



SEPTEMBER 2013-ISSUE 3

**WORLD HEART BEAT MUSIC ACADEMY**  
**FEATURING OUR STUDENTS**  
**PLAYING WITH DOUBLE BRIT AWARD**  
**WINNER 2013: EMELI SANDÉ & NEIL**  
**PORTNOW, PRESIDENT OF THE**  
**GRAMMY'S VISITS THE WORLD**  
**HEART BEAT MUSIC ACADEMY**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER — SAHANA GERO

The WORLD HEART BEAT MUSIC ACADEMY just celebrated its 1<sup>st</sup> birthday. It was only one year ago that we converted a disused industrial warehouse in London into a beautiful music academy. I had met so many children who were dying to learn instruments but who didn't have the chance or the financial means to do so. I wanted to give high quality musical training to children of all cultural backgrounds and particularly to those who had missed out. Since opening we have set up many musical initiatives and have a vibrant community of over 40 top musicians and music teachers, staff and volunteers delivering music classes 7 days a week.

The life energy at World Heart Beat and support from the music industry has been phenomenal. Our music programs and concerts have been supported with the crème de la crème and from the length and breadth of the globe including the finest Jazz Musicians, the Reggae greats, the most acclaimed singer from Bangladesh, Rezwana Choudhury Bannya, Aziza Brahim from the Western Sahara to name a few. We also welcomed Neil Portnow, Head of the Recording Academy LA (the Grammy's), who visited World Heart Beat in April to hear and meet with our Scholarship students.

We are so grateful for your investment and support so far. Your contribution last year was pivotal in allowing us to open the doors of the academy, but to continue with our programme of music classes we really need your support.

Attached to this newsletter is an opportunity to become a friend of The World Heart Beat Music Academy. We have planned a special Friends night on the 27<sup>th</sup> September, where we would love to invite you down to the Academy and enjoy our young musicians play.



"I am impressed by the students talent, passion, variety of genres, personal backgrounds and commitment to music. Congratulations for the great work that you are doing."

Neil, President of the Grammy's dropped into the World Heart Beat Music Academy from LA to visit our Scholarship Students. We continue to develop strong partnership with the forefront of the industry.

## OVERVIEW

### MUSIC LESSONS NOW AVAILABLE

#### AT THE WORLD HEART BEAT MUSIC ACADEMY

#### BOOK NOW

0208 8703042 ([info@worldheartbeat.org](mailto:info@worldheartbeat.org))

#### Monday - Vocal training with Daisy Chute (Platinum Recording Artist) - Jazz Piano, Cello & Saxophone

3.00pm-4.00pm (ages 12-16) Singing

#### Tuesday – Asian Music School – Tabla classes

5.00pm - 5.45pm Tabla – beginners

5.45pm - 6.30pm Tabla – beginners

6.30pm - 7.15pm Tabla (all ages-Intermediate)

7.15pm – 8.15pm Tabla (all ages-Beginners)

5.00pm - 5.45pm Singing (ages 6-9)

5.45pm - 6.30pm Singing (ages 10-12)

7.00pm-9pm - Stardust people jazz improvising choir (open to all ages)

#### Drum Kit, Piano & Jazz Vocal Workshops, Stardust People Choir

#### Wednesday—Celtic Fiddle School & Violin, Piano, Composition & Theory

5.00pm - 6.00pm—Grade 5 Theory Class

Flute & Piano

4.00pm - 4.45 (group 1) - Celtic Violin School

4.45pm - 5.30pm (group 2) - Celtic Violin School

5.30pm-6.15pm (group 3)

Individual Violin Lessons available on Wednesdays

#### Thursday - 51 State Band

##### 51st State Band

Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Saxophone, Clarinet

##### 50 and half State Band

#### Friday—Reggae School

4.00pm - 4.45pm —Guitar (ages 7-11)

4.45pm-6.45pm - Guitar (ages 11 plus)

Reggae School, Bass Guitar, Guitar & Reggae Piano

## GUCCI TIMEPIECES & JEWELLERY LAUNCHING THE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WORLD HEART BEAT MUSIC ACADEMY & THE RECORDING ACADEMY USA AT THE SOHO HOTEL - LONDON - APRIL 2013

### WITH EMELIE SANDÉ, JO WHILEY AND NEIL PORTNOW

We have formed a partnership with Gucci Timepieces & Jewellery to work in conjunction with the Grammy's in LA to support a scholarship program for 15-18 year olds with 10 students each year over the next 3 years.

