town*

"One of the great strengths of any production at the Guildhall is in the successful blending of music into the action." Plays To See

"In his lifetime, Thornton Wilder complained that the play was rarely done right, insisting that it 'should be performed without sentimentality or ponderousness – simply, dryly and sincerely.' By that measure, he would be more than pleased with Guildhall's production." The Reviews Hub



↑ Our Town  
↓ Hide & Seek



**Guildhall Music & Opera productions: critical acclaim**

**November 2022**

Guildhall Opera Triple Bill:  
*Le Portrait de Manon, Fête Galante*  
& *I due timidi*

“The orchestra’s performance under *Dominic Wheeler* was impeccable; particularly strong in the *Rota*, they were in complete harmony with the singers.” *Bachtrack*

**February 2023**

*Dead Man Walking*

“Not only has the conservatoire boldly chosen to mount an epic contemporary work making huge demands – emotionally, dramatically and vocally – on its cast, it has also produced a piece of compelling music theatre... this production had unflinching intensity and total believability – two qualities you don’t always get in student shows.” *The Times*

“...the director *Martin Lloyd-Evans*, the conductor *Dominic Wheeler* and a terrific cast of postgraduate singers presented an entirely persuasive production which reached impressive musical and theatrical heights.” *Opera*

“This is a big piece and a hard one: how brave of Guildhall to go where no UK opera company previously dared, to deliver a work with a strong vision of how opera could – and, perhaps, should – look in the twenty-first century.” *The Tablet*

**May 2023**

*Guildhall Wigmore Prize Recital*

“The best moment came when [*William*] *Bracken* lingered over a moment of harmonic mystery, which many pianists simply pass over. There’s clearly an alert mind

and generous heart behind those steely fingers, which presage a good future for this gifted young pianist.” *Daily Telegraph*

**June 2023**

Guildhall Opera Double Bill:  
*Sāvitri* & *Blond Eckbert*

“...even more impressive, [*Weir*’s] characteristically quirky orchestral writing – quick bursts of disparate instrumental effects, rarely sustained for more than a few seconds – is incisively delivered by an excellent student band under *Tim Redmond*’s baton.” *The Times*

(Clockwise): *Dead Man Walking*; *Sāvitri*; *Blond Eckbert*; Opera Triple Bill



← OrchestrRAM

**Music and Opera**

Highlighting the exceptional quality of teaching and the talents of our students, Guildhall School graduates go on to take up places with some of the world’s top music institutions and achieve significant acclaim for their work.

At just 22, **Tom Nielsen** (Trumpet 2022) was appointed Co-Principal Trumpet of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Nielsen was first introduced to brass as a cornet player in the Salvation Army in Croydon and went on to become the first cornet player to win the BBC Radio 2 Young Brass Award in 2018. He was Principal Cornet and Leader of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain from 2017–20, during which time he won the Phillip McCann Cornet Award an unprecedented four years in a row.

German violinist **Marie Schreer** (Violin 2019) joined the Manchester based Hallé Orchestra as Second Violin Section Leader. A versatile musician, Schreer has performed throughout Europe, South America and Asia, and is featured on dozens of records

from across a broad range of genres. Elsewhere, **William Morley** (Trombone 2020) became Principal Trombone at Norway’s Bergische Philharmoniker Orchestra.

Acclaimed Scottish Tenor **Nicky Spence** (Opera Studies 2009) was appointed as the next President of the Independent Society of Musicians, and is due to take up the position in April 2024. “My wish is that I can be an energetic representative for musicians in an ever-changing landscape,” he said. “In doing so, I aim to help protect the conditions which musicians deserve to give their best work and continue to inspire the next generation of musicians and educators who need specific support to find a sustainable route to the profession.”

Pianist **Michael Pandya** (Piano 2019) was announced as one of BBC Radio 3’s New Generation Artists for 2023. The scheme supports young musicians at the beginning of their international careers with performance opportunities in London and around the UK.

Switzerland’s famous opera house, Theater Luzerner, appointed **Jonathan Bloxham** (Cello 2011) as its music director. Starting his conducting career at the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Bloxham has also worked with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie, and the Mozarteum Orchestra Salzburg. He will continue as Resident Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the London Mozart Players, a role he’s held since October 2022.

Garsington Opera announced that **Michelle Williams** (Vocal Studies 2010) will take up the role of Director of Artistic Administration, while Scottish Opera named **Zoe Drummond** (Opera Studies 2019) as one of its Emerging Artists for 2022/23.

At the BBC Music Magazine Awards 2023, violinist **Rachel Podger** (Music 1993) won not only the Instrumental Award but the most prestigious prize of the event – Recording of the Year – for *Tutta sola*, her beautiful survey of works by Bach, Matteis, Vilsmaier, Westhoff and Tartini. The album, which

seeks to discover the works that inspired JS Bach's solo violin Sonatas and Partitas, was praised for its "explorative sense of excited discovery". Fellow violinist **Fenella Humphreys** (Music 2000) won the Premiere Award at the event for her highly innovative *Caprices*, which includes works by Tom Coult, Freya Waley-Cohen, Roxanna Panufnik and Seonaid Aitken. Both musicians performed at the ceremony in London's King's Place.

The UK tour of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* saw high-profile nominations for **Sarah Travis** (Music 1988) and **Steve Sidwell** (Music 1982) in the Best Musical Direction/Supervision category at the What's On Stage Awards. The pair's orchestrations for the musical previously saw them nominated for Tony, Olivier and Drama Desk awards. In the same category, **Bruce O'Neil** (Music 1995) was nominated for the record-breaking production of *My Neighbour Totoro* at the Barbican.

Guildhall alumni saw significant success at the Kathleen Ferrier Awards. **Felix Gygli** (Vocal Studies 2022) won first prize in the baritone category, while **Stamatia Tsaroucha** (Vocal Studies 2022) scooped joint-second prize in the soprano category. Tenor **George Curnow** (Vocal Studies 2022) also took joint-second prize in his category. It was a strong year for **Gygli**, who also won the Lied Prize at Norway's Queen Sonja Competition in Oslo. **Nils Wanderer** (Vocal Studies 2019) won third prize in the competition.

Members of the Barbican String Quartet, **Amarins Wierdsma** (Violin 2017), **Christoph Slenczka** (Viola 2016), and **Yoanna Prodanova** (Cello 2018) won the String Quartet

prize at the prestigious ARD International Music Competition in Munich.

At the 13th Glenarm Festival of Voice, Northern Irish soprano **Anna Gregg** (Vocal Studies 2022) won the Deborah Voigt Prize. Her win means she will be the NI Opera Young Opera Voice 2023.

As members of the Mela Guitar Quartet, **George Tarlton** (Guitar 2015), **Jiva Housden** (Guitar 2014), **Matthew Robinson** (Guitar 2011) and **Daniel Bovey** (Junior Guildhall 2012) won first prize at the 2023 Guitar Foundation of America ensemble competition in New York.

The Off West End Awards saw **Jamie Parker** (Junior Guildhall 2001) nominated for Best Lead Performance in a Musical for his role in *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* at Southwark Playhouse, while **Francesco Giusti** (Vocal Studies 2007) was nominated for Best Opera Performance for *Agrippina* at Jacksons Lane. Baritone **Michael Lafferty** (Vocal Studies 2021) was nominated in the Offies for Best Opera Performance for his performance as *Black in Black, el Payaso* at Arcola Theatre.

The Kleio Quartet, featuring viola player **Jenny Lewisohn** (Viola 2014), won the String Quartet prize at the Carl Nielsen International Chamber Music competition.

Pianist **Jong Sun Woo** (Piano 2022) won the Gerald Moore Award for piano accompanists of the song repertoire.

### Production Arts

After being presented with an Olivier Award last year, lighting designer **Tim Lutkin** (Technical Theatre 2008) continued his award-winning streak, scooping

the Tony Award for Best Lighting Design of a Play for his work on *Life of Pi*. He was also nominated for Best Lighting Design at the Oliviers for *The Crucible* at the National Theatre. That production again saw him nominated in the What's On Stage Awards for Best Lighting Design, a category in which **Neil Austin** (Technical Theatre 1992) was also nominated for *Tammy Faye* at the Almeida Theatre.

The Offies saw significant recognition for Guildhall alumni. **Dan Light's** (Theatre Technology 2022) work on *Instructions For A Teenage Armageddon* at Southwark Playhouse saw him nominated in the Video Design category and **Prema Mehta** (Stage Management and Technical Theatre 2004) was nominated in the Lighting Design category for *Super High Resolution* at Soho Theatre. **Jess Bernberg** (Technical Theatre 2017) was nominated in the Theatre for Young Audiences Design category for *Gulliver's Travels* at Unicorn Theatre.

**Luke Swaffield** (Stage Management and Technical Theatre 2008) was nominated in the Sound Design in a Musical category for *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* at Southwark Playhouse.

# Staff success

Professor of Composition and Composer-in-Residence, **Julian Anderson**, was announced as the recipient of the 2023 Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition for his work, *Litanies*. The work was influenced by two major events: the fire of the Notre Dame Cathedral, and the death of his esteemed colleague and friend, composer and conductor Oliver Knussen. It was described by Grawemeyer Music Award Director Marc Satterwhite as exploring "virtually every sound a cello and orchestra can make together. It spans a vast emotional range and is constantly inventive".

At the City of London Corporation's Awards for People, the Production Arts Department was nominated for the Service

Team award, while **Sue Cowan** from Student Affairs was a runner-up for the Wellbeing champion.

Guildhall Coaching staff **Jo Hensel** and **Jane Booth** were awarded Master Practitioner status by the European Mentoring and Coaching Council. This means they are considered to be experts in their field.

Research Professor and Former Principal of Guildhall **Professor Sir Barry Ife** received the prestigious honour of the Encomienda of the Order of Isabel la Católica, bestowed on him by His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain for services to Spanish culture. The investiture took place on 12 October, The National Day of Spain.

