



Bermuda Registered  
Charity #118

# NEWSLETTER

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## IN THIS ISSUE

Music in The Park

Wine & Strings:  
Celebrating 50 years of  
The Menuhin Foundation

The Menuhin Foundation:  
50 Years of Music,  
Opportunity, & Inspiration

The Remarkable Journey  
of Yehudi Menuhin

2026 Menuhin  
Scholarship Awards

Bermuda Philharmonic  
Student Concerto &  
Composition Competition

History of the Cello

Connect With Us

Dates for the Diary



## Music In the Park - 50th Anniversary Celebration

The Menuhin Foundation celebrated its **50th Anniversary** with a vibrant **Spring Concert** held at Victoria Park on **Saturday, March 7**. With perfect weather throughout the afternoon, families and guests enjoyed a lively atmosphere filled with music, activities, and delicious refreshments.



Several food stalls were available, including **Ashley's Lemonade**, **Hot Dog Delight**, and the Foundation's own **Tutti Tuck Shop**. Popular activities such as **face painting** and a **colouring table** kept younger attendees entertained while the audience gathered to enjoy the performances.



Next, the **Intermediate Orchestra**, conducted by **Alison Johnstone**, took the stage. The audience was then treated to a violin solo by **Dylan Jeffrey**, one of the second-place scholarship winners, who performed **Romanian Dances** by **Béla Bartók**.

The concert began at **2:00 PM** with a delightful performance by the **Adult Ensemble**, conducted by **Kerry Haslam**, followed by the **First Orchestra** under the direction of **Johanna Pino Gonzalez**. The programme continued with performances from the **Scherzando Quartet** and the **Les Debutants Quartet**.





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## Music In the Park (continued)

The **Vivace Quartet** followed, after which the other second-place scholarship recipient, **Juliana Tothong**, performed a solo, playing **Meditation from Thaïs** by Jules Massenet.

The **Pretissimo Trio** delivered the next performance, and the concert concluded with a powerful finale by the **Youth Orchestra**, conducted by **Benjamin Wu**.



The afternoon was a wonderful celebration of music and community, and everyone in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the performances as the Foundation marked this important milestone.





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## The History of the Cello

The **cello**, originally known as the **violoncello**, traces its origins back to the 16th century, evolving from earlier bowed string instruments. It rose to prominence during the Baroque period, where it was first valued for strengthening bass lines within ensembles. Over time, the instrument stepped into the spotlight as a solo voice, thanks in part to composers such as J.S. Bach, who showcased its rich expressive potential.

Click [here](#) to learn more of this wonderful instrument!



## Wine & Strings: Celebrating 50 Years of The Menuhin Foundation

On February 21, 2026, the Menuhin Foundation hosted its annual Wine & Strings fundraiser with a special milestone—celebrating the Foundation's **50th Anniversary**. The evening took place at the elegant **City Hall**, whose inspiring setting of art and culture provided the perfect backdrop for the celebration.

Supporters, friends, and music lovers gathered to champion the Foundation's mission of expanding music education and nurturing young musicians across Bermuda. Guests enjoyed a curated selection of exceptional wines from around the world while being serenaded by beautiful performances from the talented Menuhin Teachers and the Adult Orchestra.

The evening concluded with an exciting raffle draw featuring a variety of wonderful prizes, adding to the festive spirit of the celebration.

Thanks to the heartfelt generosity of attendees and donors, the Foundation's **Primary School Programme** and bursary fund received a significant boost. These contributions will help ensure that even more students have the opportunity to learn a string instrument and pursue their passion for music for years to come.





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## The Menuhin Foundation: 50 Years of Music, Opportunity, and Inspiration



In 1976, under the patronage of legendary violinist **Baron Yehudi Menuhin**, **The Menuhin Foundation of Bermuda** was founded with a simple yet powerful vision: to bring the love of stringed instruments to Bermuda's children—regardless of their background or circumstances.

Fifty years later, that vision has touched thousands of young Bermudians, introducing them to the violin, viola, and cello while nurturing far more than musical ability. Through music education, students have developed discipline, confidence, creativity, and perseverance, skills that continue to benefit them throughout their lives.

