

TRANSFORM

NEWSLETTER / SPRING 2020



Welcome to the latest edition of Transform, with fundraising news and updates from Trinity Laban's autumn term. As London's Creative Conservatoire, we are characterised by providing innovative education and training in the performing arts, embracing the new, the experimental and the unexpected.

Unexpected is perhaps an appropriate descriptor of the current moment, as society grapples with significant challenges in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic. At Trinity Laban, this has meant rapid adaptation to support the continued learning of our students – teaching has moved to full online provision for the present, and our community is discovering new ways daily to continue connecting and growing in their artistry, even at a distance.

In this context, we are particularly grateful for the commitment of our donors and supporters. Your care for the conservatoire is a phenomenal source of strength, and your generosity is helping ensure that our students continue to develop as musicians, dance artists and musical theatre performers through this difficult time. Thank you.

As we look to the future, our number one priority remains to raise funds for scholarships, to attract the very brightest calibre of students to Trinity Laban. Our art forms are highly specialised and each year the best students receive competing scholarship offers as they audition at conservatoires around the country. Raising scholarship funds and enabling the best students to join our community is a key factor for Trinity Laban's success.

We look forward to a time again soon when we can welcome you to our performances and events at our Faculty of Dance in Deptford, the Faculty of Music in Greenwich as well as locations in central London. Our students, our faculty and our extended artistic community are eager to share their creativity with you once more, in-person.

John Crompton
Governor and Chair, Trinity Laban Development Board

GOLD MEDAL SHOWCASE

On 27 January 2020, we were honoured to welcome Trinity Laban Patron HRH The Duke of Kent to the sold out Gold Medal Showcase at Southbank Centre.

After stellar performances from all seven performers representing the Faculty of Music, The Duke of Kent presented the Gold Medal to baritone Theo Perry and the Audience Prize to oboist Olivia Fraser. Theo is the Elliot Rosenblatt Memorial Scholar and Kathleen Creed Scholar, and Olivia was our former Loveday and Trinity College London Scholar.

Commenting on his support, Theo said:

“The expertise and generosity of my teachers at Trinity Laban has enabled me to make unprecedented progress and emotionally puts the value of my time here and my scholarship to full use. It is fundamentally my scholarship award which has allowed me to experience and achieve all that I have during my time here and continue my journey in such an extraordinary manner.”

The evening was adjudicated by Chineke! Founder Chi-chi Nwanoku OBE and President of Decca Records UK Rebecca Allen, alongside Havilland Willshire, our Director of Music. They were looking for both technical excellence and the ability to create a special connection with the audience.

Commenting on Theo Perry's performance, guest adjudicator Chi-chi said:

“You had a vulnerability – just you, the music and us – and for that I thank you.”



Pictured: HRH the Duke of Kent (centre) with the Gold Medal Winner Theo Perry (left) and audience prize winner Olivia Fraser (right)

INNOVATION AWARD

photo: Juno Stevenson



Pictured: Innovation Award winners outside Laban Building

In 2019, Trinity Laban launched the Innovation Award through the generous support of The Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF). The award offers funding to final year undergraduates for an original project, to support their artistic development and gain valuable mentoring support from Trinity Laban alumni and industry professionals. The Innovation Award is open to individuals or groups of dancers, musicians or composers.

Last year's winners included composer Toby Carswell and percussionist Rhys Davies, jazz vocalist Sahra Gure, violinist Matthew Crisp, the all-female dance collective Mass Hysteria, composer James Layton and flautist and conductor Megan Storer.

For her winning project submission, Megan Storer received funding for the Cinematic Syncopations Orchestra, dedicated to her late brother. The first concert was titled Movies, Music, Magic and established Megan as a conductor. The concert – for children and families – raised awareness for Cystinosis Foundation UK, the charity which supported Megan's brother during his life.

Megan returned to Trinity Laban this September to begin her MMus in flute as a Trinity College London Scholar, Joan Greenfield Scholar and grateful recipient of the Michael Hirst Award.

This year we were pleased to receive 25 applications with projects ranging from help with filming and promotion, musical fusions, female artists and climate change.

You can read more about the Innovation Award on our website: trinitylaban.ac.uk/tl-innovation-award



TRANSITIONS DANCE COMPANY



photo: Chris Nash

Pictured: Transitions Dancer Joe Mathew

Transitions Dance Company is one of the leading postgraduate dance companies in the UK. We are immensely grateful to the Leverhulme Trust, Headley Trust, South Square Trust, Mercers' Company and the Tim and Jay Newling Scholarship for supporting our talented dancers.

Joe Mathew (pictured above) is a Transitions dancer from India and is the grateful recipient of the Tim and Jay Newling Scholarship and the Headley Trust Scholarship. The 2020 Transitions Tour featured a brand new triple bill of newly commissioned contemporary works by leading choreographers H2Dance, Cameron McMillan and Elisa Pagani.

Transitions Dance Company started their tour in Dundee, Cardiff, Trafford then Ilfracombe and had planned to continue on to other UK and European venues. Transitions made the difficult decision to cancel some of their upcoming performances in light of government advice on the Coronavirus outbreak. The company will continue to monitor future tour dates and hope to complete their tour in the Laban Theatre as planned in June, or postpone until the Autumn term.

