





The Haslemere International String Competition was launched by Ishani Bhoola in 2017 to give talented young string players an amazing opportunity to gain significant solo and chamber music concert exposure. The competition grew from being originally aimed at students living in South East England, to attracting talented young musicians from across the UK. During the pandemic the competition went fully online and now attracts global entrants. The next global competition will be held online in September 2022.



What are the aims?

The competition aims to give talented young string players a platform to showcase their talent and develop crucial performance skills and exposure to help further their fledgling careers. All finalists receive further opportunities to take part in professional concerts, and in 2023 the first prize winner will have the opportunity to perform a concerto with the London Mozart players at the Haslemere Festival.

During the competition element our judges, who are chosen for their extensive experience, also give extremely constructive and positive insight and experience, which can be a real boost to a young musician at the start of their career.

The Haslemere International String Competition is also one of the only competitions open to double bass performers.

What are the benefits to the young people taking part?

The Haslemere International String Competition gives young musicians a special insight into the professional career they could have, and equips them with a unique perspective and access to professional mentors.

The competition can also bring young performers to the attention of conservatoires and music colleges and is an acclaimed experience they can utilise on their applications. The rehearsals and performance opportunities the competition affords help further their performance abilities and resilience in what can be a competitive industry, and develops a professional attitude to the study and performance environment they are hoping to become a part of.

The competition is open to 11-20 year olds and offers a cash first prize of £1000 and second prize of £500. This can help to fund ongoing education, lessons, and instruments.



What do we need help with?

A global competition like this incurs significant costs including:-

- **Musicians/Accompanists** £450 a day
- **Judges fees** £300 a day
- **Venue costs** TBC but we are looking for venues that could support us in the UK and LA that have a piano
- **Prize money** £1500
- **Piano Tuning** £75 approx
- **London Mozart Players Concert Costs** up to £3000

Many of our accompanists and judges give us a preferential rate as they see the value the competition brings to the future of chamber and string music.

We are looking for individuals and organisations that could help fund any of the above components to help the competition continue and attract young talent to achieve their full potential.

*“The competition was a truly treasured experience
in my journey towards music conservatoire”*

Ketan Curtis, Winner, 2017

What are the benefits of supporting *The Haslemere International String Competition*?

Our sponsors will be recognised fully on our website, programmes and on any publicity material associated with the competition.

As a supporter of the arts and young people you will feel the benefit of knowing that your contribution is helping nurture the talented string performers of the future. The Haslemere International String Competition offers a vital stepping stone for young performers to experience working alongside professional performers and gaining expert critique from renowned professionals in the industry. By supporting the project financially, you are directly enabling the continuing appreciation and high standards set in the chamber music field.

“The competition was a very positive experience with a friendly, supportive atmosphere and useful, detailed feedback. I was thrilled to be selected as a finalist and I very much look forward to working with a professional musician for the forthcoming chamber music concert. I have learnt a great deal through the Haslemere String Competition, it is a brilliant opportunity for young musicians like myself!”

Imaan Kashim, Finalist, 2019



Additional Background

Competition Timeline

Videos can be submitted from May onwards and the deadline is the **13th August for all submissions**. Judging will then take place the first week of September.

The Waverley Ensemble

The Waverley Ensemble is a Surrey-based community project founded by Ishani Bhoola. It was created to bring high quality baroque music, performed by professional musicians in the area, to the local community. In addition to performing great music, a core element of the venture is to bring the local community together through a shared love of classical music. Out of this initiative the Haslemere International String Competition was born.

Ishani Bhoola

Ishani is the driving force behind The Haslemere International String Competition and the Waverley Ensemble, and co-ordinates many other music education projects including International Youth Orchestra Bridges.

Ishani studied at the Purcell School of Music and the Guildhall School of Music, winning numerous prizes and awards, including first prize in the 5th Sascha Lasserson Competition and has been a member of several international orchestras, including the London Philharmonic Orchestra and the English Chamber Orchestra in the UK, and Grant Park Symphony Orchestra of Chicago, Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra, the Pacific Symphony Orchestra, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the Los Angeles Opera in the US.

Ishani has also been in high demand as a freelance musician, playing with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, as well as playing extensively in the Los Angeles movie studios.

THE WAVERLEY ENSEMBLE





To find out more or offer support please get in touch

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