



londonmusicmasters

instruments of change



## Newsletter | Winter 2011/12

**“It’s true, wherever you find love, it feels like Christmas!”**

Monday 5 December 2011 saw one of the highlights in our calendar, the LMM Christmas Concert, which took place in the beautiful church of St Peter’s, Eaton Square. In aid of our on-going activities, this fundraising concert was a fantastic way to show Bridge Project parents and LMM supporters how busy we have been in the last year and the impressive progress our students have made!

Bridge Project students from the Ashmole Primary School String Ensemble and students from Year 3 at Jessop Primary School took part in the concert and gave fantastic performances. In addition to performing ‘Mary’s Boy

Child’ as a solo piece, the Ashmole String Ensemble with the support of our wonderful organist, Richard Norris, helped lead the audience in carols such as ‘God Rest Ye Merry, Gentleman’ and ‘Hark the Herald’.

LMM Award Holder Agata Szymczewska treated the audience to an exhilarating programme of Massenet, Piazzolla and Kreisler; an inspiring performance for our young violinists and audience members alike.

We were honoured to be joined by the wonderful Sheila Hancock, fresh from her highly acclaimed performance in *The Last of the Duchess*, who kindly made time in her busy schedule to join us for the evening. She delighted us all with a reading of Robert Bridge’s poem ‘London Snow’, alongside Bridge Project students Samuel, Jahmelia and Nanette from Jessop Primary School who read ‘It feels like Christmas’ from the Muppets Christmas Carol to much applause!



We were thrilled to raise over £5,000 and would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated. All in all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and a wonderful way to start the festive season!



# LMM Awards

## World Premiere of Martin Suckling's violin concerto, *de sol y grana*, receives rave reviews

The highly-anticipated world premiere of Martin Suckling's violin concerto, *de sol y grana*, commissioned by London Music Masters and funded through our hugely successful 'Buy a Bar' crowd-funding campaign, took place at Shoreditch Church in the opening evening of the Spitalfields Music Winter Festival in December. Under the baton of the talented, young conductor Hugh Brunt, LMM Award Holder Agata Szymczewska and the London Contemporary Orchestra dazzled the audience with a remarkable first performance of Martin's exciting new work and it seems everyone was in agreement:



'...Martin Suckling's Violin Concerto [was] commissioned by London Music Masters (via an ingenious 'Buy a Bar' fundraising campaign) for the fine Polish fiddler Agata Szymczewska, who tore into its fiendish challenges with huge energy and technical resource...'

**Richard Morrison | The Times**

'Its opening section was tautly controlled and powerful, soloist Agata Szymczewska dispatching volleys of notes with concentrated virtuosity...The technique and imagination on show throughout Suckling's score was enormously impressive...'

**Hugo Shirley | The Telegraph**

'...de sol y grana...leaves an impression of vibrant colours and wide-ranging thematic material brought together with considerable technical skill.'

**George Hall | The Guardian**



'...it works because the solo part – Agata Szymczewska was the highly skilled violinist – pins down the character of each idea so deftly.'

**Richard Fairman | Financial Times**

The title is taken from an Antonio Machado poem and roughly translates as 'of sun(light) and scarlet'. Martin describes the piece as comprising nine "bubbles of music, each behaving differently. Some hang in the air relatively serenely while others are considerably more volatile and unpredictable." Agata's compelling and energetic performance perfectly captured the unique qualities of each 'bubble', while admirably maintaining the high level of technical accuracy needed to perform this challenging and innovative work.

You can catch the second performance of *de sol y grana* with Southbank Sinfonia on 24 May at St John's Waterloo, 6pm.

**LMM Award Holder Agata Szymczewska with 'Buy a Bar' donor Aaron Holloway-Nahum**

## LCO workshops with Ashmole and Jessop Primary schools

In music education there aren't many challenges bigger than introducing a newly-composed violin concerto of staggering complexity to a school hall filled with eight-year olds. Yet with some careful planning and inspired creative leadership from LMM Animateur Jess Maryon-Davies, the London Contemporary Orchestra with composer Martin Suckling and *LMM Award Holder* Agata Szymczewska did just that, and then some.

