

# *Digital Reporter*

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR OUR DIGITAL REPS - JANUARY 2022



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## **Dr June Fileti**

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### **Welcome**

*Hello and welcome to our new **DIGITAL REPORTER**,  
ISoM's first monthly magazine for  
Digital Examination Reps worldwide.*

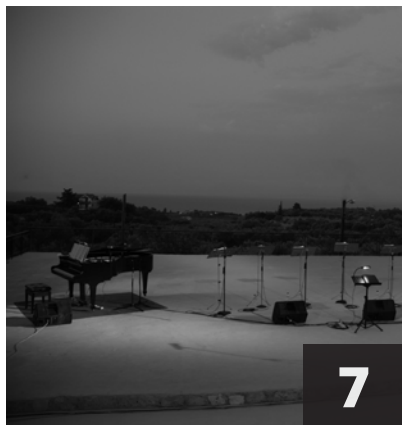
*ISoM is the digital partner of London College of Music  
Examinations (LCME), and provides the platform for  
LCME's music, performing and creative arts exams  
to take place across the world.*

*ISoM began in September 2019, pre-pandemic, and allows  
complete flexibility for candidates worldwide wishing to take  
their exams on a date or time of their choosing, during any  
season, in or outside school term dates.*

*I welcome you wherever you are to this  
new initiative and the ISoM family.*

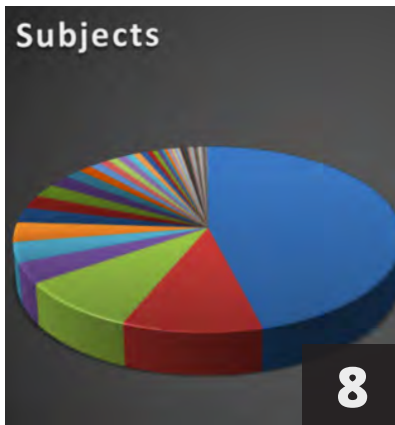
*June Fileti*

# Contents



## What is Digital Reporter?

An introduction to ISOm's first issue of Digital Reporter.



## ISOm News

*Key figures*

Some interesting statistics about our exams. Find out the most popular instrument and those increasing in popularity.



## Palestine in Depth

*A new centre in Ramallah*

There was a ray of hope in the Middle East. A vibrant new Centre was founded in Ramallah by the eminent jazz viola player Samer Rashed, and LCME has teamed up to be the official exam board.



## Winter Wonderland

*An online winter concert*

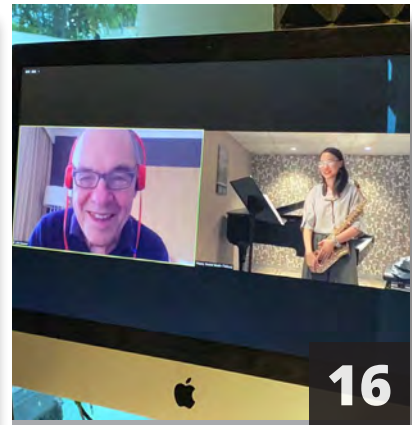
ISoM wanted to brighten the season with an online winter concert. We received 273 responses with over 400 videos.



## Recorded Exams

*Top Tips*

Here are some top tips for sending in files of recorded exams to ISoM's platform.



## Live Online Exams

*Top Tips*

An online exam is the nearest you can get to a live face-to-face experience. Here are a few pointers towards making the most of your online exam.



Photo: *Ionio Classical Music Festival, Zakynthos, Greece*

# What is *Digital Reporter*?

- A monthly update for our digital reps abroad. The content will feature inspiring stories from reps in Centres around the world, focusing mainly on pupils, teachers, and events in which you can take part (see your amazing response to Winter Wonderland in this issue). The magazine also contains essential information to help you, your teachers and your students, and the extending ISoM network.
- We want to hear your ideas as well on a range of topics, from helping you grow your business, to interesting personal stories of pupils taking exams. We also explain the depth and breadth of LCM exams, from Early Learning to Teaching Diplomas, from Piano and Violin to Pop Music Vocals, and from Drum Kit to Electronic Keyboard. Tell us what you want to read about.
- We encourage you to send in letters for publication. Digital Reporter would very much like your feedback and contributions.

