

ENCORE

TRINITY LABAN CONSERVATOIRE
OF MUSIC & DANCE

Encore Alumni Newsletter Spring 2021



The annual One Dance UK Awards presented the Jane Attenborough Award to Dr Valerie Preston Dunlop.



Paul Philbert (Dip TCL, percussion and timpani 1996) was awarded an MBE.

OUR ALUMNI HONOURED WITH PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

Our talented alumni are frequently recognised with major awards and the recent months have been no exception. In the delayed Queen's Birthday Honours Paul Philbert (Dip TCL, percussion and timpani 1996) was awarded an MBE. Paul is Principal Timpanist with Royal Scottish National Orchestra and has enjoyed an international orchestral career. He also dedicates his time to inclusive music education, most recently joining the board of charity Sistema Scotland which supports children and young people through their 'Big Noise' orchestras.

In the New Year's Honours Dr Stuart Hopps received an OBE. Stuart is an award-winning choreographer who has worked with leading opera and theatre companies including English National Opera and the Royal Shakespeare Company and has choreographed for over 20 feature films. He was Senior Lecturer in Dance (1975–1978) and Director of MA Studies at Trinity Laban (1986–1989).

continued inside

OUR ALUMNI HONOURED WITH PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

Composer Cecilia McDowall (GTCL piano 1975) received the award for Outstanding Works Collection at The Ivors Composer Awards 2020. Cecilia is one of the finest composers of her generation, particularly noted for her choral works and this 'Gift of the Academy' award recognises her exceptional body of classical work.

Another prestigious win for our music alumni was made to 2020 BMus jazz piano graduate Deschanel Gordon who was named BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year. The final in November also featured current bass student Kielan Sheard.

The annual One Dance UK Awards presented the Jane Attenborough Award to Dr Valerie Preston Dunlop. The award honours an exceptional individual who has made an outstanding contribution to dance and was given to Valerie in recognition of her remarkable career as a dancer, educationalist and leading specialist on the life and work of Rudolf Laban. Valerie began her training at 16 with Rudolf Laban at the Art of Movement Studio in Manchester and her expertise has been in demand ever since. On receiving the award Valerie said, "I am just glad that something in my 70-year long career has touched people. Rudolf Laban looked me in the eye and said 'yes you can' and I suppose that's been my mantra ever since. To young dancers I say 'believe you can'."

At the same awards BSc Programme Leader Sonia Rafferty (BA 1983, Transitions 1984, MSc 2004) received the Applied Dance Science Award in recognition of her significant positive impact on dancers' health, wellbeing and performance. The Dance Healthcare Practitioner Award went to Trinity Laban Lecturer in Dance and physiotherapist Katy Chambers (MSc 2014) in recognition of her exceptional clinical practice.

AFROBEAT LEGEND FELA KUTI HONOURED



Dele Sosimi, Juliet Jackman and Dr Jak Beula at the plaque unveiling.

We are delighted that Fela Kuti (1938–1997), Afrobeat pioneer and political activist has been honoured as part of the Black Plaque Project and Trinity Laban's Black Culture 365 programme.

Fela studied trumpet and composition at Trinity College of Music in the early 1960s after originally arriving in London to study medicine. He went on to become one of the world's best-loved performers, pioneering the Afrobeat sound which continues to be a major influence on musicians today. He was also a leading figure within Nigerian and pan-African politics through his music and activism.

The commemorative plaque is part of the Black Plaque Project. Created by Nubian Jak Community Trust and Havas London, the project aims to redress the balance of commemorative blue plaques in London, of which only 1.6% currently represent Black people. It sees the temporary installation of 30 plaques remembering key Black figures, their contribution to history and connection to the capital.

Fela's son Femi Kuti and grandson Made Kuti sent a celebratory message from Nigeria. Following in his grandfather's footsteps, Made also studied composition at Trinity Laban graduating in 2019.

Speaking at the installation, Dele Sosimi musician and Musical Director for Fela Kuti's Egypt 80 said, "Words fail me. I am buzzing, I am glowing, I am so proud... I teach afrobeat here at Trinity Laban, so to see this here, now – hopefully it will encourage more students to participate in afrobeat and spread the horizon of up and coming musicians."

SUPPORTING THE NEW GENERATION OF ARTISTS



Marina Papps, this year's Audrey Wethered recipient.

From September 2021 the Postgraduate Diploma in Community Dance will become the MA/MFA in Dance Leadership and Community Practice. We are extremely pleased to be able to offer one student annually on this new course, the Audrey Wethered Bursary. But who was Audrey?