Julian Anderson; Professor Sir Barry Ife







# Guildhall Fellows

**Fellowship is Guildhall School's highest accolade. Each year, the Board of Governors elects a small number of Fellows to recognise outstanding achievement or service by past and present members of staff, members of the Board and former students. Honorary Fellowships recognise outstanding professional achievement or service to Guildhall by practitioners who do not have a formal connection with the School.**

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## New Fellows

### Monica Dolan

One of the outstanding actors of her generation, multi award-winning Monica Dolan (Acting 1992) is renowned for her versatility and impact. Well-known for her role in BBC TV comedy series *W1A*, her career spans stage, television and film. She won a BAFTA for *Appropriate Adult* and a BAFTA nomination for her role in *A Very English Scandal*. Her stage work includes her Olivier Award-winning performance as Karen in *All About Eve*, and she has toured globally with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

### Carrie Fletcher

Carrie Fletcher obtained a Stage Management Diploma from Guildhall School in 1981,

and over the following 40 years, her ability to carry responsibility across all areas of production and her determination to succeed has seen her climb a highly competitive ladder, in an often male-dominated industry. As Head of Production or Production Manager, she has been critical to the success of a host of award-winning television programmes, including numerous episodes of *Dispatches* for Channel 4, *Getting On*, starring Jo Brand, and *Alistair McGowan's Big Impression*, for BBC; and ten series of the comedy show *Bremner, Bird and Fortune*, amongst others.

### Katharine Lewis

Katharine Lewis began working at Guildhall School in 2008 and was Secretary & Dean of Students between 2018 and

2022. During this time, she was central to many key achievements, including helping the School achieve a 'Confidence' result in the 2010 Quality Assurance Agency audit report, and working collaboratively across the School and with the Board of Governors to excellent effect. Through the Access and Participation Office, Lewis encouraged undergraduate applications from underrepresented groups and broke down barriers to applications.

### Zara McFarlane

Since graduating, Zara McFarlane (Jazz Vocal 2009) has gone on to become one of the UK's foremost Black British jazz vocalists. She was awarded the title of Best Jazz Act at the MOBO Awards in 2014 and has twice won Jazz FM's Vocalist of the Year. Alongside

four critically acclaimed albums, each pushing the boundaries of the genre, Macfarlane has also worked in the theatre, with the Royal Shakespeare Company as a featured singer in *Anthony and Cleopatra*, directed by Iqbal Khan with music written by Laura Mvula, and with Glyndebourne Opera.

**Dr Eliot Shrimpton**

Shrimpton trained as an actor at Guildhall School and the École Philippe Gaulier in Paris, with credits including Romeo and Juliet at Shakespeare's Globe. He has taught at leading schools and arts institutions throughout the world and worked as an educational consultant for the Ministry of Education. In his role as Head of Acting Practice at Guildhall School Shrimpton ensured students maintained a world-leading standard of acting training while the Drama department underwent a profound period of necessary cultural change, including through his thoughtful stewardship of the revalidation process for the BA (Hons) Acting programme.

**Gemma Tonge**

Gemma Tonge graduated from Guildhall School in 2002 with a BA Hons in Stage Management and Technical Theatre. Since then, she has curated a successful portfolio career, including roles at English National Opera, Royal Opera House, and Sadler's Wells. For her work on Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake*, she was first nominated for the Stage Management Association Stage Manager of the Year award. She has worked at the National Theatre since 2017 in the role of Head of Company Stage Management.

**John Paul Williams**

As our Concert Piano Technician, Williams has enhanced the reputation of Guildhall School, not only in reference to teaching but also with visiting artists. Through his work, he has ensured that Milton Court Concert Hall is seen as a major concert venue of world-class standing. Visiting professors and artists, current professors and students all recognise that Guildhall School

pianos are among the best in any conservatoire worldwide. Williams' technical skills are acknowledged at an international level, and his ability to relate to young artists makes him unique in his profession.

**Lynne Williams**

Principal of Guildhall School from January 2017 until August 2021, Williams oversaw a number of major developments and successes, including developing a new strategic plan and business model for the institution; broadening the School's mission to highlight artistic entrepreneurship, community engagement, interdisciplinary practice and artistic citizenship; implementing a School wide approach to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and steering the School through the challenges of the pandemic. Before joining Guildhall School, Lynne held numerous arts and cultural leadership roles in the UK and Australia.

**Armin Zanner**

As Head of Vocal Studies and now Vice Principal & Director of Music at Guildhall School, Armin Zanner has expanded student performance opportunities, establishing the '...at Six' concert series and commissioning new music for the Reflective Conservatoire and Extraordinary Voices Festival. He has helped build wide-ranging performance projects into the curriculum, integrated performer health into the training of singers, strengthened the international network of visiting artists and embedded collaborative activity in the vocal programme. He has led masterclasses and workshops around the world, has been published in numerous magazines, and is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

School Trust between 2010 and 2019. During his service, he dedicated time and expertise to the governance and wellbeing of the School's future and worked extensively on fundraising for the £11m Milton Court Campaign, in addition to being a major donor to the project. A passionate supporter of the arts, Hoffman has served on many boards, including the Philharmonia Orchestra (as Chairman), the Royal Court Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company and Almeida Theatre.

**Dr Michael Shipley & Philip Rudge**

For fifteen years, civil partners Dr Michael Shipley and Philip Rudge have supported Guildhall School, including providing a named scholarship since 2011. In addition to their major gift philanthropy, particularly in the area of opera, they have donated to the School as regular attendees at special income-generating events and helped to drive and support outreach and community projects between the School and external

partners. They are passionate supporters of the arts across a wide range of organisations. The School was grateful for this opportunity to honour Shipley, who died in July 2022.

**Dame Judith Weir**

Composer Dame Judith Weir has helped transform the face of music in Great Britain. Since 2014, she has served as Master of the Queen's (now King's) Music, one of the highest honours for a British composer. During her tenure, she has written music for national and royal occasions, including the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations and the UK's official commemoration of the 1918 Armistice. Her work continues to make a significant impact globally and is a cornerstone of repertoire for students at the School, where we have held a day dedicated to her compositions.

**New Honorary Fellows**

**Michael Hoffman**

Michael Hoffman served on Guildhall School's Board of Governors and on the Guildhall

↓  
Monica Dolan, Dr Eliot Shrimpton,  
John Paul Williams, Zara MacFarlane,  
Gemma Tonge, Katharine Lewis



↓  
Professor Jonathan Vaughan



↓  
Philip Rudge, Michael Hoffman, Lynne Williams,  
Dame Judith Weir, Armin Zanner



↓  
Graduation 2022





# Student awards

**Each year Guildhall School recognises our talented students with a number of awards and prizes, including our prestigious Music, Acting and Production Arts Gold Medals.**

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## **Guildhall Prizes**

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### **Music Gold Medal**

Following extraordinary performances of works in five languages that impressed the judges and audience alike, Greek mezzo-soprano **Alexandra Achillea Pouta** (MPerf Opera Studies) was named winner of the 2023 Music Gold Medal. A total of seven languages were included in the final in the Barbican Hall, where Pouta was joined by fellow finalists **Miku Yasukawa** (Art Dip Vocal Studies), **Michael Lafferty** (MPerf Vocal Studies 2021) and **Lorna McLean** (MPerf Vocal Studies 2021). “I am really humbled to be receiving this honour, and to have the opportunity to share the stage with my very dear friends and fellow finalists, Miku, Michael and Lorna,” says Pouta. “It was a wonderful evening that I’ll never forget.”

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### **Acting Gold Medal**

**Abdul Sessay** (BA Acting) was presented with the Acting Gold Medal, after being judged by staff to have most embraced the spirit and ethos of the training. “I am super grateful to receive the Gold Medal for acting,” he said. “These three years have flown by. Looking back, despite ups and downs, I have really loved being a part of Guildhall and I wouldn’t swap it for the world... Let’s see what

the future brings – who knows we might just end up being a ‘vintage year’!” Among his roles here were Ross in *Macbeth* (dir. Ashley Zhangazha), George Gibbs in *Our Town* (dir. John Haidar) and Knowledge/Fellowship in *Everyman* (dir. Katherine Nesbitt). Outside of the School, he took the lead role in Nike x Patta *The Wave*, a series of short films celebrating the reimagining of Nike’s iconic Air Max 1 silhouette, directed by Mahaneela with Steve McQueen acting as creative director and mentor.

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### **Production Arts Gold Medal**

Shortly after being voted by his fellow students to receive The Hazel Sharples Memorial Prize, **Thomas Jack Licence** (BA Production Arts) scooped the School’s Production Arts Gold Medal. “I am over the moon after finding out about winning the Gold Medal award,” he said. “I want to thank everyone – staff, students and external professionals – for making my time at Guildhall such an incredible and enjoyable experience. Guildhall gave me the opportunity to explore my dreams and I am now ready to start the next chapter and go into the industry knowing I have had fantastic training from such a great conservatoire.” Having completed the BA in Production Arts (Stage Management pathway) programme, he now heads straight into the profession, as an Assistant Stage Manager on the UK tour of

←  
Alexandra Achillea Pouta

*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory – The Musical.*

**Guildhall Wigmore Recital Prize:** Ana-Carmen Balestra (MPerf Opera Studies)

**Junior Guildhall Lutine Prize:** Thomas Young (Junior Guildhall Clarinet)

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#### Other awards

Guitarist **Ralph Porrett** (Guildhall Artist Junior Fellowship) was a finalist at the BBC Young Jazz Musician awards, with judges remarking on his original music, influenced by Bill Frisell, Joni Mitchell and JS Bach.

The Association for Lighting Production Design (ALPD), presented **Stanley Olden** (BA Production Arts) with the top prize in the inaugural WYSIWYG Programmers Competition. “I’m honoured to be receiving the award,” he said. “Thank you all at the ALPD for organising and running it and to everyone who has inspired me to do lighting.”

The British Flute Society announced **Cyrus Lam** (BMus Flute) as winner of its Young Artist Prize.

