



The Music Department
at Mayfield

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has a long tradition of choral and instrumental music of the highest calibre, both within the school and through its links with the wider community. Cornelia Connelly, our foundress, was committed to the creative and performing arts: she saw music and drama as intrinsic to a balanced and Catholic education; providing a valuable and complementary stimulus to other areas of School life. We want the Department to be a dynamic, creative and stimulating environment. It is committed to achieving the highest standards in academic and practical music, and to ensuring that the girls take with them, when they leave, not only a knowledge, but a love of music. Old Cornelians continue to enjoy and participate in a range of musical endeavours, long after they leave Mayfield.



We are looking for an inspirational, dynamic individual with the vision to lead the Department forward at this exciting time in the School's development.

Teaching

Teaching takes place in the purpose-built Music School that is well-equipped with instruments and technology. The teaching of the Department is supported by seventeen Visiting Music Tutors providing individual tuition and coaching, covering a wide range of instruments. Over half of the School is involved in extra-curricular music of some form. The Department is always happy to support girls who wish to learn new instruments and will endeavour to source reputable teachers for them.

Academic Music

In Years 7 – 9, all girls follow our own programme of Composition, Listening and Performing. At GCSE, they study the AQA specification and at 'A' Level, the Edexcel specification.

Although examination groups are small, most candidates achieve A*/ A grades or, just as importantly, higher grades than might have been expected. In past years, students have gone on to read music at Oxford, Yale, Manchester and Cardiff and others have gained places at Trinity College, London; the Royal Northern College of Music and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music. In the past three years one candidate has gained a Repetiteur Scholarship at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge and another an Organ Scholarship at Jesus College, Oxford.

In the last academic year, eight students gained ABRSM Grade 5 Theory, the majority with Merit or Distinction.

Instrumental Music

Instrumental music has continued to thrive with over 150 lessons taught each week. Pupils take examinations of all the main music boards, consistently achieving excellent results from Grade 1 to Diploma level.



The Department believes that public performance is key and the School has a Chamber Orchestra, a String Group, a Flute Trio, a Flute Ensemble, a Recorder Ensemble, Baroque group and small string and wind groups. We would like to encourage more girls to start up their own groups.

Girls have the opportunity to perform at Orchestral Concerts, smaller, more intimate Teatime Concerts, School events such as Live Crib and Mayfield Day and the School's

Choral Music

The two main choirs, Schola Cantorum and Chapel Choir are central to the ethos of the School and the School is renowned for its choral singing. We are keen to diversify the range of opportunities for choral singing available to the girls.

Schola Cantorum regularly sings in venues such as Westminster Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral, Southwark Cathedral and further afield: St Peter's, Rome, St Mark's, Venice, the Menin Gate and York Minster. Schola recently performed Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 and Handel's Messiah with the Mayfield Festival Choir, the Orchestra of the South Bank and the Royal Academy Baroque Orchestra.

Chapel Choir provides music for Mass on every Sunday of term and other liturgies.

They undertake outside engagements, most recently at the Oxford Oratory.

We have recently introduced an Organ Scholarship, available to students wishing to enter the Sixth Form. The successful candidate is expected, among other things, to be involved in the liturgical life of the School, playing at masses and liturgies; to gain experience in conducting and to organise small group performances.



Mayfield Festival and TWIYCA

The School has been involved with Mayfield Festival (which now includes the Competition formerly known as the *Tunbridge Wells International Young Concert Artists' Competition*), since its inception. It attracts performers, adjudicators and contestants of international reputation and the School is proud to host them. The girls are encouraged to take part in these events, both as audience and being involved in performances, thereby gaining invaluable experience. (They were complimented by the organiser on their excellent contribution as page-turners). Girls regularly sing as part of the Mayfield Festival Choir, and we are looking forward to build on our involvement in this area of the creative life of the School.

Master Classes and Coaching

The School is very fortunate in being able to call upon leading musicians for advice concerning University and Conservatoire entrance.



These have included Thomas Trotter, Alexander Crowe, Jeremy Summerly and Oxbridge Organ Scholars. Since our involvement with TWYCA, it is expected that the competition winners will return to offer workshops for Mayfield students.

The Music Department at Mayfield has also provided workshops and opportunities for local primary and prep schools to join together in choral and instrumental performances.

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