Audrey was born in 1903 and studied piano at the Royal College of Music before taking up nursing during World War II. She found that patients enjoyed her piano playing and whilst working in a psychiatric hospital, she put a record on which the patients responded to with movement. Audrey described herself as "pop-eyed. Here was something spontaneous – there must be a need".

After experimenting on her own for a while she went, as a mature student, to study with Rudolf Laban at the Art of Movement Studio. Audrey knew that this was the direction she wanted to take and became a pioneer in using Laban's teaching to help psychiatric patients.

Audrey lived until she was 97 and remembered all that Laban's work and influence meant to her. Her archive is held at The National Resource Centre for Dance at the University of Surrey. With a generous endowment she left to Trinity Laban, we are now able to support a student each year who shares Audrey's passion for community dance and practice. Through this award we are very proud to remember Audrey.

If you are interested in learning more about including Trinity Laban in your legacy planning, please contact Paula Mallottides, Development Manager, at p.mallottides@trinitylaban.ac.uk or call 020 8305 4490.

NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH TOMORROW'S WARRIORS ANNOUNCED



Trinity Laban and Tomorrow's Warriors launch the Jazz Hang.

Trinity Laban and leading music educators Tomorrow's Warriors have launched a new initiative to redress the balance in representation at grassroots level in the UK jazz scene. The Jazz Hang will reach out to young musicians from diverse backgrounds and introduce them to playing jazz.

With a particular focus on Black and young female musicians aged 11–16, the project centres around a weekly Sunday residency programme of informal and practical jazz learning hosted at Trinity Laban. The weekly sessions will be delivered by Tomorrow's Warriors' music leaders and there will be termly masterclasses involving Trinity Laban Jazz tutors open to the wider community. The project provides professional development opportunities for Tomorrow's Warriors and Trinity Laban jazz students, who will operate as workshop assistants.

Jazz Hang is the latest project in a long relationship between Tomorrow's Warriors and Trinity Laban. Many of the young musicians developed by Tomorrow's Warriors' extraordinarily successful Learning and Artist Development programmes have continued their studies at Trinity Laban. These alumni, like Nubya Garcia, Moses Boyd and Femi Koleoso are now leading figures on the international jazz scene.

At the launch for this new project Artistic Director of Tomorrow's Warriors, Gary Crosby OBE said "As a Trinity Laban Honorary Fellow, it's been wonderful to see the incredible talent that has come through both our education programmes over the past 15 years. There has never been a more exciting time to play jazz in this country, yet it is still an artform that curious young people still don't know how to get into. Through the informal learning we aim to provide at the Jazz Hang, we hope to attract the next generation of Nubyas and Moseses, growing the rich diversity of the scene, and crucially, increasing representation."

FROM MUSIC ALUMNI

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NEWS

Ayanna Witter-Johnson (BMus composition 2008) was named a Royal Philharmonic Society Composer for the 2020–21 season.



Kay Charlton (MA The Teaching Musician 2018) released her new book, *How to teach whole-class instrumental lessons – 50 Inspiring Ideas*.

John Sturt (Composition, BMus 2018, MMus 2020) was commissioned by Tête à Tête to write original works for their Opera Festival, in partnership with The Cockpit Theatre.

Layla Allen (MMus flute 2019) released her book, *So, You Want to Play the... Clarinet – Book 1*.

Christopher Russell (Voice, LTCL 1995, PGC 1998) released *Notes on the Piano*, a distillation of many years of teaching.

Will Dutta (BMus piano 2008, PhD composition 2018) collaborated with visual content designers Treatment Studios and motion graphics leaders VFX on *Bloom – LiveStream*, a digital performance that explored the unique connectivity of 'live'.

Elliott deVivo (MMus clarinet 2016) collaborated with playwright Sue Blundell to create *Silence and Joy*, telling the story of Beethoven's relationship with the black virtuoso violinist, George Bridgetower.

Manu Delago (PGAD composition 2011) performed with Anoushka Shankar in a collaboration with electronic music producer Gold Panda and the strings of the Britten Sinfonia.



Duncan Ward (Junior Fellow 2011–2012) was appointed chief conductor of the Philharmonie Zuidnederland.

Millie Cranston (BA musical theatre 2020) performed in *Spotlight on the future LIVE!* – a drive in performance featuring graduate musical theatre talent and West End stars.

Matthieu Esnult (Piano, MMus 2013, PGAD 2015) gave a concert with Stradivari violinist Yuri Revich.

