

## Proposed Access Agreement

### *Context*

The Guildhall School of Music & Drama is a major international conservatoire which provides training and education for young performing artists to the highest professional standards and in near-industry conditions. Admission is strictly on ability, following a rigorous audition and/or interview process designed to assess both attainment and potential. The School offers an audition and/or interview to every applicant who is able to meet the minimum entry standards.

In the 2004-05 session the School had 726.5 fte students, of which 134 were in acting and stage management, and the remainder in music:

	UK/EU	Overseas
BA Acting (3 years)	63	11
BMus (4 years)	309	43
BA Stage Management and Technical Theatre (3 years)	59	1
Other undergraduate	5	
MMus	149.5	86
Totals	585.5	141

Some 70% of UK admissions were from state schools. UK admissions represented 66% of the total student population. For the 2005-06 entry, the School considered some 2250 applications for 150 places, an application:enrolment ratio of 15:1.

The Guildhall School is owned, funded and managed by the Corporation of London but has recently applied successfully for designation as a directly-funded HEI; from 1 August 2006, therefore, it will receive public funding via HEFCE for the first time, phased in over four years. As a new entrant to the public sector, the School does not at present have HEFCE performance benchmarks assigned to it, but it has good reason to believe that its recruitment and selection procedures make it one of the most inclusive institutions in the conservatoire sector.

### *Fee policy*

Performing arts training is resource intensive and, inevitably, generates some of the highest unit costs in the HE sector. In order to maintain and develop the quality of our provision, and to improve the learning experience for students, the School proposes to

set its fee for UK and EU undergraduate students entering in and after 2006 at £3000 per annum. The resulting additional fee income is expected to be as follows:<sup>1</sup>

<b>Year</b>	<b>fte</b>	<b>Additional fee per fte (£)</b>	<b>Total additional fee income (£)</b>
2006-07	120	1800	216000
2007-08	240	1800	432000
2008-09	360	1800	648000
2009-10	438	1800	788400
2010-11	438	1800	788400

### *Bursary proposals*

The School has a long and distinguished record of supporting students throughout their studies through scholarships and bursaries. In 2005-06, over 200 students are receiving support to a total value of £1.239m. The majority of this support is restricted by the terms of the donation, and is awarded on merit in the form of scholarships. In line with sector averages, it is reasonable to expect that some 30% of the scholarships awarded to UK students will be to students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

In order further to strengthen our commitment to supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds throughout their studies, and thereby maximising their chances of success, the School will introduce a new bursary scheme for UK undergraduates commencing their studies in and after 2006-07, called the Guildhall Bursary Scheme. The value of the bursaries will be equivalent to 50% of the value of the English maintenance grant. However, in order to ensure that all UK undergraduate students will be treated equally, the method of calculation will be based on the household income thresholds and criteria of the English maintenance grant and the value of the bursary will be 50% of the amount that this calculation produces. As an example, a UK undergraduate student who is commencing his/her studies in 2006/07 and whose household income is up to £17,500 will receive a bursary of £1,350 (this being 50% of the maximum English maintenance grant of £2,700). This sum will include the School's statutory minimum contribution of up to £300. The School will administer the bursary through the Higher Education Bursary and Scholarship scheme.

The estimated cost of the new bursary scheme, and the proportion of additional fee income committed, is set out below:<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A fee of £3000 pa is in fact a reduction on the School's current fee of £4250 which is met by the DfES. This form of fee support will be phased out from 2006-07. Since the resulting funding shortfall will be largely covered by a HEFCE teaching grant, we have calculated the notional additional fee income on the same basis as for the rest of the sector, i.e. our proposed fee minus the standard fee (£3000-£1200=£1800) per head for all contracted undergraduate ftes. All projections are at 2005-06 prices, but sums will be increased annually to meet the obligations of this access agreement in full.

