Newsletter

Term 3 2025-2026

Our 2026 Annual Student Concert

The Menuhin Foundation recently celebrated a remarkable milestone with its Annual Concert, marking 50 years of inspiring a love and appreciation for string music. Held at the Ruth Seaton James Centre for the Performing Arts, the sold-out event welcomed nearly 400 guests and showcased the talents of almost 120 students from 19 public and private schools, as well as homeschooling families.

This year's concert featured a special first: students from the Foundation's expanded Primary Programme, which includes P5 and P6 students, took the stage for their own performance. Audiences also enjoyed outstanding performances by the First Orchestra, Intermediate Orchestra, and Youth Orchestra, while the Vivace Quartet entertained guests before the concert began.

Newsletter

A highlight of the afternoon was a captivating performance by Menuhin Foundation Scholarship first prize winner, Bella Correia, who performed the first movement of W.A. Mozart's *Violin Concerto No. 3 in G Major*. Throughout the program, students demonstrated not only impressive technical skill but also the dedication, discipline, and joy that music brings to their lives—a testament to the impact of quality music education and the support of their teachers and families.

The concert concluded with the beloved annual Finale, as all participating students joined together on stage to perform Stanley Fletcher's *Hoe Down*.

The afternoon was expertly hosted by Menuhin board member and Adult Ensemble musician Hannah Lampit, whose warmth and enthusiasm helped make the celebration a memorable tribute to the Foundation's legacy and its young musicians.

Newsletter

In Memory of a Beloved Teacher: Ms. Alison Black

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of **Ms. Alison Black**, a cherished former teacher of the Menuhin Foundation.

Alison was a gifted violin and viola teacher whose warmth, kindness, and dedication enriched the lives of countless students and families. Through her patient guidance and encouragement, she inspired a love of music in her students and helped them grow not only as musicians, but also as individuals.

Highly respected by colleagues and beloved by those she taught, Alison will be remembered for her exceptional musicianship, generous spirit, and genuine care for others. Her positive

influence extended far beyond the classroom, leaving a lasting impression on everyone who had the privilege of knowing her.

Alison will be greatly missed by her former students and their families, her fellow teachers, and the wider Menuhin Foundation community.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Alison's family and loved ones during this difficult time and hold them in our thoughts.

Newsletter

Our Student Showcase

On June 27th, the Menuhin Foundation proudly presented its very first Student Showcase—an unforgettable evening celebrating the hard work, passion, and musical growth of our students. The concert brought together some of our most advanced young musicians, giving them the opportunity to share their artistry with family, friends, teachers, and supporters.

From impressive solo performances to lively chamber ensembles, each piece told a story of dedication, perseverance, and joy.

Behind every performance were countless hours of practice, the encouragement of devoted teachers, and the unwavering support of families who have accompanied these students on their musical journeys.

The following students played solos:

Emmalyn Tothong - violin
Camryn Maule - cello
Lilah Riker – violin
Bram Wiseman – cello
Thomas Twilley – viola
Annika Lutkin – violin
Oscar Regan – violin
Oliver Leverock – cello
Euan Forster – violin
Amelia Currie – violin
Julianna Tothong – violin
Prince Domingo – viola
Bella Correia – violin
Eddie Wyer – violin

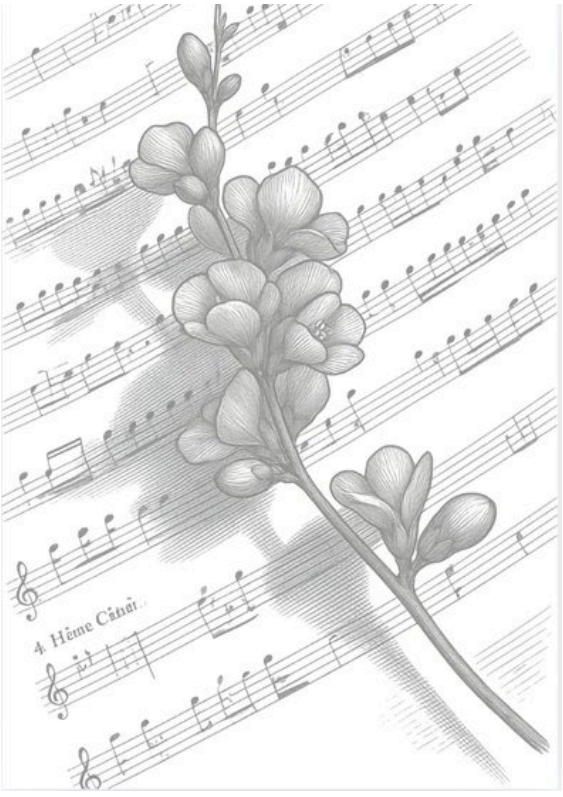
Newsletter

The ensembles participating were:

