

## Cremona lutherie school moves and expands

CREMONA'S VIOLIN MAKING school, the Istituto di Istruzione Superiore Antonio Stradivari, has moved premises and introduced a new course for instrument makers. The school is now housed at the Palazzo Pallavicino Argazzi, which it shares with the Stradivari Foundation. The school's director, Giorgio Mordini, said: 'The new building gives us more space and more security. It is a better quality of environment for the students.' In addition to relocating, the school has introduced a new specialist music high school, with eight string players among its first-year intake of 24 students. Mordini said: 'I hope that having violin makers and string players studying in the same school will allow us to better understand each others' needs and aims.'



## Chilean strings project seeks aid

THE INTERNATIONAL VIOLA SOCIETY is leading an appeal for instruments and funds to help rebuild a community strings programme in Talca, Chile. The city is around 160 miles south of the capital, Santiago, suffered major damage in the country's devastating 8.8-magnitude

earthquake in June. The city's弦乐 community was hit hard, and much of the government and regional money that was earmarked for the arts has been channelled into reconstruction.

The strings programme began in 2008, offering free instruments and lessons to communities with some of the highest rates of poverty and unemployment in the country. Cardenas and Navarrete have also helped develop local youth orchestras involving 500 children.

## US fellowship gives UK string player free rein



AN AMERICAN CONSERVATORY has come up with a new approach to help young musicians further their careers. Bard College Conservatory of Music's artist fellowship scheme has been inspired by creative writing fellowships and emphasises the artists' personal development over what they bring to the music community. London-born violinist and violist Helena Ballie is the first artist fellow. She said: 'The programme offers an unusual degree of freedom, with a job description that says, "Be creative." Among her plans are to transcribe and learn the Schumann Cello Concerto for viola, produce an educational film on Paganini's 24th Caprice, and develop a workshop uniting folk and classical musicians.'

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both been recruited as jurors by competition chairman Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Anne-Sophie Mutter. 'What I like the most is what will be her first ever appearance on a competition judging panel.'

■ **THE AMERICAN VIOLA SOCIETY (AVS)**

is offering free sheet music of violin scores.

The collection includes works for violin, viola and music by US composers such as Charles Martin Loeffler, Theodore Thomas and Maurice Gardner as part of the AVS's American Viola Project. The

scores are available to download at <http://americanviolasociety.org/resources/scores>.

■ **VIOLINISTS CONTESTING next year's**

Tchaikovsky Competition in St Petersburg

will have some very stary names to impress.

Maxim Vengerov and Vadim Repin have

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