



SOLIHULL



David Turnbull Music School

Appointment of
Head of Strings
(full-time)

for April or September 2018

The Music Department at Solihull School



The Music Department is a successful and vibrant part of Solihull School; a place where musical activity is thriving and wide-ranging, both in and out of the classroom. Many pupils are attracted to the school not just because of the academic excellence, but also because of the considerable opportunities that exist in the arts. Central to the work of everyone in the Music Department is a desire to encourage pupils to give of their best at whatever level they can achieve. The result is a large number of



pupils involved in musical activity of one kind or another, and very high quality in much of that activity, culminating in impressively high standards and wonderful energy. Choirs, orchestras and ensembles abound; the range of musical events is extensive. 450 instrumental/vocal lessons are given weekly. ABRSM and Trinity practical and theory examinations are held each term at the school and a number of pupils go on to take higher diploma performance exams. There is already much excellent music in Solihull School, but we are always looking at ways further to expand and enhance our provision



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Accommodation

The Department benefits from excellent accommodation in the David Turnbull Music School. This purpose-built building comprises twelve individual teaching/practice rooms, six rooms for the full-time Music staff, a Recital Room, Ensemble Room, three class teaching rooms (one specifically for Sixth Form teaching), an ICT suite with 25 Apple Mac computers running Sibelius 6 music software, a recording studio and a staff room. In 2015 the



school joined the prestigious Steinway Initiative, purchasing three new Steinway grand pianos and now regularly hosts events organised in conjunction with EPTA.

While most musical performances take place in the Music School, a significant number of large-scale concerts take place in the adjacent Bushell Hall. Some Junior School classes and rehearsals take place in the Junior School's Hall.

Academic Music

Academic Music is a strong and popular subject. All pupils currently receive two music periods per week from Years 3 - 8. Music is then part of the Year 9 options programme, with three periods allocated per week. Thereafter, pupils opt for GCSE and A Level - currently the AQA specifications are followed and results are strong. In Year 4 all the children have a year's group tuition on a string, wind or brass instrument.

Music in Performance

There are over forty musical ensembles meeting weekly, comprising vocal and instrumental groups including: six choirs, four orchestras, three wind bands, two flute groups, three saxophone groups, three clarinet groups, four brass ensembles and two guitar ensembles. In addition, there is a growing number of string, piano and wind chamber ensembles, and provision is made to support pupils' aural



and theory development. Some twenty concerts/recitals are given each year in a busy performance schedule, in addition to regular outside musical engagements. A programme of workshops and masterclasses by visiting professional musicians at various points during the year further enhances our pupils' musical development and outlook. A full-scale musical production is presented each year in conjunction with the Drama Department (such as *Joseph*, *Tommy*, *Carousel*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *Fiddler on the Roof*) with full orchestral support. The musicals are performed in the Bushell Hall – an excellent auditorium seating over 500 people, with full orchestra pit.

Chapel Choirs

Singing in the Chapel is strong. In addition to weekly chapel assemblies, our three Chapel Choirs sing in regular Sunday Evensong services during term time, with extra highlights being the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at Christmas and visits to Cathedrals to sing services (recently including St Paul's, St Alban's, Lichfield, Worcester, Gloucester and St George's Chapel, Windsor). In addition, one of the three choirs sings



a termly live broadcast on BBC Radio 4's 'Daily Service'. The vocal and all-round musical training the pupils gain from this is very special but, set in the context of a coeducational day school and term-time only commitments, allows the pupils still to have time to develop many other co-curricular skills in an academically thriving environment. All singers are encouraged to learn an instrument too, to complement their musical development.



Choral Outreach work

A termly choral outreach programme, entitled 'Solihull Sings', is run by the Head of Choral Music working with and bringing together Year 2 children from various local primary schools.

Pupil involvement in national/area ensembles and Festivals

A number of individual pupils are members of area and national music ensembles such as the National Youth Orchestra, the National Children's Orchestra, the National Youth Choir, The CBSO Youth and Children's Choirs, the Midlands Youth Jazz Orchestra. Each term pupils gain successes in local and area Music Festivals.



Pupils going on to further study in Music



We have a strong tradition of leavers going on to study Music at university or the principal music colleges in England, with many former pupils engaged in musical careers as teachers or performers. In particular, Chapel Choir members often gain Choral and Organ Awards at Oxford and Cambridge.

Music, Choral & Organ Scholarships

We are delighted to be able to award music, choral and organ scholarships and Instrumental Awards to pupils who are showing great musical potential or progress and display a real love of their music making. Further details are available in a separate booklet and on the school website.



Staffing

The Department comprises six full-time teachers (Director of Music, Head of Academic Music, Head of Strings, Head of Woodwind & Percussion, Head of Keyboard, Head of Choral Music), a part-time Head of Brass and a designated Technician. In addition, there is a team of nineteen self-employed visiting music teachers covering piano, organ, singing, guitar, percussion and all orchestral instruments. The successful applicant will therefore join a well-staffed and well-resourced department.

The Department enjoys a good team spirit in the pursuit of instilling a love of music in its pupils. It strives to help all pupils reach their full potential academically and to encourage them to achieve the highest possible standards in music performance. All teachers in the Music Department are committed to providing a friendly and supportive environment in which to work and achieve the above aims.

Applications

A completed application form should be sent to Hayley Miles, HR Manager, Solihull School, Warwick Road, Solihull, B91 3DJ (milesh@solsch.org.uk or recruitment@solsch.org.uk), **to arrive by no later than noon Monday 29 January 2018. Interviews will take place in the week beginning Monday 5 February 2018.**

Interested candidates are welcome to contact the Director of Music (Mr Tim Kermode) in advance of making an application if they have any further questions about the post. Tel: 0121 705 0958; email: kermode@solsch.org.uk .