# *ISoM News*

ISoM covers 89 countries and six continents.

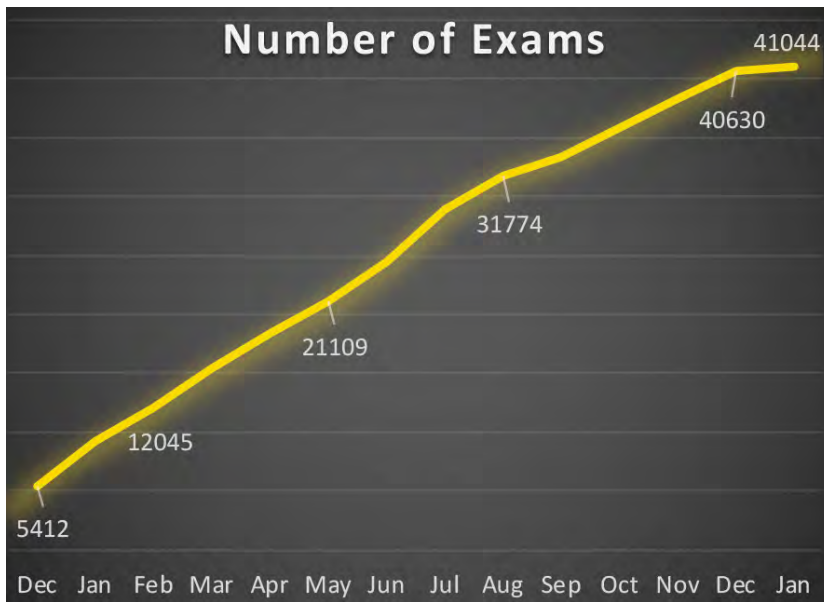


## **New Centres**

We have a wonderful array of new centres from Palestine (see Centre news in this issue), Botswana, Zambia, Antigua and Barbuda to Zimbabwe, Laos, Paraguay, Ecuador, USA, and Switzerland.

These new initiatives join the old and well established Centres in Hong Kong, Macau, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Peru, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Malta, Greece, Italy, Vietnam, Cambodia, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Turkey, Indonesia, Brunei, and the Philippines.

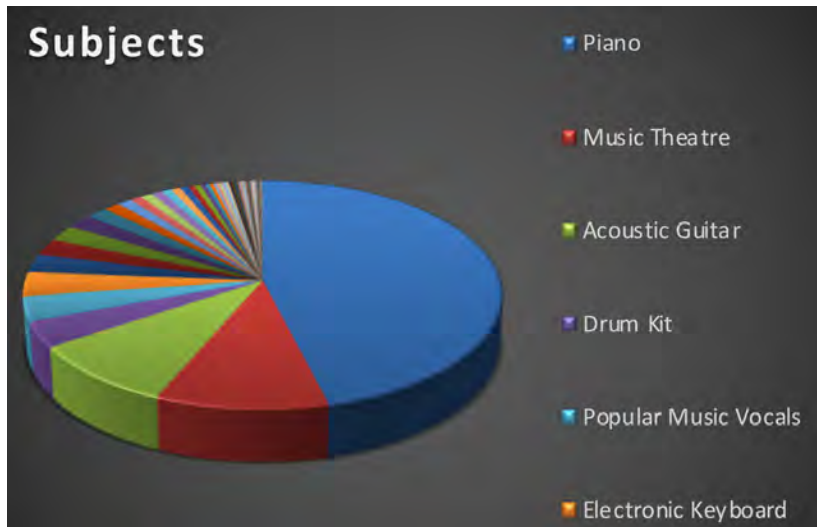




*Digital Exams continue to grow from strength to strength*

### How many exams have been taken in a year?

We have crunched the numbers and worked out that 41,000 exams, recorded and online, have been taken since December 2020!



### The most popular?

Piano, Music Theatre, Acoustic Guitar, Electronic Keyboard, Classical Singing, Speech and Drama, Pop Music Vocals, Irish Traditional, and Drum Kit.

Unusual instruments have also joined the ISO M family, and we have heard many contributions from Accordion, Double Bass, Viola, Oboe, French Horn, Tin Whistle and Concertina. And that's in addition to all our more usual exams in Jazz, Harp, Violin, Flute, and Classical Guitar.

