



londonmusicmasters

instruments of change



Newsletter | Spring 2011

Buy a Bar's been bought!!

Facebook fundraising campaign to support new music has incredible response!

In February we launched our first crowd-funding campaign, 'Buy a Bar', to raise the £4,250 needed to commission Royal Philharmonic Society Award-winning composer Martin Suckling to write a new violin concerto, 'Grains', for LMM Award Holder Agata Szymczewska.

With only just over a month to reach our goal, Team LMM got to work on targeting new potential donors via social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter. By encouraging individuals to contribute in small amounts we not only hit our target, but exceeded it by 87%, raising a total of £7,937.89! The success of our campaign has attracted the attention of the press such as The Guardian and The Independent!

Adopting a 'virtual crowd-funding' initiative has helped us develop our supporter base as well as our online community. The 140 sponsors who so generously donated to the campaign have not only contributed

A fantastic and exciting project. Just as long as it's not a bar's rest - we want notes!
John and Jeanette Williams, Buy a Bar donors

financially, but by buying a bar, they now own a part of a new and important piece of music. By showing a genuine interest in helping to create new works for solo violin they have formed an important collective which supports classical music of our time.


Martin Suckling's new concerto will be premiered in December by Agata and the London Contemporary Orchestra. LMM have also arranged future performances with Southbank Sinfonia for spring 2012 to encourage the continued life of the new work and enable new audiences to discover the music. The extra money raised by the 'Buy a Bar' appeal will fund creative workshops in our Bridge Project schools, giving the students a rare and exciting opportunity to explore the new work with Agata and Martin ahead of its premiere. We look forward to updating you with more news on the premiere and Martin and Agata's school workshops in our Winter Newsletter. *Hannah Kendall*

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Martin Suckling was born in Glasgow in 1981 and studied music at Clare College Cambridge and King's College London. He was Paul Mellon Fellow at Yale University from 2003-5 and subsequently undertook doctoral research at the Royal Academy of Music. Martin has benefited from residencies at the Royal Shakespeare Company, Aldeburgh, Aspen and IRCAM, and has won numerous awards including the 2008 Royal Philharmonic Society Composition Prize. Martin is also a Lecturer in Music at Somerville College Oxford and teaches musicianship and composition at the Junior Department of the Royal College of Music.

An internationally performed composer, he has been commissioned by ensembles such as the London Symphony Orchestra, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Grimethorpe Colliery Band, Hebrides Ensemble, Britten Sinfonia, Royal Shakespeare Company, Scottish Horn Sound, Le Huray Trio and Aronowitz Ensemble.

www.martinsuckling.com



Thank you for donating to Buy a Bar!
Keep up to date with the latest news on our website:
www.londonmusicmasters.org/buy-a-bar



Also in this edition ...

- Jennifer Pike, Wigmore Hall and Royal Academy of Music musicians at Ashmole Primary School!
- LMM in the community
- Oh, we do like to be beside the seaside! LMM visit Eastbourne

Bridge Project students trick the miser with chocolate violins!

Jennifer Pike, musicians from the Royal Academy of Music and our creative partner, Wigmore Hall, work with Year 2 children from Ashmole Primary School in a day of music workshops based around Stravinsky's *Pulcinella*



Our outreach day with Wigmore Hall was an incredible experience for young musicians as well as musicians who felt young at heart!

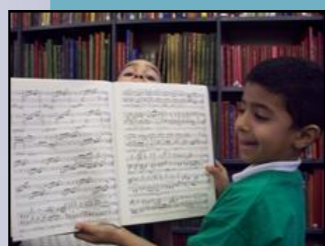
Year 2 Bridge Project students from Ashmole Primary School had an exciting day of music and movement, led by Sam Glazer and Sabine Netherclift and were given the opportunity to explore Stravinsky's infamous *Pulcinella* through an imaginative and creative programme.

