



Malta Jazz Tour Group

## Chairman's Report

Last year at this stage I wrote about the Committee's intentions to review how we spend the monies we raise. The Steinways are paid for, and the 450 Hall is in full sail as the "Hammond Theatre" – hosting a multitude of functions from Opera screenings to the National Theatre Live - in addition to all Hampton's usual busy schedule of music and drama events. However, in line with our mission of broadening the musical opportunities and experiences available to Hampton boys, we have been delighted this year to set in place a broader programme of funding assistance with the Music Department. This is in addition to our usual purchase of instruments, support for masterclasses, support of promotional materials and venue hire for trips.

Recently we have been able to also contribute to a new gazebo for the Jazz in the Park concert, some impressive Timpani, the Rare Beast Tuition programme – giving boys a subsidised taster of the less popular instruments to learn – and fund two trips for large numbers of First and Second yearboys to experience musical performances at the Royal Albert Hall. More and more Hampton boys are directly benefitting from the Society's efforts, and we are delighted to bring you this review of some of their activities.

You will see from this issue how busy our boys always are – do

remember also the Hampton Music Twitter feed which keeps a colourful eye on the trips and performances during the term and holidays. Voices of Lions also have their own twitter feed – from which I note that four of our barbershop singers who will be performing at the Music for Youth Prom at the Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday 16 November...keep an eye for that one.

In all we do, we are reliant on (and very grateful to) our volunteer members, having been delighted to welcome new Committee members in the last year. But.. we still need to keep up the recruitment as each year ends and natural turnover occurs and currently we have urgent need for a volunteer to fill the post of Honorary Secretary from the Autumn term; not too onerous and very rewarding. We always welcome volunteer reviewers to contact us, and anyone keen to help with a stint behind the bar is in luck this term, as we host four nights (I believe) of West Side Story at the Hammond Theatre. There is also our much loved Christmas Concerts where help is always appreciated so please do drop us a line, or talk to any of the music staff if you can help - WE NEED YOU.

Wishing you all the best for the forthcoming term, with my thanks as ever to all those who lend a hand, and looking forward to meeting our new Honorary Secretary very soon...

Catherine Hamilton, Chair

## Keyboard Concert

Following last year's success, Thursday 28th April saw the second staging of Hampton's Keyboard Concert, with a total of 26 boys showcasing their talent on the piano, organ or harpsichord. The programme ranged from the beautiful Baroque phrasing of Scarlatti and Handel, to the intricacies of Mozart and Haydn, to the wonderful lilting melodies of Brahms and Liszt, to the captivating lyricism of Rachmaninov and Debussy, and onto the quirky harmonics of Messiaen.

Personal highlights were Gaurilin's 'March' for piano duet, played with vigour by Vlad Penzyev and Daniel Shadrin, whose punchy two-time rhythm and rich homophonic texture carried us away to the circus; Oliver Burke's sensitive rendering of a charming arrangement by Dave Stapleton of the well-known favourite 'Over the Rainbow'; and the dark and captivating 'Prelude in C sharp Minor' by Rachmaninov, played with expert conviction by Thomas Knollys.



Vlad Penzyev and Daniel Shadrin

I thought the flair and diversity of keyboard players across the school was excellent, and in particular the talent in the lower school; it seems safe to say that the keyboard sector of Hampton music has a very promising future. Thank you to Alan Jones, Head of Keyboard Studies and organiser of this successful event, Ms Fei Lim, Mr Dhevdhas Nair and Dr Julie Ainscough for their unfailing coaching and contribution, and to all members of the Music Department for their help on the night.

Eduard Buxton

## Hampton Junior School Music Day

On Sunday 24 April we held our annual Junior Schools Music Workshop, when we invite all our local and feeder schools' musicians to participate in a day of music-making as part of a choir, wind band, string ensemble or guitar group. We were inundated with applications from over 130 boys and girls aged 6 to 12, with a standard from Grade 1 to Grade 6. The groups were led by Mr Donald, Miss van Ments, Mr Pym and myself, ably assisted by Mr Ward, Miss Koster and Henry Chandler (OH).