For the most up to date information on tour dates, visit trinitylaban.ac.uk/whatson



photo: Rachel Cherry

Pictured: Transitions Dance Company in performance

NEW JAZZ SCHOLARSHIPS



photo: Ias Kyrianiou

Pictured: Jazz at the Gold Medal Showcase

We are delighted to announce two new scholarships in support of Trinity Laban jazz students: The Stanger Family Scholarship, which will be awarded for the first time in 2020/21, and the Ford Scholarship for a jazz instrumentalist, which was awarded in 2019/20 to double bassist Jack Garside.

Jack already has an impressive background, having performed at Rich Mix, Blackheath Halls, Oliver's Jazz Bar and other London venues. In January, he took part in an early CoLab project led by alum Laura Jurd. The group brought together both jazz and classical musicians to play music by Louis Andriessen, Laura Jurd and others. The ensemble performed at Rich Mix, Shoreditch for the London Short Film Festival.

Rob Ford, who supports the Ford Scholarship with his wife Amanda, comments:

“As I grew up, my father was always listening to jazz. I mostly learnt classical but I was lucky that when I studied for my own music degree, some jazz was also offered alongside it. How I wished however that I could have studied jazz full time as Jack is now doing. The fact that Trinity Laban offers students that opportunity with such a broad spectrum of instruments and teachers shows just how far music education has come in the last 30–40 years.

“It’s a real privilege to have the opportunity to help support scholars through their studies, to try to ensure that their talents are developed to the fullest extent and giving them the best possible chance of building a successful career in jazz going forward.”

AUDITIONS IN INDIA

Trinity Laban is most grateful to receive generous support for our students from India with the GREAT India Scholarship, the Udmi Devi Scholarship and from 2020/21, The Bagri Foundation Scholarship for a postgraduate student from Asia.

In December 2019, we were able to travel to India for music auditions at the Delhi School of Music and the Furtados Piano Showroom in Mumbai. As part of our international auditions schedule, we also held dance auditions this year in Oslo, Rome, Paris, Cyprus and Berlin.

We plan to return to India to audition in December 2020.

REDEDICATION OF THE MENUHIN ROOM

On 14 October 2019, we celebrated our special relationship with the Yehudi Menuhin School with a room naming event.

Yehudi Menuhin, the celebrated performer, conductor and educator, was a true patron of the arts and from 1970–1999 was President of Trinity Laban (then Trinity College of Music).

On the occasion of the rededication, we were pleased to welcome Yehudi Menuhin’s daughter Zamira Menuhin Benthall, her husband Jonathan Benthall and Richard Tanner – Interim Head of the Yehudi Menuhin School – to our Faculty of Music.

Talia Erdal, an Israeli cellist on our Independent Study Advanced Programme, gave a performance of J.S. Bach and her own compositions. Talia is the grateful recipient of the Alan Niekirk Scholarship and Trinity College London Scholarship.

THE CARNE TRUST CHAMBER COMPETITION

We are thrilled to announce the launch of a new competition, The Carne Trust Chamber Competition, made possible with generous support from The Carne Trust. The competition offers all Trinity Laban students the opportunity to perform, collaborate, gain feedback from industry professionals and develop valuable competition experience.

We have an international reputation for integrating chamber music as central to our training. Our students have access to world-class teaching from professors and The Carne Trust Ensembles in Residence: The Carducci Quartet, the Linos Piano Trio and the Smith Quartet.

The preliminary rounds took place at Blackheath Halls in March this year and five ensembles made it through to the competition final, details of which are to be confirmed in due course.

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to The Carne Trust for making this new competition possible.

AN EVENING FOR DONORS AND SCHOLARS

On 17 October 2019, Trinity Laban was thrilled to bring many members of our donor community together with scholarship recipients for a reception held at King Charles Court. This annual event celebrates both the accomplishments of our exceptional scholars, and the generosity of scholarship supporters.

Increasing our scholarship provision remains our number one priority. Scholarships are vital to support excellence and increasing our awards is the most significant way we can help our talented students through the many years of intense conservatoire training.

To find out more about naming a scholarship or donating to our scholarship fund, contact Saffiyah Keig-Momin: s.keig-momin@trinitylaban.ac.uk / 020 8305 4459



Pictured: Donors Rob and Amanda Ford with The Ford Scholar, Jack Garside

THE LONDON ORPHEUS CHOIR VOCAL MASTERCLASS

We are delighted to announce the support of The London Orpheus Choir for a new vocal masterclass series. The selected students will work on excerpts from oratorios with a visiting artist. Some of our recent visiting artists have included James Gilchrist, Susan Bullock CBE, Roger Vignoles and Patricia Bardon.

Our masterclasses are open to the public. To find out more, visit: trinitylaban.ac.uk/whatson

EVENTS AT TRINITY LABAN

At the time of writing, all Trinity Laban events are cancelled until further notice. In the case of event cancellations, we will reach out to all ticket holders as swiftly as possible. Please check our website for the most up to date information on our events.

We look forward to welcoming you back to our events and performances soon.



Have a look at our website for more information about our events

trinitylaban.ac.uk/whatson

GET IN TOUCH

To find out more about supporting Trinity Laban's students and programmes, we invite you to contact the Development Team.

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