



17 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Young Soloist of the Year 2020**

We are delighted to be able to invite you to this year's St Martin's Young Soloist of the Year Competition, to take place on Wednesday 7 October in the South Hall at 6pm.

There will be two categories, Junior and Senior, and two representatives per house for each category will be required. Should your son or daughter wish to participate, they should see Mr Harris in the Performing Arts office as soon as possible so that we can put their name down. Please note, putting their name down is not a guarantee that they will be participating, as we expect to be oversubscribed. As such, a random draw will take place to determine the successful students who will be contacted to confirm their participation next week.

We will be following all government guidelines regarding live indoor performances to ensure that the event can go ahead safely. We will be putting in the following measures for the event:

- All tickets are to be pre-booked by e-mail; there will be no charge for the event.
- Families are to be sat in 'bubbles' of no more than six people, distanced from all other audience members.
- There will be a smaller maximum capacity of audience members in the hall.
- There will be a one-way system for entering and exiting the hall, as well as in the hall itself.
- No refreshments will be sold on the evening – audience members are advised to bring drinks and light snacks with them if they wish.
- The piano will be wiped down between each performance.
- Participants are to be sat in the refectory during the event, in socially-distanced year group bubbles.
- Audience members must wear face coverings when entering the building, however these can be removed whilst they are seated.
- Hand sanitising stations will be available at several locations around the hall and in reception.
- There will be no entry to any audience members who have had potential symptoms of Covid-19 up to seven days prior to the event.

If you would like to read the full guidelines, you can find them here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/performing-arts>

As you will have read above, no tickets will be available on the door for this event. This is to ensure we know exactly how many people to expect in advance of the event, and allow us to

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configure the seating in the hall in order to allow for social distancing. As per governmental guidelines, tickets are limited to a maximum of six people per family (including children), although each family will be able to sit in a 'bubble' without the need for social distancing or wearing a face covering. If you would like to reserve tickets, please e-mail [mharris@st-martins.essex.sch.uk](mailto:mharris@st-martins.essex.sch.uk) specifying how many tickets you would like, by Friday 2 October.

We are very pleased that Mr David Pickthall MBE has accepted our invitation to return as our guest adjudicator for the event. With an extensive musical CV, David's knowledge, advice, support and humour proved invaluable to our talented musicians last year. Whilst this year's event will be very different for many reasons, we are re-assured that the high quality of adjudication will be very much the same.

Thank you very much in advance for your support and encouragement in our attempts to get music back on track again at St Martin's, in a year that has been extremely challenging for the arts industry as a whole. We do hope to see you at the event, and please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Harris  
***Head of Music***

Miss C Barrell  
***Head of House***