As usual, we were reliant on a band of willing (and press-ganged) boys to help matters run smoothly. Some of them entertained the waiting hoards whilst others helped us put out stands, drum kits and music in the three halls and ensemble room that we were to use throughout the day. As we moved into rehearsals with the various groups, the boys played alongside their younger visitors and helped to allay some of the trepidation that often accompanies a foray into a new and very large school, never mind the new and difficult music! Breaks were taken in the dining hall and over lunchtime there were also games in the Sports Hall to allow some pent up energy to be released.

At 3 o'clock we managed to put together a short concert for the visiting parents. This included the strings and harps playing the theme tune from *Harry Potter* and two young oboeists playing the theme tune from *The Mission* with the band. The guitar ensemble played Queen's *Sunshine of your love* and the singers gave us a couple of songs in parts. The day ended with a mass rendition of the theme from *Star Wars*.

This is always a very worthwhile day, offering the opportunity for music-making to many children who never play as part of a group and is always followed by many appreciative emails from their parents. We were impressed by the cheerful participation and help provided by our Hampton musicians.

Joanna Estall

## Rock Concert

Following on from the ever-present January concert, 'Rockin the Garrick' proved to be another huge success in this slightly more intimate venue. Accomplished DJ sets and numerous bands played with enthusiasm and ability, providing the enthusiastic and ever-supportive audience with another host of fantastic performances too many to single out in this review (please see the Lions for a detailed article in print or on the Hampton School Website). It must be mentioned

however that on the day he finished his A-Levels, and despite huge technical difficulties, Sam Seccombe performed 'I Don't Trust Myself' with his usual panache, an incredible performance which capped off a legendary Hampton career in the Garrick building. We wish him well and look forward to hearing more from him in the future.



Sam Seccombe

Josh Bartholomew

## South East Schools' Chamber Music Competition

In February we once again hosted a round of the South East Schools' Chamber Music Competition. We entered six groups: three piano trios, a string quartet, the Clarinet Ensemble and the Trumpet Quartet and were also visited by three groups from St Catherine's School, Bramley. Richard Ireland was our adjudicator and coach. After each group played, he made comments and suggestions about the pieces and in most cases tried to encourage a greater sense of character within the piece.

This year we were very pleased that one of our groups (Thomas Knollys, Dylan Evans-Hutchinson and Stephon Umashangar), who played the first movement of Mozart's Trio for clarinet, viola and piano, were selected in the Intermediate age category for the Finalists' Concert. This was held on 15th March at the prestigious venue of St John's Smith Square in London. There were fifteen groups selected for the concert, which was of a very high standard indeed. Mr Dawe, a former Hampton music teacher, was also there with two groups from his new school. The Hampton boys played very well but all the other groups were also impressive and the evening was won by a senior group from Harrow School who played the Piano Quintet by Elgar. This was a very pleasing result from our collaboration in this competition, in which I hope we will continue to participate.

Joanna Estall

## Rare Beasts

At the beginning of the year an idea of some years' gestation reached fruition with the 'Rare Beasts' Scheme. The Hampton School Music Society generously agreed to fund a scheme designed to support new boys joining Hampton who wished to take up a less common musical instrument. These instruments were: in the strings, viola, cello and double bass; in the woodwind, oboe and bassoon; in the brass, French horn and tuba. Any boy taking up one of these instruments in the First Year would be supported in the following ways:

- A trial period on their chosen instrument of one-and-a-half terms (15 lessons), starting after the October half term
- Fees for the lessons reduced by 50%, with the Music Society funding the balance

The Scheme has proven to be a success, resulting in four new violists, two cellists, one oboist, one bassoonist, one French horn player and one tuba player all enthusiastically involved in their trial lessons.

