



Bringing the Art of Playing Stringed Instruments to Bermuda's Children

Hello Menuhin Family! In this newsletter we'll explain our new approach to staying in touch with you, say a fond farewell to some longtime students and muse on the importance and sheer joy of playing in an orchestra. Plus a few important housekeeping details.

Wishing you all the best for the holidays, and we look forward to seeing you in January!

DECEMBER 2022

Our students have been busy this term!

Both the Cello Ensemble and the Adult Orchestra played at the National Trust Walkabout in St. George's at the beginning of the month and were very well received. And on December 3rd we held our first Christmas Concert in three years in the Queen Elizabeth Hall at the Bermuda High School. All of our Orchestras performed and we had three wonderful soloists, Ava Gibson and Bella Correia (violins) and Carter Bernard (cello). Our soloists and Orchestras all played beautifully, and you can watch the concert here: <https://youtu.be/QUI2xf1Alc> (please note this is a private link).



Our teachers were also very happy to be fully back in primary schools with our Primary 4 Programme. In June we are looking forward to our showcase Annual Concert featuring all of these students as well as our Orchestras. Please mark your calendars as this is definitely something to look forward to!



CONSTANT CONTACT

Menuhin is adopting a new way of corresponding with you called 'Constant Contact'. Using this tool we are able to streamline communications, and will be sending out termly newsletters in addition to updates with information on upcoming events, any schedule changes, exam results, etc. We hope you enjoy our first newsletter!

Individual teachers will continue to send out email updates to their students as

FOND FAREWELLS

It's always hard to say goodbye to long time students, but heartwarming to see them launch into the next stage of their lives. We asked them about their experience with Menuhin. Here's what they said.

Sam Webel, viola

I joined Menuhin in primary school, after Ms. Haslam visited Saltus to play the electric viola in a student assembly, telling us that the Menuhin Foundation needed more violists. My musical, 10 year old self felt up to the challenge, and so I began lessons with Mr. Kightley soon after. I learned about the obscure alto clef that's used in viola sheet music, and I discovered the lower sound that the viola produced, which my musical grandfather once described as akin to a brass instrument. So, would I have played a different instrument knowing what I know now? Of course not! I'm going to keep playing my wonderful viola for as long as possible.



I've been lead and supported by every teacher at Menuhin at some point: Ms. Johnstone conducted me in the Intermediate Orchestra, Mr. Knights and Ms. Haslam both conducted me in the Youth Orchestra, and Mr. Kightley also lead me in the quartet. I want to thank all of them for having each taught me invaluable lessons. Above all, I want to give a

needed.

Another way to find information is on our website.

Visit our
Website

DATES FOR THE DIARY

JANUARY 10
Beginning of Term 2

JANUARY 14
Orchestra Resumes

FEBRUARY 7 - 14
Menuhin Half Term
Break

MARCH 18
Spring Concert

MARCH 25
End of Term 2

APRIL 11
Beginning of Term 3

JUNE 11
Annual Concert

JULY 1
End of Term 3

DID YOU KNOW

The rosin we use on our bows comes from trees! It's made by heating fresh liquid resin until it becomes a solid. Resin is only found in trees from the

special thank you to Ms. Alison Black, who has taught me for 5 years. She is one of the most positive and warm people I've ever met, always making me laugh in our lessons even on days where I'm feeling low, and she has made an overwhelming positive impact on my life. I'll be revisiting the Menuhin building and my teachers for years to come!

Clark Jeffrey, cello

By far, my life has been most impacted by music, and this has been most evident in my involvement with Menuhin. Almost as early as I started playing the cello, I was participating in their orchestras, starting with the First Orchestra, and eventually arriving at the Youth Orchestra. As I've improved, I've become the leader of my section, guiding the newer students through challenging pieces, and helping them perform well in concerts. In addition, I participated in the recently established Menuhin Quartet, where we played music arranged for just four instruments. These groups are incredibly rewarding to play in, as we're constantly exposed to new and challenging pieces.