# PALESTINE IN DEPTH: NEW CENTRE IN RAMALLAH

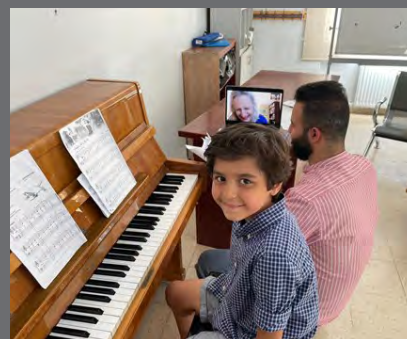
**SAMER RASHED, THE EMINENT JAZZ VIOLA PLAYER,  
FOUNDED A NEW CENTRE IN RAMALLAH**



Above and right: Samer Rashed

Amidst the mayhem of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the recent conflict in Palestine, there was a ray of hope in the Middle East, writes Anne Inglis. An extraordinary new Centre was founded in Ramallah by the eminent jazz viola player Samer Rashed, and LCME has teamed up to be the official exam board. Exams in violin, piano and classical guitar were taken by nine children, and there will be many more as the Centre expands and establishes itself. All candidates showed promise and did well.

Samer, who travels from Jerusalem to Ramallah to teach, has bought a piano for the Centre. The children were sharing violins.



Photos of the children during their exam: Courtesy of Samer Rashed

Some, especially siblings, were practising and performing on different sized instruments, various ages and sizes. As any string teacher will know, this is difficult for good posture, intonation, and progress.

ISoM got in touch with the British Violin Making Organisation, a body of leading contemporary makers, based in the UK, but with members from all over the world

<https://www.bvma.org.uk>

The BVMA, a centre of excellence and repository of violin making know-how, came to the rescue of Samer and his young violinists in a multi-pronged approach.

# PALESTINE IN DEPTH: NEW CENTRE IN RAMALLAH

**VIOLINS RESTORED IN THE UK, SENT TO PALESTINE. FREIGHT COST COVERED BY ISO M**

Through a pyramid of contacts, a key member of the BVMA, Colin Garrett (born in Palestine, so keen to help) put us in touch with The Soundpost [www.thesoundpost.co.uk](http://www.thesoundpost.co.uk), a wholesale violin distributor of stringed instruments. The operations manager there, David Henshaw, gathered up four slightly damaged violins in different sizes, their bows and their cases.



David Henshaw

Again, through Colin's input, one of the leading instrument makers in the country, Kai-Thomas Roth, agreed to repair these. The four instruments quickly became five as Kai took another violin into his workshop, and kindly donated it to Samer's cause.



Colin Garrett



Kai-Thomas Roth

The five instruments were restored, the pegs made to fit and work more smoothly, the sound post positions corrected, each was given a new bridge, and Kai fitted the new strings kindly donated by Colin. The violins were returned to The Soundpost for sending to the Centre. The freight charges were paid for by ISO M.

Photos of the children during their exams: Courtesy of Samer Rashed



Everyone responded quickly and efficiently, and with kindness. It is a good news story to start 2022. Thank you to everybody who helped.





Day 1



Day 2



Day 3



Day 4



Day 5



Day 6



Day 7



Day 8



Day 9



Day 10



Day 11



Day 12

# Winter Wonderland 2021

***Embracing inclusion and celebrating diversity, more than 800 performers were featured at ISoM's Winter Wonderland 2021. Thank you for taking part!***



In October, after the clocks changed in the UK and the length of the days shortened, we emailed all the digital reps with a request. We wanted to brighten the season with an online winter concert, and we asked for videos of children performing music with a winter theme. We also sent a link containing free music resources to music in the public domain.

ISoM received 273 responses with over 400 videos. Such was the quality, the interest, the enthusiasm of the teachers and students, and the varied instruments, choirs, costumes, and ensembles, that it was possible to create 12 films to represent the 12 days of Christmas.

The World Premiere was on 12 December 2021 at 11 am GMT, and a new video then appeared at 11 am GMT every day until 23 December.

A new playlist has been launched. You can find it on the link below:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3Till6MJZLipeyJW23IijeZrYWbHAUKX>

All performers will receive a digital certificate for their contribution.