On Friday 6 May the boys displayed their new skills in an informal Showcase Concert held in the Garrick Building Music Hall. Parents, friend and teachers, including the Head of First Year, Mr Partridge, were in attendance and thoroughly enjoyed a varied and accomplished set of performances. The concert opened with Edward Finnett on the oboe, playing a melody from Handel's Messiah, and the first of our four violists, Oskar Zieleznik, playing 'Road Monsters'. Lucas Carbajal gave us 'Lightly Row' on the French horn before James Wiley confidently sang out Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' on our second viola of the evening. Luke Jansen gave an assured performance of 'Loony Toon' on the bassoon, and his mellow tones were matched by Kristoffer Olofsson on the tuba, who played his own version of the James Bond theme. Rishi Patel and Luke Michels played further solos on the viola before Oskar returned to play 'Secret Agents' as a duet with Rishi to finish off the concert. The boys were accompanied by Dr Ward and Mr Roland, and all took to their first public performance with relish.

Rare Beasts has proven to be a great way of getting new boys interested in music, and promises to serve the School well in 'filling the gaps' in our orchestras and ensembles in future years!



Oskar Zieleznik

Matthew Ward



Luke Michels and Rishi Patel

## Voices of Lions in Edinburgh

Voices of Lions' fourth trip to Edinburgh was another great success. The choir were joined by ten alumni this year, making it the largest group we have taken to date, 42 singers. As last year, we performed in Old St. Paul's Church, just off the Royal Mile and close to Waverly Station. The central location has been excellent for increasing our audience size, and this year our average house was 111, slightly fewer than last year, but still a very decent number. Nearly 900 people saw our show, and many more came and listened to us perform. This year in addition to the shows on the smaller stages, we were given the Mercat Stage, close to St Giles's Cathedral. This worked really well for us, being a big enough stage to perform our songs in our usual conformation.

The audience reception was excellent; and here below are some of their comments:

*"Fantastic concert in Edinburgh which we went to on the strength of your promo set in Royal Mile. Brilliant and moved me to tears."*

*"We were uplifted, relaxed and were so happy we came. One of the best performances we have seen this year. Keep up your enthusiasm and love of performing."*

*"Fantastic concert today at the Edinburgh Fringe, absolutely loved it!"*

Another fantastic trip, but with ten alumni and twelve U6 leaving the choir this year we shall have quite a big gap in our numbers to fill. Needless to say, we are recruiting the next generation now!

Iain Donald

## Summer Concert

The final concert of the academic year provided another showcase for the School's musical abilities. As we say farewell to this year's leavers, the concert also provided the reassurance that there is plenty of younger talent developing within the school. The evening's music started in the Cloister with the Barbershop, before moving into the Hammond Theatre where the Sinfonia opened the concert with some of the school's younger orchestral players in a display of musical colour with the first performance of Tim Barry's 'Pastel Promenade'.

This was followed by the Chamber Choir, with 'Name that Tune', described by Dr. Ward as "eleven pieces for the price of one" – the choir took us from 'Carmen' to Beethoven's 'Fifth Symphony'. The Concert Orchestra, another group of younger talent performed 'Soul Bossa Nova' and the 'Theme from Wallace and Gromit'.

Rahul Jaitly unnerved his audience with a small contretemps with Mr. Jones which set the tone for this entertainingly off-the-wall performance of a very topical 'Reviewing the Situation'. Singer and accompanist were joined by Srinand Sundaram on violin and Tom Nunan on percussion, at least that's what our programme said, but Mr Nunan

## Jazz Trip to Malta

From 8-12 July this year the Hampton School Swing and Jazz Bands toured the island of Malta. Thirty-four boys from the First Year to the Upper Sixth explored some of the treasures of this tiny island and gave three stirring performances.



Swing Band in action

The first of these was in a public square outside one of the many 'band clubs' in Malta in Birgu, also known as Vittoriosa. The boys had spent the morning visiting the great cathedral at Mosta, and the afternoon in the sea at Golden Bay, but their energy remained high for the concert. After sets from the Swing Band, Jazz Trio and Jazz Band, the Swing and Jazz Bands united behind Angus Shennan (L6) for a classic rendition of 'Come Fly With Me'.

