



THE MUSIC IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS TRUST

*The Andrew Lloyd Webber programme*



Andrew Lloyd Webber  
Foundation

Friday 8 March 2019

## Nicola Benedetti extends commitment to music education with Music in Secondary Schools Trust Teacher Development Workshop



Nicola Benedetti leads teachers at Music in Secondary School Trust workshop © Benjamin Ealovega

On Saturday 2 March, students and teachers from the Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST) joined their Patron, and world renowned classical violinist, Nicola Benedetti for a day of rehearsals and workshops at the MiSST Saturday School. The first time MiSST has extended their commitment to development workshops for teachers, the workshop expanded Benedetti's commitment to the Trust to provide meaningful support and inspiration to professionals in the field of music education. Supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, the event took place at Central Foundation Boys School in Old Street, London.

The teachers' workshop was attended by 38 classroom teachers, peripatetic teachers and musicians who partner with the trust, representing all 13 London secondary schools participating in MiSST and including musicians from the Pico Players and Guildhall School of Music. Reflecting on her own experiences as a young musician, she emphasised the

importance of connecting the physicality and musicality of playing in music education to ensure lessons encourage an emotional connection to the music that ensures students stay inspired and motivated.

Discussing different approaches to teaching Benedetti shared insights from her own musical education, centred around the Suzuki method, and reflected on the many different methods of pedagogy and combined benefits of each. This included personal insights into the physicality of playing, how to deal with the pressure of time and working towards exams, and the benefits of encouraging children to play from memory to achieve a greater connection to the music.

Prior to the teacher's workshop, the student's rehearsal was attended by 58 secondary school students who have achieved grade 3 and above as part of the programme. They worked with Benedetti on repertoire including Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnol* ahead of their Spring Concert at Cadogan Hall on Monday 29 April.

**Rachel Landon, CEO of Music in Secondary Schools Trust, said:**

'We are delighted with how our first teacher workshop with Nicola went and hope to host more development opportunities such as this in the future. Quality teaching is absolutely fundamental, without it children get a poor experience. Watching the teachers and children today learning from Nicola has been a joy.'

**Nicola Benedetti, Patron of Music in Secondary Schools Trust, said:**

'I believe that every child should gain the maximum amount of enjoyment from studying and learning music. This journey begins with teachers and that is why it is of vital importance that we ensure their needs are met in order to provide high quality music education to our young musicians. Instrumental teaching is an incredibly difficult job and we need to take time to inspire our teachers so they can connect the musicality, physicality and technicalities of playing to ensure our young musicians get the best start.'

MiSST was established in April 2013 with funding from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and The Charles Wolfson Trust. Now working with 13 London secondary schools with a disadvantaged and challenging student intake, it provides funding for classical

instruments and support in the form of regular tuition, opportunities to perform and a programme of excellence that is unrivalled in the UK.

As a patron of Music in Secondary Schools Trust, Nicola Benedetti is instrumental in supporting the trust's commitment to providing classical music education to young people across London. Announced as Patron in September 2016, she launched the new, free of charge, Saturday School for pupils on the Andrew Lloyd Webber programme which provides students the opportunity to play in orchestral and ensemble groups.

As a teacher and advocate of classical music, Nicola has formed associations with education establishments and charities including schools, music colleges and local authorities. Complimenting her ongoing commitment to music education and her work with MiSST's Saturday school, she has recently launched the 'With Nicky' video series. An online series of educational videos, they will provide information, guidance and support for young musicians throughout their musical and personal development. The content of the videos will become an integral part of the work of her newly established charity, The Benedetti Foundation, and follows a recent inquiry from the Music Commission warning of the possibility of current teaching methods becoming outdated if they do not keep up with technology.

## ENDS

Images of Nicola Benedetti's rehearsal and workshop are available to download [here](#).

For further information on the Music in Secondary Schools Trust and the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation please contact Four Colman Getty:

Laura Steele on [Laura.steele@fourcommunications.com](mailto:Laura.steele@fourcommunications.com) / 020 3697 4241  
Truda Spruyt on [Truda.spruyt@fourcommunications.com](mailto:Truda.spruyt@fourcommunications.com) / 020 3697 4248

## Notes to Editors

### About Nicola Benedetti

Over the last 12 months Nicola has continued her role as a dedicated, passionate ambassador and leader in music education:

- Nicola has reached over 2000 young people through workshops, masterclasses, partnership projects, and school visits.
- Nicola has also connected with over 500 teachers, providing support in the face of mounting pressures, and encouraging best practice.
- This commitment to supporting music practitioners was underlined in July 2018, when Nicola took over as President of the European String Teachers Association.