The resulting films may be used to market your contributions for future students.

*When you click on the description on the YouTube video for each day you can find the names of the performers and the timestamps for their performance.*



# Recorded Exams

HERE ARE SOME TOP TIPS FOR SENDING IN FILES OF RECORDED EXAMS TO ISoM'S PLATFORM.



IVOR FLINT

## Before you begin recording:

- Check your sound and video
- Play a phrase or scale with crescendo and diminuendo
- Play a range of notes: lowest, middle, and highest
- Play some staccato notes (pizzicato for strings)
- Play some loud notes followed by soft notes
- Play some soft notes followed by loud notes

This should give you a good sound test and you can adjust your volume and balance controls to cover the range of your instrument and dynamics.

## Check the camera:

- Is the lighting too dark or too bright?
- Can your face and hands be seen clearly in the shot?
- For Music Theatre and Drama, check that any areas you move to are in shot
- Is the image in focus?

Check that everything is working and when you test the playback on your video recording device, it looks and sounds clear.

When you have finished each video, save it with your name, grade, the title of each piece and the composer on each video.

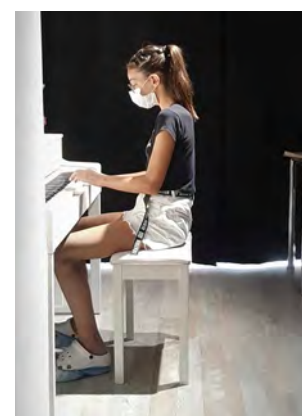
If you have awkward page turns, you can use a photocopy.

Check that your music is firmly on the music stand, so it won't fall off in the middle of your recording.

Check for pets and family members - you don't want to be interrupted when you're playing for your exam recording.



Photo: Onur Arslan, North Cyprus rep. Basak Sanart Drama ve Muzik Merkezi



# Recorded Exams

MORE TIPS FOR SENDING IN FILES OF RECORDED EXAMS TO ISO'S PLATFORM.

Remember that you must play each piece (or movement) in one continuous take (no editing is allowed).

Where Technical Work must be played from memory, write the name of each scale/arpeggio on a list, and announce each one clearly before you play, or you can have someone read out each one for you.

You can add your Discussion as a separate video, or at the start or end of the piece it relates to. Again, you may have someone read out the questions for you to answer.

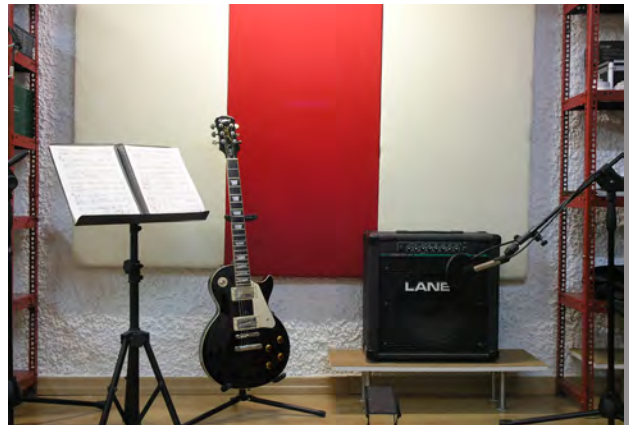
You are recording a performance, so aim to be expressive. Think about what you want to communicate through the music and play your best, and always aim to enjoy your performance.



Photo: Onur Arslan, North Cyprus rep. Basak Sanart Drama ve Muzik Merkezi



Photo: Anthony Chong courtesy of Happy Sounds Music



# Live Online Exams

## MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR ONLINE EXAM



ANNIE BULL

*The nearest you can get to a live face-to-face experience.*

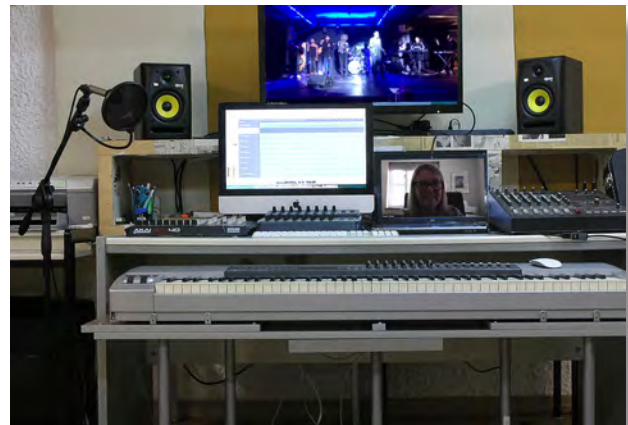
As with a face-to-face exam, the event is about you and your performance and your audience. The examiner listens, takes notes, and gives you a mark. It is live, with many of the same experiences as in an exam room, where the examiner is a few feet away, observing and making his or her conclusions about the performance.