On Sunday the boys visited the modern capital, Valletta, and then the ancient capital Mdina, exploring the 'silent city' which has been used as a location for the ever-popular *Game of Thrones*. A visit to the grisly Mdina Dungeons ended the day's sight-seeing, and the second concert took place poolside at a Beach Club in Sliema. Back to Sliema the following morning, a fascinating boat trip around the great harbours of Valletta allowed the boys to feel the sea-breeze on a very hot day; even more refreshing was an afternoon at the water park, with slides and chutes galore. The final concert of the tour was attended by over one hundred members of the public, as the evening entertainment at the Seashells Resort in Qawra, not far from the boys' hotel. The boys rose to the occasion, with some exciting solos and impressive ensemble playing bringing the tour to a rousing finish. Thanks are due to Mr Roland for organising such a smooth-running and enjoyable trip, and to Mr Donald, Dr Ward, Mr Aubrey and Eduardo Fahey (OH 2016) for accompanying the bands. The boys enjoyed the trip greatly as did the parents who made the journey hear the concerts.

**Matthew Ward**

## ... from another perspective

I believe it has been 8 years since Hampton School last offered the jazz and swing bands the opportunity to travel, but judging by the fantastic sounds they created and the warm receptions they received, there will be another invitation before so long. Many thanks must first and foremost go to Mr. Roland (Swing Band Leader) who orchestrated the trip so well, and to the accompanying music staff who forfeited some of their summer holiday to attend. From a parental perspective it was wonderful to see so many supporters who had travelled to the heat of Malta in early July, but we were justly rewarded with highly professional sounds drifting over the twilight of the Mediterranean for 3 superb evening concerts.

With each evening the sound quality, improvisations, musicality and enthusiasm improved, the time for performances got later, the boys became more relaxed and bronzed and the final evening truly provided a blockbuster pace in rhythm from both bands, with all soloists inspiring each other to achieve ever more in virtuosity and mentions must go to – George Wright (drums), Ruben Botha (clarinet), Tom Knollys (alto

seemed only to have mastered the triangle, and your reviewer was left uncertain as to whether his playing added much to the musicality of the ensemble.

Next up, Voices of Lions gave an impressive double choir performance of 'Sure on this Shining Light'. Following this, Sam Seccombe had the audience spellbound with his performance of John Mayer's 'I don't Trust Myself'.

Finally, for the first half of the concert, the Chamber Orchestra with John Rogers and Andrew Klein gave an assured performance of the first movement of Mozart's 'Sinfonia Concertante for Violin, Viola and Orchestra'.

Over drinks in the Cloister, the Consort of Voices performed three madrigals, before we returned to the Symphony Orchestra, first to accompany three more of the school's talented senior musicians, first with an arrangement of Vaughan Williams' 'Wither Must I Wander', beautifully sung by Conrad Chatterton, then the intensity of the opening movement of Dvorak's 'Cello Concerto' was ably captured by Alfie Evans-Hutchison and finally Srinand Sundaram provided a wonderful performance of Vaughan Williams' elegiac 'The Lark Ascending'.



Hampton Jazz Band

## Jazz in the Park

The sky remained non-committal, and the omens were not encouraging, but the rain held off most uncharacteristically until just after the concert in Bushy Park by the Hampton School Jazz Band.

After months of preparation for this and the upcoming tour to Malta, the Jazz Band rose to the occasion with their usual good humour. It often surprises me that even students at this stage of their musical progress can display professional levels of easy-going nonchalance and humour, perhaps occasionally covering up some nerves and trepidation about performing in public.

On this occasion, they had an unforeseen challenge to overcome – a missing drummer. Due to mishaps with email addresses and failures of communication, drummer George was apparently unaware of the concert date. In the event, a brilliant drummer, John Jones, who happened to be in the park stepped in and saved the day.

Although the guest drummer was playing completely without rehearsal, guitarist Sam Seccombe and others in the band guided him with some quick advice before each number and the result was some surprisingly polished performances, with occasional wobbles and uncertain passages where lack of prior knowledge of the arrangements led to some creative covering up! Sadly they were unable to play the piece I'd written for them, since it shifts rhythmically between 7/4 and 4/4, a step too far for an unrehearsed drummer. But in the true spirit of jazz, they played on, with some great solos from Sam, Oskar Jones on sax, Reuben Botha on baritone and clarinet and Max Elliott on piano.