<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of estimating the cost, we have assumed that an average of 30% of the contracted UK and EU cohort in each year would qualify for a full bursary of £1350.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Additional income (£)</b>	<b>Estimated cost of bursary scheme (£)</b>	<b>Bursary cost as proportion of additional fee income (%)</b>
2006-07	216000	48600	22.5
2007-08	432000	97200	22.5
2008-09	648000	145800	22.5
2009-10	788400	178200	22.6
2010-11	788400	178200	22.6

### *Outreach*

The Guildhall School has an excellent record on outreach stretching back over several decades. The Junior Guildhall School provides high-quality instrumental and drama teaching to some 400 young people of school age, many of whom go on to study at a conservatoire and to enter the profession. The School also has a well-established music leadership programme which is a compulsory part of the undergraduate music curriculum and which delivers instrumental workshops in schools and communities across the UK and internationally. This work is now managed and delivered under the umbrella title ‘Guildhall Connect’ and has been awarded a Queen’s Anniversary Prize in 2005. A summary of current and recent projects is given in Appendix A.

As part of our commitment to embedding this work into the mainstream activities of the School, we will invest a proportion of the additional fee income from 2006 in two new established posts in the relevant department, a Deputy Head of Professional Development (60%) and a full-time Connect Project Manager. These posts will enable Guildhall Connect to extend its work to other parts of the UK, including Teesside, the east of England (in partnership with the Arts Council England), the south west, and overseas (in partnership with the British Council), and to introduce monthly sessions of one-to-one tuition and small group workshops in the School. We also plan to commit some £15000 pa to developing a young professional apprenticeship scheme. The combined cost of these initiatives is estimated at £70000 in a full year and increases the proportion of our additional income committed as follows:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Additional income (£)</b>	<b>Estimated cost of bursary scheme (£)</b>	<b>Estimated cost of additional outreach support</b>	<b>Total additional commitment (£)</b>	<b>Proportion (%)</b>
2006-07	216000	48600	25000	73600	34
2007-08	432000	97200	55000	152200	35
2008-09	648000	145800	70000	215800	33
2009-10	788400	178200	70000	248200	31
2010-11	788400	178200	70000	248200	31

In addition, the School will broaden its portfolio of summer schools, starting in 2006. The School has hosted a jazz summer school for several years, and we have recently reviewed the management and ownership of the jazz summer school in order to raise its profile and embed it more centrally into the work of the Guildhall School. From the summer of 2006, we will be introducing two new drama summer schools, one in Shakespeare and Contemporary Theatre, and one in Musical Theatre.

### *Milestones*

The position in music and drama is not symmetrical, and different considerations apply to each discipline. In the case of music, successive governments have severely reduced the amount of instrumental tuition available to young people at state schools and it would be foolish to suppose that the measures outlined in this access agreement will produce a rapid increase in admissions to music from under-represented groups: exceptional talent is by definition a rare commodity, and to attain the level of proficiency required to enter a conservatoire requires many years of intensive training from a very young age. We clearly face a long haul. The position in drama, particularly in acting, where previous training is not a major factor in the success of an application, gives much less cause for concern.

Given that admission to the School is determined strictly by ability, we believe that it is more rational to set milestones in terms of activity than to predict outcomes: it would be wrong to imply that the socio-economic profile of students could in any way constitute an input to the admissions process. Our milestones are therefore aimed at a) raising aspiration and removing obstacles to application from under-represented groups and b) ensuring that, as far as possible, no student who has received an offer of a place is prevented from taking up that place for financial reasons. We therefore see three broad phases of development which we expect to undertake over the next five years:

- a) we will embed the musical outreach programmes outlined above into the mainstream activities of the School by shifting the balance of funding away from short-term 'soft' money into longer-term recurrent funding, an example of which are the two additional posts and the apprenticeship scheme mentioned above. While we would expect this to produce some increase in the underlying baseline of our activities, the principal benefit will be to provide greater continuity and progression for young people on *Guildhall Connect* programmes;
- b) we will embed the jazz summer school into the mainstream activities of the School and introduce two new drama summer schools in 2006. Once the School becomes eligible to join an Aimhigher partnership and to receive funding via this route, we will seek additional ways of extending outreach work in the field of drama and technical theatre
- c) because HEFCE performance indicators are unlikely to be assigned to the School until the spring of 2008, we will, in the interim, generate our own participation measures using, as far as possible, comparative data available from the public domain. We will, in any case, approach HEFCE to establish whether the School, as a new entrant to the public sector, can be meaningfully benchmarked in advance of 2008. We will review annual progress against the

most robust benchmark we can establish by the start of the 2006-07 academic year, and we will study the implications of our performance against them and review what areas, if any, require improvement. We will then devise a strategy for delivering any necessary improvements. In any event we would expect, at the very least, to maintain and, if possible, to exceed in subsequent years the performance benchmarks established for 2006-07.

