

MUSIC AT ST GEORGE'S COLLEGE

The College enjoys a fine international reputation for the excellence and variety of its music. The Music Department comprises the Director of Music (Richard Quesnel, 2017), two further full-time staff, one of whom is Head of Academic Music (Andy Barton, 2010), twenty-four visiting teachers and a part-time Music Administrator. The full-time members of music staff teach throughout the College with a varied timetable that incorporates all years and the peripatetic staff offer tuition in all disciplines in addition to singing (changed and unchanged voices), organ and harp. Several teach both within the College and the Junior School which is located about one mile away in Weybridge.

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Music plays a prominent part in the school's life and is keenly supported by pupils, members of staff and parents. The Department houses a Recital Room (seating up to 120), and a large classroom equipped with 24 PCs running Sibelius, Cubase, and Audacity as well as access to 24 keyboards. There are several small study/teaching rooms, eight practice rooms (each with a piano/clavinova) and store rooms with lockers for pupils to store their instruments. The Department also has its own Gamelan, Samba Kit, set of African Drums, Roland digital harpsichord, and staff offices. Large scale choral and orchestral concerts take place in the College Chapel (seating 800) which houses a three manual organ by Hugh Banton (installed in 1999) and a Yamaha C7 Grand Piano. The Parents' Society actively supports the music making and recent funding has covered projects including the purchase of a set of posture chairs for the Orchestra and a Recording Room, equipped with iMac and professional microphones.

CHORAL MUSIC

Choral and liturgical music is a core long-standing part of the school's tradition and the choirs enjoy an outstanding international reputation in this regard. Performance opportunities for pupils are varied and numerous with several choirs catering for changed and unchanged voices of all ages. The College Chamber Choir is an auditioned ensemble; all other choirs are open to everyone, and all sing a wide and varied repertoire of music. The Chamber Choir has an active schedule which includes concerts within school, external engagements, recordings, broadcasts, and tours. Previous tour destinations have included America (East and West Coast), Belgium, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, and Spain; the 2016 tour is a 10-day trip to California (6 concerts in LA, Santa Maria to perform at our Josephite school, St Joseph's High School, and San Francisco). The Chamber Choir was the 2012 BBC Songs of Praise School Choir of the Year and Barnardo's Senior School Choir of the year. In December 2015 the choir won the Eagle Radio Carol Competition, and most recently the choir has won a place in the Semi-finals of the 2016 BBC Songs of Praise School Choir of the Year Competition. The choirs released their first CD in December 2010, *I am the Day* which sold out in 3 weeks and raised over £7000 for the Josephite mission in the Congo. Since then they have recorded 3 further discs, releasing the most recent one in November 2015, *Follow that Star*. In addition to termly concerts there is an annual choral concert combining the school choirs with the Parent Choir and recent works include Handel's *Messiah*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Poulenc's *Gloria* and Monteverdi *Vespers (1610)*, with period ensemble. Recent choral workshops have included leading international figures including Ken Burton, Edward Higginbottom, and Bronwen Mills.



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC



Over 250 pupils take individual instrumental/voice lessons each week and there are numerous ensembles which instrumentalists participate in including a String Camerata, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Symphony Orchestra, and several other chamber groups some of which are run by peripatetic staff. A number of rock groups flourish within the department thanks to specialist tuition offered through our Rockshop programme and the College also offers Grade 5 theory classes, training for aural examinations and Alexander Technique.

Pupils are encouraged to participate in an ensemble as soon as they are able to, and many run their own groups and rehearsals. To support this, the College has an extensive concert schedule over the course of the year, including performances at the end of term, services of worship, community projects, the Lunchtime Live series, Inter-House Music Competitions, workshops and masterclasses with musicians such as Ian Clarke, The Harpham String Quartet, and the Zephyr Ensemble.

