

Talent Unlimited Newsletter 2016-17

Welcome to the 2016-17 Talent Unlimited Newsletter.

My apologies for not writing newsletters often enough and this time it has been a very long time since I sent out a newsletter. So this one is long, but also as comprehensive as it can be without being longer. At the bottom I have copy pasted the list of concerts which are now on our **ARCHIVE** page. You can access all sorts of information about individual concerts if you click on the relevant words on the list below, copied from our Archive page.

A great deal of events took place during 2016-17. As usual we had a number of Free Lunchtime Recitals at St James's Church Piccadilly. We also had a number of concerts at St Mary Magdalene, Munster Square. We began 2016 with a recital by Cyrill Ibrahim on 11 January. Then we continued these free lunchtime recitals with Jacob Bettinelli, baritone accompanied by Alexei Demchenko, Jason Bae, piano, Nazli Erdogan, viola accompanied by Maria Tarasewicz followed by Samson Tsoy. I am very happy with Jacob's development and Alexei, a wonderful pianist as a soloist did very well as accompanist too. Nazli Erdogan braved the freezing cold in the church to give her performance. The heating was not working!!! What can I say about Samson Tsoy other than he is a star performer!

On 12 May we had a wonderful evening concert with Erzhan Kulibaev, violin and Ilya Kondratiev, piano. These two stars of Talent Unlimited made us proud. They performed absolutely beautifully, and we had very good feedback from sternest critics. Erzhan is based in Madrid but does come to London from time to time and this was one such occasion. We are very happy to have amongst our musicians a violinist managed by Harrison Parrott, Erzhan Kulibaev. Erzhan and Ilya gave a run-through concert at Aidan Woodcock's home, in Cobham, Surrey. Aidan was delighted with the performance and asked me to tell him when next Erzhan would be in the UK so that he could again offer him a concert at his home.

Amiran Zenaishvili, piano and Ke Ma, piano continued our series of lunchtime recitals. They gave brilliant performances, with great sensitivity.

By the time Oksana Sliubyk, soprano had given her concert, St Mary Magdalene, Munster Square had warmed up, due to the improved weather conditions and not the heating! Ashley Fripp, piano and Jordan Sian, viola continued the series with two separate concert.

Our **Asia House-Talent Unlimited Festival** took place between 26-29 September. We owe this event to our collaboration with Pamela Kember, Head of Arts and Learning at Asia House and a great friend. We held two concerts per day. Over 4 days we hosted 7 concerts and gave exposure to more than 25 musicians in addition to our second Induction Day. The latter is a day of mentoring and is open to all music students of a certain standard. The 10 speakers are chosen from amongst music professionals who cover various subjects to help with the professional development of the music students who attend the day. About 45 students are permitted to attend. These are the ones who apply to come. Any more would be too many so we have to limit the attendance in order to devote as much time as possible to each and every student. As the speakers are mostly different for every Induction Day, we find that those who have been once want to return and build up further connections with other music professionals.

If you wish to see the full details of the Asia House concerts please check the list below. There are too many concerts with exceptional performances for me to list them all. We managed to give a type

of grouping to the concerts. For example on 27 September, we had a lot of compositions from the Romantic era. On 28 September, one of the concerts illustrated music reflecting the nationalities of the musicians. They performed music which was born in their own countries. It was very interesting. On 29 September both concerts were devoted to vocal music and the concert ended with our wonderful soprano Nazan Fikret singing "The Girl in 14G". I do not think anyone else can sing this song as well as Nazan does. Recently, I have found out that Nazan is not only a splendid singer but also a remarkable organiser. She is the one who thought up the idea of the Grenfell Tower charity concert, pooled great singers and instrumentalists together and offered a spectacular concert at Cadogan Hall and raised £30 000 for the victims of the horrible fire which destroyed so many lives.

We continued our lunchtime concerts with two separate piano recitals with Julian Trevelyan and Jinah Shim. Julian is amongst the youngest members of the Talent Unlimited family of musicians.

Our next big event was the **Christmas Concert**. In the first half we had the World-Premiere of the Snowman Rhapsody, a piano piece based on Howard Blake's Snowman theme. This was a huge work and Julian Trevelyan was chosen to perform it which he did in a spectacular manner. In the second half we had seasonal songs performed by Alison Langer, Nicola Said, Lawrence Thackeray and Jacob Bettinelli accompanied by Keith Beresford, piano, Ozlem Celik, clarinet and Julian Trevelyan, viola. Our Julian is a multi-tasker definitely. The concert was a great success. Howard Blake presented the first half and talked about his piece. **Cornucopia** magazine, a connoisseurs' magazine on Turkey. We continue our collaboration with Cornucopia. They give us a small advertising space amongst the other adverts in the magazine and put the name of the company on our advertising materials. This time they surpassed themselves and put a 4-page article with photos in the magazine speaking about Howard Blake, Julian Trevelyan, the Snowman Rhapsody and Talent Unlimited based on the interviews they had with me, Howard and Julian. Article was written by Tony Barrell and photographs were taken by Monica Fritz with the kind organisation of Lord John Scott.