Scherzando String Quartet:

Theo Trott – 1st violin
Amelia Junaid – 2nd violin
Johanna Pino Gonzalez (teacher) – viola support
Alexis Kennedy-Higgins – cello

Les Debutantes String Quartet:

Evelyn Fahy – 1st violin
Madison Branco – 2nd violin
Charles Balderas – 3rd violin
Gabriella Simons – cello

Grazioso String Trio:

Julianna Tothong – violin
Thomas Twilley – viola
Jaime Cedenio – cello

Prestissimo String Quartet:

Annika Lutkin – 1st violin
Neal Guo – 2nd violin
Benjamin Wu (teacher) – viola support
Camryn Maule – cello

Vivace String Quartet:

Bella Correia – 1st violin
Euan Forster – 2nd violin
Prince Domingo – viola
Oliver Leverock - cello

More than a concert, the Student Showcase was a celebration of community and the life-changing impact of music education. We were inspired by the confidence, creativity, and talent displayed on stage, and we look forward to watching these young musicians continue to flourish in the years ahead.

Newsletter

ABRSM Exam Results 2025-2026 School Year

The Menuhin Foundation offers our students the opportunity to take the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) performance exam. We believe that taking the exam provides our students with an additional source of motivation and a sense of achievement, as well as giving them the opportunity to benchmark their progress.

Congratulations to the following students who have successfully completed their ABRSM performance exams for 2025-2026 period, and many thanks to the Menuhin teachers and parents for all their hard work in preparing them.

Prince Domingo (Viola) Grade 8 – Distinction

Annika Lutkin (Violin) Grade 5 - Merit

Owen Grasso (Violin) Grade 4 – Distinction
Aiva Brown (Violin) Grade 4 – Merit
Emanuella Iaxx (Violin) Grade 4 – Merit

Juliana Gakundi (Violin) Grade 3 – Distinction
Chaz Aguilar (Violin) Grade 3 – Merit
Nicholas Gakundi (Violin) Grade 3 – Pass

Nora Liu (Viola) Grade 2 – Merit
Ava Bernstein (Violin) Grade 2 – Pass
Amelia Junaid (Violin) Grade 2 – Pass
Gabriella Lee (Violin) Grade 2 – Pass
Casper Penz (Violin) Grade 2 – Pass

John Andrew (Viola) Grade 1 – Distinction
Ava Bernstein (Violin) Grade 1 – Distinction
Ezrah Lemon (Cello) Grade 1 – Distinction
Aulani Campbell (Cello) Grade 1 – Merit
Myla Desjardins (Violin) Grade 1 – Merit
Violet Lehman (Violin) Grade 1 – Merit
Willa Mir (Violin) Grade 1 – Merit
Gabriella Simons (Cello) Grade 1 – Merit
Allegra Staples (Violin) Grade 1 – Merit
Syhir White (Violin) Grade 1 – Merit
Bastian Blanco Mass (Violin) Grade 1 – Pass
Margarette Paredes (Violin) Grade 1 – Pass
Christian Knox Clingerman (Cello) Grade 1 – Pass
Leona Tyers (Violin) Grade 1 – Pass

Nina Carter (Violin) Initial Grade – Merit

Newsletter

Menuhin in the Community

The Vivace Quartet plays for Orbis

On June 18th, our Vivace Quartet had the pleasure to play for one of our major corporate sponsors, Orbis Investments. They played for the company in the early hours of the morning before their breakfast meeting. Their lobby provided amazing acoustics as they played their repertoire, which included *America* from West Side Story, *The Entertainer*, and *My Funny Valentine*.

Everyone was amazed at the caliber of the performance, even stating to our Chairperson, Verde Brown, that they were performing like professional musicians. The Vivace Quartet's performers are, Bella Correia (first violin), Euan Forster (second violin), Prince Domingo (viola), and Oliver Leverock (cello).

