

GUILDHALL HARP DEPARTMENT NEWS: SUMMER 2024

In 2023 the Guildhall School was ranked number one in Arts, Drama and Music by the Complete University Guide, in the top ten performing arts institutions in the QS World University rankings, and we topped the Guardian University Guide league table for Music. We are now enjoying an exciting and stimulating 2024.

The year started with the Studio Orchestra playing the music of Burt Bacharach, using our Big Blue Camac electric harp. There were also lots of notes to play in a London Symphony Orchestra/Orchestral Artistry repertoire session with Nicolò Foron conducting Sibelius 1. This was a wonderful chance to perform with a professional conductor alongside members of the LSO; there was also a chance to sit in a professional rehearsal with the Orchestra.

The orchestral schedule is as busy as ever, with regular weekly repertoire sessions, and chances to perform in the Barbican Hall with the Guildhall Symphony Orchestra conducted by Roberto Gonzales-Monjas. Our orchestral classes with LSO Principal Harp Bryn Lewis prepare core orchestral repertoire with the students, and they take these skills into practical orchestral sessions, this year rehearsing/performing works by Berlioz, Prokofiev, Mahler, Britten, Strauss, Dvorak, Holst, Stravinsky, Ravel and Respighi.

Opera happens every term, and this year's Spring Opera includes harp and is the world première of a new work by Stephen McNeff 'A Star Next To The Moon'. In the Summer Term there are 3 new Operas with harp in our Opera Makers project.

Our regular Harp and Voice project is going from strength to strength, and this year 6 first-year composers will write pieces for harp and voice which will be showcased in the Summer Festival. We are passionate about the value of this project, where composers work intensively with a harpist and learn to love the instrument and write well for it.

We had a mesmerising class with **Hugh Webb** on The Glissando, and last term alumnus **Oliver Wass** gave a class on Ginastera's Harp Concerto, with which he won the Guildhall Gold Medal. We were so proud when Masters student **Heather Brooks** appeared in the Final of this year's Gold Medal, giving an outstanding concerto performance in the Barbican Hall, just weeks after appearing at the Wigmore Hall as part of the Wigmore Recital Prize recital. **Sioned Williams'** masterclass was a perfect balance of challenge and kindness, with all the performers energised and uplifted by her comments. We welcomed **Emily Hoile**, prizewinning soloist and Principal Harpist of the WDR Symphony Orchestra in Cologne, Germany, who gave a wonderful Masterclass in March.

In the Summer Term, our special guests are **Sandrine Chatron**, solo harpist of the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra and professor of harp at the Haute École de Musique, Geneva, who visited in May, and the inimitable **Park Stickney** who will join us for a Jazz workshop in our Summer Festival. We also hosted a workshop 'Harp Alchemy' with **Amy Turk** and **Lauren Scott**, who talked about how to forge your unique path as

a 21st-century musician as well as focusing on percussive and extended techniques for harp.

Finally – a happy and rare event to celebrate: two of our harp department Alumni, Oliver Wass and Lise Vandersmissen, are getting married in the summer! Maybe we should be called the Guildhall School of Music & Dating? We wish them every happiness.

Follow us on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/guildhallharps/>
and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/GuildhallHarps/>

OPEN EVENTS 2024

Email harp@gsmd.ac.uk to check details for events. All events take place at Guildhall School, Silk Street Barbican London EC2Y 8DT unless otherwise stated.