**Guildhall Flute Prize:** Emilija Jonusaite (BMus Flute)

**Guildhall Oboe Prize:** Lottie Brenton (MMus Oboe)

**Guildhall Bassoon Prize:** Paddy Kearney (BMus Bassoon)

As Trio Casella, **Luke Lally-Maguire** (MMus Piano), **Violetta Suvini** (MMus Violin), and **Gabriel Francis-Dehqani** (MMus Cello) won the Ivan Sutton Chamber Prize 2023

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#### Vocal and Opera

At the John Kerr Award for English Song 2022, **George Robarts** (MMus Baritone/Bass) won Best Individual Prize, and also picked up the Second Prize with **Thomas Eeckhout** (Guildhall Artist Junior Fellowship).

**Elif Nur Karlidag** (MA Opera Making & Writing) was awarded the John Clementi Collard Fellowship.

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#### Keyboard

Irish Heritage announced **Luke Lally-Maguire** (MMus Piano) as winner of its Music Bursary for Performance, while **Georgina Cassidy** (MMus Piano) picked up the Accompanist’s Award.

**Sebastian Issler** (Art Dip Piano) won Jean Meikle Prize for a Duo with Anna Cavaliero.

**William Bracken** (MMus Piano) picked up first prize in the The Liszt Society International Piano Competition 2022.

**Charles Tam** (Art Dip Piano) was a finalist in the 2022 Hong Kong International Piano Competition.

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#### Strings

**Henry Lewis** (MMus Piano), **Leonardo Barbosa** (MMus Violin) and **William Clark-Maxwell** (MMus Cello 2021) won the St James’ Chamber Prize. And fellow students **Anna Brown** (BMus Violin), **Leon Human** (BMus Violin), **Dom Stokes** (BMus Viola) and **Joseph Barker** (BMus Cello), also saw success, picking up the St James’ String Prize.

At the Royal Over-Seas League Annual Music Competition,

**Krystof Kohout** (MMus Violin), **Elliot Kempton** (MMus Viola), **Luna de Mol** (BMus Violin), and **Kosta Popovic** (BMus Cello) won the Ensemble Prize. The four also won the Catavina Intercollegiate Chamber Music Competition.

**Ami-Louise Johnsson** (BMus Viola) won the Wolfson Music Award and Boise Foundation, while Jake Montgomery-Smith (BMus Viola) won the Max & Peggy Award for Viola.

# Events highlights

**Live performances give students the opportunity to display and hone their skills and craft. Highlights from 2022–23 feature productions and performances led by visiting directors, guest musicians, established names and bright new talent...**

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#### Drama

**October 2022:** *Everyman*

Everyman is at his peak; successful and loved by everyone, when suddenly Death comes calling. Katherine Nesbitt directed award-winning poet Carol Ann Duffy’s thrilling contemporary adaptation of the 15th-century play *The Summoning of Everyman*.

**October 2022:** *Hyde & Seek*

In a world premiere commissioned especially for Guildhall School actors by writer and director Tristan Fynn-Aiduen, this radical reimagining of Robert Louis Stevenson’s classic novel *Jekyll and Hyde* explored tensions that exist within our idea of selfhood.

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**December 2022:** *Our Town*

John Haidar returned to Guildhall for his fourth play, directing this Pulitzer-winning drama that asks questions about the meaning of love, life, and death.

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**February 2023:** *Macbeth*

Guildhall School alumnus and award-winning actor Ashley Zhangazha directed this modern take on Shakespeare’s infamous tragedy, bringing a fresh interpretation that explored power, humanity, the supernatural and the role of fate versus self-determination.

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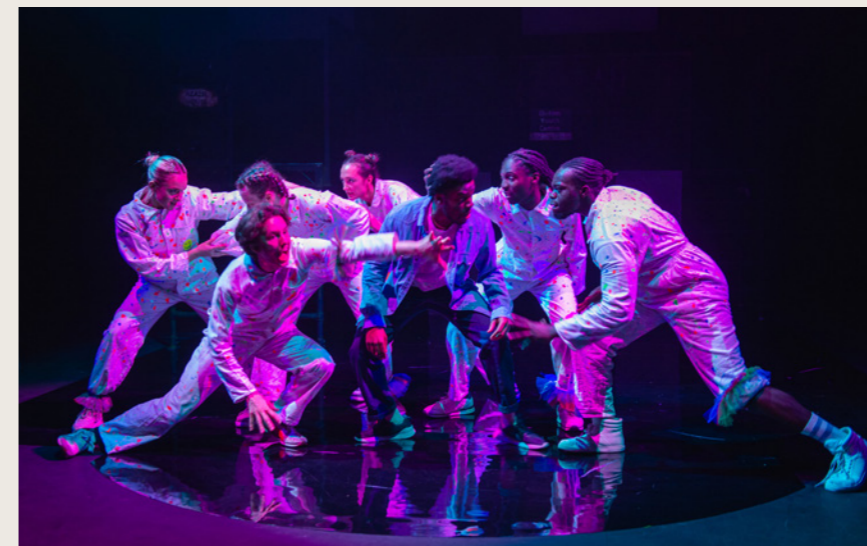
**February 2023:** *The Gift*

Examining issues of imperialism, cross-racial adoption and cultural appropriation, Janice Okoh’s powerful work follows the narratives of Sarah Bonetta, an African girl adopted by Queen Victoria, and Sarah, a middle-class woman living in a Cheshire village. Award-winning theatre-maker Ola Ince was in the director’s chair.

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**February 2023:** *Dance Nation*

Delving into the angst and the ecstasy of a troupe of pre-teens thrust into a world of cut-throat dance competition, this ferocious exploration of youth and ambition followed an army of competitive dancers preparing to take on the world, one routine at a time.



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**March 2023: *Attempts on Her Life***

Martin Crimp's highly original and ambitious work featured an intriguing array of nameless characters who attempt to invent the perfect story to encapsulate our time. Emma Baggott returned to direct this theatrical rollercoaster of 20th-century obsessions.

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**March 2023: *The Mountains We Climb***

Taking place in The Pit at the Barbican, this collection of short, stand-alone solo performance works was written, directed and performed by final-year Guildhall actors. Elayce Ismail oversaw the production as Dramaturg.

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**July 2023: *Antigone***

This epic and lyrical reimagining of the classic Greek tragedy mixed ancient legend with a modern perspective, resulting in a powerful exploration of generational damage, family devotion and how hope is found in the most desperate of places. Written by Olivier Award-winner Stef Smith and specially commissioned for Guildhall School, the world premiere was directed by the School's Vice Principal & Director of Drama, Orla O'Loughlin.

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**Opera**

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**October 2022: *Last Days***

Blake, a musician, has recently escaped rehab to return home. But he is haunted by objects, visitors and memories distracting him from his true purpose: self-destruction. Adapted from Gus Van Sant's 2005 film based on the final days of Kurt Cobain, this new opera – a co-production with The Royal Opera – was by Royal Opera House/Guildhall School Composer-in-Residence Oliver Leith, with libretto by Matt Copson.

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**November 2022: *Opera Triple Bill***

This triple bill featured three rarely-performed works: *Le Portrait de Manon*, Jules Massenet's one-act sequel to his beloved

*Manon*; Dame Ethel Smyth's *Fête Galante*, based on the themes of mistaken identity and disguise; and Nino Rota's *I due timidi*, a one-act opera originally written for radio that's described as a romance gone wrong. Conducted by Dominic Wheeler and directed by Rodula Gaitanou, the programme was linked by their arcs of love and identity.

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**December 2022: *Autumn Opera Scenes***

Outstanding opera singers and répétiteurs from the first year of our Opera course performed a selection of excerpts, including scenes from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Donizetti's *La Favorita*, Janáček's *Jenůfa*, Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande* and Britten's *Albert Herring*.

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**February-March 2023: *Dead Man Walking***

Considered one of the most powerful and thought-provoking operas in decades, composer Jake Heggie and librettist Terrence McNally's *Dead Man Walking* is based on the memoir of the same name by anti-death penalty campaigner, Sister Helen Prejean. This production was directed by Martin Lloyd-Evans and conducted by Dominic Wheeler.

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**June 2023: *Opera Double Bill: Sāvitrī & Blond Eckbert***

Two operas from each end of the 20th century featured in this double bill: Holst's 1916 work *Sāvitrī* tells the story of the title character's devotion to her husband Satyavan in the face of death, exploring issues of mortality and the power of love; while Judith

Weir's *Blond Eckbert* (1993), is an eerie work inspired by Romantic German writer Ludwig Tieck's dark fairy tale.

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**July 2023: *Opera Makers***

Singers and répétiteurs from the first year of our Opera course performed new works written by composers and librettists on the MA in Opera Making & Writing. It featured *Lantern Fish*, composed by Luka Venter, with libretto by David Bottomley; *Lost Property*, composed by Anna Disley-Simpson, with libretto by Olivia Bell; and *Reborns*, composed by Elif Nur Karlidag, with libretto by Stanley Lawson.



↑  
Hyde & Seek (Previous page)  
←  
Opera Triple Bill; Attempts on Her Life  
→  
Autumn Opera Scenes

## Classical Music

**September 2022:** *Debussy, Boulanger & Ravel*

In their first concert of the year, the Guildhall Symphony Orchestra and Chorus explored the familiar magic of Debussy's *l'après-midi d'un faune*, the daring drama of Boulanger's *Psalm 130, Du fond de l'abîme* and Ravel's masterful love story *Daphnis et Chloé*. Under the baton of Lionel Bringuier, the ensembles were joined by mezzo-soprano Alexandra Achillea Pouta and tenor Steven van der Linden.

**October 2022:** *BBC SO Total Immersion – Sibelius the Storyteller*

Guildhall musicians joined the BBC Symphony Orchestra to delve into our understanding of composer Sibelius' imagination. School musicians performed his songs and melodramas at Milton Court.

