



MUSIC TEAM RESUMES

Claudio Di Meo, Head of Music: Claudio is an award-winning Conductor, Pianist and Composer. Winner of the “International Conducting Competition Westminster London 2018” with the London Classical Soloists, Di Meo has found previous acclaim for his work as Musical Director, Pianist and Accompanist including “Best accompanist of the year” in O. Respighi Conservatory (Italy), 2012, and the “International Award Enrico Caruso” (Piano) 2014, going on to receive an Award from the Governor of the State of Mexico and the Director of the National Conservatory in Mexico City for “The merit, the work done and the continued spread of the Italian film music in the world”. Since 2013 he is touring regularly in most countries around the world as a conductor and pianist. He has recorded CDs and has published two books on Piano music and Choral music. In September 2015 Claudio was appointed Principal Conductor of Dacorum Orchestra and the Lumina Choir; and in 2018 he was appointed Principal Conductor of the Hemel Symphony Orchestra. Claudio has worked as Music Teacher and Head of Music for the past 11 years both in Italy and the UK, focusing on choral and orchestral music.

Karina Bowen: Violin and Year 1 Pre-violin teacher, studied Music at Bangor, University of Wales. She then went on to receive a PGCE at Roehampton, specialising in Music and Early Years teaching. She was a full time primary school teacher for 11 years, working for the Ealing borough. During this time, her responsibilities included Music coordinator and leading several choirs. In her spare time, Karina enjoys playing piano and performing with the Ealing Symphony Orchestra. She is currently in the process of making her own violin.

Rachel Cooper: Violin teacher, started violin at aged 4 and after passing Grade 8 at 15, she went onto study Music at the University of Chichester where she gained First Class honours in Violin performance. After moving to London in 2012, Rachel took up her Masters degree in Music Performance Science at the Royal College of Music graduating in 2014 with a Distinction. It was during her Masters that Rachel’s interest in music education research grew, writing her thesis on the importance of informative music education for young people, in which she used her own residential summer music course as her case study. Rachel is now embarking on a 3-year Suzuki violin-training course, which specialises in the early years of violin teaching.

Blanca Cuenca Sesmero: Recorder and Singing teacher and trumpet player, graduated from Manuel Massotti Littel Conservatory and Castilla La Mancha University (Spain). Blanca has also been a student of the prestigious Academy of Music Studies "Barenboim Said," based in Seville. After many years of playing in Spanish wind bands and youth orchestras, she started teaching Music in a private Spanish school in 2012 and Qualified Teacher Status in England in 2014.

Sue Dunsdon: clarinet, saxophone, flute and piano teacher, graduated from the City of Leeds College of Music with a GDip in Jazz and Contemporary Music and a PGCE (music specialism) from Bretton Hall College of FE. She has spent many years teaching individual, small group and class instrumental lessons and directing ensembles for Berkshire Maestros. In 1993 Sue formed the East Berkshire Jazz Orchestra which has continued successfully, performing across Berkshire and touring abroad. She continues to teach locally and joined LHPA Music Team in September 2017. Sue enjoys performing regularly with her saxophone quartet, local music productions and most recently as a duo with her harpist daughter.

Amelia Halsey: Violin and Piano teacher, is a graduate of Durham University (BSc) and has been teaching violin, viola and piano for over 20 years, initially in northeast Victoria (Australia). On returning to the UK in 2001, she has worked with pupils both at St George's School, Windsor Castle (2001-2016) and privately at home. She joined the music team at LHPA in 2013 and teaches violin, music workshop plus violin and piano individual lessons. Mrs Halsey regularly plays the viola with two London based ensembles (Salomon Orchestra and Chelsea Opera Group) and performs in venues such as St John's, Smith Square and The Cadogan Hall.

Judith Harris: Violin, Singing and Recorder teacher, studied violin and singing performance at Birmingham Conservatoire and graduated with BMus Music in 2014. Since graduating, she has worked as a peripatetic violin and singing teacher in a variety of school settings as well as running her own private practice. She joined the music team at LHPA in 2018, originally assisting with the Year 1 violin workshop and now assists with the Year 1 recorder workshop. She also holds certificates in Kodály Musicianship and the Colourstrings Teacher Training Qualification, and works part-time as a nursery assistant, where she engages early years children aged between 3 months and 5 years in music and movement activities, including singing and violin demonstration.

Naomi Giarraputo: Violin and piano teacher, studied at the Purcell School of Music and later graduated from the Royal College of Music. Naomi has been teaching the violin, piano and viola for over 8 years, having started teaching privately during her studies at university. Naomi performs regularly with the Chrysler String Quartet, and various London based orchestras in prestigious venues such as the Royal Albert Hall and the Royal Festival Hall. She also coaches Ealing Youth Orchestra's violin and viola sections in the lead up to their termly concerts.

