

## JOHN RUTTER COMPOSES FIRST VIOLIN WORK FOR MENUHIN COMPETITION LONDON 2016

Press information for immediate release: Monday 15 June 2015.



The **MENUHIN COMPETITION LONDON 2016** is delighted to announce that **JOHN RUTTER** is to compose his first work for violin and voice, as one of the three new compositions to be premiered during the eleven day Festival (**Thursday 7 April 2016 – Sunday 17 April 2016**).

All three composers of these new commissions had close connections with **YEHUDI MENUHIN**, so it is particularly poignant that their works will premiere during these Centenary celebrations.

**JOHN RUTTER** will compose a new work for violin, with choir and string orchestra, to be premiered at the intimate Temple Church, (**Thursday 14 April**). The solo violin part will be played by the 2010 Junior winner of the Competition **KERSON LEONG**, now 18.

CELEBRATING THE  
MENUHIN CENTENARY

**JOHN RUTTER** says: "This is a rather lovely combination for me to compose for, as I have always had a great fondness for string orchestra and solo violin, and of course I have been writing for choirs all my life. I am a great supporter of young talent so am delighted to combine violin, youth and voice for the Menuhin Competition. I have plenty to explore and look forward to because historically there are hardly any pieces with this mix - which is odd really as the violin is the closest instrument to the human voice. It will also be interesting for me to think of a text that will be appropriate. As a teenager, I used to watch Menuhin rehearse his orchestra in my school hall at Highgate. I was merely a fly on the wall but it was so inspiring to see how a great violinist worked with his orchestra – though I never had the nerve to ask for his autograph."

**ROXANNA PANUFNIK**, god-daughter to **Yehudi's** daughter (Zamira Menuhin-Benthall), will compose a new work for solo violin to be performed by the Senior Competitors during the Competition. The work will premiere at the Opening Concert (**Thursday 7 April**) at the Royal Festival Hall performed by former prize winner **JIAFENG CHEN**. **ROXANNA PANUFNIK** says: "I am especially thrilled to be composing something in memory of Yehudi Menuhin, whom I met many times as a child - I will be drawing inspiration from his love of Eastern European gypsy music..."

The third new composition will be composed by Spanish composer **OSCAR COLOMBINA I BOSCH**, a young teacher at both the Menuhin School and Royal Academy of Music, whose new work will be played by the Junior Finalists (**Thursday 14 April**). **OSCAR** has chosen the opening four notes from Elgar's Violin Concerto as his starting material. As a teenager **MENUHIN** recorded the Concerto with Elgar conducting, a recording that has since become legendary. **OSCAR** says: "The opening four-note motif lends itself to be treated freely and not bound to any particular style, allowing me to write a piece very much of my own."

Whilst the 44 exceptional young violinists participate in the world's leading violin competition there are many exciting events and major concerts taking place during the eleven days of the Festival:-

The Duke's Hall at the Royal Academy of Music (the host conservatoire) houses the free daily heats

from **Friday 8 April**; through to the semi-finals and Junior Finals on **Friday 15 April**. The five young finalists will play one of Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, playing solo whilst also directing the orchestra to show their own unique musicality and brilliance; as well as playing **OSCAR**'s new work. This is one of the most memorable events in the calendar to see such young talent scale such heights.

Another highlight at The Duke's Hall is a full day of Masterclasses with the 2016 jurors on **Thursday 14 April**, when the internationally acclaimed soloists guide the next generation of outstanding violinists – and is an opportunity for the competitors to judge how well their world class judges can play!

There is a full weekend for all the family, celebrating all things violin at The Menuhin Outreach Festival in the Clore Ballroom, Southbank Centre during the daytime on both **Saturday 16** and **Sunday 17 April**; and not forgetting the family Concert with the young competitors joining Orpheus Sinfonia on the afternoon of **Saturday 16**, in the London premiere of the sure-fire favourite, the entertaining murder mystery: *The Composer Is Dead* - a real who-dunn-it about the orchestra in the Festival Hall!

The Opening Concert (**Thursday 7 April**) stars four former winners of the **MENUHIN COMPETITION**, who are now all internationally acclaimed violinists in their own right: **TASMIN LITTLE**, **RAY CHEN**, **JIAFENG CHEN** and teenager **RENNOSUKE FUKUDA** with the Philharmonia Orchestra, at the Royal Festival Hall.