In the end, the band got a taste of the kind of problems that can be thrown up in professional situations and responded with a solid performance, along with a dash of style and bravado. A good training for the surprises and challenges in the real life of a professional musician.

**Dhevdas Nair**

saxophone), Oskar Jones (tenor saxophone), Sam Seccombe (guitar) and Max Elliott and Angus Shennan (piano). Although not able to accompany the jazz band on this trip, Mr. Dhevdas Nair would I am sure have been proud of their performances as his superb preparation for the band to play without a leader was evident.

**Caroline Jones**



The evening's performances ended with the 'Suite from Henry V' – an arrangement of some of Walton's music for the 1944 film with excerpts from the play spoken by Tom Nunan. Whilst tonight's performance was intended as a commemoration of William Shakespeare's 400th anniversary, the final rousing, took on a new resonance – a reminder of an earlier age when England triumphed against a seemingly overwhelming European power.

Finally, the school's latest musical leavers made their farewells with thanks, as ever, to the wonderful music staff.

**Tom Nunan reciting Shakespeare as part of a performance of Walton's music for Lawrence Olivier's film of Henry V.**

**Dominic Knollys**

# ASSOCIATED BOARD EXAMINATION RESULTS SUMMER TERM 2016

NAME	INSTRUMENT	GRADE	MARK
ABHINAND SUNDARAM	SINGING	1	DISTINCTION
ALEXANDER O'SULLIVAN	SINGING	6	MERIT
ARJUN GILL	PIANO	8	DISTINCTION
ARJUN PAINTAL	PIANO	5	DISTINCTION
ARMAAN MITTAL	JAZZ ALTO SAX	2	PASS
BENJAMIN ANDREWS	SINGING	7	DISTINCTION
CHRISTOPHER HAMILTON	VIOLIN	7	MERIT
DANIEL SHADRIN	PIANO	7	MERIT
DANYAAL FAROOQI	VIOLA	5	MERIT
DAVID EVANS	ALTO SAXOPHONE	5	MERIT
EDWARD BIRCHALL	VIOLIN	5	MERIT
HIRUNA DIYASENA	PIANO	8	DISTINCTION
IWAN JONES	JAZZ ALTO SAX	5	PASS
JAKE COSTEN	SINGING	4	DISTINCTION
JAKE LIANG	PIANO	8	MERIT
JOSEPH STRONG	TRUMPET	6	DISTINCTION
KOBY KALAVANNAN	SINGING	5	MERIT
LUCCA FROUD	SINGING	4	MERIT
MATTHEW CRESSWELL	PIANO	7	DISTINCTION
MATTHEW MARKHAM	PIANO	5	PASS
MATTHEW MARKHAM	SINGING	6	MERIT
NATHAN CHAPFLOW	SINGING	3	MERIT
NAYAAZ HASHIM	HORN	1	MERIT
NICHOLAS STONER	SINGING	8	DISTINCTION
OLIVER HUNT	PIANO	4	MERIT
OSCAR MURPHY	PIANO	4	MERIT
PATRICK WALL	SINGING	3	MERIT
RIYAAZ KHAN	CLARINET	2	DISTINCTION
ROBIN LITTLE	HORN	1	MERIT
ROHAN HOBBS	FLUTE	6	PASS
SAMUEL POWER	DOUBLE BASS	1	DISTINCTION
SAMUEL POWER	PIANO	6	DISTINCTION
SAMUEL SPENCE	PIANO	7	MERIT
STEPHON UMASHANGAR	OBOE	3	MERIT
TARAN CHAWLA	BARITONE	6	MERIT
THEODORE DIAS	PIANO	7	MERIT
THOMAS HOPPER	CLARINET	8	DISTINCTION
TOBIAS DROY	SINGING	5	DISTINCTION
TOBIAS HASWELL	VIOLA	3	PASS
TOBY TOLSON	TRUMPET	6	PASS
WILLIAM WICKSTEAD	VIOLA	5	MERIT
ANTONY WANG	FLUTE	7	DISTINCTION

