

Recorder at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama





Here at the Guildhall School, the aim of our team of recorder professors is to inspire, guide and assist students to become modern professional recorder players. We encourage a broad outlook that encompasses all aspects of recorder playing, looking forward as well as exploring the richness of the music of the past.

Studying the recorder at the Guildhall School is possible within two departments. At undergraduate level, you can study the recorder in the Wind, Brass and Percussion department and at post-graduate level, it is possible to be in either the WBP department or the Historical Performance (HP) department.

At undergraduate level, recorder players benefit from studying alongside their modern instrument peers but with the possibility of attending or dipping into HP classes aimed at the post-graduate students – the nature of our repertoire means that we straddle these two worlds so here at the Guildhall School we aim to provide an education that satisfies these areas of interest.

Lessons happen on a weekly basis with **Ian Wilson**, once a month with **Mirjam Muenzel** and on a termly basis with **Robert Ehrlich** and **Karel van Steenhoven**. There are also twice-termly lessons with **Catherine Fleming**.

In addition to individual lessons, recorder players spend a couple of hours each week being coached by Ian Wilson on consort work. He also runs other classes covering musical context, academic work relating directly to the recorder and informal performance platforms.

There are additional recorder masterclasses given by Mirjam, Karel and Robert on their regular visits as well as one-off classes by other players (most recently, Julien Martin, Sebastien Marq and Dorothee Oberlinger).



Masterclass with Robert Ehrlich

The school owns three consorts of instruments. We have a **Yamaha Consort** revoiced by Nikolai Ronimus at pitch $a=466$ and a ten piece consort of recorders by **Thomas Prescott** at $a=440$. These two pitches allow us maximum versatility when it comes to working with other instruments. There is also a set of medieval recorder made by **Tim Cranmore** and commissioned by the Worshipful Company of Wood Turners. We also have several of the larger instruments made by **Kung** (great bass, contrabass etc).

In line with other Baroque musicians, students are also required to play at $a=415$ and advice on buying these instruments is given by the recorder professors. We have good relationships with several recorder makers and as well as their visits to the school, the Blackheath Early Music Festival is a good opportunity for new instrument purchases



Bodil Diesen – recorder maker from Norway

Practical career development is a vital element of the course at the Guildhall School. We take the role of recorder players in education very seriously and seek to further research and development in this area. Guildhall School recorder students leave here as highly qualified performers **and** educators so it is of little surprise that most recorder graduates find themselves balancing busy and vibrant careers as both a high level concert musician and teacher. During the course, we support and encourage education work as well as honing the performance skills required of a modern recorder player.



Members of Woodwork working with pupils from Drumoak Primary School



There are ample opportunities for the recorder students to perform both in and out of the school. For example in recent years, the department has travelled to Israel and to Scotland as well as collaborating with the Academy of Ancient Music in the Deal Festival and with saxophonist Christian Forshaw in the City of London Festival. In 2015 **Woodwork** participated in a concert for the NSPCC that helped to raise over £30,000 for charity.



Woodwork and (bass recorder enthusiast) Christopher Ecclestone

Post-degree life can be a worry for any student; maintaining contacts and skills whilst seeking work and developing a career is a tough juggling act. This is one of the reasons why the Guildhall School Recorder department established a flagship ensemble, **Woodwork**, a group made up of current students and alumni. This ensemble, unique in the UK, allows young professionals who have left the Guildhall School to continue to develop skills in large ensemble work whilst providing a mentoring role to students.



Woodwork in Aberdeen Art Gallery



Palisander in Drum Castle, Scotland

Recent Successes:

Emily Askew

BBC Young Folk Musician finalist (twice)
works with Dufay Collective, The Artisans, Glyndebourne Opera

Rebecca Vucetic

York Early Music International Young Artists Competition finalist
works with Royal Baroque

Caoimhe de Paor

Handel House Museum's Young Artist Scheme
Works with Palisander

Tabea Debus

1st prize in Moeck SRP Competition
City Music Foundation Artist
YCAT
Performs with English Concert & La Serenissima

James Brookmyre

Appointed as professor at Junior Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama
Work with Welsh National Opera

Dylan Kirby

Improvisatory recording artist with the Cartoon Network

Lydia Gosnell

Selected as soloist for Open Recorder Days, Amsterdam 2015
Globe Musician Young Artist
Works with Palisander

Miriam Nerval

City Music Foundation Artist and BBC Music Magazine "Rising Star"

Soloist with English Chamber Orchestra

Globe Musician Young Artist

Works with Palisander

Euncho Yeom

The Arts Club Karl Jenkins Classical Music Award (in association with Classic FM) – finalist

Sophie Creaner

RTE Lyric FM Senior Bursary award (woodwind and overall winner)

Finalist of Guildhall School Wigmore Hall Recital Prize

Work with Welsh National Opera

Works with the Zephyr Consort

Georgina Murphy

Invited to present a talk on recorder education, Open Recorder Days, Amsterdam

Appointed Director of Music, Biddenham Upper School, Bedfordshire

Mirjam Muenzel

Semi-Finalist, International Telemann Competition, Magdeburg

Handel House Museum Young Artists Scheme

Recipient of the prestigious Jahresstipendien für Graduierte zur Künstlerischen Weiterbildung im Fachbereich Musik, 2015

Work with Kings Consort and The Hallgrimskirkja International Baroque Orchestra

Works with Zephyr Consort

Hannah Fisher

Kodaly Teacher for Junior Guildhall

Works with Palisander

Jennifer Tsang

Works with the Zephyr Consort

Selected to perform a solo slot in the St John's Smith Square music marathon



Woodwork in Milton Court