Newsletter

A Special Musical Honour at Government House

Congratulations to violin students Bella Correia and Eddie Wyer, who were selected to perform with the Bermuda Philharmonic String Ensemble at a special Garden Party held in honour of His Majesty King Charles III at Government House on the evening of May 1, 2026.

We are especially proud that Menuhin teachers Johanna Pino Gonzalez (viola) and Benjamin Wu (viola) also took part in this prestigious performance.

It was an unforgettable musical occasion and a wonderful achievement for Bella, Eddie, Johanna, Benjamin, and everyone involved. We are delighted to celebrate their talent, dedication, and contribution to this very special event.

Newsletter

Bermuda Philharmonic Spring Concert – Springtime In Paris

The Bermuda Philharmonic Society performed their *Springtime In Paris* Concert on April 19th at the Earl Cameron Theater in City Hall, performing many French pieces in celebration of the spring season.

The audience enjoyed a journey through several masterpieces, including works by Offenbach, Gershwin, Fauré, and Saint-Saëns, in addition to performances by the winners of the 2026 Young Artist Concerto Competition, JitHom Liew (violin) and Gabrielle Henderson (French horn).

The concert included our own Menuhin teachers, Johanna Pino Gonzalez (Viola), and Benjamin Wu (Viola), along with students, Bella Correia (violin), Edward Wyer (violin), Prince Domingo (viola), Julianna Tothong (violin), Joyce Yeung (cello), and Oliver Leverock (cello). We are incredibly proud of our Menuhin students who performed alongside their teachers.

Newsletter

Disney: Then & Now — A Magical Summer Pops Concert

On July 5, the Bermuda Philharmonic delighted audiences with its Summer Pops Concert, Disney: Then & Now, at the historic Royal Naval Dockyard. Families, friends, and music lovers gathered for an enchanting evening celebrating some of Disney's most beloved songs, spanning generations of storytelling—from the timeless classics of *Snow White* to the modern favorites of *Encanto* and beyond.

Against the backdrop of a beautiful summer evening, the concert featured performances by talented Menuhin Foundation students – Bella Correia (violin), Prince Domingo (viola), Dylan Jeffrey (violin), Eddie Wyer (violin)and Joyce Yeung (cello) – Menuhin teacher Johanna Pino Gonzalez, and members of the Menuhin Adult Ensemble. Ava Gibson, Menuhin alumni, also returned from her studies abroad to participate. Together, they brought Disney's unforgettable melodies to life, creating a joyful experience for audience members of all ages.

The event offered more than just music. Families enjoyed a festive atmosphere with games and activities, while food trucks and outdoor dining from The Frog & Onion added to the evening's community spirit. Whether relaxing under the stars with a blanket or enjoying the comfort of covered seating, attendees were treated to a memorable celebration of music, imagination, and togetherness.

Disney: Then & Now was a wonderful example of how music can bring generations together, and the Bermuda Philharmonic was proud to share this magical evening with the community.

Newsletter

Menuhin Students Honoured as Bermuda Youth Trailblazers Out Front 2026

We are delighted to share that two Menuhin students, Bella Correia and Dylan Jeffrey, winners of the Arts & Culture category of the Bermuda Government's Youth Trailblazers Out Front 2026 initiative. Launched by Bermuda's Ministry of Youth, Social Development and Seniors, the programme celebrates graduating students who have demonstrated outstanding achievement, perseverance, service, creativity, leadership, and strong character.

Minister Tinee Furbert highlighted the importance of recognising young people and celebrating their contributions to the community, noting that such recognition helps build confidence, affirm potential, and inspire future generations.

Bella and Dylan were among a group of exceptional young Bermudians who were recognised through public profiles, ministerial acknowledgement, digital features, and a special flag installation on Front Street in Hamilton. These commemorative flags were on display throughout the city, creating a visible celebration of Bermuda's emerging leaders. We are incredibly proud of Bella and Dylan for this well-deserved honour. Their dedication, hard work, and positive contributions both within and beyond the Menuhin community exemplify the values celebrated by this initiative.

Congratulations to Bella and Dylan on this outstanding achievement!

Newsletter

Why Learning the Violin Is Good for More Than Music

The violin is one of the most versatile and expressive instruments in the world, appearing in everything from classical orchestras and folk ensembles to pop, country, and even rock music. Beyond its beautiful sound, learning to play the violin offers a range of personal benefits that extend far beyond music itself.