John Powell (Composition 1986) composed the score for Doug Liman's new HBO film *Locked Down*.

Dai Fujikura (BMus composition 2000) premiered his new opera *A dream of Armageddon*, an adaptation of the H.G Wells story of the same name, in Tokyo.

Alexander Pullinger (MMus voice 2014) received funding from Sound Connections to write the article, 'Facilitating the Empowerment of Transgender Voices Through Singing: A case for the removal of cisgendered expectations in Western classical singing, and the creation of trans-positive singing spaces'.

James Layton (BMus composition 2019) released his stunning new album *Into the Ocean*, a collection of experimental works for solo viola by emerging British and American composers.



Nubya Garcia (BMus jazz saxophone 2016), KOKOROKO, led by **Sheila Maurice-Grey** (PGDip jazz trumpet 2016) and featuring **Cassie Kinoshi** (BMus composition 2015), and Ezra Collective, including **Femi Koleoso** (BMus jazz drumkit 2017) and **Joe Armon-Jones** (BMus jazz piano 2016), headlined BBC Four's *Jazz 625: The British Jazz Explosion*. It showcased a plethora of TL faces including **Daniel Casimir** (MMus jazz double bass 2015), **Artie Zaitz** (BMus jazz guitar 2013), **Sam Jones** (BMus jazz piano 2014), **Renato Paris** (jazz vocals 2015), **Huw Bennett** (MMus jazz double bass 2017) and honorary fellow **Gary Crosby**.

Elliot Coombe (BA musical theatre 2017) landed the role of understudy Christopher Wren in Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* at St Martin's theatre.

Ember Trio, featuring **Elliot Lyte** (BMus violin 2015) and **Tom Huet** (BMus cello 2015), performed a mash-up of Destiny's Child, Eminem and Dr Dre in the *Britain's Got Talent* semi-finals.

James Darch (FDA musical theatre 2009) starred in the YouTube series, *On a List*.

Gabriel Askew (BMus trumpet 2020), winner of the 2020 Innovation Award, performed at the It's Time festival in Greenwich.

GÉNIA (Piano, MMus 1999, PGAD 2000) released a video course designed for pianists to help them with their home practice, entitled *Transform Your Practice, A Complete 11 Stage Guide*.

Panayotis Archontides (MMus piano 2008) released *Elements of London*, a new album featuring piano duets by contemporary classical composers Hugh Shrapnel and John E. Lewis.

Sahra Gure (BMus jazz voice 2019) was appointed to the Youth Council of The Ivors Academy.



Heather Main (Voice 1998) spoke to The Spectator about how, following a successful singing career, she now trains race horses and regularly sings to them.

Sahra Gure, Sheila Maurice-Grey and **Héloïse Werner** (MMus voice 2018) received funding from PRS Foundation to support their music projects.

AWARDS, HONOURS AND COMPETITIONS

Congratulations to our alumni for the many awards and prizes they have won.

John Powell was nominated for the Public Choice Award at the World Soundtrack Awards for his original score for *The Call Of The Wild*.

Moses Boyd (BMus jazz drumkit 2016), **Rosie Turton** (BMus jazz trombone 2015), SEED Ensemble, **Mark Kavuma** (BMus jazz trumpet 2017) and **Joe Armon-Jones** were all nominated at this year's Jazz FM Awards.

Joe Armon-Jones and **Moses Boyd** were nominated for Best Jazz Act at the 2020 MOBO Awards.

Dominic Veall (MMus composition 2020) won the Schellhorn Prize for Sacred Music Composition 2020 for his piece *Dormi, Jesu*.

At the Ivors Composer Awards, **Mark Lockheart** (LTCL saxophone 1982) was nominated for Jazz Composition for Small Ensemble and **Amir Konjani** (MMus composition 2012) was shortlisted in the Small Chamber Ensemble category. **Cecilia McDowall** (Piano, LTCL 1973, GTCL 1975) was presented with the Ivor Novello Award for Outstanding Works Collection.



John Savournin (BMus voice 2007) and Charles Court Opera's pantomime *Snow White in the Seven Months of Lockdown* won an OnComm Award.

Rhiannon Jeffreys (BMus saxophone 2015) received a Young Innovators Award, supporting her online tutoring service Starling Academy of Music.

Lana Trotovsvek (Violin PGDip 2007, PGAD 2009) was awarded a Prešeren Fund Prize.