**October 2022:** *Looking West, Vaughan Williams' 150th Birthday*

The London premiere of this concert-theatre work took place at Milton Court on the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth. Created by Guildhall's Head of Composition, Professor Julian Philips, and librettist Rebecca Hurst, it featured Guildhall musicians alongside singers and actors, conducted by George Vass and directed by Sally Ripley.

**October 2022:** *Indies and Idols*

As part of their Barbican International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court residency, the Australian Chamber Orchestra were joined by musicians from Guildhall School for a programme uniting works by pop-cultural icons Jonny Greenwood and Bryce Dessner with composers from post-World War Two Poland: Szymanowski, Penderecki and Lutosławski.

**November 2022:** *Messiaen*

The only symphony written by Olivier Messiaen, *Turangalila-Symphonie*, is often described as a tribute to life, love and death. Nicholas Collon – Chief Conductor of the Finnish Radio Symphony and Founder and Principal Conductor of the Aurora Orchestra – conducted the Guildhall Symphony Orchestra for this performance.

**November 2022:** *BBC SO Total Immersion – Discovering George Walker*

Marking the centenary of George Walker's birth, the BBC Symphony Orchestra was joined by Guildhall School musicians to share the story of the first African-American composer to win the Pulitzer Prize.

**January 2023:** *Guildhall String Ensemble*

Under the direction of violinist Jonathan Morton, the Guildhall String Ensemble performed a programme highlighting the works of American and British composers, including works by Elgar, Tippett, Shaw, Montgomery and Walker.

**March 2023:** *Guildhall Symphony Orchestra*

Conductor Roberto González-Monjas returned to his alma mater to conduct the Guildhall Symphony Orchestra with performances of his self-devised suite from Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* and Mahler's invigorating Symphony No 1.

**May 2023:** *BBC SO Total Immersion – Kaija Saariaho*

Musicians from the School joined the BBC Symphony Orchestra for this celebration of one of the most original and influential figures in 21st-century music: Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho.

**May 2023:** *Gold Medal Final*

Four outstanding Guildhall vocalists performed in the final of Guildhall School's most prestigious music prize at a concert in the Barbican Hall.

**May 2023:** *Guildhall Wigmore Prize Recital*

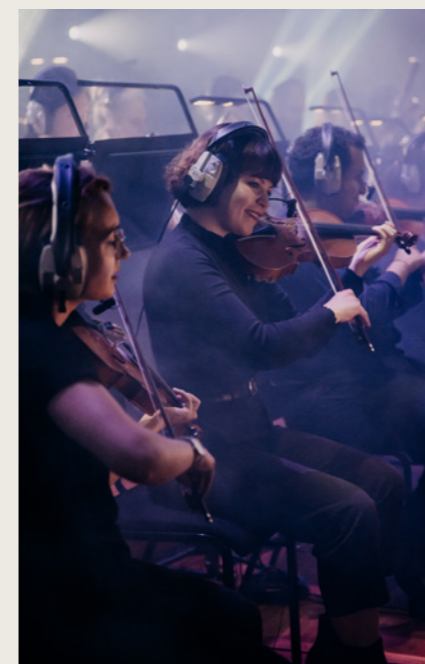
Featuring a programme spanning three centuries, the winner of the 2022 Guildhall Wigmore Prize, pianist William Bracken, gave his debut Wigmore Hall recital, performing works by Beethoven, Liszt, Fanny Mendelssohn, and Unsuk Chin.

**July 2023:** *Chamber Music Festival*

Bringing together almost 100 musicians to perform a wide range of ensemble works – from duos to nonets – Guildhall School's Chamber Music Festival featured some of the School's most accomplished chamber groups and student-professor collaborations.



←  
Guildhall Wigmore Prize Recital  
→  
OrchestrAM



## Jazz

### September 2022: *The Nightfly*

Forty years after its release, Donald Fagen's *The Nightfly* was performed by the Guildhall Induction Jazz Orchestra and Choir.

### December 2022: *Birth of Cool* & *Art Pepper + Eleven*

Two landmark suites shared the bill in a programme that defined "cool". Miles Davis' 1949 recordings collected under the 'Birth of Cool' moniker had a defining influence on the genre, which was evolving out of the bebop era. A few years later, Hollywood writer Marty Paich created another classic, assembling an all-star team of LA players to feature star saxophonist Art Pepper in his sumptuous arrangements.

### January 2023: *Guildhall Studio Orchestra performs Scorched*

Scott Stroman directed this collaboration between composer Mark-Anthony Turnage and guitarist John Scofield – a synthesis of two composers' highly individual but ultimately compatible musical worlds.

### February 2023: *Guildhall Jazz Orchestra – Modern Masters*

This eclectic programme of contemporary big band repertoire included arrangements and compositions by Guildhall students.

### March 2023: *Guildhall Studio Orchestra – The Unsung Voices of the Great American Songbook*

In a tribute to the unsung composers, arrangers and lyricists

responsible for the creation of the Great American Songbook, this concert celebrated some of the most influential American popular songs, musical theatre and jazz standards of the early 20th century.

### March 2023: *Guildhall Big Band celebrate Art Blakey*

Drummer and bandleader Art Blakey was a driving force of the bebop era, working with Monk, Bird, Dizzy and many more. The Guildhall Big Band, directed by Matt Skelton, showcased the breadth of Blakey's work.

### May 2023: *Guildhall Big Band – Harlem Renaissance*

Audiences took a step back in time to the Harlem Renaissance, a period that marked a major turning point in the artistic

history of the African-American community. The Guildhall Big Band and Guildhall Jazz Choir were joined by special guest clarinetist Giacomo Smith under the direction of Matt Skelton and Clare Wheeler.

### July 2023: *Guildhall Jazz Orchestra – Aura*

Aura saw Miles Davis collaborate with Danish trumpeter Palle Mikkelborg in 1984 to create a unique conceptual work. In this concert performance, Guildhall Jazz Orchestra – under the direction of Scott Stroman and with special guest trumpet player Robbie Robson – took a fresh look at the material that was to become one of Miles' finest works in the last decade of his life.

## Electronic Music

### September 2022: *OrchestrRAM: An orchestral rendition of 30 years of RAM Records*

In a tribute to the legendary Drum & Bass record label, Guildhall Session Orchestra (the School's professional alumni ensemble) joined percussionists, vocalists and DJs for this immersive musical experience. OrchestRAM featured orchestral arrangement's from Guildhall's Electronic and Produced Music department and lights, lasers and projection mapping from Guildhall Live Events.

### Autumn 2022: *London International Animation Festival*

Working with the Animation Department at Central Saint

Martins, University of the Arts London, Electronic and Produced Music students wrote the music for the London International Animation Festival's promotional videos.

### Summer 2023: *Live collaboration with Orquestra de Dispositivos Eletrónicos and Ece Canli*

Collaborating remotely with Orquestra de Dispositivos Eletrónicos and artist/musicians Ece Canli, Guildhall School's Live Electronic Ensemble created a loose score based on improvisation, drawing on the feeling of fear and uncertainty that ensues when one moves beyond familiar power structures and hierarchies. Each ensemble performed the score and produced a video based on the experience, with the School's ensemble film due to be shot in 2024.



← Chamber Music Festival  
→ Dance Nation





# Lifelong learning

**Guildhall School is one of the UK's leading providers of lifelong learning in the performing arts, offering inspiring training for children, young people and adult learners. Activity includes Guildhall Young Artists, Guildhall School's network of Saturday centres across the country, as well as a range of short courses and summer schools. Guildhall is also one of the lead delivery partners for Music Education Islington, the music education hub for the London Borough of Islington, and co-leads the London NOYO Ensemble of the National Open Youth Orchestra.**



## Music Education Islington

Now in its fourth year, Music Education Islington (MEI), Guildhall School's partnership with Islington Council, continues to thrive, widening access to world-class music opportunities for a broad range of children and young across the London Borough of Islington.

The number of schools at which we teach music has risen to 27, reaching approximately 2800 children and young people, including students attending SEND schools and Pupil Referral Units.

Schools joyfully returned to in-person events such as *Winter Sing* at Union Chapel, *Create in Play*, a group composition project

in partnership with London Sinfonietta at Islington's Assembly Hall, and the *Big Sing* at Union Chapel in partnership with Voices Foundation. These events gave 2200 primary and secondary pupils the opportunity to perform with young musicians across the borough.

MEI's after-school Music Centres teach a wide range of instruments and styles to 240 people from Reception to Year 13, of whom 34% are on full bursaries. Music Centre students and ensembles contributed not only to regular end-of-term performances, but also to Finsbury Park School's Festival, Guildhall School's Harlem Renaissance Jazz project and MEI's *New Sounds Festival* at Milton Court. For the first time, young people developed



and prepared all major aspects of the festival's management, giving young musicians the opportunity to perform on a world-class stage.

Additional funding through the Dame Alice Owen Foundation enabled MEI to continue its work for children and young people in challenging circumstances. Projects led under this scheme included 120 Key Stage 3 rapping and singing workshops, including a concert which developed students' self-confidence in performance and self-expression.

The scheme also saw the return of MEI's Music Makers Lab over Easter and as part of Islington's Summeriversity. The Labs provided a creative atmosphere in which to nurture young people's songwriting and performance skills, and included people from a wide range of musical

backgrounds. They increased young people's ability to work as a team and their ability to step outside their comfort zone.

MEI continued two Open Orchestras, which give young people with physical disabilities and additional needs the opportunity to play and perform in an ensemble. For the second time Open Orchestra students and students of MEI's Music Centre came together to create an all-inclusive ensemble, which performed as part of our New Sounds Festival at Milton Court.

Guildhall School's Music Therapy Outreach team works with students at two Islington schools to increase their self-confidence, self-esteem and emotional regulation. The work has shown a positive impact on student's school attendance and engagement. Targeted music production workshops helped

secondary school students increase their school engagement, resilience and self-expression.

