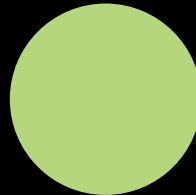
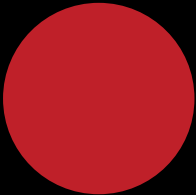


YORKSHIRE  
YOUNG  
MUSICIANS



making waves...

## Message from YYM Chairman, Robert Mitchell



Over the last seven years it has been thrilling for me to witness Yorkshire Young Musicians (YYM) grow from its small beginnings – with only 13 students based at a single centre in Leeds College of Music – into the thriving organisation it has now become.

With a second venue in the exciting Albemarle Music Centre in Hull, it has, at the time of writing, over 80 students who are supported by a dedicated team of over 50 teaching staff. Thanks to the backing of the Department for Education's imaginative Music and Dance scheme, YYM has been able to ensure that musically talented children from all backgrounds within the Yorkshire and Humber region receive the kind of musical education they need if they are serious about pursuing music at an advanced level. Indeed, an impressive total of 22 YYM graduates have so far gone on to study music at conservatoire or university.

Within these pages you will find not only the facts and figures that lie behind YYM's delivery of a first class music education to these aspiring youngsters. You will also be able to read about the difference YYM has made to the lives of several individual young musicians. Whether you are a teacher, a parent or a pupil I hope that you will find something of interest in these pages and that you will feel excited by the musical opportunities that YYM can provide.

Robert Mitchell, Yorkshire Young Musicians Chairman 2010-2011



*“The best thing for me about YYM is the high standard of teaching, and mixing with other kids with similar feelings about music.”*

## Yorkshire Young Musicians – the essential facts

At Yorkshire Young Musicians we are proud to be one of the country's **12 National Centres for Advanced Training in Music (CATs)**.

As such we provide advanced training for exceptionally talented young musicians from all over the Yorkshire and Humber region, aged between 8 and 18. By giving them the opportunity to study with some of the best teachers in the country we enable them to reach the standard they need to pursue music at Higher Education level – at conservatoire or university. They also get the chance to work and perform with like-minded young musicians.

### What we offer

Every Sunday in term-time at our two centres in Leeds and Hull we provide each YYM member with tuition from c. 9.30 – 3.15. This involves:

**Individual tuition** from first class tutors at the top of their profession in a wide range of vocal and instrumental disciplines including;

- western classical (piano, keyboard, strings, woodwind, brass, percussion, voice and composition)
- South Asian music (instrumental and voice),
- jazz piano
- electric guitar

**Classes in musicianship** covering such areas as improvisation, theory, aural/harmony, rhythm group, Dalcroze Eurhythmics and composition.

**Opportunities for ensemble performance:** each student has the opportunity to make music with others.

**Tailor-made tuition:** each young musician has their own Individual Learning Plan to suit their needs and their own personal progress.

**Mentoring** for every student as well as professional advice and care.

In addition, regular informal concerts provide excellent platforms for performance practice. Termly Project Days give experience working all together with visiting specialists such as Matthew Barley, Lynne Dawson, Sue Hollingworth, Richard Ingham.

## YYM is an inclusive scheme

YYM is open to all, regardless of their means, their social or ethnic background, or whether they have any disability.

**Grants are available** under the Government's Music and Dance scheme for those unable to pay, and can cover travel as well as tuition costs. (See next page for more details)

## Becoming part of YYM

At YYM we are looking for motivated and passionate young people who show exceptional potential in music.

Entrance to the scheme is by **audition** only.

The audition is a relaxed and informal process designed not only to show what a student can already do, but to reveal their potential. Its aim is to identify those students who have what it takes to benefit from YYM training: a high level of musicianship and the degree of dedication required.

Motivation is just as important as musical ability since reaching full potential as a musician demands a big commitment in terms of time and energy – from both student and their parent or guardian - as well as raw talent.