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| 24 January | 2.30-4.30pm in Room 150
Hugh Webb: Improvising and Exploring Melody for the Classical Harpist
<i>Invitation only – please email if you would like an invitation</i> |
| 1 February | 7.00pm in the Music Hall <i>Free to Attend</i>
Guildhall Harp Department Concert
A lively programme of chamber music and solos:
<i>Debussy Trio; Fauré Impromptu; Debussy Danses; Ravel Sonatine en Trio; Debussy Valse Romantique; Castelnuovo-Tedesco Harp Concertino.</i> |
| 8 February | 6.00pm in Milton Court Concert Hall
Strings at Six
With postgraduate harpists Heather Brooks and Emilia Agajew:
<i>Britten Overture; Scarlatti Sonata K209; Fauré Impromptu; Fauré Une Châtelaine en sa Tour; Castelnuovo-Tedesco Harp Concertino.</i> |
| 21 February | 10am-12pm in Room 150
Oliver Wass on Ginastera's Harp Concerto
<i>Invitation only – please email if you would like an invitation</i> |
| 8 March | 12.30-1.30pm Whitechapel Road, E1 1FR
Guildhall Harpists at the Royal London Hospital
<i>An informal foyer performance for patients and visitors</i> |
| 13 March | 12.00-6.00pm in Room 150 <i>Please book your place online</i>
Guildhall Harp Department Open Day
<i>11.45-12.00 Arrival and registration in the foyer</i>
<i>12.00-12.45 Welcome/presentation on the Harp Department</i>
<i>1.00-1.45 Harp Recital by current students</i>
<i>1.45-2.15 Lunch</i>
<i>2.15-3.00 Masterclass with Head of Harp Imogen Barford</i>
<i>3.15-4.00 Harp Class with one of the harp professors</i>
<i>4.15-5.00 Harp Class with one of the harp professors</i>
<i>5.00-6.00 Tour of the Buildings with a current student</i>
<i>7.30pm Guildhall Symphony Orchestra in the Barbican Hall</i> |
| 21 March | 1.00-2.00pm in St Olave's Church, Hart Street, EC3R 7NA
Guildhall Harpists and Friends <i>Free to Attend</i> |
| 24 March | Guildhall Chamber Music Festival
<i>Including Ravel's Introduction & Allegro with Emily Sullivan</i> |
| 28 March | 1.30-7.40pm in the Lecture Recital Room <i>Free to Attend</i>
Harp Masterclass with Emily Hoile |

- 3 April 7.30pm at the Wigmore Hall, London
Ana-Carmen Balestra (soprano) with Heather Brooks (harp)
 Postgraduate Heather Brooks appears with the winner of the Guildhall Wigmore Recital Prize 2024 <https://www.wigmore-hall.org.uk/whats-on/202404031930>
- 1 May 7.30pm in the Barbican Hall
Guildhall Gold Medal Competition Final
Heather Brooks: Ginastera: Harp concerto
Kosuke Shirai: Copland: Clarinet concerto
Strahinja Mitrovic: Nino Rota: Divertimento concertante for double bass
- 6 May 1.00pm in the Lecture Recital Room *Free to Attend*
Harp Department Concert
- 10 May **Harp Masterclass with Sandrine Chatron**
Invitation only – please email if you would like an invitation
- 16 May 1.00-2.00pm in St Olave's Church, Hart Street, EC3R 7NA
Guildhall Harpists and Friends *Free to Attend*
- 17 May 1.30-3.30pm in the Lecture Recital Room *Free to Attend*
Harp Alchemy: A Hands-On Workshop with Amy Turk & Lauren Scott
 This is an opportunity to work with two musicians who invent and collaborate, and who take charge of their own musical careers & destinies. We will hear how Lauren & Amy developed their individual careers as professional harpists, and focus on percussive and extended harp techniques.
- 23 May 7.00pm at Salvi Showroom, 14 Molasses Row, London SW11 3UX
Guildhall Harps Showcase Concert *Free to attend, but email info@salvimusic.com to reserve your ticket*
- 24/25 June All Events In the Lecture Recital Room *Free to Attend*
Guildhall Summer Harp Festival:
GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY SALVI MUSIC LONDON
- 24 June 1.00pm
Six World Premières for Voice and Harp
Come and hear the exciting culmination of our work with the first-year composers on how to write for harp and voice
<https://www.gsmd.ac.uk/whats-on/six-world-premieres-for-voice-and-harp>
- 2.15pm
A Journey Through The Ages with the Early Harp Dept
Via Medieval Spain, we travel to France and Italy, Germany and the UK on this kaleidoscopic Grand Tour, all performed on early harps.
<https://www.gsmd.ac.uk/whats-on/journey-through-the-ages-with-the-early-harp-department>
- 4.00pm
Alexander Rider: A Leaf From The Album lecture/recital
Take an afternoon to listen to beautiful music by Tournier, Renié, Saint-Saëns, Fauré and others, together with the singular stories behind the pieces.
<https://www.gsmd.ac.uk/whats-on/tea-time-concert-leaf-from-the-album-lecture-recital-by-alexander-rider>

25 June

11.30am-1.30pm and 2.30-4.30pm

Jazz Harp Workshop with Park Stickney

<https://www.gsmd.ac.uk/whats-on/park-stickney-jazz-harp-workshop>

6.30pm

Strictly Stickney: The Inimitable Park Stickney in Recital

The amazing Jazz harpist plays jazz standards alongside his own compositions in what will be an awe-inspiring and entertaining evening!

<https://www.gsmd.ac.uk/whats-on/strictly-stickney-the-inimitable-jazz-harpist-park-stickney-in-recital>

Please email harp@gsmd.ac.uk to reserve your seats