



THE PORTSMOUTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

VISITING MUSIC TEACHER – PERCUSSION

OCTOBER 2019

The Portsmouth Grammar School is a leading co-educational school located in the historic heart of Portsmouth. The school is an IB World School and offers the IB Diploma alongside A Level.

We are looking for an enthusiastic and inspiring percussion teacher to join our team of talented and dedicated instrumental teachers and teach 1:1 lessons from beginner level to advanced level. There is currently a requirement for approximately 8 hours of teaching each week, with the potential and expectation for this to increase. Teaching will be available in both the Junior and Senior Departments.

Genuine enthusiasm for enabling each individual pupil to achieve their potential (at all levels) is essential.

There is an expectation that Visiting Music Teachers at PGS attend INSET training, for example in Safeguarding and Health and Safety.

Informal enquiries to the Director of Music, Mr Gareth Hemmings, are welcome at g.hemmings@pgs.org.uk

Background and Tradition

The Portsmouth Grammar School has a national reputation for the range and quality of its music making. The school's musical traditions are distinctive – as indeed also are those of the site that it occupies. Here once was a palace of Richard the Lionheart – patron of the mythical minstrel Blondel – and also the Portsmouth Theatre, where Paganini and Liszt performed. Haydn, a keen devotee of Nelson and the Royal Navy, lodged in the High Street, whilst giving a benefit concert for the Cathedral Organist.

Music at PGS

Music is central to the life of the school. The Music Department has a whole school approach and the highest of reputations within the school community.

Over 500 instrumental lessons take place each week and a large range of ensemble opportunities exist throughout the school. These include two orchestras, two string orchestras, a 75-strong concert band, two brass bands, a thriving selection of jazz ensembles, rock groups, numerous chamber ensembles and several choirs. These ensembles perform

throughout the year, ranging from intimate lunchtime recitals to large concerts performed at Portsmouth Cathedral or further afield.

The school enjoys a close working relationship with its associate musicians, the London Mozart Players with whom we collaborate annually through a variety of concerts and occasional recordings.

Choral Music

The school has a strong choral tradition and enjoys excellent links with Portsmouth's Anglican Cathedral of St Thomas where services and assemblies are held regularly; the majority of boy and girl choristers in the two choirs are pupils at PGS. A choral scholarship scheme at 13+ and 16+ enhances our choral provision and many former pupils have gone on to become choral scholars at university.

There is also a thriving GAP year scheme financed jointly with St Thomas's Cathedral, bringing choral and organ scholars for a year's work experience at the school.

The school has several choirs, ranging from close harmony ensembles through to the school's flagship ensemble, the Chamber Choir, and the Community Choir, formed of parents, staff and former pupils. Each year, the Chamber Choir performs a major choral work at the school's Gala Concert, accompanied by an orchestra of the school's most advanced musicians, and they sing evensong annually at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, with which the school enjoys historic links. They also sing at school services, perform regularly in the local community and have joined the Cathedral Choirs in BBC Radio and Television broadcasts as part of the international D-Day commemorations. Their recording of Christmas music, *Hodie!*, received glowing reviews in the national press on its release in Autumn 2014, including being listed as a Recommended Recording by the Royal Schools of Church Music. Since then, the choir has been invited to take part in two further recordings, one jointly with the choir of Winchester College and the other alongside the London Mozart Players. PGS Brass recorded a CD in July 2018. There are regular international tours by instrumental and vocal groups.

Instrumental Music

The String Scheme, which gives free lessons to all pupils aged 7 in the PGS Junior School is intended to provide excellence in string playing in depth in both the Junior and Senior Schools and has proved highly successful. In the Senior School, string playing is further supported through a busy chamber music programme, led by the Head of Strings.

Every year, there is a Chamber Music day where pupils work alongside visiting professional musicians. Recently our young musicians have worked with players from the LMP, Sacconi Quartet and the Maggini Quartet.

Each year, the school's most able instrumentalists join the London Mozart Players as part of the school's Remembrance Concert, playing side-by-side and taking the solo role in concerto performances.

Portsmouth is a naval city, and close links with the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines have, throughout the generations, also ensured an excellence in brass and wind playing which still continues, thanks to a Brass Scheme in the Junior School which supports a 40-strong Junior

School Brass Band and two similar sized bands in the Senior School. These bands tour every two years, most recently visiting Bavaria, Barcelona and Prague and Switzerland. The brass bands have worked with the Black Dyke Band, performing to an audience of over 600. They performed again with the Black Dyke Band in July 2018.

Jazz, rock and pop music continues to flourish at PGS. The Spring Concert is the annual showcase for these groups, many of which are run by pupils, and there are several charity concerts throughout the year. The school's jazz musicians enjoyed a day of workshops and a joint concert with the London City Big Band. Last year our vocalists worked with and performed with jazz vocalist, Anton Browne, and our guitar players benefited from a workshop with jazz guitarist Remi Harris. In June 2018 and June 2019 the Jason Rebello trio visited the school to work with our jazz ensembles and performed a joint evening concert.