## TRINITY GUILDHALL

ALFIE ASKHAM	ORGAN	7	DISTINCTION
FELIX ELLIOT	ORGAN	6	MERIT
REUBEN BOTHA	SAXOPHONE	7	MERIT

## THEORY

JAMIE BENSON	MUSIC THEORY	5	MERIT
CHARLES CLOSE	MUSIC THEORY	5	MERIT
MAX ELLIOTT	MUSIC THEORY	5	MERIT

**Many congratulations also to the winner of the Junior Music Prize:  
Stephon Umashangar**

## News and Information...

To keep updated with the wealth of musical performances and achievements from Hampton boys please look to the following for up to date information and images between now and the next edition of the newsletter: [www.hamptonschool.org.uk/music](http://www.hamptonschool.org.uk/music)  
Music Department can be found on twitter @Hampton\_Music and as a webpage <http://twitter.com/HamptonSchool>

## '10 Minute' Interview



This edition we are very pleased that David Ward has agreed to be the recipient of the latest '10 minute interview' :

- What are your first memories of playing the Trumpet?**  
Probably my first ever lessons in primary school. I played the cornet it was smaller and lighter than a trumpet. My Dad was the headmaster so there was no giving up!
- Who was your first musical inspiration?** I suppose the most inspirational playing I ever heard as a youngster was Wynton Marsalis. He played the trumpet with an amazing sound and musicality I was just hooked. He had the ability to play in so many different styles, from classical trumpet concertos, cornet virtuosos, to jazz improvisations. He was the first (and I think the only) artist to win two GRAMMY Awards for both a jazz, and a classical album, in the same year. Amazing achievement.
- When and what made you decide to become a professional musician?**  
I loved playing in the National Youth Brass Band and Wingates Brass Band. I also played in the Wigan Youth Jazz Orchestra performing most weekends in the nightclubs around the area. These bands recorded albums, did radio broadcasts and toured, so from a young age I was used to the musician lifestyle and knew that's what I wanted to do.
- If not a professional musician, which career would you perhaps have followed?**  
I wanted to be a policeman at one stage, I was too short though!
- Are there any top teaching tips for developing musicians to focus on?**  
The three most important things in my opinion are personal practice, listening to great players, and joining a local or national ensemble of some kind. You learn so much from your peers and outside influences rather than just working towards the next grade. Join a choir, orchestra or band, it will be the best thing for developing your playing and musicianship.
- Have you ever collaborated with musicians from other disciplines or if you could who/which musical genre would they be?**  
I am very lucky as one of the orchestras that I freelance with specialises in backing musicians in the rock/pop world. Last week it was New Order and All Saints on the breakfast show, but we have played for so many different artists from Shirley Bassey, to Kasabian.
- If you could describe yourself as an instrument what would you be?**  
Probably a Bass of some kind. Part of the music but in the background.
- Which contemporary musician do you most admire?**  
John Adams, Short Ride in Fast Machine is brilliant. I played in an opera by Jonathan Dove last year and I loved his music.
- Which composer for trumpet is your favourite and is there a piece you can recommend listening to?** John Williams composes brilliantly for brass, trumpets in particular. Not just the obvious films but others you may not have heard or been aware of. If you mean specifically trumpet as a solo instrument probably the Tomasi trumpet concerto along with Halsey Stevens Trumpet Concerto.
- What has been your most memorable moment playing the trumpet?**  
I have so many great memories its hard to narrow it down to one or two. As a music student we did some TV comedy routines on Opportunity Knocks, the old version of The X Factor. We got into the final! BBC last night of the proms I have done a few times, an amazing atmosphere. Musically, maybe some of the opera performances of Wagner and Puccini stick in my mind.
- Do you have any recordings that you have of yourself playing that we could listen to?** Ha Ha , well you could go on You Tube and look up Thames Brass Quintet from many years ago, Opportunity Knocks. I haven't done any solo recordings, but lots of recordings with orchestras over the years, none that you would be able to pick me out on though! I played on the title music of the Euro 16 BBC coverage, if that's still on when you read this .
- And finally which would you choose ...Glastonbury or Glynedebourne? Maltesers or Marshmallows?!** Maltesers, the easiest question of all!

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