



## Music Partnerships: Assistant Leader

**April or June 2021**

Part time (20 hours per week during term time): £15,000

### **The role**

This is an exciting new part-time role to support the continued growth of Radley College's musical partnerships. We are looking to recruit an energetic, ambitious and innovative musician to help develop, lead and facilitate projects bringing together children and young adults from across schools in the area. This is initially for a fixed term of 3 years. This role will be pivotal in helping to shape the first 3 years of the partnership, working closely with Sam Gladstone (Precentor, Director of Music) to explore ways to strengthen links with local and national partners, and to develop long-term, sustainable projects. The involvement of teenage musicians in helping to lead activity in partner schools is central; helping to develop a Young Music Leaders programme will be an important part of the new role.

### **Music partnerships**

There is a strong and growing network of schools and musical organisations across the wider Didcot and Abingdon area. This includes close links with local state and independent secondary schools, academy trusts, prep schools and primary schools in Abingdon, Didcot and surrounding villages. We also work alongside the Abingdon and District Schools Music Association and the Abingdon Music Centre (a local charity providing musical opportunities), as well as developing connections with other local music therapy charities, children in care, and professional musicians.

In recent years, Radley College has worked closely with local schools for a series of performance projects involving hundreds of children performing alongside ensembles including the King's Singers, London Mozart Players and the Chamber Choir of London. The thriving Radley Choristership Scheme provides free instrumental tuition, vocal coaching and performance opportunities for 25 boys from local schools. We are really excited about the opportunity to transform these one-off events into a sustained partnership that raises the musical aspirations and experience of all children in the Abingdon area. The aspiration is that children involved aged 5 will still be involved in music alongside others from across the area when they are 18.



During lockdown, Radley College has launched a series of music assemblies, watched by hundreds of children each week from our partner schools and further afield. These have included instrument demonstrations by secondary school pupils, performances by guest professional musicians, musical challenges, warm ups and singing activities. Pupils from local secondary schools have taken part in virtual Music Theatre masterclasses with West End professionals, and a remix and covers competition. We are currently planning online support for primary school singing, in collaboration with the Voices Foundation, to help teachers bring singing back to the heart of their schools once children return to the classroom. We are particularly keen to work together with schools to bring live music back into schools safely, as soon as possible.

You can read more about Radley's partnership work in the January issue of the Music Teacher's Association Ensemble magazine.

## **Job description**

The Music Partnerships Assistant Leader will work closely alongside the Precentor (Director of Music) to develop a strategy for music partnerships over the next three years, and advocate for music and singing in local schools, including building relationships with head teachers, classroom teachers, governing bodies, academy trusts and parents.

Whilst the role will respond to the strengths and ideas of the successful candidate, there are opportunities in the following areas:

- Building on the successful programme of primary school assemblies (both virtual and live), including continued involvement of secondary school pupils
- Sharing ways to make music in schools under continuing Covid restrictions
- Recruiting, coaching and mentoring members of the Young Musical Leaders programme (student singers from across Abingdon who will help lead aspects of the partnership programme in primary schools), including working with external organisations to develop a training programme
- Leading singing workshops with children and adults
- Planning with the Abingdon Music Centre to set up small group instrumental rehearsals in primary schools alongside secondary school musicians, and assist in planning larger massed opportunities
- Supporting other areas of partnership work including the organ partnership programme, the Choristership scheme and the visiting artists (concert and masterclass) programme
- Assisting in the organisation of significant events bringing together performers from across the Abingdon area
- Developing opportunities to bring together pupils from a range of backgrounds, in ensembles, workshops and other musical experiences
- Working with primary school teachers to develop resources and projects that work with their existing curriculum
- Building relationships with local, national and international musicians to support the partnerships programme
- Assisting with the administration and evaluation of partnership projects

There may also be opportunities, additionally, to be involved more widely in Radley's thriving music department.

## Person specification

- Experience working with young performers and youth music
- Confident performer
- Passion and commitment to giving every child musical opportunities
- A wide network of musical connections
- Ambition and vision for music partnerships
- Flexibility
- Experience organising events
- Strong administrative skills
- Composition and arrangement skills would be an advantage, but are not essential

Some flexibility in working hours will be needed, including occasional work in evenings and weekends. The post is term time only, although occasional work in the school holidays might be necessary, by arrangement. Some work can be completed remotely, particularly initially.

## Radley College

Radley College is an independent boys' boarding school situated five miles south of Oxford, offering academic excellence and the perfect setting to provide the very best education. Founded in 1847, the vision was to offer a different education from that offered by most Victorian public schools. A strong emphasis was to be put on the aesthetic, and the beauty of the estate and the buildings contribute significantly to the atmosphere. Selective, but not ruthlessly so, the College is proud of its academic achievements both in and beyond the classroom. We care about results in all areas of College life – we believe very much in the pursuit of excellence and have high expectations of ourselves and the boys – but care even more about the development of the character of each Radleian: culturally, emotionally and spiritually.

