



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

FROM SEPTEMBER 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.

The school seeks to appoint an Assistant Director of Music from September 2019. The successful candidate will be an inspirational, dynamic and well-qualified musician with whole-class teaching experience, able to teach at KS3, GCSE, A Level and the IB. Prior experience of the IB Diploma is not required.

This role offers the opportunity for an experienced teacher to gain valuable experience in a large and successful department.

Genuine enthusiasm for enabling each individual student to achieve their potential (at all levels) is essential, both in academic lessons and through the school's co-curricular programme. This enthusiasm should be supported by knowledge of recent developments in classroom music and ideas for engaging and inspiring classroom teaching.

The successful candidate is likely to have a proven track record of working with and developing the musical skills of young instrumentalists; it is likely that he or she will be an accomplished performer on one (or more) instruments or voice. Good keyboard skills would be advantageous but are not essential. The ideal candidate will also be able to offer some 1-1 instrumental music teaching and the exact job description can, to some extent, be tailored to the successful candidate's strengths.

The successful applicant will also be expected to contribute fully to the department's exciting and extensive co-curricular programme as well as to the pastoral life of the school.

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.

In future years there may be the potential to offer some co-curricular Music Technology within the department.

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 30-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. A further tour is planned to Switzerland in Summer 2019. 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 flourishes 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 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.

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. In 2016 the Chamber Choir toured to Verona and Venice, accompanied by a Chamber Orchestra of the school's most advanced string and woodwind players. The Chamber Choir's performances with the Tallis Scholars in the 2018 Festivities was awarded best classical performance in the city's performing arts awards.

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. Last year's production of Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* was hugely successful and the production of *9 to 5* this November was nominated as best amateur production in the city's performing arts awards.

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 whom 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. The school is in the planning phase for a proposed new Performing Arts Centre with plans for a Concert Hall, practice rooms, a

recording studio, percussion studio, teaching rooms and office space for the Music Department.

Benefits

The Portsmouth Grammar School prides itself on being a caring employer and all staff are encouraged to discuss any aspects of their terms and conditions of employment initially with their line manager and, as necessary, with the Bursar who signs all contracts of employment on behalf of the Governing Body. The school is a strong supporter of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and its INSET programme provides staff with many personal development opportunities.

Governors annually allow up to three staff to take a half term sabbatical on full-pay in the summer term. The aim of sabbaticals is to develop further professional expertise and also to provide an opportunity for staff to reflect on other aspects of their teaching.

Key financial benefits of employment at PGS include a generous salary structure supplemented by payment of an additional PGS Allowance. There are many opportunities to take on additional paid responsibilities to assist in the management and operation of the school. The school participates in the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

The school also has a generous fee concession for the children of teaching staff. The school supports the Cycle to Work scheme and accepts Government's Child Care Vouchers. All members of staff have free use of the school's sports facilities which include a well-equipped Fitness Centre. A two course lunch is provided to all staff during term time.

The school is always looking for innovative ways to improve the working conditions and remuneration of its employees and welcomes suggestions from all staff.

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. The Director of Music, Gareth Hemmings, is very happy to answer any questions from prospective applicants. g.hemmings@pgs.org.uk.

An electronic application would be preferable, submitted to HR@pgs.org.uk. All applicants should complete an application form, and send a covering letter and full curriculum vitae. 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 three referees.

The closing date is noon 21 March 2019 and early applications are encouraged. Interviews will be held on 27 March 2019. Shortlisted candidates are asked to allow the whole day for the interview process.

March 2019