And on through to the heady Senior Finals on **Saturday 16 April** and the Closing Gala concert of the **MENUHIN COMPETITION LONDON 2016** on **Sunday 17 April**; when The Philharmonia Orchestra presents the winners of both the Juniors and Seniors alongside dazzling virtuoso and 1995 winner **JULIA FISCHER** playing Bartók's haunting First Violin Concerto.

Grandson and trustee, **AARON MENUHIN** says: "I am extremely proud to be involved in the Menuhin competition as I feel that it encompasses many things my grandfather believed in. He was devoted to encouraging young musicians to grow and thrive with their instruments. As a child prodigy he was best placed to understand the tremendous gift of innate musicianship together with its burden. For me personally witnessing these young violinists play is always a revelation. There is something so innocent and childish in their deportment and yet such quality, depth and maturity to their playing. When witnessing them play one cannot help but repeat what Einstein said upon hearing my grandfather play: "*And now I know there is a God in heaven*".

I look forward to bringing my five year old son to some of the concerts so that he can also find inspiration in the playing and in the music. I believe all children should be exposed to great music particularly in a world that feeds on transience and superficiality."

The **MENUHIN COMPETITION LONDON 2016** plays throughout the UK's Easter holidays in April 2016, making it the perfect opportunity for a new and youthful audience to join in and experience this exciting spectacle of classical music.

Website: [www.menuhincompetition.org](http://www.menuhincompetition.org)

Facebook: [facebook.com/menuhincompetition](https://www.facebook.com/menuhincompetition)

Twitter: MenuhinComp / YouTube: [youtube.com/menuhincompetition](https://www.youtube.com/menuhincompetition)

**Over for full listings information.....**

<u>DATE &amp; TIME</u> <u>VENUE</u>	<u>MENUHIN COMPETITION LONDON 2016</u> <u>PROGRAMME</u>	<u>BOOKING DETAILS</u>
<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>7 April 2016</b></p> <p><b>19:30</b></p> <p><b>Royal Festival Hall</b></p>	<p><b>Opening Concert</b> Philharmonia Orchestra Kazuki Yamada (conductor) Tasmin Little (violin)* Jiafeng Chen (violin)** Rennosuke Fukuda (violin)*** Ray Chen (violin)****</p> <p>Elgar, Overture, Cockaigne (In London Town) Holst, A Song of the Night for violin &amp; orchestra, Op.19 * Roxanna Panufnik, New work for solo violin (world premiere)** Waxman, Carmen Fantasie for violin &amp; orchestra *** Brahms, Violin Concerto in D ****</p> <p>Four former winners of the Menuhin Competition perform works intimately connected with Yehudi Menuhin. Also world premiere from renowned composer, Roxanna Panufnik.</p>	<p>£11 - £50</p> <p><a href="http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/">http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/</a></p> <p>Box office: 0844 875 0073</p>
<p><b>Friday</b> <b>8 April 2016</b></p> <p><b>10:00-17:00</b></p> <p><b>Royal Academy of Music Duke's Hall</b></p>	<p><b>First Round for Junior section part 1</b> Join the all-star jury in their search for the next generation of great artists when 22 of the world's best young violinists under the age of 16 take to the stage; each performing a 30-minute recital of works for solo violin and violin and piano.</p> <p><i>Audience may come and go in-between individual recitals</i></p>	<p>Free entry</p> <p><a href="http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on">http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on</a></p> <p>Box office: 020 7873 7300</p>
<p><b>Friday</b> <b>8 April 2016</b></p> <p><b>19:30</b></p> <p><b>Royal Festival Hall</b></p>	<p><b>Totally Teenage</b> National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain Kristjan Järvi (conductor) Chad Hoopes (violin)*</p> <p>Programme to include: Stravinsky, The Firebird, complete ballet (1910) Michael Daugherty, Fire and Blood*</p> <p>Celebrate Yehudi Menuhin's ground-breaking eclecticism and passion for music education with the world's greatest orchestra of teenagers and features Junior 1st Prize winner of the Menuhin Competition 2008, young American violinist Chad Hoopes.</p>	<p>£11 - £50</p> <p><a href="http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/">http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/</a></p> <p>Box office: 0844 875 0073</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b> <b>9 April 2016</b></p> <p><b>10:00-17:00</b></p> <p><b>Royal Academy of Music Duke's Hall</b></p>	<p><b>First Round for Junior section part 2</b> Join the all-star jury panel in their search for the next generation of great artists when 22 of the world's best young violinists under the age of 16 take to the stage; each performing a 30-minute recital of works for solo violin and violin and piano.</p> <p><i>Audience may come and go in-between individual recitals.</i></p>	<p>Free entry</p> <p><a href="http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on">http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on</a></p> <p>Box office: 020 7873 7300</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b> <b>9 April 2016</b></p> <p><b>19:30</b></p>	<p><b>Homage to Menuhin</b> Dong-Suk Kang violin Jeremy Menuhin piano</p> <p>Sought-after Korean violinist and recording artist Dong-Suk</p>	<p>£25</p> <p><a href="http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on">http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on</a></p>

