

Term 3 2023-2024



Bermuda Registered  
Charity #118

# NEWSLETTER

[www.menuhin.bm](http://www.menuhin.bm)

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## ANNUAL STUDENT CONCERT

Friends and families filled the Ruth Seaton James Auditorium at Cedarbridge Academy on June 9th to watch their children perform at The Menuhin Foundation's Annual Concert. The audience were delighted by the incredible talent and dedication of the students, who received enthusiastic applause after each piece at the sold-out event. This year's concert is believed to have been the best attended since inception.



The concert began with performances by over 130 primary school children who have taken part in The Menuhin Foundation's Primary School Programme for the 2023/24 academic year delivered across 22 government and private schools in Bermuda. The students were divided into three groups - Eastern Schools, Central Schools and Western Schools - and each group played a selection of well-known pieces such as *Twinkle Twinkle*, *Can-Can*, and *Old MacDonald* to the delight of the audience.



The Concert also featured The Menuhin Foundation's First Orchestra, Intermediate Orchestra, Youth Orchestra, and the Vivace String Quartet.

## ANNUAL STUDENT CONCERT (continued)

Chairperson, Laura Davis, gave a speech before the final performance, outlining the history and aims of The Menuhin Foundation and thanking all the donors and supporters whose financial contributions had made these programmes possible. She concluded her speech by saying: "We also would not be able to put on this marquee event without the support of our teachers, the parent volunteers, and the school teachers/educators who helped us deliver a fantastic show."



The concert ended with the traditional Finale, when all the students gathered on stage to play Stanley Fletcher's Hoe Down. During the thunderous applause at the end of the performance, three of the students presented a bouquet of flowers to Menuhin teachers Alison Black, Alison Johnstone and Kerry Haslam, as an appreciation for all their sacrifice and hard work.



Of particular note, this was the first time that the concert was hosted by the affable Kate Ross, a past Menuhin teacher, whose guidance and sharp wit helped to make this programme a wonderful and enjoyable afternoon of music.



## TED Talks for Summer

Here are some excellent TED Talks on classical music for a bit of summer diversion - both entertaining and educational.

*The Transformative Power of Classical Music* by Benjamin Zander.

Posted 16 years ago but still a classic (no pun intended).

Click [HERE](#).

*The Secrets of the World's Most Famous Symphony* by Hanako Sawada.

Discover what makes Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony Number Five a musical masterpiece, and uncover the story behind its inception.

Click [HERE](#).

*Why should you listen to Vivaldi's "Four Seasons"?* by Betsy Schwarm.

Light, bright, and cheerful, "The Four Seasons" by Antonio Vivaldi is some of the most familiar of all early 18th century music. But what is its significance, and why does it sound that way?

Click [HERE](#).



# NEWSLETTER

## THE MENUHIN FOUNDATION IN THE COMMUNITY

### BMDS SUMMER SHOWCASE

A number of Menuhin students took part in Bermuda Musical and Dramatic Society's Summer Showcase held on June 8th at Daylesford Theatre.

Oscar Regan (violin), student of Kerry Haslam, performed *Introduction and Polonaise from Arabesken No.12* by Carl Bohm, with Kerry Haslam doing the piano accompaniment.

Dylan Jeffrey (violin), student of Alison Black, performed JS Bach's *Concerto for Two Violins in D Minor*. Dylan played the second violin and Alison Black played the first violin.



Vivace String Quartet, composed of Bella Correia (1st violin), Eاون Foster (2nd violin), Prince Domingo (viola) and Oliver Leverock (cello) performed Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*. The Vivace Quartet is directed by Alison Johnstone.

Also performing was Menuhin alumna, Ava Gibson. She played Brahms' *Violin Sonata No.3 (1st Movement)* and was accompanied on the piano by Anne Marshall.

The performances were a resounding success, with fantastic reviews in *The Royal Gazette* ([link](#)).

