

Alumni notes

Soprano **Pumeza Matshikiza** has appeared on the front cover of the February issue of *Opera Now*. In addition to a five-page feature about the soprano, the magazine also included an article on tenor **Thomas Walker**.

Violinist **Olivia Scheepers** has performed Dvořák's Violin Concerto at Chester Cathedral with the Chester Philharmonic Orchestra.

Bass baritone **Bradley Travis** has made his debut with Opera North as Figaro in Mozart's comic opera, conducted by Alexander Shelley and directed by Jo Davies.

Soprano **Susanna Hurrell** and countertenor **James Laing** have performed in Kasper Holten's production of Cavalli's *L'Ormindo*. The production was a collaboration between the Royal Opera House and the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse at Shakespeare's Globe.

Gregory Batsleer has been awarded the first ever Arts Foundation Award for Choral Conducting, receiving a prize of £10,000. Gregory has also been appointed Chorus Director of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.



Pianist **Marta Menezes** has released her debut CD. The recording features Beethoven's Sonata no 32 op 111 with which Marta won First Prize at the RCM Beethoven Competition in 2013.

Baritone **Edward Grint** has won the Concours Lyrique International Singing Competition of Clermont-Ferrand. Part of his prize includes the opportunity to perform the role of Polyphemus in a tour of *Acis and Galatea* during the 2015/16 season. Edward also recently sang Achilles in *Giulio Cesare* at the Concertgebouw.



Ruth Rogers

Violinist **Ruth Rogers** has been appointed as joint Leader of the London Mozart Players. Taking up the position in March 2015, her first performance in the role saw her direct the ensemble in a concert to launch the new album of fellow RCM alumna **Claire Jones**.

Luke Whitlock has released his debut CD as a composer, on the Divine Art label. Artists recording Luke's work include RCM alumni: flautist **Anna Stokes**, clarinetist **James Meldrum**, bassoonist **Vicky Crowell** and pianist **Wai-Yin Lee**.



Trombonist **Matthew Gee** has released his first solo trombone album in June. *Paradiso e inferno* pairs music by composers seldom associated with one another, including works by Brahms, Carter, Mahler, Schubert and Xenakis.

Cellist **Noreen Silver** has performed Schubert's Piano Trio in B flat major in a series of free concerts presented by the Ellsworth Community Music Institute (ECMI) in Maine. She was joined by violinist Richard Hsu and her husband, pianist Phillip Silver, for the recital in April.

Violinist **Benjamin Baker**'s third and latest CD, *The Last Rose of Summer*, has been championed by Classic FM. The recording features Beethoven's Sonata no 2 for violin and piano and Ernst's *Variations on the Irish Air, 'The last rose of summer'*.



Bassoonist **Amy Harman** has performed at the Bath International Music Festival, accompanied on the piano by Jonathan Ware. Her concert at the Guildhall included Saint-Saëns' Bassoon Sonata, Elgar's Romance in D minor and J S Bach's Viola da Gamba Sonata no 1 in G major.

Alumni **James Lisney**, **Graham Fitch**, **Lauretta Bloomer** and **Karl Lutchmayer** and RCMJD teacher **Christine Stevenson** will give masterclasses, recitals and presentations at this year's Summer School for Pianists, held at the University of Wolverhampton's All Steinway Performance Hub from 16 to 22 August.

The **Foyle-Štšura Duo** – violinist **Michael Foyle** and current doctoral student pianist **Maksim Štšura** – has won the Beethoven Chamber Music Competition (the Gwyneth George Award) held at Steinway Hall in April. Their prize includes the opportunity to perform in the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe's 2015/16 season.

Pianist **Katherine Tinker** has given her Wigmore Hall debut as a Park Lane Group Young Artist, alongside her duo partner Max Welford. They have also been accepted as Concordia Young Artists.

Tenor **William Morgan** has recently made his English National Opera debut in the role of Younger Man in the world premiere of Tansy Davies' *Between Worlds*.