There is an annual House Music competition, run entirely by pupils and involving hundreds of performers from all year groups both as soloists and ensemble members.

New Commissions

PGS has developed a national reputation for commissioning new works. A highlight in the school calendar is the annual Remembrance Concert, first held in St Thomas's Cathedral in 1997.

In 2001, the London Mozart Players became the school's Associate Musicians and as part of this Associateship, the PGS Chamber Choir and LMP have an ongoing programme of commissions by leading contemporary composers. The most ambitious commission in recent years was Jonathan Dove's powerful cantata *For an Unknown Soldier*, jointly commissioned with the London Mozart Players and premiered in Portsmouth and London. A recording was released in 2016.

Last academic year three new pieces were commissioned for the Chamber Choir by John Woolrich and a new *Missa Brevis* by Ola Gjeilo was premiered in November 2018. We have been lucky enough to work with inspiring conductors and choral trainers such as Dominic Peckham, Jonathan Berman and Ben Parry.

Music Theatre

Music Theatre is very popular at PGS. Over 120 pupils audition every year for the School Musical, which is held at the Kings Theatre in Southsea and supported by the whole school community. The production of Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* was hugely successful in 2017 and the production of *9 to 5* last November was nominated as best amateur production in the city's performing arts awards. This November's production of *Bring It On! Promises to be equally memorable.*

There are also opportunities to take shows to the Edinburgh Festival and for smaller-scale productions during the year. There is a large Music Theatre Club for the Middle School (Yrs 7-8) and the music department is always closely involved in the annual Middle School Production, which is often a musical.

Community Links

Links with the local community are paramount to the school and Music is integral to this. The school was a founding partner in creating the Portsmouth Festivities, a festival celebrating the arts and young people, based on the history and heritage of Portsmouth, in 2000.

The Festivities has grown into the city's premier arts festival, attracting significant support from local business, city partners and the Arts Council. Festivities projects led by the PGS Music Department have included Alexander L'Estrange's *Ahoy!*, commissioned for the Festivities to mark the opening of the Mary Rose Museum; an innovative project fusing Dubstep and Mozart; and joint performances with the Portsmouth Cathedral Choirs and the Portsmouth Music Hub, with which the school has a strong relationship.

Academic Music

Excellence in performance and composition is complemented by a thriving academic programme. Music is part of the curriculum for all pupils in Year 7 and 8 where projects develop pupils' skills in performance, composition, listening and appraising through practical experience of music from a wide range of cultures, traditions and genres.

Music is a popular option at Year 9 and a significant number of pupils go on to study music at GCSE, A Level and IB Diploma, achieving excellent results. There are regular concert trips, both to concerts at Portsmouth Guildhall and to venues in London.

Composition is popular amongst pupils. Each year aspiring A level composers are given the chance to work with musicians from the LMP to develop and workshop their ideas in collaboration with our associate composers, who have included Alexander Campkin and John Woolrich.

Former PGS pupils are currently studying music at the Royal Welsh Conservatoire, Oxford, Bristol and Nottingham Universities, University of Surrey (Tonmeister Course) and the Royal College of Music. They currently hold organ and choral scholarships at Christ Church Oxford and Merton College Oxford, and several pupils (including those studying other subjects) also hold University Instrumental Awards.

The Department and Facilities

Currently, the Music Department is made up of the Director of Music, the Assistant Director of Music, the Head of Academic Music, the Head of Keyboard, a part-time administrator and a GAP Year Assistant. There are 34 highly qualified Visiting Music Teachers.

In terms of premises, the Music School consists of the Rotunda (an intimate concert hall which is the venue for weekly lunchtime recitals, and houses a Steinway grand piano); two well-equipped classrooms; nine practice/teaching rooms; recording studio and technology suite. There is a separate suite of rooms for the string scheme, and there are further practice and teaching rooms on the Upper Junior School site.

Contract of Employment:

Instrumental teachers are self-employed and sign a consultancy agreement with the school.

How to apply:

PGS is committed to safeguarding children and the successful applicant will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure DBS check.

Further information is available on the website at www.pgs.org.uk under the 'About Us' section and any queries regarding the vacancy should be emailed to HR@pgs.org.uk.

An electronic application would be preferable, submitted to HR@pgs.org.uk. All applicants should complete a support staff application form, with a full curriculum vitae and a covering letter addressed to the Head, Dr Anne Cotton. Postal applications should be addressed to The Head, The Portsmouth Grammar School, High Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 2LN. Please include email addresses whenever available. All applications should be accompanied by the names, addresses, email and telephone numbers of two referees.

The closing date for receipt of applications is noon, 27th September 2019 and early applications are encouraged. Interviews are scheduled to take place w/c 30th September 2019.

September 2019