For young people at risk of offending, MEI runs a music and word offer in partnership with Islington's Highbury Opera Theatre. For looked-after children, we organised group instrumental workshops during the Easter and Summer holidays. Participants told us the schemes not only increased their ability in teamwork, communication skills and self-management, but also taught them how to express themselves and increased their confidence to take the lead.

MEI was awarded a Certificate of Virtuoso Music Teaching Centre by the 6th New Talent Festival as a result of two of MEI's students being honourably mentioned as part of the 2023 competition.

## Guildhall Young Artists

In 2022/23 we launched Guildhall Young Artists (GYA), a network of six centres that provides inspiring performing and production arts training for children and young people. Through GYA, Guildhall School is one of the largest providers of specialist individualised performing arts education for under-18s in the UK.

GYA often acts as a pipeline for talent to Guildhall School. Highlighting this, fifteen GYA students started BA courses at the School in 2023, with several supported by bursary funds. In total 58 students from across five GYA centres progressed onto higher education performing arts degree programmes in 2023.

This year, more than 30 undergraduates took part in a mini-residency programme across the GYA network. The Guildhall School Graduate Assistant Programme also saw six students complete a year-long development programme to enhance portfolio careers, teaching skills, networking and confidence.

The newest Guildhall Young Artists centre at King's Cross was opened at Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School. The first to offer all three disciplines (music, drama and production arts) and an integrated timetable, the centre exceeded its first-year recruitment targets and delivered a summer performance at Milton Court to a packed audience.

The new termly GYA National Brass and Percussion Day addressed the national lack of lower brass players progressing to conservatoire and the professional sector and saw nearly 100 young players take part.

We recruited a new team and developed an innovative

curriculum in preparation for the full launch of Guildhall Young Artists Online, which is aimed at children and young people unable to access GYA physical centres.

GYA runs several symphony orchestras and raft of leading ensembles and lends musicians to national orchestras. During 2022/23 their work was showcased across the country, and on film. Among the highlights, were two concerts by the London School Symphony Orchestra (LSSO) – the Centre for Young Musicians' orchestral holiday programme.

The LSSO's Conductor in Residence programme is a joint initiative between GYA and Black Lives in Music to nurture diverse talent and champion representation within orchestras. This year, it saw Bradley Wilson conduct Errollyn Wallen's *Mighty River*.

The Norfolk County Youth Orchestra (run by GYA Norwich) also performed to packed audiences at St Peter Mancroft Church, Norwich and Corn Exchange, King's Lynn. Family members of composer Malcolm Arnold's were delighted to hear his Symphony No 4 played.

In exciting news, a Junior Guildhall jazz swing band were invited to play in the final scene of the final episode of Netflix blockbuster, *The Crown*, alongside Dominic West, a Guildhall School alumnus who plays Prince Charles.

These wonderful achievements wouldn't be possible without the extraordinary hard work of GYA staff, including Bob Porter, Head of Wind, Brass and Percussion, and Andrew Mitchell, Trumpet professor at Junior Guildhall, both of whom celebrated teaching for 50 years. This year we also said farewell to Head of CYM Geoff Harness who retired after 21 years.



Guildhall Young Artists



## National Open Youth Orchestra

The London NOYO Centre, run in partnership with Barbican continued to show how young disabled and non-disabled musicians can develop their instrument and ensemble skills together. The 11 musicians who rehearsed at Milton Court saw significant progress by the end of the year, including that 88% of musicians met or exceeded their personal development goals, 88% of musicians demonstrated improved or excellent music skills and 85% of musicians demonstrated improved or excellent ensemble playing skills.

As founding partners of the National Open Youth Orchestra (NOYO), we welcomed the February publication of the 2018-2022 NOYO report by Sound Connections. It examined the impact of the more inclusive ways

of working we have implemented and their outcomes. The preface was written by NOYO musicians and invited the wider music education sector to reflect on what they could learn from it in order to welcome more young disabled musicians and increase the diversity of musicians they work with, and their audiences.

Due to the higher proportion of newcomers to the orchestra this year, a national tour was postponed. Instead, each regional NOYO centre organised a regional showcase, creating an opportunity for musicians to share their music in a more suitable way. London musicians also took part in the filming of a music video.

Mercy Welbeck, Barbican producer for the London NOYO Centre said: "It represents the future orchestras we hope to see, which would have disabled and non-disabled

musicians side by side. NOYO inherently proves that this can be done."

Leo, a NOYO percussionist until September 2022, is now pursuing a career as a musician/actor and said:

*"I couldn't have begun my extraordinary journey if I hadn't been a member of NOYO. NOYO were always understanding, giving the opportunity for a Neurodivergent musician to learn music to a high standard. NOYO's experience certainly helped me to deliver great acting. Also, I was able to master four new songs for the movie [Netflix's "I Used to be Famous"] in a very short time! Please never give up your dream."*



## Short Courses & Summer Schools

Our short courses and summer schools open up the world of the conservatoire to people outside formal learning. As well as enabling people to take part in world-class education, they also provide significant income for the School.

Between September 2022 and August 2023, we offered 29 evening courses, eight Easter Short Courses and 28 Summer Schools, spanning drama, music and production arts, as well as short courses on creative writing, writing for screen, poetry and theatre history.

During this period, we piloted a new strand of evening courses: *Skills for the Creative Industries*, which is aimed at supporting creative professionals. The courses attracted 1184 participants aged eight to 79. Pleasingly, our Summer Schools saw a resurgence in bookings from around the

world. In total, 158 people came from 47 countries, including New Zealand, Switzerland, Serbia, China, Australia, Morocco, the USA, Germany and Malaysia. This is an increase on last year's figures, when we attracted people from 33 countries.

Among the new courses we offered were *Introduction to Theatre Sound Engineering*, *Film Music Composition for Beginners* (for ages 14 to 17), *Shakespeare: Classical Monologue*, *Acting in an Accent: General American*, *Conducting Summer Course*, and *Shakespeare for GCSE*.

In order to break down barriers to attendance, we offered 42 participation bursaries for the Easter Short Courses and Summer Schools.

Since 2017, the number of short courses we offer has grown by 42%, and there has been a 38% increase in the number of participants.



# Research

## Grant capture was particularly strong this year, with considerable success in new schemes and new areas of work.

Among the highlights was a £900,000 grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to create a Performance Industry Centre for the Research and Application of Creative Technologies (see page 37 for details).

Our relationship with the Belgium-based international research platform Social Impact of Making Music (SIMM) became closer. The activities from this partnership are set to become the main business of the School's Institute for Social Impact Research in the Performing Arts during an interim leadership arrangement this academic year and next.

The School hosted two Social Impact in Music events: a 'SIMMposium', in collaboration with SIMM, and the final public event of Professor John Sloboda's AHRC-funded project *Music for social impact: Practitioners' contexts, work and beliefs*.

Executive Chair of Research England, Professor Dame Jessica Corner visited the School in June. She was impressed by her tour of the facilities, introduction to staff and doctoral research, and discussions with senior colleagues.

Implementation of the Pure Research Information Management System continued, with the engagement of doctoral students to transfer information from the existing, website-based research repository to the new system.

We changed the title of our doctoral programme to *Postgraduate Research Programme*, in order to demonstrate the many pathways available to postgraduate researchers, including MPhil as a qualification in its own right, rather than solely being a stepping stone to early exit from the PhD/DMus pathway.

Following a scoping period agreed by the Academic Board of the School, we are hoping to start the formal process of applying for Research Degree Awarding Powers in the very near future.

← Guildhall SIMMposium

↓ Guildhall SIMMposium



# Guildhall Live Events

**Creating immersive and interactive digital experiences from large-scale festivals to installations, events and exhibitions, Guildhall Live Events is an established business unit within the School. It also provides students with real-life experience on commercial projects that they can take into the world of work after graduating. Here are some highlights from the past year:**



## CResCa – Creative Research Capability

The School received one of the largest research-related funding awards ever, thanks to an application led by Guildhall Live Events. The Arts and Humanities Research Council award of more than £900,000 will support the development of a new research facility for Extended Reality (XR) Production Arts. The funding will be used to buy two significant pieces of audio-visual hardware and IT equipment, which will create a dedicated studio for research into XR.

Through the use of cutting-edge technology, XR allows for either an entirely virtual world or an experience in which the physical and virtual worlds are merged. In Production Arts, it offers the chance to combine real-world digital clones of performers, objects and spaces that can be supplemented with additional digital elements and effects to help invigorate and humanise digital

performances. The research into this technology will help create conceptual environments for training performers, including recreating opera houses for metaverse performances, or developing choreography with dance companies so the performance can be viewed from all angles.

We will acquire a HoloSys Volumetric Capture Suite system, which allows for the motion capture of people and objects for use in augmented reality and virtual reality production, the Metaverse and location-based experiences. We are also buying a customised stYpe tracking rig that permits 360-degree tracking of performers, lighting, media and projection, as well as spatial audio.

## OrchestRAM

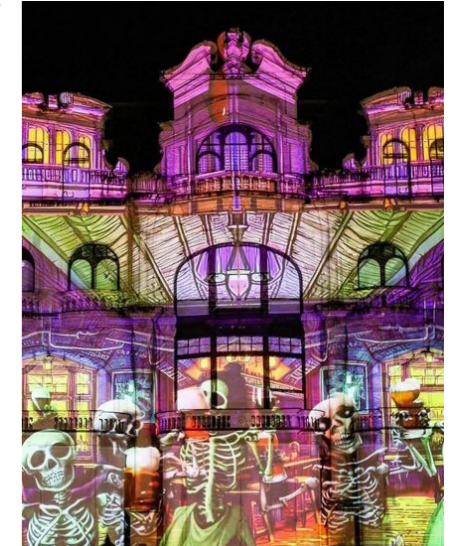
Working with colleagues across the School, including the award-winning Recording and Audio-Visual Department, we collaborated with RAM Records for *OrchestRAM* on three sold-out nights at Milton Court Concert Hall with the Guildhall Session Orchestra – a fully professional ensemble of alumni from Guildhall School – to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the record label. Taking place at the Barbican, *OrchestRAM: an Orchestral Journey into Drum & Bass* featured orchestral renditions of tracks from the iconic label's catalogue, arranged by Electronic and Produced Music students and performed by over 40 musicians. This celebration of the genre took audiences on an epic orchestral journey, with the Guildhall Session Orchestra being joined by a DJ, percussion and singers to perform many of RAM's biggest hits, matched by a programme of projections, lasers and club-inspired lighting design.