The exam is conducted according to the same format, standard and regulations as it would be in a live exam room.

*Here are a few pointers towards the best possible experience:*

- You can choose the time and day for your exam. Bear in the mind the time zone, so if you are booking a singing exam, for example, from a country with an 8-hour time difference, make sure the time is convenient for you, the candidate, and we sort out the rest.
- You will receive a connectivity call before your exam from a member of the ISoM team, covering technical aspects of the Internet, especially sound, and answers to any additional questions. In due course you will receive a Zoom link and the examiner invites you to a Zoom meeting.

*Exams... in South Africa*



*... in Germany*



*... in Zambia*





# Live Online Exams

## MORE ON MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR ONLINE EXAM

- You need to make sure that your device is easily viewed from your place of performance as the screen is used by the examiner to share additional tests such as sight-reading, chord chart (guitars), improvisation (Pop Music Vocals), and similar. As soon as the test finishes the examiner stops the share and the device reverts to the interactive video setting.
- It's a live exam so make sure your instrument is properly tuned.
- The examiner needs to be able to see your performance, your hands, your instrument, and the room.
- The examiner, as in a face-to-face exam, wants to enjoy the process, and is not there to make you nervous.
- All aspects of the exam (scales, pieces, questions, sight-reading, aural tests) are included.

Enjoy the experience!



... in China. Photos: Anthony Chong courtesy of Happy Sounds Music.





## Lockdown

- Don't let Lockdown hold you back! We are looking at ways in which to support you. Let us know how we can help.
- You can use music from other OFQUAL accredited exam boards for additional flexibility.
- Why not enter an exam in a different subject? Have you thought of taking up a less popular instrument and making a splash?



Photo: Free image stock torange.biz Creative Commons Attribution 4.0

## Next Issue

We are featuring Chinese Lunar New Year in February to celebrate this wonderful occasion with our partners throughout the world. As we did with Winter Wonderland 2021, we are creating an online concert to celebrate the Year of the Tiger.

All information to follow.

**新年快乐**

*Xin nian kuai le!*

Quick & Easy



## Information Box

- 1 **Where can I find out more information about digital exams?**  
<https://www.internationalschoolofmusicians.org/lcme-digital-exams>
- 2 **How do I book an online or recorded exam?**  
 Read about the process of booking and preparing for online and recorded exams at:  
<https://www.internationalschoolofmusicians.org/live-online-exams>  
<https://www.internationalschoolofmusicians.org/recorded-exams>  
 where there are comprehensive candidate guides.
- 3 **Where can I send my suggestions for Digital Reporter?**  
 Write in to our ISoM Letters column with Digital Reporter as a subject title at:  
[enquiries@internationalschoolofmusicians.org](mailto:enquiries@internationalschoolofmusicians.org)  
 Send us your news for regular Centre updates
- 4 **Can I have my Centre featured?**  
 Yes! Just send pictures and information to  
[enquiries@internationalschoolofmusicians.org](mailto:enquiries@internationalschoolofmusicians.org)