The last few concerts of 2016 were given by Alim Beisembayev, another very young pianist, at St James's Church, Piccadilly, Emre Engin, violin, at the 1901 Arts Club and Guray Basol, piano. The 1901 Arts Club is a new venue for us. It is charming and cosy and easily accessible but it only seats 45 people. Emre had been studying with Zukerman in New York where he had been given a full scholarship to attend Manhattan School of Music. Now he is studying at Yale. I am delighted with his progress. When he comes to London he stays with me and we usually manage to give him a house concert too.

The first concert of 2017 was with the Girls in Magnesium Dress, Anna Quiroga, harp and Valentina Ciardelli, double bass. This is a very interesting duo. They have a refreshing approach to the choice of repertoire and sometimes play Valentina's compositions too.

Scott Maclsaac and Artur Haftman, pianists, shared a concert at Steinway Hall. It was a good showcase concert. I like organising events at **Steinway Hall** where we have so many friends amongst the directors and other staff. We have a very good collaboration with them.

Our second concert at the 1901 Arts Club was with Iuno Connolly, soprano and Dylan Perez, piano. Iuno sang a lieder repertoire very beautifully.

Over the last two years we have developed a great relationship with Katya Lebedeva's **Musical Odyssey** Masterclasses. We give a concert to one or two winners of the Musical Odyssey

competition in addition to prize money. Victor Maslov accompanied Maria Gulik at the prize winners' concert. They were both winners.

Another collaboration we have is with the **Aegean Arts Festival**, Crete, which is the brainchild of Julie Davies Kapsetaki. Some of our musicians go to Crete to take part in her festival. This is a great experience for our musicians and Julie likes working with them.

Our next big concert was yet again a different type of event. Zeynep Ucbasaran and Sergio Gallo played four-hands and created a simply wonderfully warm, enlightening and entertaining evening. They concluded the concert with Milhaud's scintillatingly humorous *le Boeuf sur le Toit*.

The next set of free lunchtime recitals were given by Gerard Aimontche, piano, followed by a recital with the two Moll Salord sisters, Francina, violin and Margalida, piano. Gerard was superb as usual and it was lovely to hear the two sisters perform together again. Alexi Musnitsky, piano, and Emre Gokalp, guitar took part in the following recital. This was a two part concert to give exposure to two very different artists.

We continued the theme of collaboration with a joint event at **China Exchange**. The idea came from Freya Aitken-Turff, CEO of China Exchange. I had never heard of the **Chinese Valentine's Day** until Freya told me the story over a cup of coffee. This is a love story filled with joy, nostalgia, sorrow, separation and reunion. It is very similar to various European love stories in so far as Love is always joined with Sorrow. The more mystical side of the story is explained by the intervention of a flock of Magpies which take pity on the lovers and facilitate their reunion once a year by creating a bridge between the two lovers. Another aspect of the story is linked to Astronomy and the movement of the "celestial beings". At China Exchange we put the story to music with our singers: Phoebe Haines, soprano, Waimay Yau, soprano, Jacob Bettinelli, baritone. Iuno Connolly, soprano, was our narrator and Leona Crasi, our accompanist. We made the right decision to have a narrator because different parts of the story, illustrated in song, needed to be linked together in addition to being explained to the audience. Some of the songs were in Chinese, others in English, French, German and Russian. It was a hugely successful evening. The public certainly enjoyed it tremendously but unfortunately something went wrong with the recording and that is why you cannot access the recording. Our musicians appeared in costume suitable to their parts too. I am hoping that this production will get aired in future events in different parts of the world where Chinese myths are remembered fondly.

Our next event was another lunchtime recital with Asagi Nakata a highly accomplished pianist.

This was followed by our **3rd Induction Day** which was held at Steinway Hall with the kind permission of the Directors of Steinway & Sons, Craig Terry, MD and Ulrich Gerhartz, Director of Concerts & Artists Services. Ulrich also kindly gave one of the talks which mesmerised all the piano students, who began to look at the instrument under their hands with different eyes. It was a very successful Induction Day where not only the students but also the speakers made useful contacts and learned.