*“The great thing about YYM for our son is not only that he is learning more technical skills, but he is also becoming more ambitious to achieve a higher level because his peer group encourage his self-expectations.”*

## Have YOU got what it takes?

To be in with a chance of securing a place with YYM you need to be ...



You **DO NOT** need ...



\* Exact details of grant levels are subject to change, but Music and Dance Scheme grants are intended for young musicians aged 8 to 16 (on first application) with exceptional potential and dedication, and who do not have the financial means to access the best available training. The grants are available up to age 18/19 subject to suitable progress being made. In making such grants available to individual students, the needs of the individual child are put first.



If you think YYM might be right for you visit:  
[www.yorkshireyoungmusicians.org.uk/how-to-apply.htm](http://www.yorkshireyoungmusicians.org.uk/how-to-apply.htm)

## CASE STUDY

At his Hull primary school **James Hendry** showed little interest in academic subjects and was labelled a 'special needs' child. But his interest in music was always strong. Thanks to his parents' persistence he eventually benefited from Music Service percussion lessons and private tuition in singing and piano. In time, the enjoyment and skills he developed through his musical activities spilled over into his other studies: he soon lost his special needs label. It was not until he reached secondary school that he was set on the **YYM path**.

### JAMES' STORY

"The head of the music department noticed I had a flair for music and said I should apply for a new scheme called Yorkshire Young Musicians. I auditioned and, as a result, became a founder member of the scheme. At YYM I was immersed in advanced and professional tuition given by some of the country's top musicians. I studied percussion with Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) graduate Ben Gray, Martin King (a pupil of Paul Valice and Chris Bradley) and occasionally with Chris Bradley (Opera North Percussionist) himself. I studied the piano with the concert pianist and Birmingham Conservatoire piano tutor Robert Markham (who is also a Hull boy!). It was also through YYM that I began taking singing lessons with Sarah Rhodes of Welsh National Opera.

*"At YYM I really developed as a musician and I believe that it was YYM that enabled me to achieve what I wanted to achieve."*

Thanks to YYM James' achievements alongside perfecting his musical skills included playing Principal Percussion for Hull Youth Orchestra and ensemble, playing percussion on London's Royal Albert Hall Stage with the East Yorkshire Motor Services Brass Band, being musical director for Northern Theatre School and being Conductor and Pianist for Hull Choral Union Junior Chorus. With support from tutors and staff at YYM he auditioned for the RNCM in both piano and percussion. Offered places in both disciplines, he joined the College in September 2010 to study piano, having been awarded an Entrance Scholarship.



## YYM: The success story so far

YYM began in 2004/5 with **13** students at one centre based in Leeds College of Music, still YYM's home in that city.

A second centre was opened in Hull in 2007, in the brand new, purpose-built Albemarle Music Centre, home of Hull Music Service.

The number of students benefiting from YYM training has risen every year. In the six years of YYM's existence a total of 165 students have attended YYM centres on Sundays.

During that time the teaching staff and the range of instruments being studied has kept expanding, too, and YYM has more than demonstrated that it **delivers success**: in the six years of its existence 22 YYM graduates have gone on to read music at conservatoire or university. Amongst these achievements have been eight conservatoire scholarship offers, one choral scholarship to Oxford and a choral award at Cambridge.

*"YYM has structured my learning and spurred me on to become a better musician through good example"*

### YYM & NUMBERS

#### 2010/11 Snapshot

Statistics for the academic year 2010/11 demonstrate the range and diversity of musical disciplines now on offer at YYM, and confirm that YYM graduates very much make the grade as far as conservatoires and universities are concerned.