<p><b>Royal Academy of Music Duke's Hall</b></p>	<p>Kang was greatly admired by Yehudi Menuhin. Together with Menuhin's son, the acclaimed pianist Jeremy Menuhin, he performs some of Yehudi Menuhin's favourite works for violin and piano.</p>	<p>Box office: 020 7873 7300</p>
<p><b>Sunday 10 April 2016</b> <b>10:00-17:00</b></p> <p><b>Royal Academy of Music Duke's Hall</b></p>	<p><b>First Round for Senior section part 1</b> Join the all-star jury panel in their search for the next generation of great artists when 22 of the world's best young violinists under the age of 22 take to the stage; each performing a 30-minute recital of works for solo violin and violin and piano.</p> <p><i>Audience may come and go in-between individual recitals.</i></p>	<p>Free entry</p> <p><a href="http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on">http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on</a></p> <p>Box office: 020 7873 7300</p>
<p><b>Sunday 10 April 2016</b> <b>19:30</b></p> <p><b>JW3 Jewish Community Centre</b></p>	<p><b>The Alternative Menuhin</b> Directed by British violinist, songwriter, composer &amp; Artistic Director of the JMI, Sophie Solomon with an all-star line-up including: Tcha Limberger, John Etheridge, Dave Kelbie, Andy Crowdy, Sheema Mukherjee. Yehudi Menuhin was the most prominent classical musician of his generation to embark on cross-genre collaborations and his work with Indian musician Ravi Shankar and jazz violinist Stephane Grappelli has become famous.</p> <p>This evening will celebrate the musical diversity of the violin across genres in a tribute to Yehudi Menuhin.</p>	<p>Ticket info to be released in due course</p> <p><a href="https://www.iw3.org.uk/">https://www.iw3.org.uk/</a></p> <p>Box office: 020 7433 8988</p>
<p><b>Monday 11 April 2016</b> <b>10:00-17:00</b></p> <p><b>Royal Academy of Music Duke's Hall</b></p>	<p><b>First Round for Senior section part 2</b> Join the all-star jury panel in their search for the next generation of great artists when 22 of the world's best young violinists under the age of 22 take to the stage; each performing a 30-minute recital of works for solo violin and violin and piano.</p> <p><i>Audience may come and go in-between individual recitals.</i></p>	<p>Free entry</p> <p><a href="http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on">http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on</a></p> <p>Box office: 020 7873 7300</p>
<p><b>Monday 11 April 2016</b> <b>19:30</b></p> <p><b>Royal Academy of Music Duke's Hall</b></p>	<p><b>Former Junior First Prize Winners Concert</b> Enjoy an evening of exceptional playing with two former Junior First Prize Winners 18 year old Kerson Leong (1st Prize in Oslo 2010) 14 year old Rennosuke Fukuda (1st Prize in Austin 2014)</p>	<p>£10</p> <p><a href="http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on">http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on</a></p> <p>Box office: 020 7873 7300</p>
<p><b>Tuesday 12 April 2016</b> <b>10:00-17:00</b></p> <p><b>Royal Academy of Music Duke's Hall</b></p>	<p><b>Junior section Semi-Finals</b> The Menuhin Competition London 2016 introduces a Junior Semi-Final round for the first time in the competition's history. Giving the young contestants from all over world more opportunity to show the diversity of their playing to London audiences. This round will focus on a range of beautiful chamber music pieces. Ten semi-finalists collaborate with other musicians in Dvorak's Terzetto in C major Op. 74 and perform their choice of a Beethoven Sonata with piano followed by a virtuoso work of their own choice.</p> <p><i>Audience may come and go in-between individual recitals.</i></p>	<p>£10 day pass</p> <p><a href="http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on">http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on</a></p> <p>Box office: 020 7873 7300</p>