2016 and 2017 was very significant for many of our musicians, amongst which Jamal Aliyev, cellist and multi-award winner. Jamal took part in the Proms and performed for John Williams's birthday. Jamal is being managed by YCAT and we have great hopes for him. We gave Jamal a concert at the 1901 Arts Club and the place was filled to over its usual capacity.

A newcomer to Talent Unlimited is our baritone Ricardo Panela. In a recent lunchtime recital he performed in the first half of the concert whose second half was given over to a very interesting quartet of saxophones, the Aesthesia Quartet. They are young and they are good.

Our most recent big event was the concert given by Erzhan Kulibaev and Samson Tsoy in **Celebration of the Life of Aidan Woodcock** who passed away without being able to offer another concert to Erzhan whom he liked immensely. I thought it was desirable and seemly to offer Aidan one last celebration and this time given by the musicians of Talent Unlimited some of whom he generously offered concerts at his home. I valued Aidan Woodcock's friendship greatly and I hope he was at his Celebration concert in spirit. Erzhan Kulibaev and Samson Tsoy are amongst the great stars of Talent Unlimited. They have won very many prizes between them. The concert was beautiful and we received lots of feedback all applauding the performance. Samson and Erzhan enjoyed performing together very much and they will no doubt find other opportunities to perform together in the future.

This long account completes 2016-17 concerts and we are starting 2018 with a Free Lunchtime Recital on 29 January with Poppy Beddoe, clarinet, accompanied by Roelof Temmingh, piano and in the second half we will have Alexander Soares.

Wishing you all a brilliant 2018

Canan Maxton

Founder & Director

Talent Unlimited

www.talent-unlimited.org.uk

PS: if you would rather not receive any news or concert details from Talent Unlimited please write to me and I will remove you off the list.

- **Celebration of the Life of Aidan Woodcock:** [Erzhan Kulibaev](#), violin with [Samson Tsoy](#), piano, 30 November 2017, evening concert at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London - [flyer](#) - [photos](#) - [video](#)
- Concert first half: [Ricardo Panella](#) with [Leona Crasi](#), piano; second half: [Aesthesis Quartet](#) with [Daniel James Scott](#), 27 November 2017, free lunchtime recital at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London.
- [Jamal Aliyev](#) with Maria Tarasewicz, piano, 6 October 2017, 7.30 pm, 1901 Arts Club, London
- **Talent Unlimited 3rd Annual Induction Day**, 28 September 2017 - [flyer](#): - [photo](#):, Steinway Hall, 44 Marylebone Ln, London.
- [Asagi Nakata](#), piano, 22 September 2017, free lunchtime recital at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London
- Chinese Valentine's Day - joint event with [China Exchange](#), 6 September 2017 - [Phoebe Haines](#), mezzo-soprano, [Waimay Yau](#), soprano, [Iuno Connolly](#), soprano & narrator, [Jacob Bettinelli](#), baritone, [Leona Crasi](#), piano. [Details](#) - [flyer](#), China Exchange, 32a Gerrard St, London
- [Alexi Musnitsky](#), piano, [Emre Gökalp](#), guitar, 14 August 2017, free lunchtime recital at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London
- [Francina Moll Salord](#), violin and [Margalida Moll Salord](#), piano, 17 July 2017, free lunchtime recital at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London
- [Gerard Aimontche](#), piano, 24 April 2017, free lunchtime recital at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London.
- [Zeynep Ucbasaran](#) & [Sergio Gallo](#), Piano Four Hands Recital, 6 April 2017, St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly W1J 9LL, London - [flyer](#):