FROM DANCE ALUMNI

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NEWS

Molly Hick (BA 2019) was among the cast of *Cunningham Centennial Solos* at the Oriente Occidente Dance Festival in Roverto, Italy.

Elisabeth Schilling (BA 2011) discussed her work, her thoughts on the arts during the pandemic and her innovative lockdown project, *Shoe Dances* in a Teds coffee morning.

Charlotte Pook (BA 2011, Transitions 2012) was appointed as the new Rehearsal Director for National Dance Company Wales.

Tommy Cattin's (GDD 2015, BA 2018) EREM dance presented their first original performance *SOIR HB* in Delémont, Switzerland at the Forum Saint-Georges.

Matthew Sandiford (BA 2012) joined National Dance Company Wales.



Joumana Mourad (BA 1993) and her company IJAD Dance Company have a specialist platform and training programme, Open Online Theatre, which supports performing artists to bring their work into the digital space and build sustainable careers.

Theo TJ Lowe (BA 2008) devised *Let Me Move*, a newly commissioned piece in collaboration with Transitions Dance Company that premiered on the TL YouTube channel.

Suzannah Dessau (BA 2017) and **Erin McNulty** (PDCD 2016) co-directed, choreographed and performed in their first collaboration, *Floodstream*.

Leila McMillan (BA 2004, Transitions 2006) was appointed as Senior Lecturer in Contemporary Dance at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.



Julia Testas' (MFA Creative Practice 2019) film, *Roller Coaster: An Adventure for Times like These* was streamed by The Actors Centre as part of their Latin American Season.

Mayowa Ogunnaiké (BA 2017) and **Patrick Webster** (BA 2019) joined Rosie Kay Dance Company in the cast of *Romeo + Juliet*.

Fifty Contemporary Choreographers, the seminal dance book, included work from **Maresa von Stockert** (BA 1995), **Liv Lorent MBE** (BA 1993) and **Rosemary Lee** (BA 1981).

Joshua Smith (BA 2012) featured in the music video for Jamie Callum's latest single *Hang Your Lights*.

The Limon Dance Company, led by Artistic Director **Dante Puleio** (BA 1996), took up a four-week residency in the Kaatsbaan Cultural Park.

Sam Yo (Diploma 2000) launched his spin classes on workout app Peloton.

Amina Khayyam (Graduate Diploma Dance Science 2018) premiered her self-directed, written and choreographed dance film, *CATCH THE BIRD WHO WON'T FLY*.

During her time as artist-in-residence at Flux Laboratory Athens, choreographer and alum **Chloe Aligianni** (MA choreography 2013) explored the astronaut experience through her work *The Space Cadet*.

Emily May's (BA 2017) Terpsichore Podcast released its fourth episode; an interview with dance film director Alla Kovan.

Thomas Page (BA 2018) was commissioned by Oxford's Arts at the Old Fire Station as part of their Lights Up project.

Oona Doherty (Transitions 2010) discussed the process of creating *Helium* during the Choreographers Cut at Dance Umbrella Digital.

Flora Grant (BA 2017) starred as Scrooge's sister in the feature film dance adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, with fellow alum **Steff D'arcy** (BA 2017) in the role of Mother Caroline. Together they also devised dance film *Continue to Burn*.



Eleni Edipidi (MA European Dance Theatre Practice 2005), co-founder of Levantes Dance Theatre, was selected for a Jerwood Circus Residency.

George Perez (BA 2020) joined Jasmin Vardimon Company's professional development programme; the JV2 Professional Development Diploma.

Maciej Kuźmiński's (BA 2007, MA choreography 2012) new work saw its premiere at the Platforma Festival in Lithuania.



masshysteria premiered their latest online work, *feet4music2grass3feetrev2.mov*, co-produced with Dampfzentrale Bern and created by **Nina Richard** (BA 2019).

An ensemble of TL alumni performed new work *Separation and Community* at All Saints Church in West Dulwich. Choreographed by **Laura Engholm** (BA 2020), the piece featured fellow 2020 graduates **Laure Dubanet**, **Kim Chi Lee** and **Hannah Wallace** and was accompanied by music from **Sally-Anne Zimmerman** (Piano, LTCL 1977, GTCL 1978) and current student Ola Akinidpe.

Maisie Whitehead (BA 2005) adapted her physical theatre project *When Grief Came to Stay* into an online series of five video shorts, drawing from her research residency at Jackson Lane.

Joseph Houseal's (PhD dance 1998) organisation Core of Culture hosted a new four-part lecture series on Mudra and the Diamond Spheres, assisting the preservation of Buddhist ritual heritage in dance and movement.