### A Vision Sparked by Inspiration

The story of the Foundation began when Menuhin visited Bermuda to perform at the **first Bermuda Festival of the Performing Arts**, an event he helped establish alongside **Governor Sir Edwin Leather**. During that visit, Menuhin attended a performance by a student string group at Warwick Academy. Deeply inspired by what he heard, he envisioned a programme that would give Bermudian children broader access to string music education.

From that moment, the Menuhin Foundation of Bermuda was born.

Its mission was clear:

**to make high-quality music education accessible to children across the island.**

### A Memorable Return

Menuhin's connection to Bermuda remained strong long after the Foundation's founding. In 1995, he returned to celebrate the **20th anniversary of the Bermuda Festival of the Performing Arts**.

At a **special gala concert at City Hall in Hamilton**, Menuhin both performed and conducted an orchestra in a memorable evening of music that included:

- Works by **Mozart** conducted by Menuhin
- Musicians connected with The Menuhin Foundation
- A standing ovation from an appreciative Bermuda audience

The concert was a powerful reminder of the enduring cultural impact of the festival—and of Menuhin's lasting influence on Bermuda's musical community.

## The Menuhin Foundation: 50 Years of Music, Opportunity, and Inspiration (*continued*)

### The P4 Programme: A Lasting Legacy

Over the decades, the Foundation's flagship initiative, the **P4 Programme**, has provided **free string lessons to thousands of primary school students** throughout Bermuda. By placing instruments directly into the hands of children, the programme opens doors to creativity, self-expression, and personal growth.

Recognizing the impact of this early musical exposure, the Foundation has recently **expanded its reach with pilot programmes at P5 and P6** in selected schools, allowing students to continue building on the skills they develop in P4. They also reached out to homeschoolers to participate in the programme.

While not every student continues on a professional musical path, the experience leaves a lasting impression. Former students often credit the programme with helping them develop focus, resilience, teamwork, and leadership—qualities that have supported their success in careers and community roles across Bermuda.

### Looking Ahead

As The Menuhin Foundation celebrates 50 years of service, it stands as a testament to the transformative power of music education. What began with a moment of inspiration in 1976 has grown into a programme that continues to enrich the lives of Bermudian children year after year. By placing instruments in young hands and music in young hearts, the Foundation is not only teaching notes and technique—it is helping shape **confident, creative, and capable members of Bermuda's future**.

**Fifty years on, the music continues.**

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## The Remarkable Journey of Yehudi Menuhin

- Born: April 22, 1916, in New York City to Russian-Jewish parents
- Child prodigy: Began violin at 4; internationally famous by early teens
- Training: Studied with Louis Persinger and George Enescu
- Early fame: Acclaimed for performances of Johann Sebastian Bach and Ludwig van Beethoven
- World War II: Performed for troops and in liberated camps after World War II
- Humanitarian role: Promoted reconciliation, including performances in postwar Germany
- Musical expansion: Became a conductor; collaborated with Ravi Shankar, blending Western and Indian music
- Education: Founded the Yehudi Menuhin School (1963)
- Honors: Knighted (1965); later became Baron Menuhin in the UK
- Global work: Cultural ambassador for UNESCO
- Died: March 12, 1999, in Berlin



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## CONGRATULATIONS!

### 2026 Menuhin Scholarship Awards

The **2026 Menuhin Foundation Scholarship Competition**, held on Saturday, January 31, showcased the exceptional talent, dedication, and artistry of our young musicians. Each participant delivered a thoughtful and engaging performance, reflecting many hours of preparation and a deep commitment to musical excellence. The judges were impressed by the high standard of musicianship demonstrated throughout the competition.



We are delighted to congratulate **violinist Bella Correia**, who was awarded **First Place** in this year's competition. Bella will be featured as the soloist in the Menuhin Foundation's **Annual Concert on Sunday, June 14**, where audiences will have the opportunity to enjoy her outstanding musicianship.

**Violinists Dylan Jeffrey and Julianna Tothong** earned **Second Place**, tying for this year's honour. Both performers were also featured in the Menuhin Foundation's **50th Anniversary Spring Concert at Victoria Park on March 7**, celebrating the Foundation's rich legacy of supporting young musical talent.