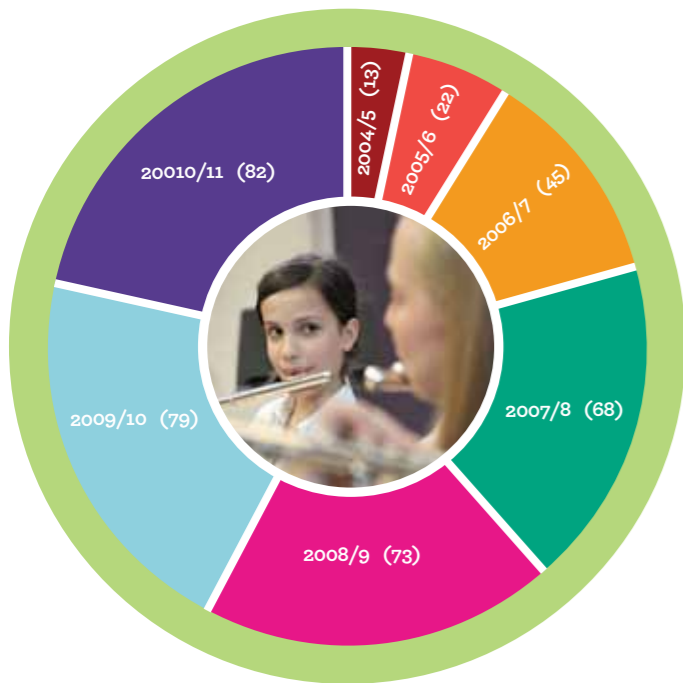
#### 2010/11 student numbers

There were a total of **82** students ... **66** registered at Leeds and **16** registered at Hull. Of these students, **37** were male and **45** were female.

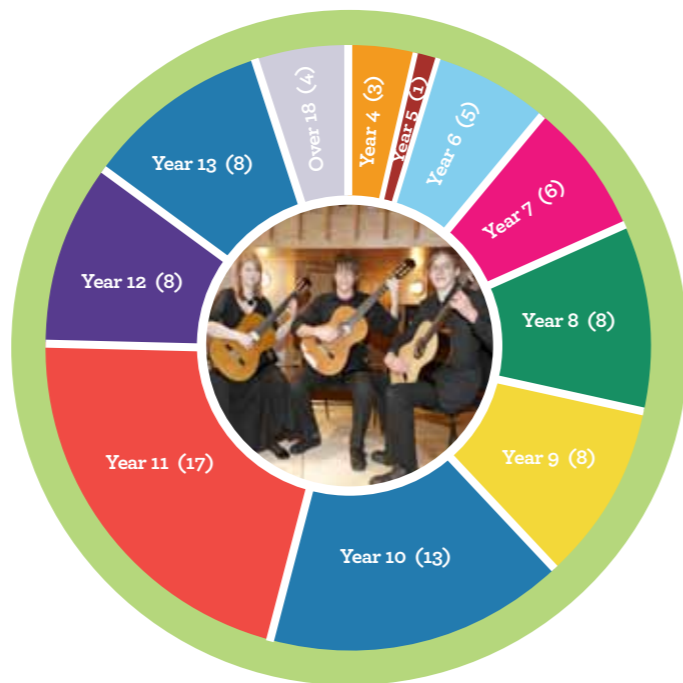
#### Bursary support

A total of **71** students are supported in varying degrees by bursaries. Over **50%** of the students receive the full grant.

## YYM by NUMBERS



Number of students per calendar year



Number of students per school year 2010/11

## CASE STUDY

### EMMANUEL'S STORY

"YYM is the one thing I can put my finger on that changed everything. It changed me from a teenage boy who played piano for a hobby into someone in the same league as people from specialist music schools."

Emmanuel Vass was already in one sense a high flier musically, when he joined YYM at the age of 16. Having studied piano with a private teacher he had just passed his Grade VIII Associated Board exam with Distinction but, he admits himself, there were technical aspects of his playing that needed improving.

"A teacher at my school heard about YYM when it was brand new. I auditioned on a Wednesday and attended the first ever YYM session the following Sunday: it was a very quick turnaround, but one that changed my life." Now in his fourth year studying piano at the Royal Northern College of Music, and undertaking regular recital and concerto engagements, Emmanuel describes the difference his two years at YYM made:

"This place [the RNCM] was not even on my radar when I was 16. But the excellent teaching at YYM – from people

who were obviously very professional and thoroughly trained themselves – gave me the confidence I needed. They knew what to expect of me and how to get it.