- Talent Unlimited Musical Odyssey prize winners concert: [Victor Maslov](#), Maria Gulik, 10 March 2017, free lunchtime recital at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London
- [Iuno Connolly](#), soprano, Dylan Perez, piano, 10 March 2017, [1901 Arts Club](#), 7 Exton Street, London SE1 8UE
- [Scott MacIsaac](#), piano, [Artur Haftman](#), piano, 1 March 2017, free lunchtime recital at Steinway Hall, 44 Marylebone Ln, Marylebone, London W1U 2DB.
- Girls in Magnesium Dress Duo: [Anna Quiroga](#), harp and [Valentina Ciardelli](#), double bass, 6 January 2017, free lunchtime recital at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London.
- [Güray Başol](#), piano, 9 December 2016, free lunchtime recital at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London.
- Talent Unlimited - An Exclusive Recital: [Anna Quiroga](#), harp and [Valentina Ciardelli](#), double bass, 30 November 2016, Ilchester Place, London W14 8AA, London - [info](#):
- [Emre Engin](#), violin; Jennifer Hughes, piano: A Journey to the Musical Plateaus, 1 December 2016, 1901 Arts Club, 7 Exton Street, SE1 8UE London - [info](#)
- [Alim Beisembayev](#), piano, 25 November 2016, free lunchtime recital at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London.
- **Christmas Concert 2016: Snowman Rhapsody and Christmas Music**, 17 November 2016
 SNOWMAN RHAPSODY (opus 663, 2016) is composed by Howard Blake and consists of music from the prize-winning animated film (1982) and long-running stage show (2000), both originally scored for orchestra and boy soprano and both including the world-famous song 'Walking in the Air', a cover version of which made Aled Jones famous (1985). The music is here transcribed and re-arranged by the composer as a monumental solo piano work, the first performance of which will be given by the 17-year old prize-winning pianist Julian Trevelyan.
 World Premiere performance introduced by Howard Blake; [Julian Trevelyan](#), piano.
 Second half of the event, devoted to seasonal songs:
 Artists: [Alison Langer](#), Soprano; [Lawrence Thackeray](#), Tenor; [Nicola Said](#), Soprano; [Jacob Bettinelli](#), Baritone; [Özlem Çelik](#), clarinet, Julian Trevelyan, violin and Keith Beresford, piano, St James's Church, Piccadilly, London - [flyer](#) - [videos](#):
- [Jinah Shim](#), piano, 19 October 2016, free lunchtime recital at St Mary Magdalene Church, Munster Square, London.
- [Julian Trevelyan](#), piano, 10 October 2016, free lunchtime recital at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London.
- **[Asia House-Talent Unlimited Music Futures Festival 2016](#)**
 26 Sept: Induction Day 2016 - [details](#) - [programme](#):
 26 September 2016 - AyşeDeniz Gökçin, piano
 27 September 2016 - Ke Ma, piano, Özlem Çelik, clarinet with Lysianne Chen, Gerard Aimontche, piano
 27 September 2016 - Julian Clef, piano, Yume Fujise, violin with Maria Tarasewicz, Amiran Zenaishvili, piano
 28 September 2016 - Laure Chan, violin with Dimitris Daskalakis, Tolga Atalay Ün, piano, Mandakhtuya Dorj, piano
 28 September 2016 - Bo Lyu, piano, Luka Okros, piano, Samson Tsoy, piano
 29 September 2016 - Waimay Yau, high-mezzo with Joyce Wu, Oksana Sliubyk, soprano with Yoko Misumi
 29 September 2016 - Iuno Connolly, soprano, Jacob Bettinelli, baritone with Connie Luk, Nazan Fikret, soprano

- [Jordan Sian](#), viola; Edward Liddall, piano; Amy Goodwin, cello, 21 September 2016, free lunchtime piano recital at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London - [photo](#)
- [Ashley Fripp](#), piano, 31 August 2016, free lunchtime piano recital at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London
- [Eduardo Frias](#), piano, 20 July 2016, free lunchtime recital at St Mary Magdalene Church, Munster Square, NW1 3PT
- [Oksana Sliubyk](#), soprano; Maya Irgalina, piano, 24 June 2016, free lunchtime recital at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London
- [Ke Ma](#), piano, 15 June 2016, free lunchtime recital at St Mary Magdalene Church, Munster Square, NW1 3PT.
- [Amiran Zenaishvili](#), piano, 25 May 2016, free lunchtime recital at St Mary Magdalene Church, Munster Square, NW1 3PT.
- [Erzhan Kulibaev](#), violin, [Ilya Kondratiev](#), piano, 12 May 2016, recital at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London - [flyer](#) - [programme](#) - [review](#) - [critique](#) - [photos](#)
- [Samson Tsoy](#), piano, 4 May 2016, free lunchtime piano recital at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London
- [Nazlı Erdoğan](#), viola, Maria Tarasewicz, piano, 20 April 2016, free lunchtime recital at St Mary Magdalene Church, Munster Square, London - [review](#)
- [Jason Bae](#), piano, 9 March 2016, free lunchtime piano recital at St Mary Magdalene Church, Munster Square, London.
- [Jacob Bettinelli](#), baritone accompanied by [Alexei Demchenko](#), piano, 7 March 2016, free lunchtime piano recital at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London.
- [Cyrill Ibrahim](#), 11 January 2016, free lunchtime piano recital at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London.