In recognition of the outstanding performances by all participants, **Honorable Mentions** were awarded to **Euan Forster (violin)**, **Oscar Regan (violin)**, and **Oliver Leverock (cello)**.

The Menuhin Foundation also extends its sincere thanks to the dedicated teachers who guide and inspire these young musicians. **Bella Correia** and **Dylan Jeffrey** study with **Benjamin Wu**; **Julianna Tothong**, **Euan Forster**, and **Oscar Regan** study with **Kerry Haslam**; and **Oliver Leverock** studies with **Alison Johnson**. Their guidance, mentorship, and commitment to musical education play an essential role in nurturing the talent we celebrate today.

The Menuhin Foundation warmly congratulates all participants for their inspiring performances and looks forward to continuing to celebrate and support the next generation of musicians.



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## CONGRATULATIONS! (CONTINUED)

### Bermuda Philharmonic Student Concerto & Composition Competition



The **Bermuda Philharmonic's Student Concerto and Composition Competition**, held at the Bermuda School of Music on Sunday, January 26, 2026, showcased the exceptional talent of young musicians from across the island.

We are delighted to share that our students achieved outstanding results in the Composition category: **Prince Domingo** earned second place, and **Amelia Currie** placed third. Both students study with **Benjamin Wu**. First prize was awarded to **Lilia Matcham**, a former Menuhin student.

In the Concerto Competition, we also congratulate **Dylan Jeffrey**, also a student of Benjamin Wu, on being awarded third place.

We are incredibly proud of all the talented young musicians who participated in this inspiring event. Their dedication, creativity, and hard work continue to shine—well done to everyone involved!



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## THE MENUHIN FOUNDATION IN THE COMMUNITY



### Música de las Américas

On March 15, 2026, audiences gathered at BHS's Queen Elizabeth Hall for an evening filled with vibrant rhythms and melodies from across Latin America. The event played to **160 attendees** and raised over **\$6,000 for Habitat for Humanity**. The concert featured the ensemble **Latin Duo**, founded in 2022 by guitarist **Steve Crawford** and violist **Johanna Pino Gonzalez**—who is also our very own Violin and Viola teacher.

The duo performed with Crawford on guitar and Pino Gonzalez on viola, occasionally adding percussion and even taking turns singing when the music called for it. Their engaging performance showcased not only technical skill but also a warm connection with the audience.

The evening opened with the tango **"Escovado"** by **Ernesto Nazareth**. Throughout the concert, the duo delighted listeners with a variety of Latin styles, including the choro **"Maxixe Piazza Vittorio"** and the samba **"Algodão Doce"** by **Celso Machado**, **"Só Tinha de Ser com Você"** by **Antônio Carlos Jobim**, and the well-known bolero **"Quizás, Quizás, Quizás"** by **Oswaldo Farrés**.

Partway through the evening, an enthusiastic audience member called out a request for **"Guantanamera,"** composed by **Joseíto Fernández** and arranged by **Dan Turcanu**. The familiar tune quickly turned into a highlight of the night, with many audience members joining in to sing along.

The program also included a couple of well-known non-Latin favorites: **"Fly Me to the Moon"** by **Bart Howard** and **"Here Comes the Sun"** by **George Harrison of The Beatles**.

The evening concluded with the lively rumba **"Tico-Tico"** by **Zequinha Abreu**, bringing the concert to an energetic finish. Overall, the performance offered the audience a wonderful musical journey and a memorable celebration of Latin music.



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## CONNECT WITH US!

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### PHONE

Call us at 295 4093



### EMAIL

Email us at  
[trustees@menuhin.bm](mailto:trustees@menuhin.bm)



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## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Tuesday, April 7**

Beginning of Term 3

**Saturday, April 11**

Orchestra resumes

**Friday, May 22**

Bermuda Day Holiday (no lessons)

**Saturday, June 13**

No lessons (in lieu of holiday)

**Sunday, June 14**

Annual Concert

**Monday, June 16**

National Heroes Day Holiday

**Saturday, June 27**

Menuhin Student Showcase

**Saturday, June 27**

Term 3 ends