The children warmed up with the musicians with games, singing and telling stories to explore the

'Commedia del'Arte' storyline of *Pulcinella*, and playing tricksters who were trying to capture the violins back from the miser.

Bridge to the Community

We have been really busy with Bridge to the Community visits this term. Year 3 students from Jessop Primary school performed at Westminster Music Library and spent time learning about some famous composers and finding manuscripts of some of their works. Some Year 2 students visited the Vida Walsh Centre in Brixton to perform at a music morning for elderly people. They finished by singing to us and we all joined in for many verses of 'She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain'. We



have also given the first of a series of performances at Jessop Children's Centre helping to strengthen the links between Jessop Primary School and the local community of parents and younger children.

As tricksters they schemed and plotted, inventing movements with Sabine and creating beautiful songs with cellist and composer Sam. These compositions explained the imaginative ways to retrieve the violins - some of our favourites were pointing out a skilful footballer to distract the miser, sending the miser to Mars in a spaceship and telling the miser (to make him cry!) that the violins were all made of chocolate and were going to melt!

The interaction between the musicians involved in the project young to old was phenomenal; Jennifer Pike and the RAM students became instant role models as they played violin, viola, double bass and piano for the Bridge Project students, who returned the favour with virtuoso renditions of *Song of the Wind* and *Allegro*.

The children proudly performed all the hard work they had created throughout the day in front of parents, carers and friends as they joined for a small performance at the end of the school day. As the grand finalé, they played an arrangement of *Pulcinella* on their violins with Jennifer and the RAM ensemble.

The whole day encapsulated the ethos of the Bridge Project, Wigmore Hall Learning and RAM bringing together hugely talented young artists with children who have extraordinary futures. *Sarah Khazzam*



INSIDE THE STORY: JENNIFER PIKE

"It was absolutely fantastic to hear the children sing and come up with ideas on the spot. They are incredibly musical and very responsive and it was wonderful to be able to cultivate their talents. It's such a lovely thing to bring music to schools, to see the delight it brings and to see the children stimulated by music. I think this should happen in schools everywhere."

Jennifer Pike's Recital: Queen's Gate Terrace

On 31 March London Music Masters hosted a fundraising recital in aid of LMM's activities, starring our very own Award Holder Jennifer Pike accompanied by renowned pianist Tom Poster. Highlights from the programme included a haunting performance of Vaughan Williams' *Lark Ascending*, which left all who attended completely spellbound. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening with generous donations totalling almost £9,000 making it one of the most successful fundraising events in LMM's history! We are very grateful to Sir Vernon and Lady Hazel Ellis for allowing us to host the event in their beautiful home.

Charlotte Bath



An outstanding album debut!

Jennifer Pike took the classical music world by storm this month when she released her debut album featuring a trio of French sonatas, which received fantastic reviews:

'The brilliant passages [are] dispatched with gusto, the grotesque moments given their due and the slinky, sensual episodes suitably alluring.' Gramophone

'Pike finds much to relish in not only in her beautiful singing tone, but also in moments of hushed mystery...' BBC Music Magazine

'Dazzling interpretative flare' Classic FM

Elena Urioste

To keep up-to-date with Elena's latest news, visit her website: www.elenaurioste.com

Agata Szymczewska
As part of her award with LMM, Agata has had the opportunity to shadow violinist Janine Jansen when she performed with our creative partner, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and has also had private master classes with conductor Vladimir Jurowski.

LMM Award Holder Agata Szymczewska visited an Age Concern music appreciation group at the Henderson Centre in Hampstead to perform and talk about the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto. The group are at risk of losing their funding due to council cuts so it was great for Agata and LMM to be able to support their cause. *Rhuti Carr*



Bridge Project to launch in new school!
We are delighted to announce a new Bridge Project partnership in Westminster! We will be working closely with Wigmore Hall and Westminster Music Service to establish our third Bridge Project in as many years at Churchill Gardens, Pimlico. The programme will commence in September 2011.