All 10 receive musical support for a whole year and in partnership with the Recording Academy LA two of our students will be flown to LA and attend a 10 day Grammy Camp.

"We will build on this special opportunity offered by our partnership with The Recording Academy® to continue adventuring into new horizons, so that our students can fulfill their dreams and aspirations through the power of music" Sahana Gero, Founder and Artistic Director at The World Heart Beat Music Academy.



"If a place like World Heart Beat had existed when I was growing up I would have been begging my parents to take me down and eagerly waiting at the door"

Emeli Sandé

### THE LAUNCH

This was endorsed by multi-award winning British singer, songwriter, winner of 2 Brit Awards 2013 superstar Emeli Sandé, hosted by renowned British radio DJ, Jo Whiley and the President of The Recording Academy and the Grammy's, at a press launch held in the Soho Hotel on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2013.



"We will build on this special opportunity offered by our partnership with The Recording Academy® to continue adventuring into new horizons, so that our students can fulfill their dreams and aspirations through the power of music."

"It's crucial that young people today have the chance to express themselves through music and are given opportunities to do so. Projects like this make music available to everyone; disadvantaged youths in particular will be able to tell their story and get their voices heard. These are issues that are close to my heart, so I'm really proud to be part of it." - Emeli Sandé.





## OUR GUCCI WATCHES & JEWELLERY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME: MEET THE TALENT



**Kwabena Boateng – Saxophone & Piano**

"I started playing the saxophone when I was 11 years old, playing and learning with the 51st state band.

I love to play a lot of classical music and Jazz. Musically, I am very fond of Louis Armstrong and Count Basie. I am also a fan of Ludovico Einaudi, particularly his Eden Roc album. Also I'm a huge fan of late 70s to early 90s rock from Led Zepelin to Nirvana to Radiohead. My dream is to hopefully become a professional musician."



**Mansur Brown –Guitarist**

"The musicians I currently look up to include: Wes Montgomery, Chick Corea, George Benson, Michel Camillo & Frederic Chopin. I was primarily influenced by the guitarist Jimmy Hendrix, & he was actually the very reason I started to play the guitar. As my music knowledge began to expand I began to seek musical knowledge from not only guitarists, but also from pianists and saxophonists. This also encouraged me to learn other instruments including bass and piano. My dream is to become a successful recording artist and musician on the live scene. I hope to be able return them the favour in the future."



**Katy Morrish—Singer & Clarinet**

"I started the clarinet and playing in the 51st State Band, when I was just 7 years old. I have always had a love of performance, and playing music gives the perfect opportunity to express everything you feel in a better way than can be articulated through words. My favourite performances have been with The 51st State Band at the Royal Festival Hall and also when I was 12, singing in front of 3000 people in Cyprus in 'The Sound of Music' This scholarship has given me the chance to discover new things about my own musical capabilities and has allowed me to grow as a musician."



**Isaac Duribe - Electronic Music**

"I'm an 18 year old electronic producer. I've always been musical playing the flute, but ever since I was 14, electronic music has become my focus and I enjoy the feelings electronic music can convey including euphoria and deep sadness. Since then I've been refining my skills and techniques in order to feel confident enough to release an EP.

This scholarship means so much to me because it is giving me a step up in the industry that I could have only ever dreamed of."