In two sessions the creative team managed not only to present the new work, *de sol y grana*, in a lucid and engaging way (the composer had rescored fragments of the piece commissioned for Agata and the LCO for the reduced forces available in the workshop) but also to create whole new compositions that were rehearsed and performed.



bridge project 



The 80 or so Bridge Project students from Ashmole and Jessop schools who took part were creative equals to the RPS prize-winning composer. They generated ideas and motifs which were expertly and energetically realised by the musicians from the LCO. In a neat twist, Martin scored the works that the children were creating in real time and presented them to the group at the end of the day.

Martin was evidently delighted that the first audience for his new work was this group of receptive and excitable eight-year olds and the children, now in their second year of violin playing, seemed to enjoy the opportunity to engage in some musical rough and tumble with Agata and the LCO.

Watch the highlights of the day online:  
[www.youtube.com/londonmusicmasters](http://www.youtube.com/londonmusicmasters)

## What's in store for the Bridge Project this term?

- This term sees the return of the innovative improvisation programme, 'Creativity Agenda'. It is a strand we introduced last year led by jazz violinist Julian Ferraretto. The aim is to encourage exploration of the violin and stimulate a more creative relationship with the instrument. The children taking part in this strand of work will showcase the outcomes at the Bridge Showcase on 28 March at the Royal Festival Hall.
- Year 1 students will be getting their first orchestral experience this month – and what an experience! They will have the hottest seats in the house as they sit side-by-side with the musicians from the London Philharmonic Orchestra whilst they rehearse Prokofiev Symphony No. 5 on stage at the Royal Festival Hall. A red letter day if ever there was one for 70 very lucky young musicians!
- January began with some fantastic training on behaviour management for our teaching team. It was delivered by Debbie Huie who leads Wandsworth's vocal strategy team and is a behaviour management expert. This session will be complemented by a series of structured observations that the violin teachers will undertake with Jillian Leddra of the London Suzuki group, who is a special advisor to the Bridge Project.



## Ashmole end of term assembly

Ashmole Primary School staged a fantastic end of term assembly where, for the first time since the Bridge Project began, more children were performing on their violins than sitting in the audience! Luckily there were plenty of parents, grandparents, siblings and other family and friends to make up a very enthusiastic audience and cheer on the 100 performers.

Musical highlights included a performance from the santa-hatted Year 1's who only started the violin in September, Christmas carols from the very busy Year 4's who had already performed at two concerts and taken their ABRSM Music Medal exams that week and a massed 'Twinkle' where all the violinists performed 'Twinkle, twinkle little star' in five parts!



## B2C Autumn term

Events this term have been happening thick and fast, with Ashmole and Jessop Primary schools and LMM Award Holders Elena Urioste and Agata Szymczewska taking part. Children have been busy performing for Stockwell Good Neighbours, Jessop Children's Centre and Westminster Music Library (take a look at their visit on [www.youtube.com/londonmusicmasters](http://www.youtube.com/londonmusicmasters)), and after each visit the children were awarded a Bridge to the Community badge and certificate to celebrate their performing achievements!

Bridge to the Community also got into the Christmas spirit on 6 December with a short recital given by Agata Szymczewska at the Robertson Street Project, a residential centre for elderly homeless people. She performed three dazzling solos and an encore before playing a few carols and leading an impromptu carol sing along for some of the residents.

## Upcoming Event | LMM at Royal Festival Hall | Wed 28 March

LMM's annual Royal Festival Hall showcase features Bridge Project students from across the programme aged 6-9. This year is the first time our String Ensemble will perform on this stage and our violinists will be playing new repertoire with professional musicians from the classical and jazz world! We will also feature brass and wind players from our phase 2 programme.

6pm start | Free entry

### Get involved!



**Donate:** Your generosity can help support the LMM Awards and the Bridge Project.  
Donate online or contact us for more information | [www.londonmusicmasters.org/donate](http://www.londonmusicmasters.org/donate)


**Volunteer:** We need extra pairs 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](mailto:rwadham@londonmusicmasters.org)  
Visit our website for latest news, events, photos and blog posts

[www.londonmusicmasters.org](http://www.londonmusicmasters.org)

 Follow us on Twitter - LDNmusicmasters

 Check out our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/londonmusicmasters](http://www.facebook.com/londonmusicmasters)

 Watch our latest videos on YouTube [londonmusicmasters](http://londonmusicmasters)

 registered charity no. 1119372 | company limited by  
guarantee no. 6226749. Registered in England  
London Music Masters, 3 London Wall Buildings, London EC2M 5SY