

Scholarships at the School



Aina Miyagi Magnell is supported by the Gillian and Freddie Martin Award

“Singing is what I look forward to every day. I love learning new repertoire and gaining experiences – and I only want to learn more. I am so thankful for the kindness of my scholarship donors who have enabled me to do all of this at Guildhall.”

The support I receive means I can stay in London and complete my studies without the anxiety of financial inadequacy. Without it, I wouldn't be able to be part of important work which benefits our communities and become the artist and colleague I want to be.

Guildhall is not just a place where exceptional students hone their skills, it is a place where the power of the arts transforms lives. Our scholarship donors are the drivers behind all of this, and I cannot thank them enough.”

Aina: final year Guildhall Artist Masters, Mezzo-soprano



Adil is supported by the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers

“The School has been an incredible place for me to grow in these formative years as an artist, actor and human being. I have had the freedom to find my own voice, explore and even fail. The support and guidance of my tutors has not only immeasurably improved my abilities as an actor but has equipped me to step successfully into the industry.”

None of this would have been possible without my scholarship. I am a child of immigrants from very humble backgrounds, so studying to become an actor never felt financially feasible. Thanks to the huge generosity of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers, I have been able to afford the privilege of studying what I love, at my dream conservatoire. I now have such a fire in my belly and can't wait to start my career as an actor.”

Adil: final year Acting

Thanks to the generous support of our donors in 2023–24

Over
950

scholarships and bursaries awarded to students at Guildhall School of Music & Drama, including under-18s attending Guildhall Young Artists

25
masterclasses

for our vocal and opera students from visiting artists across the world including Nicky Spence OBE, Roderick Williams OBE and Fatma Said

An additional
400

hours of chamber music provision, impacting over 200 students

Expansion

of the Guildhall Young Artists programme benefiting thousands more children and young people wishing to study performing arts

Over
£2.7m
raised

to support Guildhall's world-class performing arts education

£487,500

gifted for Electronic & Produced Music studio, doubling the specialist facilities for 100+ students annually

gsmd.ac.uk

With Our Thanks
2024



GUILDHALL
SCHOOL

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Cover image: Opera Makers © David Monteith-Hodge

A message from Professor Jonathan Vaughan FGS



© Paul Cochrane

This academic year has brought with it yet another exciting 12 months at Guildhall School.

We kicked off the year by celebrating the 10th anniversary of our world-class performance venue and teaching facility, Milton Court. The building has contributed to the cultural life of the School, the Barbican and the City of London, and it has been a real joy to mark such a special decade. In January, we travelled further afield to hear three Guildhall postgraduate students perform in the latest in the School's now biennial series of recitals at New York's world-renowned Carnegie Hall. This wonderful evening was quickly followed by the fantastic news that Guildhall School will become the first UK partner of Carnegie Hall's Link Up music education programme, which introduces primary school age children to the orchestra by immersing them within it.

On top of this, we have been ranked as the number one higher education institution in the Guardian University Guide league table for Music for two years in a row, number one in Arts, Drama & Music in the Complete University Guide for three years in a row, and perhaps most impressively, one in five institutions for Music and Performing Arts in the world in the QS World University Rankings.

With so much activity and success taking place, I want to extend a warm and heartfelt thank you for supporting Guildhall School over the past year and for helping us to continue flourishing as a world-leading performing arts education institution.

As a global leader in this industry, it is our responsibility to pave the way in driving forward diversity, equity and inclusion. Through initiatives like Guildhall Young Artists, our national training network for children, we are welcoming people from all backgrounds. We're proud that 40% of the 1600 young people we train in GYA weekly are from underrepresented backgrounds, over 20% receiving bursaries. You can read more about our Guildhall Young Artists network overleaf, along with details of the incredible funds you helped us raise to further empower young people.