**Dieu Merci—Songwriter.**

"Dieu Merci, was born in Kinshasa, Congo. He has a passion for composing, singing and performing music that is an eclectic fusion of afro beat, rumba and contemporary urban sounds. In 2010 Dieu Merci joined his family in England. At school he started hanging out in the music department where he could find like-minded souls to jam with. Whilst developing his musical skills he was also developing his links with the Congo-lese community in London and through them he met musicians and started to play with the awesome Congo-lese Latin band Grupo Lo-kito."



**Meg Diamond - Songwriter**

"I started playing the flute when I was 8 years old. I have recently done my grade 8 flute and I passed with a distinction.

My mother would often read me her favourite poems when I was little, and as I grew older, I began to experiment with my own poetry. Later, I realised I could combine my poems and my music and create song, and this is where the passion came from."

## GUCCI WATCHES AND JEWELLERY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME - THE TALENT CONTINUES



**Baker Mukasa – Vocalist**

"I first started singing when I was 3 years old, in church. Since then I have sung in choirs, ensembles and solo concerts. At 15, I won Wandsworth's Young Performer of the Year. My passion in Music, Theatre and drama have led me to take part in numerous productions with Youth Music Theatre. I also learnt to play the saxophone at the 51st state band. The experience of playing in band exposed me to different genres of music. I am so thankful to the WHB Academy and the Gucci Timepieces and Jewellery sponsors for giving me this amazing opportunity to have one-to-one singing lessons, which I have never had, and to become more immersed in an art that I love."



**Stephen Asamoah- Duah –Drummer**

"I started playing drums at the age of 3, and I was drawn to the Instrument because of a video in which my mother would watch of a gospel concert. The drummer was Chester Thompson of Genesis. I would watch the video over and over and when I knew this part of the video was coming I would run to the kitchen and take my mother's pots and pans and begin to play along with it. Fortunately one day when I reached the age of 6, I had the chance to play on a proper kit in front of a congregation of people. The drummer at church was not in one day and I had to fill in for him."

When I was 14, I entered the Young Drummer of the Year competition, which is a competition to find the best Under 16 drummer in UK and Ireland. Out of thousands of drummers, I was fortunate enough to win the competition. My dream would be to serve in the top end of the music industry as a Drummer, Producer and Musical Director, touring the world, doing gigs, recording albums, doing TV shows, and being an inspiration to other young drummers. One day I hope to be known as one of the world's greatest drummer to have ever lived."



**Quinn Oulton -Saxophone**

"I'm not entirely sure what path I want to follow after studying jazz at degree level, but I know for certain that music will be my main focus throughout my life. Without wanting to sound too predictable and clichéd, I honestly don't know what I would do without music. It is my one true passion, and no matter what the future holds, I know it will always stay that way."

I plan to apply to all of the London conservatoires to study jazz. I am also looking at colleges in Europe and America.

I have played the saxophone from the age of eight. I have always had a passion for jazz. Since I completed my grade 8 at the age of 11, I have been studying jazz in great depth, and learning the intricate details and techniques of how to improvise. I have been writing music since I was 9 years old and with my own band, Jazz Code. Thank you for putting so much work into our scholarship programme. It's a brilliant opportunity, the step up I need and I really appreciate all you've done."



**Sian Kelly – Singer**

"I enjoy a very wide variety of music, some of my musical heroes and influences include Nirvana, Smashing Pumpkins and Red Hot Chili Peppers to older styles such as The Beatles and Rolling Stones."

I am currently part of The Stardust People's Choir, which is a Jazz Improvisational choir, lead by vocalist Cleveland Watkiss at the World Heart Beat Music Academy. Additionally, through the academy, I am currently attending the Julian Joseph Jazz Academy on Saturdays.

I have a passion for songwriting and am inspired by social issues, identity struggles, memories, and life experiences- although I am only sixteen!! Although music is my life and singing is everything to me, I have never had the opportunity to have any proper vocal training with one - one teaching on technique and this scholarship will give me this opportunity."

"This morning I reviewed the demo videos you submitted of the students participating in the UK Music Fund. Just one word: **AMAZING**, Marketing & Communication Manager".