Miriam Jellinek: Violin and Piano teacher, received her music degree from Kingston University in 1998. She went on to do her teaching qualification whilst working in two middle schools and a first school in Windsor and gained Qualified Teacher Status in 2005. Miriam now enjoys teaching piano and violin on a one-to-one basis, plus group violin and class music appreciation.

David Manners: Music Workshop singing teacher, is a music graduate of The University of Liverpool and holds a diploma in singing performance from The Royal College of Music. He was a chorister in the choir of Bristol Cathedral and in the choirs of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral and Winchester Cathedral as a tenor, as well as deputising in many other cathedral and concert choirs. Besides singing, David is also a choral conductor, choir trainer and composer. Since 2000, he has been a Lay Clerk in the choir of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

Anna Miara: Piano teacher, graduated from Southampton University with a degree in Music. She later studied accounting and held 3 long-standing positions as accountant and administration manager over the next 20 years. Anna commenced peripatetic piano teaching in February 2010 and has worked at LHPA since it opened in 2011. Outside school, Anna has for many years been a church organist and leader of Polish choirs.

Allun Proom: After competing in the Brass finals of the very first BBCTV 'Young Musician Competition', Allun Proom went on to study Trumpet, Piano and Conducting as an Open Scholar at the Royal College of Music. He worked for sixteen years as a professional trumpet player before accepting his first full time teaching post. He has held Director of Music posts in three major Prep schools, musically directed over 20 musical theatre productions and conducted many choral, orchestral and ensemble concerts. He continues to teach, play, conduct and tutor on courses across the country. At LHPA, Allun teaches brass instruments and piano. Allun holds a Graduate Degree from the Royal Schools of music and diplomas from the Royal College of Music and Royal Academy of Music.

Linda Rigby: Lower School Music Workshop teacher and Learning Support Assistant, qualified as a teacher in 1976 from Thomas Huxley College, Acton (University of London) with Distinction in Education, Merit in Music and Merit in History. She teaches songs, percussion and creative listening and she has composed a number of children's songs which the children enjoy singing accompanied by the guitar which she plays. Outside School, Linda sings in a local choral society.

Erica Tugwell: Violin Administrator, Violin and Woodwind teacher, has worked as a music teacher for many years. Erica studied at Edinburgh University and in more recent years trained as a music classroom teacher at the Institute of Education and in instrumental teaching with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. As a bassoon player, Erica enjoys regular orchestral playing and plays with a wind quintet, Amici Della Musica – 'Friends of music'. Erica lectures at Brunel University on 'teaching music as a non-music specialist in primary schools'.

James Vigurs: teaches Drum kit, Piano, Saxophone and Ukulele and leads the 'Making the Band' club at LHPA. He studied Theology, Music and Worship at the London School of Theology and graduated in 2006. James performs on a number of instruments and enjoys the variety of opportunities that being a multi-instrumentalist brings. He works in a number of local schools as well as for Readipop, a music charity based in Reading, where his work varies from running ukulele workshops in a psychiatric hospital to writing and recording music with young people struggling with homelessness.

Sally Vigurs: Violin and African Drumming teacher, graduated from Derby University with a BA in Creative Expressive Therapies in Music and followed on to do an MA in Youth and Community Studies. Sally has played violin for many years but after a 7-month trip to East Africa, she developed a passion for African drumming. As a result, she now runs many drumming groups while also attending a number of master classes throughout the year.

Sally Whale: Cello teacher, studied cello at the Royal Academy of Music where she gained a Performance Certificate with Honours and LRAM. She is a member of the Caspian String Quartet and performs regularly throughout the country. Sally teaches cello at several schools including St George's, Windsor Castle and Hampton School as well as at LHPA.

Joanna Vidal: violin, singing and piano teacher, graduated from The University of Wales, Cardiff, and went on to receive a PGCE in Music from Southampton University. She has thoroughly enjoyed over ten years of music teaching work with singing, violin and piano students from ages 5-85 at schools in London and at music schools in Dublin, Ireland. At Dunraven School Joanna founded the Dunraven School Chamber Choir who performed at The Royal Albert Hall and The Royal Festival Hall as a part of the 'Young Voices' concerts. Joanna has directed or assisted with the vocal training for school productions in London, including *Oliver*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *West Side Story*. Driven by her passion for opera she trained with the Welsh National Youth Opera and performed with Opera Holland Park and Grange Park Opera and she is currently on 'The Professional Singers Scheme' with The Philharmonic Chorus, with whom she has toured internationally.