I knew right from the beginning that it was a great thing to be part of because the teaching was of such high quality and so thorough under Penny's direction. I discovered it was something I really wanted to do and the scholarship made it possible. I didn't mind giving up my Sundays, either: I could still go out on a Friday night!

"YYM changed everything – the musicianship training, the chamber music which I had never experienced before, jazz . . . it opened up a new world. Before YYM I never even knew the RNCM existed. They made me realise I could do this, and be good enough to come here."





YYM employs nearly **50** tutors across its two centres – a panel of teachers specially selected for their experience in the care and development of young talent. They are active musicians at the top of their profession, drawn from such organisations as Opera North and the Royal Northern College of Music.



All tutors are well placed to equip students with all they need to take their musical studies to the highest possible level.

Under their guidance YYM students pursue nearly 20 different musical disciplines including:

- Violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp
- Flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone, trombone
- Percussion
- Piano, keyboard
- Voice



- South Asian vocal
- Composition
- Electric and Bass Guitar
- Tabla, sitar, santoor, dilruba
- Advanced General Musicianship (e.g. theory, improvisation, composition, rhythmic, harmony etc)



*“The teachers are fantastic. You feel good being in the company of brilliant, similar - or older - aged children.”*

## CASE STUDY

**Ben Powell**, who teaches piano at both YYM and Junior RNCM, is a graduate of the RNCM, subsequently studying with Pierre-Laurent Aimard at the Hochschule for Musik Cologne and Alexander Melnikov at the RNCM. His piano trio are currently Young Artists in Residence at Salford University.

### BEN'S STORY

“What I most enjoy about teaching at YYM is the incredible enthusiasm of the students! It is refreshing to work with young people who are not only passionate about the repertoire but also engaged with performance and communication. There is an amazingly supportive and friendly atmosphere that really does come from the students themselves.

*I think the fact that all the students give up a large chunk of their weekend to attend speaks volumes about the significance of YYM for each student.*

For some students YYM has provided the pathway to real success in classical music performance: Yuanfan Yang was a recent finalist in the BBC Young Musician piano category (and the youngest finalist for 2010) and the winner of the junior section of the James Mottram International Piano Competition. However the focus is not as narrow as that: YYM fosters a life-long passion for music in all its students.

I am certain that YYM provides something really exceptional: not only intensive music training and high-level tuition but a learning environment quite different from that encountered in school. Because many of the lessons are one-to-one or in small groups students are able to develop and explore their own ideas and enthusiasms. Many of my students were not even aware that a career in music was possible until attending YYM, and have then gone on to study at specialist conservatoires and on university music courses.”



## 2010/11: destinations of YYM graduates

8 out of the 10 YYM students graduating in 2011 expect to go on to study music at Higher Education level. Their achievements include securing one choral scholarship to Oxford, one vocal scholarship at the RNCM, and one composition scholarship, also at the RNCM. The latter success is of special interest given that composition was only introduced into the YYM curriculum in 2009.



“One of the nicest aspects of YYM is that it is a friendly environment.”

“Our son’s reading skills have improved significantly since he started at YYM. The ensemble work requires him to open his ears to new types of music.”

“The best thing is the overall musical understanding I’ve gained, instead of just learning an instrument.”

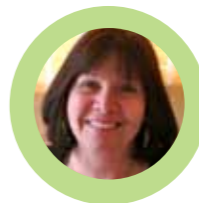
“Coming to YYM has really helped with my GCSE work. I now get distinctions in ABRSM exams. I’ve learnt a lot more at YYM than at school. The teachers are better, too.”

“I have become freer in my playing, which has enabled me to express my musical intentions better.”