Playing the violin helps develop coordination, dexterity, and fine motor skills, as musicians must synchronize both hands while maintaining proper posture and technique. The instrument's complexity also encourages discipline, focus, and patience—qualities that can positively impact many areas of life.

Learning violin deepens musical understanding by exposing players to different styles, techniques, and musical concepts. The skills gained are also transferable to other string instruments, making it an excellent foundation for broader musical growth.

As players progress, they often gain confidence through achievement and performance opportunities. Violin study can also strengthen cognitive abilities, support language development, and improve overall body awareness through better posture and movement.

Perhaps most importantly, playing the violin can be highly therapeutic. Music-making is widely recognized for its ability to reduce stress, encourage emotional expression, improve communication, and promote overall well-being.

Whether you're a beginner or an experienced musician, the violin offers lifelong opportunities for learning, creativity, and personal development.
Source: Adapted from "The Best 9 Benefits Of Learning And Playing Violin" published on Strings Kings.

Read the original article at Strings Kings.

Newsletter

CONNECT WITH US!

The Menuhin Foundation has several ways for you to communicate with us.

PHONE

Call us at 777 4093

EMAIL

Email us at
trustees@menuhin.bm

WHATSAPP

Join our WhatsApp Channel
or message us at
777 4093

INSTAGRAM

Join our Instagram page.

FACEBOOK

Join our Facebook page.

WEBPAGE

Use our Contact page to send a message.

Newsletter

DATES FOR THE DIARY

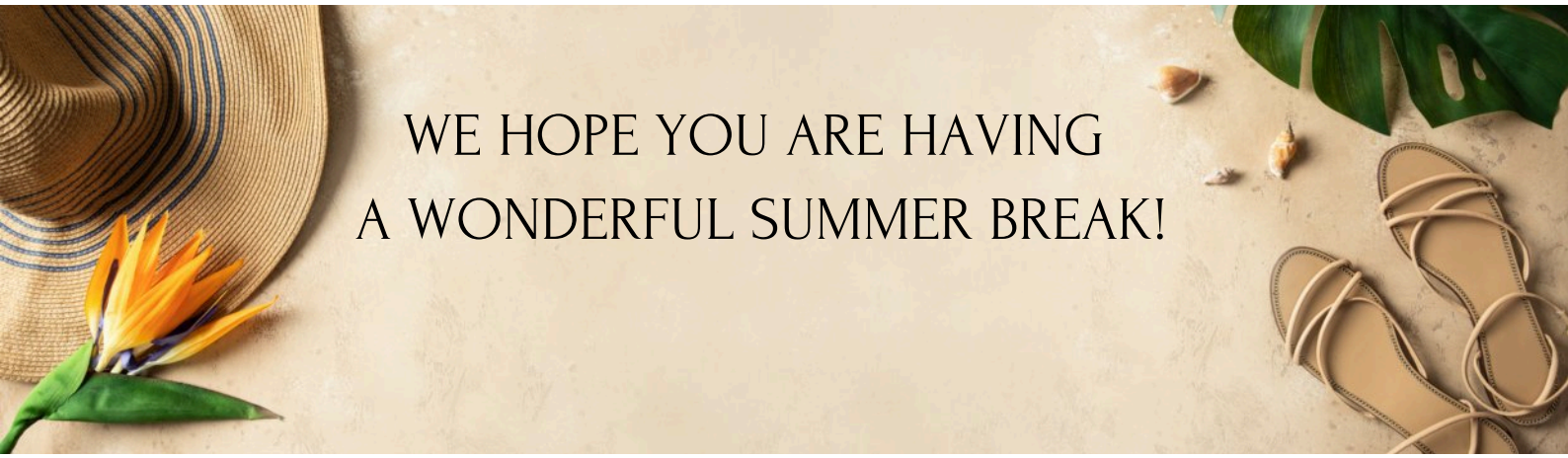
Tuesday, September 1
Term 1 Begins

Saturday, September 5
Holiday in lieu of Labour Day

Saturday, September 12
Orchestra resumes

Tuesday, October 20 - Saturday, October 24
Half Term Break (no classes, no orchestra)

Wednesday, November 11
Remembrance Day Holiday (no classes)

Saturday, December 5
Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 12
Last Day of Term 1 (classes only, no orchestra)