Gucci Timepieces & Jewellery



## EXHIBITION – A PERFECT BLEND OF ART AND MUSIC 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY

We were extremely privileged to have our First Art Exhibition of the Academy. Lella Russo has been a long time friend and contributor behind the scenes and her craft demonstrates the underlying synergies with what we're trying to do musically at the academy. The skill, detail, beauty and expressiveness evident in Genesis II is profoundly moving and demonstrates just what serious art is all about. Her innovative manipulation of coconut fibre into stunning expressions of life shows just what a gifted and inspirational artist we have in our midst. Lella also programmed a duet musical performance from International Jazz musicians Patrick Clahar and Julian Joseph. Congratulations to Lella for a wonderful exhibition and for adding another string to our bow.

If you would like to know more about the artist, please visit [www.lellarusso.com](http://www.lellarusso.com)

## APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> PIANO PARTY



18 World Heart Beat students confidently stepped into the spotlight in our first Piano Party Concert.

The duration offered a range of songs from students aged between 5 and 19, beginners to music college, individually impressing the audience that had gathered and enjoyed the performances.

This piano party was held at the World Heart Beat Music Academy, and was a huge success and clearly represented the excellent teaching from our six superb piano teachers. This concert was dedicated with gratitude to Jana Ting who has lent the Academy a most beautiful Grand piano.

## UPCOMING CONCERTS FOR THE DIARY

27th SEPTEMBER - Friends of the Academy Concert - 7pm

15th NOVEMBER - 51st State Band Concert - 7pm & 8.30pm performances

30th NOVEMBER - Piano Party - 6pm



## CELTIC VIOLIN SCHOOL OPENS AT WORLD HEARTBEAT MUSIC ACADEMY

This is a new exciting opportunity for children from aged five onwards to learn to play the violin through the joy of Celtic music.

The classes will be for ages 5-8 year olds, 9-12 year olds and 13 plus. We have classes for beginners and for those who already are learning/play the violin.

Additionally, we are starting violin classes in Gypsy, Klezmer and Balkan.

Carol Anderson will be leading our Celtic Music School. Carol is in high demand performing, teaching and judging competitions at festivals all over Scotland. She has also taught and performed at the prestigious North Atlantic Fiddle Conventions. We are extremely delighted to have Carol join us at World Heart Beat. **BOOK NOW at [info@worldheartbeat.org](mailto:info@worldheartbeat.org) or ring 0208 870 3042**

**PLEASE SEE THE CLASS TIMES ON THE FRONT PAGE - WEDNESDAY**

## START LEARNING THE VIOLIN TODAY



### WORLD HEART BEAT BIRTHDAY CONCERT AND PRESENTATION OF JACK PETCHEY AWARDS



"Amazing energy, amazing vibe" "I didn't know that places like this existed on earth"

Johnny Clarke



### OUR ANNIVERSARY CONCERT 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY

Young reggae musicians in Reggae School under the direction of Don Chandler shared the stage with two of Jamaica's most distinguished reggae artists on 14th May at the World Heart Beat Reggae Academy's one year anniversary concert. The event, held at the academy on Kimber Road, Wandsworth, was attended by the great Jamaican singer Brina, and the legendary Johnny Clarke, as well as other eminent names from the reggae world.

The event saw two young people presented with Jack Petchey Achievement Awards for their successes in recent months. 15 year old Charlie Collins Walters, whose father has Jamaican heritage, was presented with his award by Brina, and has decided to spend the £200 he received to buy new microphones for the academy. Artistic director Sahana Gero said, "The academy is like a second home for Charlie, his love for and participation in music has brought confidence and focus that few other things can. He was so proud and happy and we were too!"

The Great Johnny Clarke presented an award to Year 8 student Olaf Wein who has dedicated lots of time to developing his musical abilities. Olaf has spent his £200 on buying a new Bass guitar for the Academy. Both students received copies of Brina's latest album, and a Jack Petchey Foundation certificate to recognise their achievements.

