



Class, Race and Classical Music

Positive Action, Negative Reaction?

London Music Masters hosts third debate on diversity in classical music
chaired by Tom Service, with panellists
Samantha Fernando, Stephen Frost and Vanessa Reed

Monday 20 April, 7pm

St Paul's Roof Pavilion, Level 6 (Blue Side), Royal Festival Hall



Tom Service



Samantha Fernando



Stephen Frost



Vanessa Reed

Music charity London Music Masters is hosting the talk ‘Positive Action, Negative Reaction?’ in order to influence wider debate around cultural diversity in the classical music sector in the St Paul’s Roof Pavilion at the Royal Festival Hall on **Monday 20 April 2015**. Broadcast journalist Tom Service chairs a panel of arts leaders and diversity experts including **Samantha Fernando** (composer), **Stephen Frost** (Former Head of Diversity and Inclusion for London Olympic and Paralympic Games and current Head of Diversity and Inclusion at KPMG), and **Vanessa Reed** (Executive Director of The PRS for Music Foundation).

This third instalment of the *Class, Race and Classical Music* series will explore the idea of **positive action** and whether it can be implemented to enable diversity in the industry. It will explore the question of whether measures of **positive action** have worked in other areas, what the benefits are and why some oppose it. London Music Masters is inviting guests to submit questions ahead of the event that they would like to be discussed during the discussion.

Questions should be submitted to **Rebecca Johns** at info@nickythomasmedia.com by **Monday 5 April**.

LMM’s last debate on *Class, Race and Classical Music* in 2014 discussed the role of **arts leaders**, if diversifying classical music is high enough on their agenda and whether further industry-wide shifts can be made to change the face of classical music. The debate also saw panellist **Dr. Christina Scharff** (lecturer at King’s College London) discuss her recent research on the working lives of classical musicians, which looks at a range of issues, including the gender, racial, class and gender inequalities that characterise the classical music sector and, indeed, the cultural sector as a whole. Taking an evidence based approach, Christina attempted to push forward our understanding of disparities in the classical music sector. She talked about why these imbalances persist, why they matter and what can be done to address them. Her recommendations highlighted the need to document inequalities and to discuss them openly, as well as the importance of moving away from individual solutions towards more formal interventions.

Robert Adediran, Executive Director of London Music Masters explains:
“London Music Masters is delighted to be hosting the third discussion on *Class, Race and Classical Music*. The roles that class and race play in the music world are rarely investigated with as much thoroughness as they deserve. Our hope is

that this event will provide a platform for innovative ideas to challenge stereotypes and provoke meaningful discussion that can lead to change.”



Watch LMM's first talk on Class, Race and Classical Music

Click [here](#) to read Tom Service's reflections on The Guardian online and click [here](#) to read Tai Murray's blog on The Strad online.

Click [here](#) to read Candace Allen's Guardian blog discussing some of the issues covered in the last Class, Race and Classical Music talk.

The Panel:

Tom Service writes about music for *The Guardian*, where he was Chief Classical Music Critic, and he has presented Music Matters on BBC Radio 3 since 2003. His book *Music as Alchemy: Journeys with Great Conductors and their Orchestras* is published by Faber, as is *Full of Noises*, a collection of interviews with Thomas Adès.

Samantha Fernando is an award-winning British composer. She won the Royal Philharmonic Society's composition prize in 2013 and her work has been performed internationally by numerous ensembles including The London Sinfonietta and the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Stephen Frost is a globally recognised inclusion, leadership and communications expert. From 2007-2012 Stephen designed, led and implemented the inclusion programmes for the London Olympic and Paralympic Games as Head of Diversity and Inclusion for the London Organising Committee (LOCOG).

Vanessa Reed is Executive Director of The PRS for Music Foundation. Vanessa joined the Foundation in 2008 having worked previously as an independent arts consultant, on Grants strategy at European Cultural Foundation (Amsterdam) and at British Music Information Centre. In 2010, Vanessa was selected by the Cultural Leadership Programme as one of fifty "Women to Watch".

London Music Masters | Learning and Artists

LMM: learning

Since 2008 LMM has worked with **over 670 primary school children** and their families on a weekly basis. For most of these children LMM provides the only



option for high quality musical instrument tuition that is both accessible to families on a low income and affordable for state schools.

LMM board member **Shaun Bailey** explains: “*In areas of economic deprivation and low morale, music plays a vital role in breaking down restrictions of background, wealth and culture. The discipline of playing an instrument teaches numerous transferable skills. Inspiring a child to pursue excellence reinforces their self-belief and drives their ambition.*”

LMM has trained over 25 graduates from leading European conservatoires (Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, Paris Conservatoire) and our teaching is being recognised as some of the best of its kind in the country. In partnership with the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of music LMM is developing a training module on group string tuition for undergraduates.

LMM has established a programme for the most gifted students from under-represented communities called Pathways led by Professor Itzhak Rashkovsky which has had **remarkable results** with children winning places at specialist music schools (Chetham's School of Music), junior conservatoires (Royal College of Music), and music scholarships to state and independent schools.

LMM: artists

Launched in 2009 the innovative LMM Award was conceived as an alternative to the traditional violin competition. Its aim is to support and nurture the careers of the very best young musicians from around the world. The musicians (all violinists) are invited to accept the award by a panel of distinguished musicians who have received recommendations from conductors, teachers and musicians from across the globe. As an indicator of the quality of the recipients our award holders have gone on to become BBC New Generation artists and recipients of the Borletti Buitoni prize as well as winning plaudits from audiences and critics alike.

The award comprises mentoring, recital and concerto opportunities and commissions of new works.

In addition to all of these things the Award Holders are given time to develop a practical understanding of community outreach by working with our schools and in the communities around the schools. For London Music Masters it is vitally important that the next generation of young soloist is as comfortable performing off the concert platform as they are on it.

London Music Masters is proud to have **five world class ambassadors**: Nadine Benjamin, Colin Currie, Benjamin Grosvenor, Anthony Marwood and Tai Murray. These are artists with established international careers who share our core values and beliefs. The Ambassadors promote the work of LMM but also engage with it personally. They work with our students and Award Holders, give concerts and talks in support of the work and act as inspiring role models for the organisation and all who are connected with it: parents, children, teachers, Award holders.

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