



THE MUSIC IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS TRUST  
*The Andrew Lloyd Webber programme*



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## **Violinist Nicola Benedetti announced as Patron of the Music in Secondary Schools Trust**



Today, 20 September 2016, the Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST) announces violinist Nicola Benedetti, as its new patron. This news comes ahead of a new, free of charge, Saturday School for Andrew Lloyd Webber Programme pupils which starts on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September.

As a patron of Music in Secondary Schools Trust, Nicola Benedetti will be instrumental in supporting the trust's commitment to providing classical music education to young people across London. Nicola will work closely with the Saturday School with full day workshops planned in early December. The Saturday School consists of students who have achieved grade 3 and above from the eight MiSST schools in the Andrew Lloyd Webber Programme. It will take place at New North Academy in Islington and will give the students the opportunity to play in orchestral and ensemble groups.

Nicola Benedetti is fiercely committed to music education and to developing young talent. In September 2015, she, along with 400 school children performed at MiSST's inaugural concert at The Barbican. Following this performance and being impressed by the achievement of the children, Nicola gave a dozen school children the opportunity of a lifetime to perform Vivaldi's Concerto in G Major, RV310 "L'estro Armonico" 3' with her at the Royal Albert Hall.

As a teacher and advocate of classical music, Nicola has formed associations with education establishments and charities including schools, music colleges and local authorities. In 2010 she became Sistema Scotland's official musical 'Big Sister' for the Big Noise project. In the

2013, she was awarded an MBE in recognition of both her international music career and work with musical charities throughout the U.K, and established her own music educational initiative in March 2013, called the Benedetti Sessions at Glasgow's City Halls. These masterclasses and workshops have been primarily designed to inspire and enthuse young musicians of all abilities and allow Nicola to work closely with hundreds of young players to rehearse and perform alongside her. Although based in the UK, Nicola has plans to continue to provide the Benedetti Sessions on an international platform.

Launched in 2013, the Andrew Lloyd Webber Programme began in two schools with aim of improving access to the arts for children and providing children the opportunity to study a musical instrument. After celebrating another successful year, the programme now provides 3,700 young people across eight London state schools with free classical music instruments and weekly group tuition.

Nicola Benedetti said:

“MiSST is a shining example of the impossible task of combining excellence with inclusivity. They are relentlessly ambitious in their desire to reach as many people as possible whilst consistently raising musical standards. Truda White is a force of nature and demonstrates what is possible. I am honoured to be associated with her and with this programme, and I look forward to working more closely with them all.”

Andrew Wolfson, Founder and Chair of MiSST, said:

“We are delighted that Nicola will be formally working with our students in supporting our Saturday Music School which aims to develop talented and motivated musicians who have been part of the Andrew Lloyd Webber programme. Her presence will inspire our young musicians and her attitude to practice and performance encourage the musicians to work to the highest standard at all times but also enjoy what they do.”

Andrew Lloyd Webber said:

“I am thrilled that Nicky has agreed to be the patron of the Music in Secondary Schools Trust. She has already been a huge inspiration to the students on the Andrew Lloyd Webber programme. Together we can nurture the talent of the future and bring the empowering force of music to a new generation.”

**ENDS**

### **Notes to editors**

- For images or further information on the Music in Secondary Schools Trust and the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation please contact Truda Spruyt at Four Colman Getty: [Truda.Spruyt@fourcolmangetty.com](mailto:Truda.Spruyt@fourcolmangetty.com) / 020 3697 4248
- Truda White (CEO, MiSST) and Pierce Brown (Director of Music, MiSST) are available for interview

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

- In April 2013, the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation pledged £1m to establish the Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST) in conjunction with the Charles Wolfson Trust. The 'Andrew Lloyd Webber Programme' of music education is 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.
- In September 2013, Lister Community School, Newham, became the first partner school and then in September 2014 were joined by Mount Carmel Roman Catholic School for Girls, Islington; Frederick Bremer School, Waltham Forest; Sedgehill School, Lewisham and the Arts and Media School, Islington. St Mary Magdalene Academy, Islington and New North Academy, Islington joined the scheme in September 2015. New North Academy is the first primary school to be part of the programme. In September 2016 Holloway School also joins the programme
- The number of participating students has risen from 1650 in 2014 to 3,700 in September 2016.
- 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 Nicola Benedetti**

- Nicola Benedetti is one of the most sought after violinists of her generation and a committed campaigner for music and arts education. In 2013 she founded the Benedetti Sessions, a workshop, rehearsal, masterclass and performance project designed to engage, challenge, inspire and nurture young musicians of all abilities. To date, the Sessions, with Nicola at the helm, has collaborated on projects with the Royal Albert Hall, The Cheltenham Festival, London Music Masters, Wigmore Hall, Glasgow Life/UNESCO, The Royal College of Music and a summer programme hosted by the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.
- 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. Winner of Best Female Artist at both 2012 and 2013 Classical BRIT Awards, Nicola records exclusively for Decca (Universal Music).
- The enormous success of *Homecoming; A Scottish Fantasy*, made Nicola the first solo British violinist since the 1990s to enter the Top 20 of the Official UK Albums Chart. 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 MBE in the 2013 New Year Honours, in recognition of her international music career and work with musical charities throughout the UK.
- Nicola plays the Gariel Stradivarius (1717), courtesy of Jonathan Moulds.