"It was a remarkable event, full of energy and positivity" said Artistic Director Sahana Gero, It was very moving for the musicians to present the Jack Petchey awards, which are very special to their recipients."

Ivor Novello Award Nominee Prince Sampson also sang the academy's praises. "It was fantastic to witness first hand all the great work the World Heart Beat Academy is doing – I was truly impressed. Congratulations on celebrating your first year of putting smiles on so many faces."

Other attendees at the event included CEO of Raw Material Music and Media, Tim Brown who said, "I was mightily impressed by the concert and all the talent and supporters you have assembled in only a year. I was of course very proud to see my grandson on the stage with the reggae greats!"

The World Heart Beat Academy envisions a world where music – as a universal form of communication – bridges cultural, political, economic and linguistic barriers. It aims to inspire a passion for playing musical instruments, and influence a generation of often alienated young people. It provides an environment for young people to develop confidence, discipline, hope and belief in their potential to excel through sustained effort and practice.

World renowned drummer **Mark Mondesir** said,

"The event was a beautiful experience with the young people and the guest artists performing together. The World Heart Beat Academy is doing an amazing thing."



## OTHER WHB EVENTS



We had over 16 press articles this month, in conjunction of the launch of the Gucci UK Music fund & World Heart Beat Music Academy. This is an exciting program for World Heart Music Academy as it is enabling us to develop 30 students over the next three years who are at our higher performance end. 10 Scholarships have already been awarded this year, with a further 10 next year and so on. These Scholarships will be dependent of commitment, performance ability and hunger for a career in the music industry. In addition, Gucci has designed two limited edition watches marking the launch of their UK Music Fund Program.

### AZIZA BRAHIM IN CONCERT APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> 2013

Aziza Brahim is considered one of the most talented musical voices from Western Sahara. Aziza was born in the Saharawi refugee camps in Algeria, but spent many years studying in Cuba. This has influenced her music, an innovative blend of traditional Saharawi Hawl, West African rhythms and Latin Jazz. Singing in Hassania, the native language of her homeland, Aziza is a great ambassador for the Saharawi cause, dedicating all her singing to her people. As part of her tour, World Heart Beat organised workshops in both primary and secondary schools.

## WHB INDUSTRY MUSICIANS

### NICK COHEN



"When the World Heart Beat comes into your life, your life changes. By giving somebody a musical education you are giving them a whole new life."

Nick Cohen is a top UK bassist and songwriter, whose credits include working with some of the greatest musicians in the world.

A selection of artists Nick has toured and/or recorded with: Matt Bianco, Massive Attack, Tom Jones, Don Blackman Tony Allen, Anastacia, Eurythmics, Beck, Pee Wee Ellis, Roy Ayers, Labrinth, Ernest Ranglin, Jack Bruce, Jon Lucien, Eric Roberson, Gil Scott Heron, Weldon Irvine, M-People, Matt and Ive Mendes.

As shown above, Nick Cohen gives the World Heart Beat Music Academy one of his bass guitars so that one of our talented young bass players at Reggae School can practise at home. Here Liam Tyndale is the recipient. To have this step up from such a world class bass player is nothing more than total inspiration.

We look forward to watching Liam's immense progress and, who knows, perhaps he may become one of our Gucci Timepieces & Jewellery scholars in the future. We are not only truly grateful for this donation, but also to Nick for his immense musical support and inspiration to our students.

### RARE VISIT TO THE UK - IN CONCERT TO THE WORLD HEART BEAT MUSIC ACADEMY AZIZA BRAHIM



"The WHB is amazing. It has been a real catalyst to connecting the community together, a superb flagship Academy for others to follow. ."