# ISoM ESSENTIALS



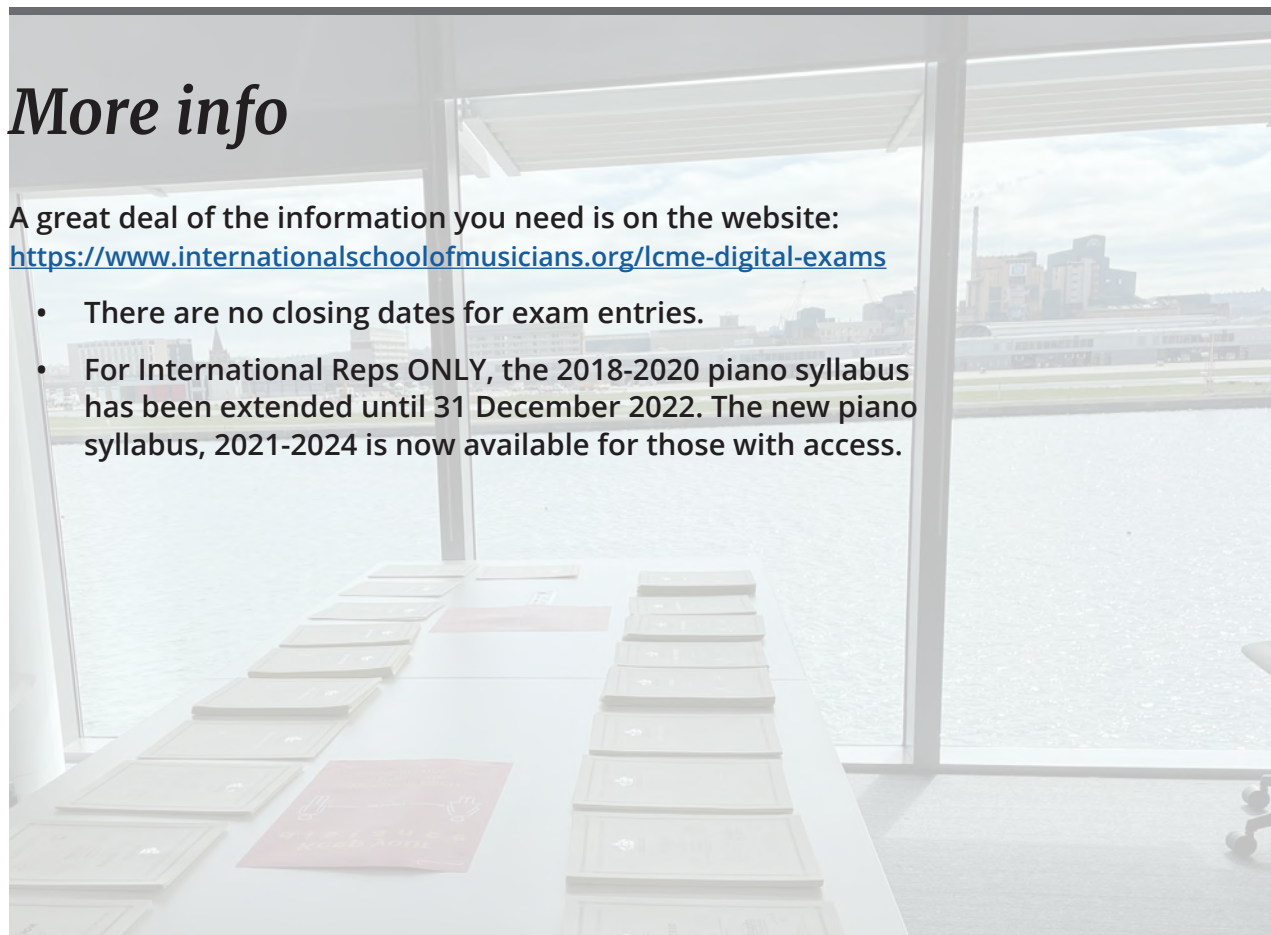
.....  
*The ISoM team is made up of six members of staff. Any one of the team will quickly respond to queries through the email address: [lcme.online@internationalmusicians.org](mailto:lcme.online@internationalmusicians.org)*

.....  
*The contact is email only but video calls are always available.*

## More info

A great deal of the information you need is on the website:  
<https://www.internationalschoolofmusicians.org/lcme-digital-exams>

- There are no closing dates for exam entries.
- For International Reps ONLY, the 2018-2020 piano syllabus has been extended until 31 December 2022. The new piano syllabus, 2021-2024 is now available for those with access.



# Meet the ISoM Team!



**Zainub Patel**

*ISoM Team Leader*



**Amanda Gupta**

*Service Coordinator*



**Sharon Ray**

*Service Coordinator*



**Pavlos Kapralos**

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**Shazina Begum**

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**Natalia Raczowska**

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