I hope you enjoy reading this year's edition of With Our Thanks. We couldn't be more grateful to you for ensuring Guildhall School and its students thrive. Your generosity not only greatly benefits our students at a time when they most need your help, but is also nothing short of life saving for an industry fighting for the preservation of this nation's cultural excellence. Thank you for your commitment, passion and belief in the performing arts.

Lauren: second year Production Arts student

In 2021, I decided to follow my passions and retrain as a prop maker and scenic artist. I evaluated my options and worked for a while in an entry-level role at a workshop before deciding that the quickest and most effective way to gain these skills was through studying at Guildhall School of Music & Drama, where I've always dreamt of training. This decision was not without its difficulty; the biggest consideration was whether I could afford it. I had saved a sum in preparation for training, but due to the high cost of course fees and the rising cost of living, I knew from the outset that it would be challenging.

As a mature student undertaking a second degree, I am not eligible for financial support from the government and with my savings had planned to work part-time, alongside my degree. I am now in my second year and the course is increasingly demanding of my time, meaning taking on external work has become more challenging, causing stress and uncertainty around funding my studies.

This is why I am so very grateful for all of the support that Guildhall School has offered me through my scholarship. It has allowed me to focus on creating my best work, undertake the roles of scenic artist and prop maker on numerous industry-standard opera and drama productions and to stay on track for achieving a first-class degree, which in turn will give me the best career prospects.



Lauren is supported by a Guildhall School scholarship

Leaving a legacy gift to Guildhall

"When I came to commission a will in 2019 Guildhall arrived fully formed, so to speak, as a key beneficiary. I had gravitated from a long-term interest in ballet to opera, and then to the Barbican for concerts, especially those of key composers such as Mahler or Britten. Inevitably, I picked up the Barbican brochure and found my way to Guildhall's exceptional student performances. A recent outstanding performance at the School was Jake Heggie's Dead Man Walking, which is so rarely staged in the UK and was such a fantastic retelling."

I was attracted to the comprehensive training at Guildhall, including design and staging as well as performance, and essentially would like to help students make the most of what they've got. Sufficient ability, hard work, and that something extra. As Guildhall is part of the City of London and part of the cultural continuity of London, it is a particularly special place to support.

At a performance of Bach's St John Passion at Westminster Cathedral this Easter, I noticed in the programme a bass, William Thomas, described as 'a graduate of the opera course at Guildhall School of Music & Drama' and felt such a warm connection."

Jacqueline Castles, a Guildhall School Legacy Pledger



Much Ado About Nothing © David Monteith-Hodge

Empowering under-18's with our Guildhall Young Artists Appeal



© Paul Cochrane

This year, supporters generously donated over £28,000 to our Guildhall Young Artists programme. Our network of centres have now expanded across the UK (Taunton, Norwich, London and online), helping to achieve our vision of providing world-class performing arts training to under-18s.

"Being a member of Guildhall Young Artists Norwich has given me space to explore my musical interests with the support of a passionate community. I've met some incredible people who have helped me to develop both as a musician and as a person, and I couldn't imagine being in a more supportive environment."

Chris, 18 Guildhall Young Artists Norwich

Alongside support from individuals, the Cameron Mackintosh Foundation provided an inspirational learning opportunity for our Guildhall Young Artist students, who received first-hand training from Cameron Mackintosh's music team and the Les Misérables Musical Orchestra.

Our students played side by side with the professional musicians in a sold-out, public concert in Milton Court Concert Hall. They were joined by a selection of Guildhall's Opera students who sang solos, making this a School-wide and national collaboration. In the lead up to the concert, the original composer of *Les Misérables*, Claude-Michel Schönberg, came to rehearsals, provided advice to our students and even watched the final performance. An unforgettable occasion for performers and audience members alike

"The Music Department at Les Misérables were delighted to partner with Guildhall's talented young artists. Collaborating in this way to inspire and nurture the next generation is incredibly important, and we hope this experience showcased the transformative power of creativity and fuels students' ambitions within the arts."

Liz Botros, Cameron Mackintosh Foundation