

GUILDHALL HARP DEPARTMENT NEWS: SPRING 2025

We had a Happy New Year seeing that, in The Times Good University Guide 2025, Guildhall School was the highest ranked UK Conservatoire for Music. With that accolade under our belts, we are gearing up for an exciting term.

The orchestral schedule is as busy as ever. This term our regular weekly repertoire sessions with the Wind, Brass and Percussion cover Sibelius, Johann and Richard Strauss, Puccini, Wagner and Berg. The Guildhall Symphony Orchestra will perform in the Barbican Hall under Roberto Gonzales-Monjas, with a programme of Britten, Strauss and Anders Hillborg. Our orchestral classes with LSO Principal Harp **Bryn Lewis** prepare core orchestral repertoire with the students, and they take these skills into these practical orchestral sessions. In February there will also be a chance to play in Ravel's La Valse alongside Bryn in an LSO Orchestral Artistry session.

In the Summer Term there are 3 new Operas with harp in our Opera Makers project, plus the always-popular Gold Medal Competition for singers – which will include some fantastic harp-heavy opera arias.

We are passionate about the importance of contemporary music, and about educating young composers to love the harp and write well for it. In February, **Imogen Barford** and the harp students will give a workshop and demonstration for all Guildhall composers on writing for the harp. Also in February, the Principal Harp of the London Sinfonietta, **Helen Tunstall**, will give a masterclass on Silbury Air by Harrison Birtwistle, a composer she knew well and worked with over many years. In March, composer **Sally Beamish** will visit to coach her harp works *Awuya (solo)* and *Between Earth and Sea (trio)*. The trio will be performed by Emily Hopper in our Guildhall Chamber Festival in March.

Several students are preparing for competitions this term, and our professors are regularly invited to serve on juries – in January **Imogen Barford** will be part of the Jury for the Istanbul International Harp Competition Ceren Necipoglu. We also look forward to a Performance Confidence Class with the Guildhall School's first Performance Confidence Associate, professional horn player **Jo Hensel**, who will address the ever-present issue of performance anxiety.

Look out for news of our upcoming Masterclasses and Summer Festival as they are finalised!

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

OPEN EVENTS 2025

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

30 January 7.00pm in the Music Hall *Free to attend*

Guildhall Harpists and Friends, solos and chamber music including Ravel's Introduction and Allegro for harp, flute, clarinet and string quartet.

12 February 10.30am-12.30pm in 150 *Please email if you would like an invitation*
Helen Tunstall Class on Birtwistle's Silbury Air

4 March 8.00pm in Milton Court Concert Hall *Free to attend*
Emilia Agajew plays works for solo harp

5 March 10.30am-1.30pm in 150 *Please email if you would like an invitation*
Composer Sally Beamish works with the Harp Department on her works for harp: Awuya and Between Earth and Sea

6 March 11.45am-6.00pm in 150 and the Music Hall *Book a place online*
Join us for Classes, Masterclasses and a Student Recital to experience for yourself life in our vibrant and forward-looking department. Students, teachers and parents welcome.

16 March 2.00pm in Milton Court Concert Hall *Free to attend*
Students and Professors play chamber music together. Including Emily Hopper in Sally Beamish's Trio *Between Earth and Sea*.

27 March 1.00pm at St Olave's Church, 8 Hart Street, London EC3R 7NB *Free to attend*
Guildhall Harpists in Recital

12 May 1.00pm in the Lecture Recital Room *Free to attend*
Guildhall Harpists and Friends

29 May 1.00pm at St Olave's Church, 8 Hart Street, London EC3R 7NB *Free to attend*
Guildhall Harpists in Recital

13 June 10.00am-12.30pm in the Music Hall *Free to attend*
Undergraduate Final Recitals

18 June 2.45-8.25pm in Milton Court Concert Hall *Free to attend*
Postgraduate Final Recitals

30 June/1 July in the Lecture Recital Room *Free to attend*
Summer Harp Festival