### BERMUDA PHILHARMONIC SUMMER POPS CONCERT "THE BEST OF BROADWAY"

The Bermuda Philharmonic held a spectacular sold-out event at the Victualling Yard, featuring an incredible line-up of musicians on July 7th. Dylan Jeffrey (violin), Prince Domingo (viola), members of the Menuhin Adult Ensemble and former Menuhin students performed alongside Menuhin teachers Alison Black (concertmaster) and Kerry Haslam in an unforgettable evening of music. Despite a brief downpour, the audience were undeterred and enjoyed the evening.



### SPRING INTO THE ARTS

We are delighted to learn that several of our students had the incredible opportunity to perform at the Department of Education's "Spring into the Arts Festival" held last April and May at the Ruth Seaton James Auditorium in Cedarbridge Academy. One of them was Chaz Aguilar, student of Alison Black, who played his violin with the Prospect Primary school choir. Well done, Chaz!



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## THE MENUHIN FOUNDATION IN THE COMMUNITY (*continued*)

### BERMUDA CHAMBER CHOIR & ORCHESTRA SUMMER CONCERT

Menuhin teachers Alison Black, Alison Johnstone and Kerry Haslam (concertmaster) performed at the Bermuda Chamber Choir and Orchestra's Summer Concert held at St. John's Church on June 14th and 15th.

Directed by Majorie Pettite, the concert featured Haydn's *The Creation Part 1* with some guest soloists, as well as works by Mozart, Handel, Bruno Coulais, Paul Simon, Spirituals and others.



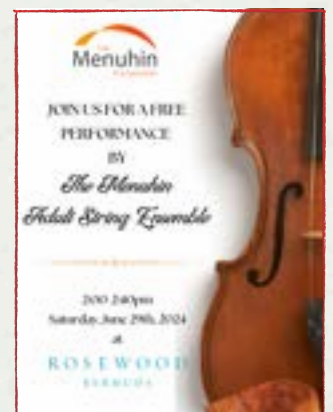
### THE ART OF MUSIC ANTHOLOGY



"The Art of Music Anthology", a fundraising collaboration between the Bermuda Philharmonic Society and Masterworks was held on May 9th. The event featured a thoughtful pairing of selected Bermuda arts and classical music. Also featured was *La Lune a Midi*, composed by Dylan Jeffrey, student of Alison Black, for winning the 2024 Philharmonic Young Artist Composition Competition. The piece was played on the piano by Caroline Eaton. According to The Royal Gazette review, Dylan's music was "a straightforward, charming waltz which became a song without words – actually a bit like a French Chanson. It also had a hymn-like simplicity." Congratulations Dylan for a job well done!

### ADULT ENSEMBLE AT ROSEWOOD, TUCKERS POINT

In an outstanding finale to the academic year, The Menuhin Foundation Adult Ensemble, conducted by Kerry Haslam, gave a wonderful performance at Rosewood at Tuckers Point on June 29th. Friends, families and hotel guests came together to celebrate the occasion and enjoy the incredible music.



## CARING FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT

Summer is a time for most people to take a break and enjoy the sun and surf. However, it can be hard on stringed instruments, especially with Bermuda's high temperatures and humidity. There are several things you can do to mitigate these effects:

*Avoid direct sunlight.* When outdoors, keep your instrument in its case and out of the sun as much as possible. Not only can sunlight dry out your instrument and strings, it can also damage the finish, causing it to fade, crack, melt or blister - resulting in costly repairs. When playing outdoors, find a shady spot. If you are indoors, keep it in its case and out of the sunlight, preferably where it is dark and cool.

*Never leave your instrument in a car.* A good rule of thumb is to never leave your instrument in an environment where you wouldn't want to spend countless hours. If it's too hot for a child or a pet, it's too hot for a string instrument! Take it with you and keep it in a comfortable place when you're not using it.

*Leave your instrument in its case when moving from an air-conditioned room to a warm area.* The sudden change in temperature may affect the tuning or cause the glue to loosen.

*Avoid contact between your skin and the finish of your instrument in hot weather.* Varnish is not compatible with sweat.

