



Press Release
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High success rate for YYM leavers moving on to higher education

Eight youngsters who have spent the past few years studying every Sunday morning with **Yorkshire Young Musicians (YYM)** have secured offers to continue their studies next year at conservatoires and universities.

Four have secured places at the Royal Northern College of Music (including one scholarship); one is going to join the Popular Music Studies Course at Leeds College of Music, and three are going on to university.

Speaking about these achievements, Penny Stirling, Director of YYM, said:

“The fact that YYM has such a high success rate at preparing young people to study at Higher Education level proves that the rich mix of musical education we provide is just what they need. I am very proud of our dedicated young students, and the way they fit in their demanding musical studies alongside their regular school commitments.”

Amongst the students' achievements are the following:

Leeds College of Music

18 year old **Joseph Cox**, who comes from Pudsey in West Yorkshire and who has studied at YYM's Leeds centre since September 2008, has a reserve place on the Popular Music studies course at Leeds College of Music

Royal Northern College of Music

- 19 year old **Mattia Corda**, who comes from Raskelf in North Yorkshire and has studied at YYM's Leeds centre since January 2006, has secured a place on the BMus course to study Classical Guitar
- 18 year old **Duncan Fraser**, who comes from Ilkley in West Yorkshire and who has studied at YYM's Leeds centre since September 2008, will join the RNCM's BMus course in composition in September. He has declined a scholarship offered by Trinity College of Music
- 18 year old **James Hendry**, who comes from Hull and has studied at YYM since 2005, latterly at the Hull centre, has been offered, and accepted, an entrance scholarship worth £1500 to join the RNCM's BMus course to study piano.
- 18 year old **Liam Waddle**, who comes from North Duffield, Selby and who has studied at YYM's Leeds Centre since September 2006, will also be joining the BMus course to study piano at the RNCM.

Notes to Editors

1. Yorkshire Young Musicians (YYM) provides advanced training for exceptionally talented young musicians from all over the Yorkshire and Humber region, aged between 8 and 18. With **financial support from the government's Music and Dance Scheme**, YYM provides specialist (one-to-one) instrumental tuition and advanced general musicianship training to all who can benefit from it, regardless of their means. Students can get government support not only for their fees, but sometimes also for such elements as instrument and travel costs.
2. YYM has been running at its base at the Leeds College of Music since January 2005 and additionally at the Albemarle Music Centre in Hull since 2007.

3. YYM is overseen by a unique partnership comprising **Opera North, Leeds College of Music** and all sixteen **Local Authority Music Services** in the Yorkshire and Humber Region.
4. YYM's Director is **Penny Stirling**, who was formerly Director of the award-winning Junior Strings Project at the Royal Northern College of Music.
5. **YYM tutors** are carefully selected for their advanced teaching skills. Some are professional performers with Opera North and other organisations, some are on the teaching staff of colleges such as the Leeds College of Music or the Royal Northern College of Music, whilst others are selected from the highly experienced pool of teachers in the region's schools and music services.
6. There are currently **seventy-seven young people** from across the Yorkshire and Humber Region who are benefiting from YYM tuition.

For further information visit www.yorkshireyoungmusicians.org.uk or contact Penny Stirling: 01845 597627; info@yorkshireyoungmusicians.org.uk or Marian Blaikley: 0161 446 2225; marian@blaikley.co.uk