AWARDS, HONOURS AND COMPETITIONS

Congratulations to our alumni for the many awards and prizes they have won.

Sir Matthew Bourne OBE (BA 1985, Transitions 1986) broke records winning his 9th Olivier Award and was nominated for a South Bank Sky Arts Award for *Romeo and Juliet*.

Shelley Maxwell (MA choreography 2007) was nominated for the Best Choreography Award at the Black British Theatre Awards, alongside Trinity Laban faculty member Dollie Henry.



Izzy Catterall's (BA 2020) animal rights-inspired dance film was recognised at three international film festivals and her quarantine creation *I Lost Myself* was selected for FLUX Moving Image Online Festival 2020.

Luca Silvestrini (GDD 1997, Transitions 1997) received a prestigious Premio della Critica by the Associazione Nazionale Critici di Teatro, for his company's work in championing diversity. Protein also won an LA Film Award for their dance film *The Sun Inside*, created with alum **Roswitha Chesher** (Diploma Dance Theatre 1991), which was named the Best Musical/Dance Film of December.



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IN MEMORY

We are very sad to announce the following deaths and our condolences go to their families and friends.

Keith Nichols (13 Feb 1945 – 21 Jan 2021) was an international authority on classic jazz and ragtime, specialising in older jazz piano styles, such as Scott Joplin, Fats Waller and Duke Ellington. He toured and performed extensively and taught in our jazz department for many years.

Catherine Ennis (1955 – 24 Dec 2020) was for many years a member of our music faculty. When TCM moved from Mandeville Place she helped create the William Drake organ at our new site in Greenwich. The organ was a gift from Roger Gabb and Catherine performed the inaugural recital. She was Director of Music at the City of London church of St. Lawrence Jewry for 35 years and President of the Royal College of Organists.

John Henry (1945 – 20 Dec 2020) was a widely acclaimed keyboardist and harpsichordist who was well-known for his creative interpretations of French harpsichord music. He joined the keyboard department at TCM in 1990 and remained a faculty member for the next 29 years making a lasting impact on the many students he taught.

Tony Nandi (d. 13 Nov 2020) studied at Goldsmiths and during that time photographed Laban students studying at Laurie Grove. He went on to become a hugely respected dance and performing arts photographer and ran the photography department at the University of West London for many years. He remained a great friend to Trinity Laban photographing virtually every dance graduation between 1985 and 2005.

Dave Toole OBE (31 July 1964 – 16 Oct 2020) graduated from the Laban Centre in 1993 and went on to achieve international acclaim when he appeared in the opening ceremony of the London Paralympic Games in 2012. A hugely talented and inspirational dancer who broke down boundaries, he worked with leading companies including DV8 Physical Theatre, Candoco, Stopgap Dance Company and Graeae. In 2019 he was awarded an OBE in recognition of his services to dance and people with disabilities.

Adrian Clarke (1954 – 10 Sept 2020) was a highly regarded opera singer performing nationally and internationally and was well known for his interpretations of contemporary work. He was a much-loved teacher at Trinity Laban teaching in both the Vocal and Musical Theatre departments.

Dennis Wickens (6 April 1926 – 17 Aug 2020) studied composition at TCM graduating in 1951. He went on to become head of music at Worcester Royal Grammar School, before serving as music adviser for the Isle of Wight and then Hampshire. His many compositions included orchestral, chamber, choral, vocal and keyboard.

Gary Cairney (1963 – 12 Aug 2020) studied composition at TCM graduating in 1989. He was awarded the John Halford Composition prize in 1991 and wrote numerous musicals that were performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and in London. Gary was a three-time semi-finalist of the Vivien Ellis prize and a finalist in 1991.

Anne Lawson (6 Jan 1938 – 3 March 2020) studied piano at TCM and graduated in 1966. Anne served as a music teacher throughout her long career and on retirement, realised her dream to live by the sea when she moved to Eastbourne.

John Huw Davies (26 Feb 1935 – 24 Feb 2020) studied piano at TCM graduating in 1956 and had a long career singing, conducting and teaching including returning to TCM to teach. He conducted many ensembles including the Monteverdi Singers, Cantorion Menai and the Stockport Festival Chorus. He was the music advisor for Gwynedd for many years and Director of the CSSM summer school.

KEEP UP TO DATE

We love to hear what you have been doing since you graduated so get in touch and let us know.

N.B. Please note that we cannot guarantee to include everything we receive and we reserve the right to edit submissions.

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