<p><b>Tuesday</b> <b>12 April 2016</b></p> <p><b>19:30</b></p> <p><b>Yehudi Menuhin School</b></p>	<p><b>Concert at Yehudi Menuhin School</b> Yehudi Menuhin School Orchestra Joji Hattori (violin and conductor) Malcolm Singer (conductor*)</p> <p>Mozart: Divertimento in F. K. 138 Elgar: Serenade for Strings Bach: Double Violin Concerto Bach: Violin Concerto No. 1 in A minor Bartók: Divertimento for Strings *</p> <p>President of the Menuhin Competition Trust, 1st Prize Winner in 1989s Menuhin Competition and London 2016 juror Joji Hattori performs a vibrant programme featuring students from the Yehudi Menuhin School.</p> <p>This concert celebrates this world-class institution that Menuhin founded over 50 years ago.</p>	<p>£25 or £40 including a concert supper</p> <p><a href="https://www.tickets.menuhinhall.info/">https://www.tickets.menuhinhall.info/</a></p> <p>Box office: 08700 842020</p>
<p><b>Wednesday</b> <b>13 April 2016</b></p> <p><b>10:00-17:00</b></p> <p><b>Royal Academy of Music Duke's Hall</b></p>	<p><b>Senior section Semi-Finals</b> Nine Senior Semi-Finalists will play for their place in the coveted Senior Finals. This round is dedicated to Yehudi Menuhin and works intimately connected with him. These include Menuhin's teacher George Enescu's Impromptu Concertant and Béla Bartók's solo sonata, a work commissioned and premiered by Yehudi Menuhin in 1943/44. Each contestant's recital will also include their choice of a Beethoven String Trio and a virtuoso work with or without piano.</p> <p><i>Audience may come and go in-between individual recitals.</i></p>	<p>£10 day pass</p> <p><a href="http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on">http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on</a></p> <p>Box office: 020 7873 7300</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>14 April 2016</b></p> <p><b>10:00-17:00</b></p> <p><b>Royal Academy of Music</b></p>	<p><b>Masterclasses with 2016 Jurors</b> Witness internationally acclaimed soloists guide the next generation of outstanding musicians – each leading a two-hour open masterclass at the Royal Academy of Music. Julia Fischer Ray Chen Tasmin Little Pamela Frank Ning Feng Dong-Suk Kang Joji Hattori</p>	<p>Ticket info to be released in due course</p> <p><a href="http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on">http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on</a></p> <p>Box office: 020 7873 7300</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>14 April 2016</b></p> <p><b>10:00-17:00</b></p> <p><b>Temple Church</b></p>	<p><b>Concert at Temple Church</b> Sainsbury Royal Academy Soloists Temple Church Boys Choir Ning Feng (violin) Kerson Leong (violin)* Vaughan Williams Lark Ascending Elgar Introduction and Allegro Op. 47 The world premiere of John Rutter's work for solo violin*, choir and string orchestra.</p> <p>Temple Church is a late 12th-century church in London located between Fleet Street and the River Thames, built by the Knights Templar as their English headquarters.</p>	<p>Ticket info to be released in due course</p> <p><a href="https://www.templemusic.org/main-events/">https://www.templemusic.org/main-events/</a></p> <p>Box office: 020 7427 5641</p>
<p><b>Friday</b> <b>15 April 2016</b></p> <p><b>19:30</b></p>	<p><b>Junior Finals</b> Yehudi Menuhin School Orchestra Five Junior Finalists (violin) Vivaldi The Four Seasons</p>	<p>£20</p> <p><a href="http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on">http://www.ram.ac.uk/whats-on</a></p>

