REMEMBERING MR IAIN DONALD – STAFF MEMBERS WRITE:

C. Aubrey: Iain just loves the music – and the boys can tell! As well as nurturing so many talented individual musicians, Iain always provided a wide variety of opportunities for students to come together to make music in choirs, ensembles or as members of a cast. My favourite example is the triennial orchestral exchange to Konstanz – it was great to watch the boys work with our German friends to put on the concerts. And they always had so much fun in the process, not least because of the hard work Iain put into organising the itineraries – although I’m not sure that “fun” is the first word that came to mind for Iain after he shared a toboggan run with me. Being an accomplished skier I assumed he wanted to race down the run instead!

E. Esser: It’s such a joy to be part of a department where anything is possible, and we all have Iain to thank for that. Whether he encouraged (sometimes slightly reluctantly!) First Years to sing their hearts out, or “can-do” attitude. He was always keen to support the desire “to strive to do better”, or to “explore further”. His clear enthusiasm for music has.

J. Estall: For me, one of the best things about being Iain’s leader was his “can-do” attitude. He was always keen to support the desire “to strive to do better”, or “to explore further”. His clear enthusiasm for music has.

Iain’s relaxed and friendly manner has made the Garrick.

E. Pollitt: London is a great city to grow up in, and Iain Donald was a huge influence on me and my group of friends when we were at Hampton. His passion for music and his dedication to our education and development as musicians was truly inspiring. He always encouraged us to push ourselves and to strive for excellence, and his unwavering belief in us and our abilities was always evident in his interactions with us. His guidance and support throughout my time at Hampton School will always be remembered.

One of the highlights of the whole trip was Tchaikovsky’s 2012 Overture at the end of the concert. This exciting piece featured the cannons and muskets of the Russian Military, causing quite a commotion among some of the Hampton boys. One of the boys even thought that there was a terrorist in the building! To say the least, the trip was brilliant and I would urge every First Year next year to try to go this great concert in an iconic venue.

Edmund Ng (12)

CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR TRIP

The yearly trip to the world-famous Royal Albert Hall lived up to expectations! The bar opened quite early, giving us time to buy drinks and get ‘refreshed’ before the show started. Our seats were very high up, giving us an amazing view of the whole orchestra. The brilliant laser show incorporated into the music is also best seen from the top of the auditorium. The Classical Spectacular event showcased some really familiar ‘classics’ including: Rule Britannia, Grieg’s ‘In the Hall of the Mountain King’, Hohens Jupiter from the Planet, as well as a brilliant Hornpipe where there was an element of audience participation.

The trip was also the source of comedy from the conductor. One such comedic moment was quite ‘panto-like’.

Conductor: Do you really think you can keep up?

Audience: Yes!

Conductor: With the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra?

Audience: Yes!

Conductor: Oh no you can’t…

Audience: Oh yes, we can!

[Conductor makes us clap along with the Hornpipe while the orchestra play it incredibly quickly]

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EDMUND NG (12)

BARCELONA CHOIR TOUR

On 9 July 2018, the Hampton School Main Choir, Chamber Choir and Voices of Lions left for Barcelona. We landed in the city early in the afternoon and spent the rest of the day touring the ‘Poble Espanyol’, which contains life-size reproductions of different Spanish buildings including some typical rural sights. The next day to the hotel, we were able to stop off at some extra viewpoints overlooking the city and its port. From here, we also got our first sight of some of the venues in which we would be performing later in the week.

The following day began with a fascinating visit to ‘Park Güell’, where we saw some of the iconic Gaudi architecture. We then spent the following day in Barcelona Cathedral, where our first performance took place. A fair few tourists stopped to listen to the incredible sound of the choirs. The performance, which was enhanced by the amazing acoustics and atmosphere. The day ended with everyone enjoying the sunset on the beach while having a game of football. The third day of our trip was spent at a theme park in Barcelona. The rides we went on ranged from tea cups, to log flumes, to classic roller coasters, and we all had a great time.

