

## GUILDHALL HARP DEPARTMENT NEWS: SPRING 2024

Welcome to our Spring newsletter!

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 looking forward to an exciting and stimulating 2024.

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

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** last term on The Glissando, and Hugh returns this term to do a class on 'Improvising and Exploring Melody for the Classical Harpist'. **Sioned Williams'** masterclass last term was a perfect balance of challenge and kindness, with all the performers energised and uplifted by her comments. This term we welcome **Emily Hoile**, prizewinning soloist and Principal Harpist of the WDR Symphony Orchestra in Cologne, Germany, who will give a Masterclass in March.

Next term, our special guests will be **Sandrine Chatron**, solo harpist of the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra and professor of harp at the Haute École de Musique, Geneva, who visits in May, and the inimitable **Park Stickney** who will join us for a Jazz workshop in our Summer Festival.

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

Email [harp@gsmd.ac.uk](mailto: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.

- 24 January 2.30-4.30pm in Room 150  
**Hugh Webb: Improvising and Exploring Melody for the Classical Harpist**  
*Invitation only – please email if you would like an invitation*
- 1 February 7.00pm in the Music Hall *Free to Attend*  
**Guildhall Harp Department Concert**  
A lively programme of chamber music and solos
- 8 February 6.00pm in Milton Court Concert Hall  
**Strings at Six**  
With postgraduate harpists Heather Brooks and Emily Sullivan.
- 8 March 12.30-1.30pm Whitechapel Road, E1 1FR  
**Guildhall Harpists at the Royal London Hospital**  
*An informal foyer performance for patients and visitors*
- 13 March 12.00-6.00pm in Room 150 *Please book your place online*  
**Guildhall Harp Department Open Day**  
11.45-12.00 *Arrival and registration in the foyer*  
12.00-12.45 *Welcome/presentation on the Harp Department*  
1.00-1.45 *Harp Recital by current students*  
1.45-2.15 *Lunch*  
2.15-3.00 *Masterclass with Head of Harp Imogen Barford*  
3.15-4.00 *Harp Class with one of the harp professors*  
4.15-5.00 *Harp Class with one of the harp professors*  
5.00-6.00 *Tour of the Buildings with a current student*  
7.30pm *Guildhall Symphony Orchestra in the Barbican Hall*
- 21 March 1.00-2.00pm in St Olave's Church, Hart Street, EC3R 7NA  
**Guildhall Harpists and Friends** *Free to Attend*
- 24 March **Guildhall Chamber Music Festival**  
Including Ravel's Introduction & Allegro with Emily Sullivan
- 28 March 1.30-6pm in the Lecture Recital Room *Free to Attend*  
**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*

23 May t.b.c.

7.00pm at Salvi Showroom, 14 Molasses Row, London SW11 3UX  
**Guildhall Harps Showcase Concert** *Free to attend, but email*  
[\*info@salvimusic.com\*](mailto:info@salvimusic.com) *to reserve your ticket*

24/25 June

In the Lecture Recital Room *Free to Attend*  
**Guildhall Summer Harp Festival with Park Stickney**  
*GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY SALVI MUSIC LONDON*