



Saturday 16 May 2009 at 7:30pm

**Concert by Pupils of the Purcell School
for
The Harpenden Lions Club**

Performer Biographies

Emily Brown – piano

Emily was born in 1997 in the UK and began learning the piano at the age of seven. She joined the Purcell School in September 2008 where she receives a scholarship from the Government's Music and Dance Scheme and is currently a piano pupil of Tessa Nicholson. Emily is also a keen singer and has been having singing lessons since the age of seven. She studies singing at the Purcell School with Cassie White. Emily regularly performs in lunchtime and evening concerts at School and has also played at external concerts, recently at St. Mary's Church in Watford.

David Hasler – oboe

David was born in 1993 in the UK and began learning the oboe at the age of nine. He joined the Purcell School in September 2007 where he holds a scholarship under the Government's Music and Dance Scheme. David has been a member of several orchestras and chamber groups outside of School, he has performed at the Bedford Music Festival and was selected to play to Nicholas Daniel in a Masterclass organised by the Cambridge Music Service. As a member of the Purcell School Symphony Orchestra, David has performed in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre as well as performing regularly as a soloist and chamber musician in concerts at the School. David's oboe teacher at the Purcell School is Melanie Ragge.

Olivia Underwood – piano

Olivia was born in 1995 in Japan and began learning the piano at the age of five. She studied at the British School in Tokyo before joining the Purcell School in September of 2007. Olivia receives a scholarship under the Government's Music and Dance Scheme and currently studies piano with Roshan Magub. She also learns the flute, studying with Anna Pope, and voice with Cassie White.

Fabian van de Geest – horn

Fabian was born in 1995 and is of British and Swiss heritage. He started having lessons on the French horn at the age of ten with Anthony Catterick. He has been a member of several local music groups and orchestras as well as the National Children's Orchestra. Fabian joined the Purcell School in September 2008 where he receives a scholarship from the Government's Music and Dance Scheme and studies the French horn with Sue Dent. Fabian is a member of the Purcell School Sinfonia and Symphony Orchestra and has performed at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre with the Symphony Orchestra.

Clare Sutherland – voice

Clare was born in 1995 in the UK and began her musical studies on the piano, aged seven and then the violin, aged eight. Clare began singing lessons aged nine, and joined the Purcell School as a first-study singer in September 2007. Clare currently studies singing with Tom Marandola, piano with Clare Sutherland and violin with Mamedova Rashidova. She receives a scholarship from the Government's Music and Dance Scheme. Clare performs regularly in concerts at the School, as a soloist and in the Lower School Choirs.

Su Ji Kim – violin

Su Ji was born in Korea in 1995 and began learning the violin at the age of four. She studied with Mateja Marinkovic at the Royal Academy of Music before gaining a place to study at the Purcell School in 2006 with a Government scholarship under the Music and Dance Scheme. Su Ji currently studies violin with Natalia Boyaskaya, piano with Alla Kravchenko and Composition with Simon Speare. As a member of the Purcell Sinfonia, Su Ji regularly

performs in orchestral concerts at the School. She also plays in chamber groups and as a soloist in lunchtime and evening recitals.

Joshua Hagley – piano

Joshua was born in 1995 in the UK and began lessons on the piano aged six. He also began learning the violin aged eight. He has performed and competed extensively on the piano, taking part in numerous festivals and competitions, and on the violin he has been a member of orchestras and chamber music groups. Joshua joined the Purcell School in September 2008 after successfully gaining a place along with a scholarship from the Government's Music and Dance Scheme. Joshua currently studies piano with Carole Presland and violin with Tony Cucchiara.

The Purcell School

The Purcell School is Britain's oldest specialist school for talented young musicians. The School holds the UNESCO Mozart Gold Medal in recognition of its unique contribution to music, education and international culture. The School's Patron, HRH The Prince of Wales, accepted the award at a special ceremony at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

The School is funded largely by the Government's Music and Dance Scheme which, along with our own scholarship funds, ensures that all pupils join the School on the strength of their musical potential irrespective of their parents' ability to pay.

Our curriculum allows pupils to study a full range of subjects with a special emphasis on Music. At GCSE level, pupils will typically study 8 subjects. At AS, 3 or 4 subjects, and at A2, 2 or 3 subjects. Our proximity to London gives us access to the eminent international musicians who comprise our instrumental teaching faculty. Most of our pupils go on to music college and some take up places at Oxbridge or other universities. Our new Music Centre offers our pupils unrivalled facilities; state-of-the-art classrooms, a professional recording studio, superb practice rooms and a recital hall with exceptional acoustics.

We are proud of our consistent success in national and international competitions. We have an extensive programme of outreach and community work. Our orchestras, ensembles and instrumentalists give concerts throughout London, the UK and abroad.

Entry to the Purcell School is by audition. Qualifying pupils receive funding from the Government's Music and Dance Scheme whilst others are supported by generous trusts and benefactors.

We hope that you enjoy this concert and that it gives you a sense of the warm spirit of this unique School. If you would like further details of Purcell events or a tour of the School please contact:

The Purcell School
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