- Nicola has contributed to campaigns to save and preserve music services across the country
- She holds named positions in several of the UK's most established and high-quality youth music organisations including the National Children's Orchestras, Sistema Scotland, National Youth
- Orchestras of Scotland, Music in Secondary Schools Trust, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and many more.
- Music education work has been delivered across Scotland and from Leeds to London. Forthcoming events in Birmingham and Wales will further widen Nicola's connections.
- As 'Big Sister' to Sistema Scotland, Nicola led Super String Sessions in autumn 2018, celebrating the organisation's 10th anniversary by bringing together 500 young people from a diverse range of learning backgrounds including through Sistema Scotland, Local Authorities and private tuition.
- Fiercely committed to music education and to developing young talent, Nicola has formed associations with schools, music colleges and local authorities.
- She is credited with broadening the appeal of classical music to young and new audiences through her extensive education work and appearances at events such the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony and iTunes Festival.
- Nicola was awarded the Queen's Medal for Music in 2017, the youngest ever recipient, and was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2019 New Year Honours, in recognition of her services to music.
- Nicola Benedetti is one of the most sought-after violinists of her generation. Her ability to captivate audiences with her innate musicianship and dynamic presence, coupled with her wide appeal as a high-profile advocate for classical music, has made her one of the most influential classical artists of today.
- She is in much demand with major orchestras and conductors across the globe and this continues across the 2018-2019 season with concerts throughout the UK, Europe and America

#### **About the Music in Secondary Schools Trust**

- MiSST was established in April 2013 with funding from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and The Charles Wolfson Trust and offers unrivalled music opportunities to London school pupils. Both charities have now given over £2.4m each to support the 'Andrew Lloyd Webber Programme' of music education, based on music programme which was developed at Highbury Grove School, promising every child an entitlement to study a classic musical instrument on entry, as well as tuition and the opportunity to play and perform as part of ensemble or orchestral groups on a regular basis.
- MiSST is now funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, The Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust and the Dame Alice Owen Foundation. The charity's patron, Nicola Benedetti, also works with the young musicians to teach, encourage and inspire them.
- MiSST provides free classical instruments, tuition and opportunities to perform to 3,700 pupils in thirteen participating schools across the capital that have a disadvantaged student intake. Including the alumni, the reach of the programme now stands at over 5,000 students, 5,000 instruments and 45,000 hours of tuition to date. It ensures that music remains a strong subject in schools and that the provision of the arts continues to be valued.
- In September 2013, Lister Community School, Newham, became the first partner school and then in September 2014 were joined by Mount Carmel Catholic School for Girls, Islington; Frederick Bremer School, Waltham Forest; Sedgely School, Lewisham and Arts and Media School, Islington. St Mary Magdalene Academy, Islington, joined the scheme in September

2015, as well as New North Academy, Islington, who joined for a year from 2015-2016 and continue to be supported through developmental work. Holloway School joined the programme in September 2016, followed by Whitefield School Barnet and Samuel Rhodes Special School in 2017. The programme welcomed Central Foundation Boys School and the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School, Islington, in 2018.

- The number of participating students has risen from 1,650 in 2014 to over 3,700 in April 2018. Including alumni, the reach of the programme now stands at 5,000 students across London to date.
- Subject to the continued success of the MiSST programme, the Dame Alice Owen Foundation plans to spend up to £3.8 million over 10 years to provide all secondary school students in Islington the opportunity to learn a musical instrument.

#### **About the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation**

- The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation was set up by Andrew in 1992 to promote the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit; since inception Andrew has been the principal provider of funding for all its charitable activities.
- In 2010, the Foundation embarked on an active grant giving programme and has now awarded grants of over £20 million to support high quality training and personal development as well as other projects that make a real difference to enrich the quality of life both for individuals and within local communities. Significant grants include £3.5m to Arts Educational Schools, London to create a state of the art professional theatre, £2.4m to the Music in Secondary Schools Trust, £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, \$1.3m to the American Theatre Wing and over £350,000 annually to fund 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need. [www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com](http://www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com)