### *Communication*

We keep our means of communication with prospective students under constant review and have recently overhauled our website to improve the quality of information available to prospective students. We will use all forms of printed and electronic media – prospectus, web and information sheets for those coming for audition and open days – to advise prospective students of the full cost of their programme, the full range of financial and other support available to them from the School and elsewhere, and indicative costs of living and studying in Central London. This range of information will also be made available to participants on outreach programmes and summer schools.

### *Monitoring*

The School's Directorate will continue to receive regular reports on a range of performance indicators, and an annual report on the implementation of the agreement will be made to the Board of Governors for onward transmission to the Office of Fair Access.

BWI 15.11.05  
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## Appendix A – Guildhall Connect Indicative Projects and Reach, 2000-2005

Project	Year	People reached
Connect Ensembles	2002 - 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2250 aged 7-18 per year</li> <li>• 25 apprentices over 4 years</li> <li>• 130 Guildhall School students per year</li> </ul>
Lloyds TSB Note for Note	2005- 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30,000 aged 6-18 over 1 year</li> <li>• 40 trainees over 2 years</li> <li>• 20 Guildhall School students</li> </ul>
Ignite	2004 - 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 150 aged 6-16</li> <li>• 20 trainees</li> </ul>
Creative Partnerships	2004-2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 250 aged 6-16</li> </ul>
Schools placements	2000-2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 250 aged 6-18 per year</li> <li>• 250 Guildhall School students per year</li> </ul>
Wigmore Hall Chamber Tots	2000-2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 600 early years per year</li> <li>• 25 Guildhall School students per year</li> </ul>
Healthcare (Middlesex and Whipps Cross)	2000-2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 young patients per year</li> <li>• 20 geriatric patients per year</li> <li>• 25 Guildhall School students per year</li> </ul>
Newham EAZ	2004-2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 180 aged 5-7 per year</li> <li>• 10 trainee tutors per year</li> </ul>
Ghana	2004-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting placement of Guildhall School student</li> </ul>
Tanzania	2000-2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 Tanzanian musicians on CPD at the Guildhall School</li> <li>• 5 Guildhall School staff</li> </ul>
Madrid	2003-2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 160 aged 7-16 per year</li> <li>• 5 Guildhall School students per year</li> <li>• 5 Spanish higher education students per year</li> </ul>
MAP/making	2000-2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 Guildhall School students per year</li> <li>• 20 RCA students per year</li> <li>• 10 LCDS students per year</li> </ul>
Community Centre project	2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 young people from refugee community</li> </ul>
Social Exclusion (young offenders and prisoners)	2000-2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 young and adult participants</li> <li>• 5 Guildhall School students per year</li> </ul>
Creative Factory (Bath Festivals)	2002-2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80 aged 12-18 per year</li> <li>• 25 Apprentices over 4 years</li> </ul>
Globetown Festival	2000-2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 aged 10-16 per year</li> <li>• 15 Guildhall School students per year</li> </ul>
CPD training	2000-2004 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 per year on full time course</li> <li>• 50 on short courses</li> </ul>
Special Needs Projects (Phoenix and Richard Cloudsley Schools)	2000-2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 young people with special needs</li> <li>• 30 Guildhall School students per year</li> </ul>
Gambia Project	2002-2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 Guildhall School students per year</li> <li>• 20 Gambian musicians and dancers</li> </ul>
Philippines	2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 250 young people/adults</li> <li>• 20 Local musicians</li> </ul>
Israel	2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 250 young people</li> <li>• 15 Russian Immigrants</li> </ul>
Barcelona	2004-2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 young people</li> <li>• 10 young people with Special needs</li> </ul>