Music has not only provided me with a rewarding hobby to turn to when I'm feeling overwhelmed, but a way to connect with the people around me. Some of my favourite memories are of playing music with friends, or participating in orchestras and ensembles. Above all, it's given me something to continue working towards, and has helped me improve my communication, perseverance, and leadership skills. I would strongly recommend the Menuhin Foundation to any students who are interested in music, as it has undoubtedly helped shape the course of my life.

Demitri Miranthis, violin

I started my journey with the Menuhin Foundation 8 years ago, when I was in P4, through the Foundation's school program at my school, where we learned the basics of the violin. For a child the lessons were exciting and something to look forward to during the week and the huge schools' concert at the end of the year was a lot of fun. I also joined the First Orchestra, the orchestra for new violin players, where we played games that revolved around rhythm, dynamics, and keeping time among other key aspects of music. We also learned to play in an orchestra with other players.



Pinaceae family, such as pine, fir or cedar. It's produced by cells in the bark of the tree. Don't put it on your pancakes though! Resin is not the same as sap, which is made in the xylem and phloem cells of the tree. That's what is made into syrup and other sweet treats.

Rosin is used to make the bow hair sticky so that it catches the string. Dancers use it on their shoes to prevent slipping and gymnasts use it on their hands for more grip. Baseball pitchers and bowlers use it for better control of the ball.

Who knew?

A year later, I began taking weekly violin lessons with Ms. Haslam, the teacher who visited my school for the program. As the years went on, I sat ABRSM exams for playing and for music theory and I became significantly better at the violin than when I had started! As a result, I also switched to the more advanced Intermediate Orchestra, and began to play more complex pieces. Continuing with violin, I passed my grade 5 theory which allowed me to access grades above grade 6 and allowed me to join the Youth Orchestra, where I started as a member of the Second violins and have now graduated to a First violin. Unfortunately, due to Covid, the Youth Orchestra hasn't been able to perform over the past couple of years that I have been a part of it. However, from the concerts I took part in with the Intermediate and First Orchestras I can say that the concerts were always a fun experience and one of the highlights of the year for me.

Now I'm working towards completing my ABRSM Grade 8 in violin and it's nice to look back on how far I've come. Without the Menuhin Foundation, I would probably never have discovered how much I enjoy playing the violin and for that, I am very grateful for Ms. Haslam and the other teachers who've helped me along my journey. Furthermore, the skills I have learnt at the Menuhin Foundation allowed me to take part in my school's orchestra with my peers and represent the talent at my school. Although I am sad to be leaving the island to go to boarding school and to leave the Menuhin Foundation, I will continue with my violin abroad and take part in the orchestras that my new school has to offer. This is something I would never do if I hadn't gone to the lunchtime lessons with Ms. Haslam and my friends when I was 8.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ORCHESTRA

by Ms. Black

After seeing the Menuhin ensembles performing at the Christmas Concert, I was inspired to write about the importance of playing in an orchestra. It's an essential part of learning to play a string instrument. The immediate technical benefits are numerous; learning how the different parts in a musical work fit together, improved ear training and learning to count rests and come in at the right time. But it's the more intangible results that are often the most meaningful. Like group sports, playing in an ensemble is all about teamwork. Each player is important and contributes equally. Students learn a sense of individual responsibility to a larger group and how to work together. It's a safe place to 'take risks', to play out and feel the support of fellow players. It's also a chance to find musical peers and socialize! It's always a good sign when there's lots of lively chat going on during rehearsal, even though it can be a challenge to getting work done.

Finally, it's really fun! There is nothing like the sheer joy of playing music together. Being a part of a beautiful piece of music, of being surrounded by sound which you are helping to create, is a huge rush. It's also a lifelong experience, as is evidenced by our wonderful Adult Ensemble.

We encourage everyone to enrol their child in a Menuhin orchestra. The more the merrier definitely applies! Ask your teacher for the appropriate level. The cost per term is \$150. Rehearsals are on Saturdays as follows:

SATURDAYS AT BERMUDA HIGH SCHOOL

First Orchestra
9:30 - 10:30

Intermediate Orchestra
10:45 - 11:45

Youth Orchestra
12 - 1:00

Adult Orchestra
12:15 - 1:15

We hope you will join us!



The Menuhin Foundation

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