

Music Charity London Music Masters announces new Creative Partnerships with the London Contemporary Orchestra (LCO) and Young Classical Artists Trust (YCAT)



**LONDON
CONTEMPORARY
ORCHESTRA**



Young Classical
Artists Trust
Celebrating 30 years

London Music Masters - the music charity that advocates for access to extraordinary music for everyone - has announced **creative partnerships** with the **London Contemporary Orchestra (LCO)** and the **Young Classical Artists Trust (YCAT)**. Musicians from LCO and YCAT joined LMM Award Holder **Hyeyoon Park** for a concert of new music at **The Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art** on the 12 May - a concert arranged by LMM - where these partnerships were announced.

Having recently won the **Ensemble category award** at the **Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards**, the **London Contemporary Orchestra** have a rapidly increasing reputation for promoting new and innovative music to their audiences in unusual venues. The **LCO** has collaborated with a range of brands, composers and artists including **Secret Cinema, Vivienne Westwood, Nike** and **United Visual Artists**. **Edmund Finnis** was appointed **Composer-in-Association** of LCO in 2013 - Finnis has been commissioned by LMM to compose a new piece to be premiered later in 2015.

Having been founded over 30 years ago, the **Young Classical Artists Trust** provide young musicians at the beginning of their careers with **advice, management** and **performance opportunities** in the UK and internationally. **YCAT** aims to prepare the young musicians for **commercial management** within three to five years. Their current roster includes violinist Benjamin Baker, pianist Ji Liu, mezzo-soprano Anna Huntley and piano trio Trio Isimsiz.

The new partnership with **LCO** will help **London Music Masters** promote contemporary music, starting with the premiere of their newly **commissioned** work by **Edmund Finnis**, which will be performed by LMM Award Holder **Benjamin Beilman** and the **London Contemporary Orchestra** in December 2015. Former LMM Award Holder Agata Szymczewka performed with the London Contemporary Orchestra in 2011 as part of the Spitalfields Music Winter Festival. The partnership with **YCAT** is a natural progression for LMM which has in the past 7 years built a strong track record in supporting the best new talent and enabling artists engage with the widest possible audiences. This partnership will strengthen the offer for both organisations whilst particularly drawing on LMM's commissioning and learning strands.

London Music Masters' existing creative partnerships are with the **London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal College of Music, Southbank Centre, Wigmore Hall** and the **Sphinx Organization**. These partnerships and collaborations allow LMM to offer unique opportunities to their **Award Holders** and **Bridge Project Students** whilst promoting diversity and excellence in the classical music industry. On **23 October 2015**, London Music Masters' Bridge Project Children join creative partner the **London Philharmonic Orchestra** for the world premiere of an LMM commission by **Gavin Higgins** at the **Royal Festival Hall**.

Classical music needs powerful advocates who can communicate a passion, whether on the stage or beyond. It is not only about captivating a concert audience but also about inspiring those in the wider community - particularly the next generation of emerging musicians and potential new concertgoers."

Victoria Robey OBE, LMM Founder Director

London Music Masters | Learning and Artists

LMM: learning



state schools.

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

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

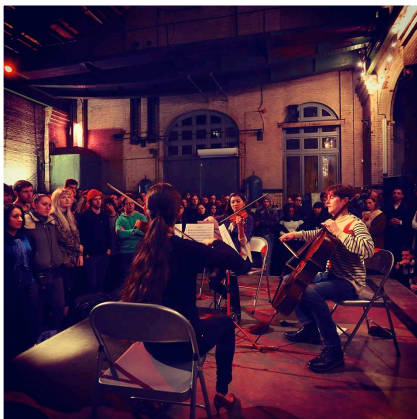
Launched in 2009 the innovative LMM Award was conceived as an alternative to the traditional violin competition. Its aim is to support and nurture the careers of the very best young musicians from around the world. The musicians (all violinists) are invited to accept the award by a panel of distinguished 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.

London Contemporary Orchestra



Winner of the Ensemble category at the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards 2015, the London Contemporary Orchestra has established itself as one of the UK's most innovative and respected ensembles – promoting the best new music and cross-arts collaborations to an increasingly wide audience. Formed in 2008, the LCO has collaborated with a distinguished array of composers, artists and brands, including Jonny Greenwood, Secret Cinema, Vivienne Westwood, members of Arcade Fire, United Visual Artists, Carolina Herrera, Ron Arad, Mike Figgis, Conrad Shawcross, Nike, Jimmy Page and

Foals. Highlights include sold-out performances at the Roundhouse, a site-responsive series *Imagined Occasions*, and opening James Lavelle's Meltdown Festival at the Royal Festival Hall. LCO's performances have been broadcast on BBC Radio 3, BBC Radio 6 Music, and Sky Arts HD. Edmund Finnis was appointed Composer-in-Association in April 2013.

"London Contemporary Orchestra has become one of Britain's brightest beacons for new music. Its repertoire is adventurous yet it attracts sell-out crowds to extraordinary venues and has a remarkable online following. It nurtures new audiences, forges fruitful alliances across the stylistic spectrum, and champions challenging scores with virtuosic flair."

Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards



Young Classical Artists Trust

For 30 years YCAT has been at the forefront of young classical artist development and career building. By maintaining a rigorous annual selection procedure, we channel our maximum resources and effort into the **sustained, intensive** nurturing and promotion of exceptional young artists. During this time, YCAT has helped launch the careers

of some of the UK's most established soloists, singers and chamber ensembles including Ian Bostridge, Alison Balsom, Joanna MacGregor, Elizabeth Watts, Llyr Williams and the Belcea, Heath and Doric Quartets. In a recent interview in *The Times*, Alison Balsom mentioned how YCAT played "...the most important part..." in her early career while Ian Bostridge maintains that "...if it hadn't been for YCAT, [he'd] probably still be dithering about whether to become a singer or not."

YCAT's **focused** and **bespoke** approach to young artist development makes it a **unique resource**, assisting outstanding young artists who have clear potential, during the difficult transition between full-time education and a high-profile performing career. This development is achieved effectively by the provision of a full artist management service, taking over responsibility for contractual and organisational work in order to free the artists' vital creative and practice space, and by assisting in the wider commercial aspects of a professional career including publicity, PR and promotional materials. Alongside the daily work involved in managing all aspects of their performing calendars, YCAT crucially offers **regular advice, instruction** and **guidance** (both musically and personally), **educating** the artists in **strategic career planning**. The aim is to build a solid and sustainable foundation upon which they can build their future artistic professional lives. After a period of between three and five years, YCAT aims to hand the artists over to suitable commercial management companies.

www.londonmusicmasters.org

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