MUSIC IN THE CURRICULUM

Music is a core-subject in the first three years with Years 1 and 2 (NC Years 7 & 8) receiving two lessons per week and Year 3 (NC Year 9) having one lesson per week; beginner instrumental schemes operate in year 1 along with a semi-staged musical. The Lower School music course caters for musicians of all types. Topics range from African Music and Gamelan, to studies in Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Popular, Jazz and Film music. The course incorporates opportunities for performance, composing, music technology and developing listening skills. Pupils may opt to take Music for GCSE and A2 Level (OCR) and there is currently one set in each of the fourth, fifth and Upper 6th Form Years. Academic standards in music are good with all pupils attaining A*-B at GCSE and A-C at A-level. Every three years the school stages a full musical; in 2014 this was *Oliver!*

GEORGIAN MUSICIANS

Georgian pupils have successfully gained places in the London Schools' Symphony Orchestra, National Children's Orchestra, National Youth Choir, National Youth Jazz Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra and regional youth orchestras and choirs. In recent years pupils have won instrumental scholarships to the major conservatoires and universities both here and abroad, and Oxbridge Choral and Organ Scholarships. Many are now working within the music business themselves.



In May 2014 the College hosted the MMA music conference for teachers, during which a number of distinguished artists within the music profession including Ashley Solomon and Peter Stark worked with the children and music teachers from all around the UK.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

The College offers music scholarships to pupils at 11+, 13+ and 16+ who show promise and ability at interview through a practical audition and written test. All music scholars have a pupil and staff mentor and a personal learning programme which is designed and revised for them each academic year. There are currently 21 music scholars at St George's.

Further details on the music department can be viewed at: www.stgeorgescollegemusic.com

APPOINTMENT OF TEACHER OF MUSIC (JANUARY OR APRIL 2018)

Following on from the appointment of a new Director of Music in September and as part of its process of consolidating and strengthening the academic life of the school, St George's College wishes to make an appointment for a teacher of Music from January 2018. This appointment will carry with it a management responsibility point which will be based upon the strengths of the person appointed, suited to the department's needs.

The College is seeking a well-qualified and experienced musician and teacher to work within the department and contribute to the musical life of the School. The extent and scope of this position will depend on the individual strengths of the successful candidate, but particular emphasis will be placed on the level of experience in delivering to GCSE and A Level. Particular duties will include:

- Working in collaboration with the Director of Music and department to assess and review academic resources with a view to developing and renewing schemes of work
- Teaching a timetable of class Music throughout the College as appropriate (to include A-Level harmony and analysis)
- Liaising with the Director of Music concerning Music scholarship applications and mentoring a group of music scholars
- Coaching and directing ensembles as agreed according to candidate strengths
- Fostering good links with St George's Junior School
- Responsibility for an aspect of the music library
- Assisting with trips and tours
- Accompanying pupils
- Working with the Sinfonia Orchestra and other professional musicians for masterclasses and workshops
- Working within a team and sharing fully in the department's work and aims

The successful candidate will have an excellent honours degree in Music and have practical skills in Music equivalent to a Diploma level in their given instrument. Candidates must also have keyboard facility to support their instrumental and academic teaching in the classroom. They will be involved fully in the life of the Music Department and its programme of events, concerts and tours and will be warmly encouraged in any new initiatives they might like to bring to the post. Music is a central part of College life and the successful candidate will be able to encourage and confidently support pupils at all levels of ability, and to inspire pupils to excel in all aspects of their music making.

ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) To make a significant contribution to extra-curricular activities.
- b) The school has a House system and all staff are members of a House and expected to support its activities.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The salary will be dependent upon experience and qualifications.

The College participates in the DCSF Teachers' Superannuation Scheme.

The College adheres to the current statutory requirements for retirement procedures.

APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE

A completed Application Form and a brief covering letter, together with the details of two referees should be forwarded to the P.A. to the Headmistress, St George's College, Weybridge Road, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2QS or by email: headmistress@stgeorgesweybridge.com.

The closing date for application is noon on **Monday 16 October** and shortlisted candidates are likely to be invited for interview shortly after this date.

St George's employs personnel who are best qualified for the post without any discrimination in favour of race, colour, gender or national origin. All staff must be able to support the Mission Statement of the school.