

school, spent most of June in the disputed territory after his Palestine Piano Project was chosen as one of six proposals to receive funding under the scheme, which supports innovative summer educational and artistic residencies.

Laude gave lessons, masterclasses and performances in association with the local Al Kamandjâti Music Days Festival and Summer Camp. The project was intended to introduce a piano element to the musical environment already established by the Al Kamandjâti Association, which offers instruction and performance opportunities for musicians who play Western orchestral and traditional Arabic instruments.

The daily schedule included studio classes, ensemble classes, piano composition and improvisation classes, chamber music sessions and performances. Laude said the aim of the project was to help disadvantaged young musicians to experience the joys and

rewards of piano playing. Other projects funded this year included a visit to Kenya by woodwind quintet Trade Winds, a series of fundraising concerts in Japan to aid the ongoing tsunami relief effort, and the Nehemiah Project, an attempt to bring together young artists in the inner city of Cleveland.

US

Biss to launch Curtis classes

Pianist Jonathan Biss will give a free online Beethoven tutorial later this year as part of a new series launched by the Curtis Institute of Music.

In February, the Philadelphia-based Curtis Institute announced that it was to become the first music conservatoire to offer an online course platform in partnership with online education specialist Coursera. With more than two million users, Coursera offers classes from top universities and

to connect with students and lovers of music on a scale I never imagined was possible. As much as I cherish the one-on-one interaction I have with the students within Curtis's walls, I find this opportunity to share that experience with people the world over incredibly exciting.'

BELGIUM

New building for Queen Elisabeth Chapel

Belgium's Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel has started work on a new building that will almost double the size of its facilities and allow it to provide 2,500 extra coaching hours per year.

Founded in 1939, the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel provides high-level musical tuition to students across five disciplines, aiming to help bridge the gap between student and professional life. The school's 'masters-in-residence' include Portuguese pianist Maria João Pires, who provides coaching for students in the piano discipline.

In 2004, the school announced an ambitious expansion of its facilities. At that time, it was providing residencies to 12 musicians, offering each of them a full-time live-in study room equipped with a piano. Now, a total of 57 students are enrolled at the school. Currently, most of them attend on a non-residential basis, but the new building will add an extra 12 residential studios, bringing the total to 24.

'The new building will extend our facilities with studios, teaching rooms, rehearsal and recording space and a concert venue that seats up to 150 people,' said Bernard de Launoit, president of the Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel. 'The concert hall is a flexible studio space that can accommodate a chamber orchestra, recitals, CD recordings and workshops.' The school is hoping the new hall will help it to double the number of concerts it will host.

The new facility will complement the school's existing 1930s art deco building. The institution is currently in talks with piano manufacturers about supplying instruments for the new studios, bringing its total number of pianos to around 30. The building is expected to cost €8m and is scheduled for completion at the end of 2014. 🎵



professors online for free. Its model combines traditional learning principles with video lectures, interactive content and a global community of peers, offering free learning opportunities for students around the world.

Curtis will offer two pilot classes during the 2013-14 season. The first, Exploring Beethoven's Piano Sonatas, will be hosted by Biss, a former student at the Curtis Institute and now the school's Neubauer Family Foundation Chair in Piano Studies. The video will explore Beethoven's 32 piano sonatas, focusing on the pianist's decade-long Beethoven recording project and his upcoming CD release on the Onyx label.

Biss said: 'As a musician, whether I'm performing, rehearsing, teaching, or even just listening, my greatest joy – the whole point, really – is in sharing music. Now, through Coursera, I have the opportunity