## Virtual Time Travel Trail

Worcester Life Stories was a collaborative project between Worcester City Council's Historic Environment Record and Worcestershire Health and Care Trust. It brought together archived heritage, digital technology and community events to promote public health and wellbeing through shared local history. Guildhall Live Events joined artists Amelia Kosminsky and Josh Garner, plus students on the School's Video Design for Live Performance and Electronic and Produced Music programmes, to deliver an event across the city centre. Using projection-based installations, it showcased multiple heritage sites in the city centre. *The Virtual Time Travel Trail* was a celebration of local memories and nostalgia using the historic city as a large-scale canvas.

## Halloween – Derry City and Strabane District Council

Guildhall Live Events worked closely with Derry City and Strabane District Council on its hugely popular Halloween event. As Europe's largest Halloween festival, *Awakening the Walled City* was a complex project which incorporated over 20 installations across the city centre. This included large-scale projections on St Columb's Cathedral, The Courthouse and former department store Austins, plus many smaller projections throughout the rest of the walled city and throughout St Columb's Park. More than 80,000 visitors came for the event, which was also supported with original compositions from Music students, plus content and video engineering support from Video Design for Live Performance students.



## Other highlights

Guildhall Live Events returned as projection partner at Bloomsbury Festival to showcase *A Language of Shapes*, an animated fairytale created by artist Samantha Moore and projected onto the façade of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. We also worked with ANYSTAGE to help create visuals for the opening of Battersea Power Station. Finally, with support from the Barbican, an immersive installation inspired by Studio Ghibli's *My Neighbour Totoro* was delivered at Milton Court by the School's video students with direction from alumna, artist Amelia Kosminsky (Video Design for Live Performance 2019).

↑  
Awakening the Walled City  
←  
My Neighbour Totoro

# Creative Business Support & Creative Partnerships

## Creative Business Support

Through Creative Business Support, we run a rolling programme of support that responds to key challenges facing professionals in the performing arts industry. We focus on early career practitioners (including our alumni community), providing access to free workshops, resources and grants to support their development and professional resilience in a changing world.

Earlier this year, Creative Business Support launched Starting Blocks, a new upskilling resource for early-career creative practitioners as they take their first steps into the industry. Delivered as a series of videos, each course is designed to explore the foundations of



setting up as a creative freelancer, helping practitioners to up-skill and advance their creative practice as they embark on their careers. Creative Business Support also piloted a new Alumni Mentoring Scheme, offering one-to-one coaching and industry peer support for alumni who have an interest in taking their creative business to the next level.

## Creative Partnerships

Creative Partnerships built on the lessons from last year's DISRUPT festival by bringing together a group of partners to create a resource for cultural and third-sector organisations called the DISRUPT Toolkit. This resource looks at the models and co-creation techniques used by six partner organisations and provides tools, case studies and tips to support more democratic ways of working with communities.

We also teamed up with the Royal Shakespeare Company and theatre company Improbable to create an event which explored cultural placemaking, bringing together arts organisations, funders, artists

and communities to discuss the good, the bad and the ugly of placemaking, civic purpose and power.

Our dementia-friendly music service Music Bank continued to be offered to Golden Lane Estate's Memory Group and included a series of interactive Christmas concerts, bringing together alumni from a variety of disciplines. The Memory Group enjoyed singing, dancing and asking for special renditions of their favourite Christmas pop songs.

The team also developed two commissioned projects in partnership with Bishopsgate Institute. Both projects were created by alumni and explored different aspects of Bishopsgate's remarkable archive. This year, the events included a performance exploring perimenopause in the form of a beauty pageant called Ms Midlife, and another event which brought together LGBTQ+ and anarchist material from the archive to create a 'singles night' celebrating camp, comedy and queerness.

# Guildhall Ignite

## In May 2023, Guildhall School of Music & Drama launched Guildhall Ignite, its executive and professional training consultancy coaching in and through the performing arts.

Guildhall Ignite offers both European Mentoring and Coaching Council accredited training and bespoke services to support executives and professionals to deliver inspiring and exceptional performance. Our suite of programmes is designed to enable leaders to respond to the contemporary challenges of today as well as be ready for those of tomorrow.

The School is the only arts education institution to combine outstanding executive coaching with performance training for a range of professional sectors, using specialist coaches in the performing arts. Previously called Guildhall Coaching Associates, Guildhall Ignite builds on the School's expertise in coaching leaders and teams across a wide spectrum of industries, including the arts, education and business.

There are three pillars of this work:

### Personal Performance

For individuals from managers to C-Suite level, seeking to 'own their stage' through one-to-one executive coaching, personality profiling, and voice and embodiment work, with programmes such as *The Authentic Speaker* and *Into The Spotlight For Women*.

### Enabling Performance in Others

For those who want to support and effectively manage teams by applying European Mentoring and Coaching Council accredited coaching skills training, as well as coaching and mentoring courses, which are offered at three levels: foundation, practitioner and CPD.

### Organisational Performance

Training and bespoke interventions designed to create and sustain harmonious performance across an organisation, with programmes such as *Conducting Courageous Conversations*, *Resilient Teams* and *Leaders On and Off Stage*.

Since its launch, Guildhall Ignite has seen a growing level of interest in its offer, resulting in a steady uptake of training through the Personal Performance and Enabling Performance pillars, as professionals recognise the benefits of our unique coaching approach to support their work. It has also resulted in a range of partnership work with leading organisations, including Imperial College, BPI, NCACE, Sussex University and Royal Opera House, to support learning and development, embedding a coaching approach alongside building effective and inclusive cultures.

↓  
Guildhall Ignite



# Access & Participation

**This year, our Access and Participation provision has gone from strength to strength, growing not only the team, but the support offered and the number of engaged participants across all activities. We also started considerable research for the development of a new Access and Participation plan, particularly around the impact of projects, and launched a cross-School Outreach Working Group to connect colleagues and support best practice.**

→ Get Backstage; Opera Triple Bill backstage  
 ↓ Get Backstage



## Supported Application Scheme

The Supported Application Scheme offers eligible undergraduate applicants a free application, advice and guidance, a range of workshops and events, and audition travel bursaries. In 2022/23, it supported 175 applicants, 14% of whom received an offer. A total of 13 participants enrolled at the School in September 2023.

Analysis of the Scheme's overall impact from 2019-23 shows that it has supported 528 individuals with 608 applications. 41.7% of all applicants were based outside of Greater London, highlighting our national reach; 51.3% were Black, Asian or ethnically diverse; 55.5% came from areas of the UK with the highest levels

of deprivation; and 8.9% of all participants have enrolled at the School.

We were delighted to see other small and specialist institutions, such as RADA and Central School of Ballet, develop similar activities in 2023 to support their own applicants, both of which acknowledged Guildhall School's Scheme as their inspiration.

*"The workshops and support from Lily have made the process of applying to drama school so much less stressful. Guildhall seems so welcoming, and I could see myself as a student here."*

Supported Application Scheme participant



## Get Backstage

Following a successful pilot, Get Backstage returned in 2023, exceeding all expectations. Running across four days, it offered eleven state-educated pupils technical workshops in each Production Arts pathway, plus exclusive industry visits, including a matinee of Disney's *Newsies* and a backstage tour and Q&A with the technical team. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with every participant rating the experience 'excellent' and 90% indicating they were very likely to apply to a Production Arts degree at the end of the project – up from 27% at application stage. The project has since been recognised with HELOA's prestigious award for Best Practice Access, Outreach and Student Recruitment.

*"I have gained a lot of knowledge about the different careers available and what it is like to study at Guildhall. I learned a lot of specific stuff about the different pathways, which was so useful for me as my family doesn't do theatre as an activity, and it has always felt like a career where you have to know people."*

Get Backstage participant

## Get Ready for Guildhall

Just over a third of undergraduate offer-holders attended this one-day event, discovering student support services, meeting other new undergraduates from similar backgrounds, chatting to current students and building excitement for September. Attendees indicated the event was "welcoming", "comforting", and "informative", and 96% enrolled at the School in September 2023. Get Ready for Guildhall demonstrates the power of a cross-School approach to Access and Participation, engaging representatives from across Guildhall's student facing departments.

*"The day was brilliant and helped the transition feel less gaping and huge! I'm still nervous about the change, but more excited than nervous now."*

Get Ready for Guildhall attendee



## Other projects

Through Originate, our collaborative project with RADA, Theatre Peckham and Young and Talented, we trained 18 young actors. A particular highlight was their professional showcase in June 2023. Ongoing research into the impact of Originate since 2017

shows that at least 35% of project alumni progressed to drama school – 27% of those to Guildhall. A further 21% have progressed straight to industry.

*"It was really good, amazing; I would 100% recommend it. I made lifelong mentors and friends. Getting to know two drama schools was such a unique experience and helped me develop as an actor."*

Originate participant

A total of 42 Participation Bursaries were awarded to 40 short course participants from low-income households, to the value of £21,632.50. In addition, over 130 children were supported with GYA Access Bursaries across the Guildhall Young Artists' network, to the value of £157,138.

Monologue Bootcamp offered 23 prospective BA Acting applicants intensive audition preparation. These courses were in-person for the first time and took place twice – at Leeds in collaboration with Leeds Conservatoire and on-site at the School. Working with Leeds Conservatoire was successful and both Bootcamps will be collaborative endeavours in the future.

We awarded 27 undergraduate students an Access Bursary – a total of £92,500. Changes were made to the process for care-experienced students, guaranteeing them the maximum bursary for the duration of their studies to ensure their financial security.