*Keep the instrument clean when not in use.* Wipe off any dust, especially rosin dust, after each use.

*If you plan to travel with your instrument, make sure you have the right case.* Replace old, dilapidated cases with newer, innovative ones that offer more durable protection, lighter materials and better-designed interiors that make room for all the little extras.

Information from articles "Caring for your instrument in the summer" by [www.connollymusic.com](http://www.connollymusic.com) & "Looking after your instrument in hot weather" by [www.violinist.com](http://www.violinist.com).





# NEWSLETTER

## PRACTICE DURING THE SUMMER BREAK?

In the spirit of Shakespeare, to practise or not to practise, that is the question...especially during the summer holidays. There are different opinions among professionals, but there is one thing they all agree on - you have to practise if you want to improve!

The website *"The Strad"* asked two top string teachers that very question: Mimi Zweig and Géza Szilvay.

Mimi states, "Summer vacations provide the ideal time to do lots of practice and I encourage students to attend a summer programme that will give them the opportunity to practise, study, play chamber music, perform, listen to concerts and be with peers who are also passionate about the violin and music. Actually, my students don't have the choice!" However, in conclusion, Mimi also said, "This is not to say that they shouldn't take a week off to relax and let all the information be absorbed."



Géza agrees with Mimi. He reminds the reader that whenever people want to improve their health, they develop healthy habits. The same goes for improving your instrument playing. Thus, it surprises him when, "[T]he same people do not understand why the violin teacher demands that their child practise the violin every day. They even get irritated if the string pedagogue advises them to take their violin with them when travelling on holiday." Géza continues by saying that, "Daily music making will safeguard the healthy technical, musical, intellectual and emotional development of the child."

But, he also does stress that taking a short break can be beneficial: "One- or two-week rests during long winter or summer holidays are necessary. These short periods function like pauses in music. Rest creates tension or expectation, and after the pause playing will be more inviting."

So the consensus seems to be that it is essential to practise during the summer holidays in order to improve your craft; you can take a break, but not for too long!

Géza makes an outstanding point about one of the benefits of practicing: "The daily papers present gossip, scandals, and reports on wars, violence, and disaster. Our daily Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, and even Dvořák or the simple one-octave G major scale, offer harmony. Why shouldn't we play the violin every day?"

If you have any questions about your child's practice, please get in touch with your Menuhin teacher.

You can find the entire article [here](#).

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## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### **Tuesday, September 3**

Term 1 Begins

### **Saturday, September 7**

Orchestra resumes

### **Tuesday, October 22 - Saturday, October 26**

Half Term Break (no classes, no orchestra)

### **Saturday, November 9**

Remembrance Day Holiday observed (no classes & orchestra)

### **Saturday, December 7**

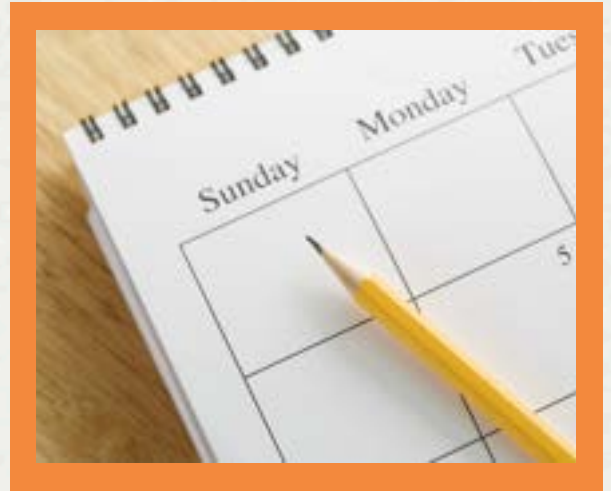
Last orchestra

### **Saturday, December 7**

Christmas Concert

### **Saturday, December 14**

Last Day of Term 1 (classes only, no orchestra)



WE HOPE YOU ARE HAVING  
A WONDERFUL SUMMER BREAK!

SEE YOU ALL IN TERM 1