## YYM - A firm foundation

YYM is overseen by a unique partnership comprising Opera North, Leeds College of Music and all sixteen local authority music services in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Director Penny Stirling (see page 14 for a profile of Penny) is assisted in the day-to-day administration and running of the organisation by Administrator Helen Alderson (pictured right). She is also supported by a Board of Trustees, which has a deep and active involvement in the organisation, meeting on a regular basis and ensuring all policies agreed are put in place.



In 2010/11, the membership of the Board comprised:

- Robert Mitchell (Federation of Music Services) *Chairman*
- David Hault, *Vice Chairman*
- Colin Brackley-Jones
- Chris Bradley (Opera North)
- Gill Gibbins
- Alison Owen-Morley (Leeds College of Music)
- Fiona Pacey (Leeds Artforms)
- Elisabeth Parry (Leeds College of Music)
- Dougie Scarfe (Opera North)

In addition, YYM is also able to draw on the expertise of a number of leading musicians, who act as **advisors** to the organisation. These currently include:

- Chris Bradley (Opera North) *percussion*
- Lynne Dawson (RNCM) *singing*
- Christopher Swann (RNCM) *woodwind*
- David Greed (Opera North) *strings*
- Murray Greig (Opera North) *brass*
- Helen Krizos (RNCM) *piano*
- Craig Ogden (RNCM) *guitar*
- Bhupinder Singh *South Asian classical*
- Dharambir Singh *South Asian classical*
- Frank Sternefeld *harp*
- Jamie Taylor (LeedsCM) *electric guitar*
- Gary Carpenter (RAM) *composition*
- Nicholas Trygstad (Hallé orchestra) *lower strings*
- Mark Donlon (LeedsCM) *jazz piano*

## PROFILE

**Penny Stirling**  
YYM Director

**Penny Stirling** has been Director of YYM since it was first set up in 2004. Trained at the Royal College of Music in London, she has immense experience as a teacher of young musicians and leader of organisations providing musical education, often in innovative and imaginative ways.

In her time Penny has run the string department at Wells Cathedral School, the Instrumental Music Service for Wiltshire County Council and the Royal Northern College of Music's award-winning Junior Strings Project.

She founded the Young String Venture chamber music course at Lake District Summer Music and was Director of the specialist chamber music course Pro Corda North. She has worked as an adjudicator at local and national and international music festivals including Music For Youth at the Festival Hall and Young Musician of the Gulf.

Penny Stirling has also played an important role in the Professional Development of many music teachers



both in this country and abroad. She often works with Music Services on Professional Development days and is Course Leader for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music's Professional Development Course. Other recent work has taken her to South Carolina (USA), Norway (European String Teachers' Association string training courses) and Bermuda to assist the teachers working for the Yehudi Menuhin Foundation.

## Getting in touch with YYM



Full details about all aspects of YYM can be found at [www.yorkshireyoungmusicians.org.uk](http://www.yorkshireyoungmusicians.org.uk)

This includes a step-by-step account of how to apply and application form downloads.

To find out more – or to explore the possibility of booking an advice audition, contact:

**Penny Stirling, Director**  
Yorkshire Young Musicians,  
PO Box 127,  
Thirsk,  
North Yorkshire,  
YO7 2WX



Phone: 01845 597627



Fax: 01845 597981



Email: [penny.stirling@yorkshireyoungmusicians.org.uk](mailto:penny.stirling@yorkshireyoungmusicians.org.uk)

### YYM Centres

YYM is based in two centres that have been specifically designed for the teaching of music, with sound-proof tutorial rooms and larger spaces for collective music-making.

#### Leeds

The first YYM centre opened is based at Leeds College of Music, the country's largest music college, situated in the centre of the City of Leeds. YYM has access to many of its facilities including tutorial and practice rooms, performance spaces and instruments.



**Leeds College of Music, 3 Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7PD**

#### Hull

YYM's second centre is situated in the brand new, purpose-built Albemarle Music Centre, the home of Hull Music Service in Hull city centre.



**The Albemarle Music Centre, 60 Ferensway, Hull HU2 8LN**



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