*"I have been lucky enough to receive an access bursary for each year that I have been studying at Guildhall. This has allowed me to access my training without too much financial stress."*

Access Bursary recipient

# Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

**At Guildhall School, we are committed to advancing equality of opportunity, celebrating the diversity of our staff and student community, and fostering a cohesive and inclusive culture for everyone.**

We believe that the inclusion of diverse voices, skills, lived experience and unique perspectives is what makes our community thrive. This enhances our teaching, enriches our research and strengthens our ability to provide an exceptional education to all. In spring 2023, the School conducted a successful recruitment campaign for a new Head of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), with Mohammed Ilyas taking up this position from November 2023. Mohammed's role is responsible for continuing to develop and implement Guildhall's DEI strategy, ensuring its aims and objectives are understood, shaped and supported by staff and students across the School.

In line with many organisations, Guildhall School remains on a developmental path. There is a strong understanding among our staff that more must be done to change the inequities that exist within our society, the sectors that we serve and our own organisation,

and the part each of us has to play in addressing this. During 2022/23, we carried out several bespoke staff training initiatives across departments, including Mental Health First Aid training, disability awareness and creative access, and menopause awareness. The Music department collaborated with London College of Communication to create a series of anti-racism videos, and the Production Arts department delivered an event on the topic of diversifying production arts staffing in drama schools and conservatoires, in partnership with consultancy EDJI Arts. Our partnership with UK music industry charity Black Lives in Music continued and saw us working closely with staff and students to improve many strands of activity. Assessment Requirement regulations in some Departmental Handbooks now encourage students to explore historically underrepresented repertoire, and this is welcomed as part of assessments.

An outcome of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Bullying Strategic Advisory Group has been the launch of a new 'Report & Support' homepage on the School's intranet for students. The homepage shares various resources, information and options for reporting incidents or ways of accessing support. The DEI committee reached the end of its initial two-term period, with composition, terms of reference and membership being updated as part of the School's governance review.

↓  
Everyman



# Sustainability

Ensuring the School and the work of students and staff has as little impact on the environment as possible is fundamental to what we do, with a focus on sustainability identified as one of Guildhall's eight aims in our recently published strategic plan.

During 2022/23, the School achieved a 30% reduction in carbon emissions from our use of gas, electricity, and district heating and cooling, when compared to the baseline year of 2018/19.

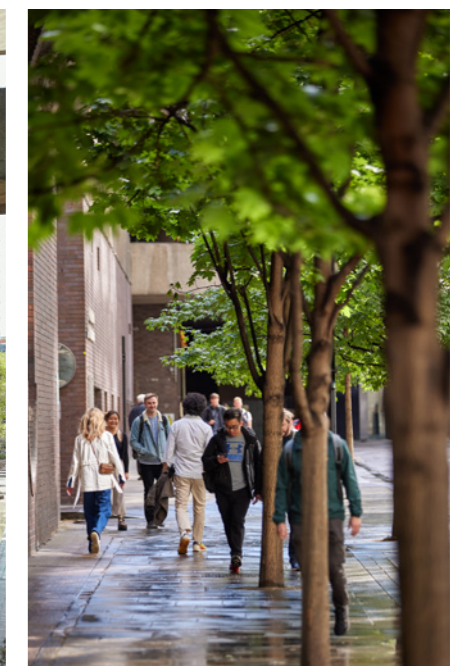
During this period we also transitioned most music concert programmes to digital, thereby reducing the amount of paper we use, and published a new Sustainability webpage for staff and students on the intranet. The webpage hosts the School's sustainable objectives, policies and achievements, as well as updates from departments and resources for staff and students.

Sustainability is also now highlighted in all new staff inductions, setting out the crucial

importance of the issue at the start of all Guildhall School careers.

A student travel survey took place in July 2023, which was used to calculate the carbon emissions from student commuter travel during term time. The results found that 24% of students walk to and from the School while 15% cycle, 60% use public transport and only 1% use private transport (i.e. car or motorbike).

↓  
Barbican Estate; Silk Street



# Development & alumni relations

**The Development and the Alumni Relations team works with the School's supporters, senior volunteers, alumni, Fellows and longstanding friends to help Guildhall School meet its strategic priorities through fundraising and advocacy.**

This year, those priorities have included a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion; a commitment to life-long learning; and building on our position as one of the best conservatoires in the world to attract excellent people who do exceptional work.

The Guildhall School Trust is the independent registered charity that supports the School's fundraising activities. Its members are volunteers under the leadership of Chair Deborah Lincoln. This year, the Board welcomed new trustees Amer Al-Baho and Caroline Stockmann.

We are very grateful to our community of donors, alumni, Fellows and friends who make so much possible through their support and belief in Guildhall School staff and students.

## Philanthropic support

This year, generous philanthropic gifts totalling £2.4million were received from nearly 550 donors during 22/23, up from 450 the previous year. The positive difference made by our donors goes way beyond the financial and includes helping 900 students with scholarships or bursary support, enabling over 100 hours of professional masterclasses and celebrating the tenth anniversary of the opening of Milton Court. They also form a team of hundreds of individuals, companies, trusts and foundations and liveries who believe in the importance of Guildhall School globally and the need to support our students.

## Scholarships

The number of awards made to undergraduates, postgraduates and research students through

the School's Scholarships Fund increased from 637 to 667, representing more than 59% of our overall higher education student population. More than 200 bursaries were made to children and young people training in our Guildhall Young Artists centres around the country.

## Supporting world-class training

To mark the ten-year anniversary celebrations for Milton Court, our supporting community was invited to dedicate new seat plaques in the Concert Hall and Theatre. Over 30 donors took up this opportunity in 2022/23, with the campaign running into 2023/24. Alongside our growing Patrons and Circle programmes, Take Your Seat supports the School's world-class training and the upkeep of our state-of-the-art performing venues.



Student Em is supported by the Alfred Molina Scholarship and the Herbert & Theresie Lowit Memorial Scholarship.

She says her scholarship makes a massive difference.

*"Receiving an acceptance letter from one of the best performing arts institutions in the world was a dream come true. I was so excited about moving to London and starting my degree, but I was really concerned about how I would afford it. When I was awarded scholarship support, I felt unbelievably grateful. It made me even more determined to follow my dreams and motivated me to demonstrate to my sponsors that their belief in me and the training at Guildhall was well founded."*

**£2.4m**  
raised from 550 donors

More than  
**900**  
students supported by  
scholarships

More than  
**100**  
music masterclasses funded

## Alumni Relations

We are delighted to be in touch with over 13,600 alumni with whom we share news. Their response rates to emails continues to climb, as does the frequency of bespoke alumni reunions.

We were particularly thrilled to see the strength of the alumni community in action, offering their time and support by attending a fundraising gala or offering prizes for auction. In doing so, they helped to raise funds for our world-class training and students.

The strength of our alumni communications is part of the reason that we have shared 228 career opportunities on our social channels and celebrated 46 alumni achievements (see pages 9–13), including Tonys, BAFTAs, National TV Lifetime Awards, BBC Music Magazine Awards and Ferrier Awards.

## Fellows and Honorary Fellows

This year, we welcomed a number of new Fellows and Honorary Fellows (see pages 16–18). This impressive team of individuals enhance our research, teaching, and position at the top of the rankings, enabling us to attract talent, foster collaboration, and drive innovation and impact across the world. We thank them for joining the Fellowship and for the active role they play in the life of the School.





# A strong financial model

**Guildhall School was founded by the Corporation of London in 1880, and has flourished and grown under the stewardship of the City since then.**



The School was fully funded by the Corporation until 2006, when it was designated as a publicly funded Higher Education Institution and began to receive additional funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England. It is now a registered Higher Education Provider with the Office for Students. Since then, the School has diversified and increased its income streams so that funding from the City Corporation now accounts for c25% of its total revenue with recurrent funding from the Office for Students and Research England accounting for a further 20% and the remainder coming from

tuition fees, commercial income and philanthropic funding from donors. However, the School still receives substantial in-kind support from the City for a wide range of activities that enable the School to operate effectively. We are immensely grateful to the City for this support.

The School operates as a semi-autonomous part of the City of London Corporation, and the School's Board of Governors includes elected City members, members of Guildhall School staff, the Student Union President, and a strong group of invaluable co-opted senior professionals from the Higher Education and Arts sectors, essential in helping the Board ensure effective oversight of the School's development and operations.

During the year ended 31 March 2023, the School recorded a deficit of £2.068m as it continues to return to normal operations postpandemic. The School has recently agreed a new strategic plan taking it up to its 150th Anniversary year in 2030. The medium term financial plan that sits alongside the strategic

plan envisages a return to a break even position by 2025–26 at the latest with small annual surpluses thereafter.

An ongoing review of the appropriate size and shape of the School's academic offer, enhancements to the procedures for developing the annual budget and agreeing variations to the approved budget, plans for a range of possible new programmes and discussions with the City regarding the future operating model for the maintenance of the School estate should all serve to accelerate that return to a sustainable financial position for the School.

While the plan as it stands includes some ambitious targets for income generation and expenditure efficiencies that are not without risk, there are also many exciting opportunities ahead and I am confident that Guildhall School will continue to thrive and prosper in this next chapter of its development.