Our final full day in Barcelona was my personal favorite. Our first performance took place in Gaudi’s ‘Sagrada Familia’. The construction of this building began in 1882 and is still going on to this day. It is expected to be finished in 2026! Inside, the sheer detail was incredible, and performing there is an experience that I will never forget. From here, we also got our first sight of some of the venues in which we would be performing later in the week.

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JAMIE HARRISON (4C)

CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF ALAN JONES

This year’s Keyboard Concert was dedicated to Mr. Alan Jones and his extraordinary contributions to Hampton School, following his unexpected passing away earlier this year. The concert included many evocative and emotional performances from talented current pupils, alumni and private tutors.

The programme consisted of a eclectic mix of pieces of varying styles, ranging from George Gershwin’s ‘I Got Rhythm’ to J.S. Bach’s ‘Prelude and Fugue in C major’. In addition, numerous romantic works by Faure, Brahms and Chopin, to name a few. As a result, Mr. Jones had accompanied many boys in exams and concerts, we were treated to many instrumental performances by alumni, and private tutors.

The performance maintained an appropriate yet sensitive tone, interspersed with touching personal anecdotes from alumni, alongside a heartfelt speech from his long-standing colleague, Mr. Iain Donald. It was a privilege to be involved in such an important and special commemoration, and it was especially poignant to receive thanks from one of Alan’s dearest friends. Mr. Jones’s legacy will surely live on through the musical successes of all his former pupils.
‘VOICES OF LIONS’ IN EDINBURGH

‘Voices of Lions’ returned to the Edinburgh Fringe in summer 2018 with a new and varied programme. The set opened with an arrangement of '射击', popularly known as ‘The Volga Boatman’ by Zander and Burt. The piece was sung by the students of the voice department of the University of Edinburgh, with some of the younger performers playing the roles of the sailors. The performance was received with much applause, and many of the audience were moved by the beauty of the singing.

‘CRAZY FOR YOU’ MUSICAL

Crazy for You was yet another stunning and polished performance from the talented Hampton Lower and LEH students. From singing to songs, to dancing to a full orchestral performance, the show was a true delight.

ST CEILCA’S CONCERT

What a lovely evening! An appreciative and well-dressed audience, an intimate setting, good conversation, excellent food and - most importantly of all - some fine performances from the boys. Sathin Wijesena, bass, was the highlight, opening the evening with a rendition of Ravel’s ‘La Sirène’. The duet was accompanied by Nicholas Storer, tenor, and the two singers sang with a great sense of line. His vocal nuances in Elgar’s ‘My native Heath’ were enchanting.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT I

It started to feel a lot like Christmas when the Swing Band launched into a jazz-up, tempo-rendition of Santa Claus is Coming to Town. Personal favourite, ‘I’ll Be Home for Christmas’, was performed with great enthusiasm and skill by the orchestra. The audience was delighted with the performances of the choir, who performed a medley of Christmas carols, including ‘Silent Night’ and ‘O Holy Night’. The concert was rounded off with a rousing rendition of ‘Deck the Halls’ by the orchestra, accompanied by the voices of the assembled audience.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT II

Christmas Concert II, also aptly titled ‘A celebration of Iain Donald’s 23 years of musical leadership’, was a spectacular evening of performances that were indeed a great tribute to Iain Donald’s musical legacy to Hampton School. It was a pleasure to see the Hampton Theatre Company perform in front of a packed audience of students and their families.

WINDWIND CONCERT REVIEW

The annual Wind Wind concert showcased a very high standard of music-making across a wide range of styles and genres, including contemporary music, chamber music, and opera. The performance was received with much applause, and the audience was impressed by the talent and dedication of the performers.

Soli from Nicholas Dibb Fuller. The Symphony Orchestra then segued into a victorious and triumphant rendition of Holst’s Jupiter before concluding with Poulsen’s Concerto for Two pianos. The four movements of this concerto were performed with provocative and provocative performance and an excellent sense of ensemble and interplay between pianist Christian Chan and Felix Elliot and orchestra.

Kevin Scott

The concert was wrapped up with the annual Christmas raffle and audience participation, starting in a variety of Christmas carols. All the performances were absolutely delightful and ensured that everyone there was imbued with some festive spirit!