### STARDUST JAZZ IMPROVISATION CHOIR MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>

The Stardust Jazz Improvisation choir directed by Cleveland Watkiss, Britain's leading jazz vocalist, performed as part of Wandsworth Arts Festival in the beautifully converted ex-diary, Testbed 1. This concert featured a premier of a remarkable composition by Julian Joseph, especially commission for the Stardust People choir which had been developed in workshop style at the World Heart Beat Music Academy entitled 'Koong Sha - Stardust Evolution'. This project was made possible with Arts Council Funding.



Our honourary patron Julian Joseph never wasting a second of his precious time so he can mentor and help young musicians. Here he is helping Ezekiel, in the interval of a performance at the Royal Festival Hall.

## A BIG THANK YOU

Gucci Timepieces & Jewellery  
Recording Academy USA  
The London Community Foundation  
Ernest Cook Foundation  
Help a Capital child  
The Co-operative  
The Big Society Fund  
Waitrose  
YOF  
The Jack Petchey Foundation  
The Arts Council  
Allan Fuller Estate Agents  
Wandsworth Council for their support  
Wandsworth Arts Office  
Skating Panda Ltd  
James Joseph Music Management  
Sandblast Arts  
Grid Architects  
Ritz Music  
Cato Music  
Gandharvaloka Dublin  
Raw Material  
HMDT  
Testbed 1  
Charles Wilson Engineers

**PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A  
DONATION TODAY**

**PLEASE VISIT**

Virgingiving.com and enter  
World Heart Beat Music Academy



This is a true thrill to have the President of The Grammy's coming to our humble abode, the World Heart Beat Music Academy, in which our dreams are that each and every person who walks through our doors can become true musicians.



GRAMMY FOUNDATION™

GUCCI

THE RECORDING ACADEMY™



## THANK YOU TO OUR HONOURY PATRONS

Julian Joseph  
Bannya Rezwana  
Boris Purushottma Grebenshikov

## OUR THANK YOU CONTINUES

Our Trustees  
Our Teachers  
Peter Highland  
Clare Moloney  
Floella Benjamin

## THANK YOU ALSO TO

Our Wonderful Volunteers  
Jemima, Menaga, Tayaaba, Colin,  
Maria, Kari, Ashleigh, David and Amber  
Sue Chin  
Tingting Zhang  
Jana Ting for loaning the Grand Piano.  
Malik and Lindsay for providing most  
beautiful platters of food.  
Tommas Graves

## THANK YOU TO OUR FILM PRODUCTION AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

Harry Beney  
Mridanga Spencer  
Ada Cotton  
Emma Andrews  
Neelakshi  
Tony Oulton  
Mobi Ajetunmobi  
([www.mobisphotos.co.uk](http://www.mobisphotos.co.uk))

## WHB HALL OF FAME PRESIDENT OF GRAMMY'S



The 51  
State Band  
is simply  
the best  
way for  
children to  
excel in  
their music.



**JOIN US—AN AMAZING OPPORTU-  
NITY FOR YOUR CHILD TO ADVANCE  
IN THEIR MUSICAL DREAM**

Just to let you know that next term will begin  
September 12th and the concert date for Putney Arts  
Theatre on 15th November with 2 performances  
7pm and 8.30pm.

One more thing:

Please don't forget to let lots of people know about  
the great musical opportunities we have with the  
51st State Band and also with the World Heart Beat  
Music Academy. Our website is

[www.worldheartbeat.org](http://www.worldheartbeat.org). We would be extremely  
grateful if you could encourage other children to  
learn instruments - We have everything from the  
Trombone, French Horn, Saxophone and Trumpet to  
the Bass guitar, Piano and Violin. It contributes so  
much to their lives and to the lives that they touch  
with their music. All our teachers are simply superb.

The Academy is a charity. The programs would not be  
possible without the generous support of our many  
friends, partners, sponsors and volunteers. We rely  
very much from the help from kind and willing peo-  
ple of all ages to contribute their time and energy to  
keep things running. The Academy is the vibrant and  
beautiful place that it is thanks to your kindness,  
generosity and support. We are truly grateful.

"We are truly unlimited if we only dare to try"

Sri Chinmoy

## World Heart Beat Music Academy

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