Phase 2 of Bridge!

This term the Bridge Project entered an exciting new musical phase with the addition of clarinets, cellos, trumpets and a couple of flutes to our young band of violinists! Yes, we are beginning to add a more orchestral flavour to our programme with 25 of our year three students (about 1/3 of the total) choosing to continue their musical journey on one of the new instruments. The children will receive the same dedicated tuition as their peers on the violin and will start playing together as an orchestra in the Autumn. *Robert Adediran*



Oh, we do like to be beside the seaside!

Bridge Project students take a day trip to Eastbourne to support Jennifer Pike's debut performance with our creative partner, the London Philharmonic Orchestra

"I've never seen the sea before!" Kojo said as he sat excited on the train bright and early on a Sunday morning at Victoria station, as a group of 10 young violinists and their parents began our Bridge to the Community day trip to Eastbourne. The sun came out as we arrived in Eastbourne and we all enjoyed a walk along the beach, dipping our toes in the freezing cold sea before having some proper seaside fish and chips for lunch.

After a quick ice cream break we were back at work rehearsing at the Congress Theatre for our performance. As well as lots of supportive parents in the audience we also had a visit from Eastbourne Mencap (with one of whom commenting that the children were "very clever for very young people") and some keen Eastbourne Concert goers. It was great to hear some new pieces performed including a fantastic rendition of *Andantino* from Jessop Primary and a lively Gossec Gavotte from Ashmole Primary before they joined together for a duet version of the old favourite Twinkle Twinkle! Our next stop

I think it's just so lovely that you are introducing music everywhere. It shouldn't just be for some people, it should be for everyone. It was excellent!

Carole Matthews, audience member

was to watch Jennifer Pike make her LPO debut performing the Brahms Violin Concerto. She played beautifully and the children were amazed at how fast her fingers moved as they watched closely through their opera glasses! They also enjoyed seeing all the different instruments playing together and trying to name as many as they could. 10 sleepy children arrived back in London that evening after a very busy day at the seaside, but they all had stories to tell. "I enjoyed it when Jennifer played the

violin" said Ana, "I enjoyed three things" said Kojo, "in fact, I enjoyed everything!". *Rhuti Carr*



Drawing of Jennifer Pike by Ana, Jessop Year 3



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday 28 June - *BrightSparks*

Bridge Project students, LMM Award Holder Jennifer Pike and the London Philharmonic Orchestra premiere RPS Composition Prize-winner Charlotte Bray's *Scenes from Wonderland* at the Royal Festival Hall. Charlotte has embarked on a ground-breaking project to write a new piece as part of the LPO's *BrightSparks* series which gives 12,000 pupils the chance to hear a live orchestra, often for the first time,

providing them with an intense and inspiring experience. Tailor-made for the unique ensemble, Charlotte's new work depicts Alice's adventures in 'Wonderland'. The children will sing and play their violins, offering them an unforgettable

chance to premiere an exciting new composition at a prestigious concert venue with one of the UK's most talented violinists and one of the world's leading orchestras. www.charlottebray.co.uk

GET INVOLVED!

Donate: Your generosity can help support the LMM Awards and the Bridge Project. Donate online or contact us for more information

<http://www.londonmusicmasters.org/join/what-your-generosity-could-support/>

Volunteer: We always need an extra pair of hands! You can help us by being involved with our events, assisting with teaching or helping to support lessons.

Keep in touch: Sign up for our e-newsletter!

Contact Rachel Wadham rwadham@londonmusicmasters.org

Visit our website for latest news, events, photos and blog posts

www.londonmusicmasters.org

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Watch our latest videos on YouTube [londonmusicmasters](https://www.youtube.com/londonmusicmasters)

Friday 8 July - *Bridgefest*

Our annual festival celebrating the successes of the Bridge Project with the children, schools, parents and communities that make it all happen at Ashmole Primary School.

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