

GUILDHALL HARP DEPARTMENT NEWS: SUMMER 2023

As we welcome Summer we are buoyed to be ranked number one in Arts, Drama and Music by the Complete University Guide 2023, in the top ten performing arts institutions in the QS World University rankings, and to be topping the Guardian University Guide league table for Music 2023. Our vibrant and forward-looking department is as busy as ever.

We started the year with our Harp and Voice project, where 7 first-year composers wrote 7 pieces for harp and voice and learned to understand and love the harp by working closely with the performers. We believe passionately in this work, to provide the music – and the employment - of the future. These works will be showcased in our Summer Festival (see below).

We had some distinguished visitors in the Spring term: **Helen Tunstall** of the London Sinfonietta gave a fascinating class on Birtwistle's Harp Writing, **Prof. Helga Storck** visited in February, and **Masumi Nagasawa** gave a transformative Masterclass on playing music of the 18th and 19th centuries. This term we look forward to welcoming **Isabelle Perrin** and **Sivan Magen**.

Orchestral opportunities coming up include ravishing vocal repertoire in the exciting Gold Medal competition, plus new operas with harp in our Opera Makers project, and in the Judith Weir Opera Blonde Eckbert. Student Emilia Agajew had a wonderful opportunity to play Bartok Concerto for Orchestra side-by-side in the LSO with **Bryn Lewis**, and our harpists also rehearsed The Firebird Suite with **Gianandrea Noseda**. Our Total Immersion project in May features chamber piece Miranda's Lament by the Finnish composer **Kaija Saariaho**, who will work with the students in a Total Immersion project. Meanwhile our repertoire orchestras are studying works by Respighi, Strauss, Prokofiev, and Tchaikovsky.

We are so proud of Masters student **Heather Brooks** who won the City of Szeged Prize at the International Harp Competition in Szeged, Hungary, and of **Emilia Agajew** who won the Sioned Williams Prize at the UKHA Harp Competition. Our fabulous alumni are also doing exciting things: **Helena Ricci** won a Hattori Foundation Senior Award 2022-23 and is now a City Music Foundation Artist; **Oliver Wass** played the Handel Harp Concerto on the triple harp at the Wigmore Hall; **Alexander Rider** performed a lecture-recital at the Camac Weekend in Paris on an Erard belonging to Micheline Kahn; and **Lise Vandersmissen** and **Anneke Hodnett** both released new CDs.

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

OPEN EVENTS

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.

- 11 May 1.00-2.00pm in St Olave's Church, Hart Street, EC3R 7NA
Guildhall Harpists and Friends
HEATHER BROOKS
Fantasy in D minor - W. A. Mozart Arr. Rayan-Forero
VANESSA WAGNER
Sonata K113 – Domenico Scarlatti
Danse des Lutins – Henriette Renié
ALICJA CETNAR
Sonate pour Harpe – Germaine Tailleferre
Allegretto – Lento – Perpetuum Mobile
SABRINA SAVENKOVA
Etude de Concert – Felix Godefroid
LEA KOZOKARO
Clair de Lune sur l'Etang du Parc - Marcel Tournier
CHRIS CLARKE
Sarabanda e Toccata – Nino Rota
EMILIA AGAJEW
Moldau – Bedrich Smetana arr. Hans Trnecek
Free to Attend
- 12 May 12.30-1.15pm at LSO St Luke's, 161 Old Street, London EC1V 9NG
LSO Relaxed Lunchtime Concert
HARP TRIO:
Two Rags by Scott Joplin
HEATHER BROOKS
Fantasy in D minor by W. A. Mozart arr. Rayan-Forero
CHRIS CLARKE
Overture by Benjamin Britten
VANESSA WAGNER
Danse des Lutins by Henriette Renié
ALICJA CETNAR
Sonata for Harp 1st mvmt by Germaine Tailleferre
EMILIA AGAJEW
Moldau by Bedrich Smetana arr. Hans Trnecek
- 23 May 1.00pm in the Lecture Recital Room *Free to Attend*
Harp Department Concert
EMILIA AGAJEW *harp* JUSTYNA SZYNKARCZYK *flute* Naiades:
Fantasy Sonata – William Alwyn
VANESSA WAGNER
Gabriel Fauré: Une Châtelaine en sa Tour
BETHANY CASWELL *harp* JASMINE SMITH *alto saxophone*
Sonata I – II by Andy Scott
CHRISTOPHER CLARKE

Pavane pour une Infante défunte – Maurice Ravel
SABRINA SAVENKOVA
Oriental Dance and Toccata – Aram Khatchaturian
LEA KOZOKARO
Impromptu - Albert Roussel
HEATHER BROOKS
Carnival of Venice – Felix Godefroid

25 May

2.00-5.00pm in the Lecture Recital Room
Harp Masterclass: Isabelle Perrin
Free to Attend

5-6 July

In the Lecture Recital Room *Free to Attend*

Guildhall Summer Harp Festival

5 July

11.30-12.30 **Lecture Recital by Chris Clarke**

On the harp writing of Kurtag and Saariaho

1.00-2.00pm **Lunchtime Recital**

2.30-3.30pm **New Works for Harp and Voice**

4.00-5.00pm **Lecture: Simon Wills**

"A Disgusting, Gigantic Sort of Person" – The Criminal Life and Scandalous Times of Nicholas Bochsa

6.30pm **Harp Recital by Sivan Magen**

6 July

10.00am-6.30pm **Sivan Magen Masterclass**

Generously sponsored by Salvi Music

7 July

7.00pm St James's Church, Prebend Street, N1 8PF

Chris Clarke: Five New Works for Harp