<p><b>Royal Academy of Music Duke's Hall</b></p>	<p>A new commission for solo violin by Oscar Colomina i Bosch</p> <p>The Finals of the Junior section in the Menuhin Competition London 2016. Five of the world's best young violinists under the age of 16 compete for one of the coveted awards. Each finalist will perform the world premiere of the new commission for solo violin by Oscar Colomina i Bosch and lead the orchestra as soloists in one of Vivaldi's Four Seasons.</p> <p>The prize winners will be announced at the end of the evening.</p>	<p>Box office: 020 7873 7300</p>
<p><b>Saturday 16 April 2016 12:00-13:00</b></p> <p><b>Royal Festival Hall</b></p>	<p><b>Family Concert: Lemony Snicket's <i>The Composer is Dead!</i></b></p> <p>Orpheus Sinfonia Thomas Carroll (conductor) Junior Prize Winner (violin)</p> <p>Programme to include: Nathaniel Stookey, Lemony Snicket's <i>The Composer Is Dead</i> (London premiere) Tchaikovsky, <i>Fantasy Overture, Romeo &amp; Juliet</i></p> <p>There's dreadful news at Southbank Centre – the composer is dead! The musicians are most certainly guilty of something. Where were the violins on the night in question? Did anyone see the harp? The London premiere of a diabolically fun-filled murder mystery in which we explore the crime and the orchestra's family of instruments.</p> <p>A matinee concert for the whole family.</p>	<p>£10</p> <p><a href="http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/">http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/</a></p> <p>Box office: 0844 875 0073</p>
<p><b>Saturday 16 April 2016 13:00-18:00</b></p> <p><b>Clare Ballroom Southbank Centre</b></p>	<p><b>Menuhin Outreach Festival</b></p> <p>Full details to follow</p>	<p>Ticket details to be released in due course</p>
<p><b>Saturday 16 April 2016 19:30</b></p> <p><b>Royal Festival Hall</b></p>	<p><b>Senior Finals</b></p> <p>Royal Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra Christopher Warren-Green conductor Four Senior finalists (violin)</p> <p>Lalo, <i>Symphonie espagnole in D minor, Op. 21</i></p> <p>Mendelssohn, <i>Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64</i> Prokofiev, <i>Violin Concerto No.1 in D, Op. 19</i> Dvorak, <i>Violin Concerto in A minor Op. 53</i></p> <p>Witness the culmination of the Menuhin Competition London 2016. Four of the world's best young violinists under the age of 22, face a panel of star soloists in their quest for the coveted first prize. Each finalist will perform their choice of violin concerto. Concert goers also have the opportunity to help bestow the audience award.</p> <p>The prize winners will be announced at the end of the evening.</p>	<p>£10 - £30</p> <p><a href="http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/">http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/</a></p> <p>Box office: 0844 875 0073</p>
<p><b>Sunday</b></p>	<p><b>Menuhin Outreach Festival</b></p>	

<p><b>17 April 2016</b> <b>15:00-18:00</b></p> <p><b>Clore Ballroom Southbank Centre</b></p>	<p>Full details to follow</p>	<p>Ticket details to be released in due course</p>
<p><b>Sunday</b> <b>17 April 2016</b></p> <p><b>19:30</b></p> <p><b>Royal Festival Hall</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Gala Concert</b> Philharmonia Orchestra</p> <p>Diego Matheuz (conductor) Julia Fischer (violin)* Junior Competition winner (violin)** Senior Competition winner (violin)***</p> <p>Walton Coronation March, Crown Imperial Vivaldi Concerto from The Four Seasons ** Concerto movement to be announced *** Bartók Violin Concerto No.1 * Tchaikovsky Francesca da Rimini, Symphonic Fantasy after Dante Op.32</p> <p>The Philharmonia presents the Menuhin Competition 1995 winner and violin superstar Julia Fischer together with the winners of the Menuhin Competition London 2016 in a festive Gala Concert. Celebrating Yehudi Menuhin's vibrant legacy, Julia Fischer plays Bartók's haunting First Violin Concerto. Bartók admired Menuhin's playing very much and in return benefited from Menuhin's championing of his violin music.</p>	<p>£11 - £50</p> <p><a href="http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/">http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/</a></p> <p>Box office: 0844 875 0073</p>

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