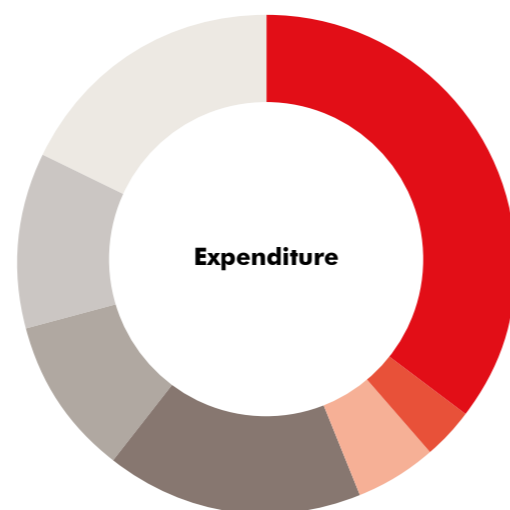
**Graham Packham**  
Chairman of the Board  
of Governors

# Financial profile

Income	£000
● HE tuition fees	10,331
● Guildhall School Trust Scholarships	1,800
● Grants	10,457
● City of London contribution	8,551
● Income generation and other activities	5,218
● Guildhall Young Artists tuition fees	3,717
<b>Total 2022/23</b>	<b>40,074</b>
Total 2021/22	36,452



Expenditure	£000
● HE teaching and teaching departments	14,935
● Academic services	1,428
● Student support services	2,196
● Central administration services	7,015
● Income generating activities	4,370
● Guildhall Young Artists activity and outreach	4,707
● Premises and residential	7,491
<b>Total 2022/23</b>	<b>42,148</b>
Total 2021/22	37,625



expenditure

<b>Surplus/(deficit) 2022/23</b>	<b>(2,068)</b>
Surplus/(deficit) 2021/22	(1,173)

NB: During 2020/21 the School elected to change its financial year-end date to 31 March. The data for 20/21, 21/22 and 22/23 therefore relates to the year-ended on 31 March in each case. For earlier periods the date relates to the year-ended on 31 July in each case.

# Higher education student profiles

Qualifications	
<b>Qualifications awarded for 2022/23 cycle</b> (as at 19 October 2023)	
Bachelors degrees (including Ordinary degrees)	178
Masters degrees	168
Artist Diplomas	13
<b>Total 2022/23</b>	<b>359</b>
Total 2021/2022	337

Undergraduate student cohort	
Programme	Total (FTE)
BA in Acting	62
BA in Acting Studies	5
BA in Production Arts	106
BA in Video Design for Live Performance	13
BMus	468
<b>Total 2022/23</b>	<b>665</b>
Total 2021/22	669



● 56.1% Male  
● 40.3% Female  
● 3.6% Other



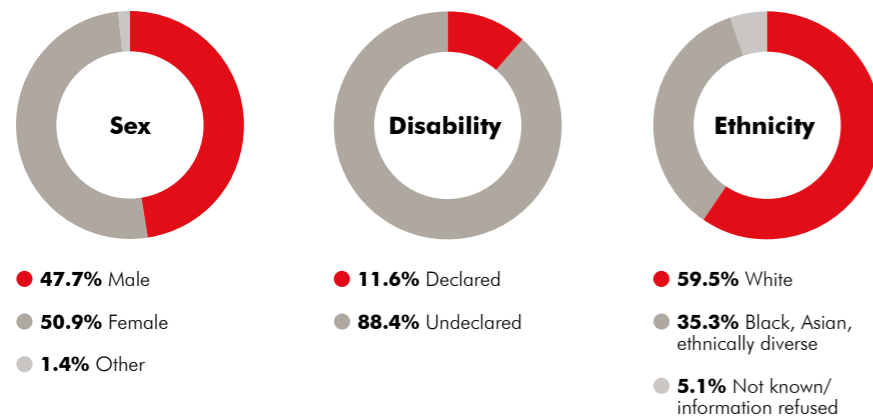
● 26.7% Declared  
● 73.3% Undeclared



● 74% White  
● 24% Black, Asian, ethnically diverse  
● 2% Not known/information refused

## Postgraduate student cohort

Programme	Total (FTE)
MA in Acting	3
MA in Collaborative Theatre Production & Design	10
Artist Diploma	21
Guildhall Artist Masters	262
MA in Opera Making & Writing	6
MA in Music Therapy	25
PGCert in Performance Teaching	12
DMus/PhD	54
<b>Total 2022/23</b>	<b>393</b>
Total 2021/22	<b>408</b>



## Other

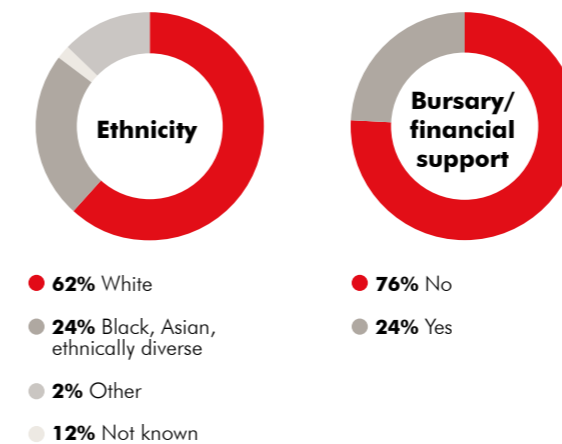
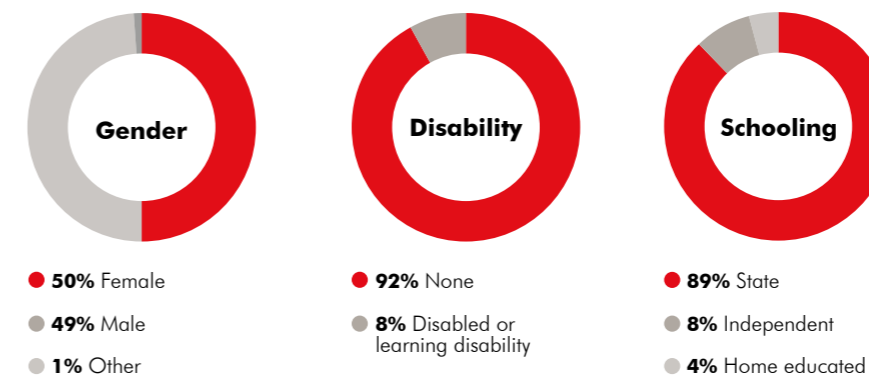
Programme	Total (FTE)
Advanced Certificate	18
Fellows †	42
<b>Total 2022/23</b>	<b>60</b>
Total 2021/22	67

† Fellows are students only in respect of their extra-mural tuition. Fellows are shown as headcount.

# Guildhall Young Artists student profile

## Student cohort 2022/23

Centres	Total (FTE)
Junior Guildhall	646
Centre for Young Musicians	421
Norwich Centre	168
Online Centre	37
Saffron Walden Centre	188
Taunton Centre	151
<b>Total 2022/23</b>	<b>1611</b>



Online centre data is not included in gender, schooling, disability, ethnicity and bursary info

# Our supporters

**Guildhall School is grateful for the generous support of all donors and those who wish to remain anonymous. The following individuals, trusts and foundations, City livery companies and businesses have made Exceptional, Leadership or Major Benefactor level gifts this year.**

## Exceptional Giving

Estate of David Bartley  
The Cole Bequest  
Victor Ford Foundation  
The Leverhulme Trust  
Estate of Barbara Reynolds  
Estate of Rosemary Thayer  
Estate of Berthe Wallis  
Professor Christopher Wood MD  
FRCSEd FLSW

## Leadership Giving

Amar-Franses & Foster-Jenkins Trust  
City of London Education Board  
Estate of Diana Devlin  
Fishmongers' Company  
Norman Gee Foundation  
Estate of Ralph Goode  
Leathersellers' Company  
Herbert and Theresie Lowit Memorial Scholarship  
Sidney Perry Foundation  
Estate of Denis Shorrock  
Wolfson Foundation  
Henry Wood Accommodation Trust  
C and P Young HonFGS  
Estate of Eleanor van Zandt

## Major Benefactors

Jane Ades Ingenuity Scholarship  
Baha and Gabriella Bassatne Behrens Foundation  
Maria Björnson Memorial Fund  
John S Cohen Foundation  
Sally Cohen Opera Scholarships  
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Amy and John Ford HonFGS  
Albert & Eugenie Frost Music Trust CIO  
Girdlers' Company Charitable Trust  
Haberdashers' Company  
Paul Hamburger Prize for Voice and Piano  
Headley Trust  
Estate of Elaine Hugh-Jones  
Professor Sir Barry Ife CBE FKC and Dr Trudi Darby  
Cosman Keller Art and Music Trust  
Gillian Laidlaw  
Damian Lewis CBE FGS  
London Symphony Orchestra  
Alfred Molina FGS

Ripple Awards  
Dr Leslie Olmstead Schulz  
Skinners' Company – Lawrence Atwell's Charity  
South Square Trust  
Garfield Weston Foundation  
Estate of Elizabeth Wolfe  
Worshipful Company of Carpenters  
Worshipful Company of Grocers  
Worshipful Company of Innholders  
Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers

# Who's who

## Patron

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor of the City of London

## Chairman of the Board of Governors

Graham Packham

## Deputy Chairman of the Board of Governors

Randall Anderson

## Board members

George Abrahams  
Munsur Ali  
Emily Benn  
Natasha Bucknor (until 2022)  
Professor Geoffrey Crossick  
Professor Maria Delgado  
Amatey Doku  
Simon Duckworth  
John Foley  
Steven Gietzen (until 2023)  
Sean Goss (from 2022)  
Neil Greenwood  
Dr Paula Haynes  
Julian Hepple (from 2023)  
Darcie Jago, Student Union President (until 2023)  
Andrew Mayer  
Annilese Miskimmon (from 2023)  
Harry Plant (until 2022)  
Violetta Suvini (from 2023)  
Andy Taylor  
Jonathan Vaughan, Principal  
Amanda White (from 2022)  
Michelle Wright (from 2022)

## Senior Leadership

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Professor Jonathan Vaughan

**Chief Operating Officer**  
Dr Robert Bennett

**Vice-Principal & Director of Drama**  
Professor Orla O'Loughlin

**Vice-Principal & Director of Music**  
Armin Zanner

**Vice-Principal & Director of Production Arts**  
Professor Andy Lavender

**Vice-Principal & Director of Innovation and Engagement**  
Professor Sean Gregory

**Director of Guildhall Young Artists & Safeguarding**  
Alison Mears

**Secretary & Dean of Students**  
Merlin Harries



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