Further information about the school may be found on our website: a good place to start <https://www.radley.org.uk/>

## Radley College Music

Music is at the heart of Radley and the practical experience of music, both as performer and audience, is central. From enthusiastic singing every day in Chapel and packed weekly informal concerts in the coffee shop, to public choral and orchestral concerts, foreign tours, hotly-contested competitions and recordings, there are musical events almost every day of the school year. Over half the pupils in the school learn an instrument, and there are over 40 different weekly ensembles.



We aim to cultivate and establish instrumental and vocal performance at Radley as a cherished and admired skill amongst the boys and Dons. From large, high-profile events to very informal small gatherings, every boy is given the opportunity to play in an environment that suits their aspirations.

The 125-strong Chapel Choir sings at all main Chapel services and enjoys a large Cathedral-style repertoire. It is supplemented by a number of smaller vocal ensembles, including a Chamber Choir and Close Harmony Ensemble. The Radley choirs recorded in Keble College Oxford in January 2019. There is an annual Close Harmony (Partsong) competition, which is one of the most popular and competitive events in the Radley calendar. A number of boys are members of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain and there are over 100 singing lessons every week. The choir enjoys annual trips to sing evensong at Cathedrals and Oxbridge Colleges, as well as the biennial foreign tour (Prague 2018, Madrid 2020) and smaller Chamber Choir tours.



For instrumentalists, the Symphony Orchestra, Concert Band, Big Band, Brass Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra provide opportunities to play in large ensembles and give concerts in major venues and the school's own purpose-built concert hall, the Silk Hall. There is also a plethora of smaller chamber groups, rock bands and close harmony ensembles, some coached by staff but many others run by boys. Some of the most anticipated events in the Radley calendar are entirely run by boys. There are regular collaborations with local secondary and primary schools, including massed concerts in venues such as the Sheldonian Theatre and Dorchester Abbey, as well as joint workshops and masterclasses. An exciting partnership of schools across the local area works together to provide musical opportunities for all children in the area. During the most recent lockdown, pupils from Radley have collaborated with other secondary school pupils and professional musicians to put on a series of virtual assemblies, watched by hundreds of primary school children at over 20 local primary schools.

Boys have opportunities to play side by side with professional musicians, conduct or play a concerto with a professional guest orchestra, and take part in a regular programme of workshops and performance classes with some of the finest musicians in the UK. In the last few years, we have been privileged to host and perform alongside some amazing musicians and ensembles. Our composers and bands have written music for College plays, composition showcase concerts and a series of Live Lounge evenings. We aim for all composition work to be performed live by boys and guest musicians. A highlight of every week is the programme of visits to local residential care homes by Vth form musicians. Individual successes have included large number of Grade 8 distinctions and diploma success, scholarships to Conservatoires and Universities, and successful auditions for national ensembles. The unique Piano Extravaganza features over 100 pianists playing bespoke multi-piano arrangements, and this year included a performance of all of Beethoven's Piano Sonatas at the Sheldonian Theatre alongside professional pianists. Pupils have been active in supporting the music therapy programme at the Footsteps Centre.

For the contemporary popular musician examples of this abound from large concerts, Battle of the Bands, Guitar Prize, Guitars unlimited, drum kit and guitar competitions, lunchtime concerts, gigs in and around the College and at public events as well as many smaller opportunities. Bands and singer-songwriters enthusiastically take part in and lead Live Lounge evenings, performances on the outdoor stage, and themed concerts. There are also regular recording sessions. All boys have experience of using Logic software and many make good use of the music studio facilities. Many more are keen composers, and have enjoyed exploring film music, experimental composition and workshops with visiting professional musicians.

## **Applications**

Potential applicants are encouraged to discuss the post prior to making an application. Please contact Sam Gladstone ([sjg.gladstone@radley.org.uk](mailto:sjg.gladstone@radley.org.uk)).

Applications must be submitted on the official application form which can be downloaded from our website and sent, together with a covering letter, to the Head of HR at Radley College, Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 2HR or by email to [applications@radley.org.uk](mailto:applications@radley.org.uk).

The deadline for applications is 12 noon Friday 26 February and interviews will take place during early March.

## **Safeguarding**

Radley College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its pupils and expects all employees to share this commitment. Employees must, at all times, have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in line with the provisions of the Children Act 2004 (as amended) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (as amended) and be fully aware of, and understand, the duties and responsibilities that apply to their role in relation to these requirements. All employees must attend appropriate training in accordance with College and local Safeguarding Board stipulations. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service. A disclosure, at the enhanced level, will be requested from the successful applicant but a criminal record will not necessarily be a bar to obtaining this position. S/he will also be required to produce original evidence of qualifications as well as evidence of the right to work in the UK.