HAMPTON SCHOOL MUSIC SOCIETY

SPRING/ SUMMER TERM 2026

Dear HSMS Parents,

I write this foreword with a heavy heart as my time as HSMS Chairperson comes to an end at the conclusion of this (2026) Summer Term. Committee membership has been a great privilege and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow Committee Members - past and present - for their wonderful support, commitment, and good humour during my time as Chair. The sheer breadth and depth of musical endeavour at Hampton, as evidenced by the contents of this newsletter, is breathtaking and was surely a major contribution to the 2025 Independent School of the Year award. We are also indebted to the parents of Hampton Musicians for all the support that you give to your sons and the department. As Chair, my fondest memories - in addition to the many musical events and fundraisers - are of meeting HSMS member parents at events such as the New Boy concert, or Welcome Day, and experiencing firsthand the enthusiasm and appreciation for the Hampton musical program. Thank you.

Mark Morrison, HSMS Chair

ISSP Music Day & Concert

On the 24th of February, the ISSP day took place. It is a day when many students from other schools come to Hampton to join the ISSP choir or play an instrument in the large orchestra. It was a day of great fun and amazing music.

During the day, students were split into 3 different groups depending on the instrument that they played: wind, strings or singing. Nearer to the end of the day, all the parts came together to create a marvellous sound.

After rehearsing for the whole day, there was a concert in the Hammond Theatre which showcased the amazing music made during the day to those in the audience. Each of the three groups had their own pieces and performed those. However the highlight of the night was the final song, where everyone took part in either singing or playing their instrument, in the song "Seize the Day" from the Newsies.



Ishaan Mittal (4H)



Jazz Café

On Friday the 6th of March, 4 groups lined up for Jazz Café, in an energetic and hugely enjoyable evening for performers and audience alike. Swing Band, led by Mr. Ferrier, kicked the night off with exciting renditions of Chattanooga Choo Choo, A Song for You (with a beautiful tenor saxophone solo from Aaryan Desai) and some incredibly talented vocals from Aarav Desai and Daniel Tresidder, performing Sway, and Can't Take My Eyes Off You, ending with superb solos in Shofukan from Oliver Champkin on drums, and Harry Skeffington on trombone. Junior Jazz -again with Mr. Ferrier- then picked up on an exciting start performing Moanin' and the Spider-Man theme with almost every member standing up to do a solo. Next, we heard from the Jazz Band, directed by Mr. Horden, including an exhilarating performance of Sir Duke, with stunning vocals from Hayden Elliott. They ended with Mardi Gras in New Orleans, which created a lively atmosphere to finish their set. We were also treated to a number of pieces performed by the excellent, self-directed Jazz Quartet, which included Harry Skeffington, Oliver Skeffington, Oliver Champkin and Albert Khadzhiev. Overall, it was a fantastic evening showcasing musical talent and creativity across the years.

Sam Perrin (1P)

Steinway Piano Competition

My journey started back in March 2025 when I won the Hampton School Steinway Scholarship Piano Competition. Since then, I have been looking forward to having my own recital which eventually took place on 19th March 2026 at the Prestigious Steinway Hall, London.

During the run up, I had the chance to be coached by Steinway Artist Danny Driver over the last 12 months. I really benefited from his expert guidance which set me up well for the performance.

I arrived at Steinway Hall on the day and as the time of my recital drew near, I made my way down to the Practice Room for Steinway Artists. Walking into Steinway Hall, I was greeted by an enthusiastic and intimate set of audience including school music teachers, church members and family and friends (unfortunately no classmates since it was a weekday).

The six pieces I chose to perform for the hour-long programme included pieces from Bach, Chopin, Debussy, Rachmaninoff, Schumann and Beethoven's Sonata in C minor ('Pathetique') complete which alone lasted well over 20 minutes. After a tentative start I settled and played with freedom, and found the whole event enjoyable, from the compliments received



afterwards I believe the audience were too.

A huge thank you to my piano teacher Mr. Tong for the excellent advice along the way and to Mr. Ferrier for his support during the performance, and to Mr. Roland for hosting the competition and making the recital such a success.

All in all, it was an incredible and unforgettable experience, and with the momentum, I managed to perform even better at the ARSM Piano Performance Diploma exam a week later and was rewarded with a Distinction – what a month!

Theo Tang (5H)



Chamber Music Day & Concert

Hampton school hosted its inaugural Chamber Day competition, followed by a concert in the evening. 18 ensembles took part and the competition was judged by two external adjudicators. They were Nicole Wilson who is a freelance violinist in London and has taught at the Royal Academy of Music and Eton College while also being in leading sections in top London orchestras. The second adjudicator was Anna Hashimoto who is a freelance clarinettist and who often appears as a concerto violinist. Anna is a regular member of the Atea Wind Quintet and has played in a number of London orchestras who also teaches at the Birmingham Conservatoire. The ensembles included string, brass, woodwind and vocal groups. The second year students (my year!) who participated in the event were: Rafferty O'Connor, Rahul Prabhudesai, Jerry Du, Noah Kim, James Cao, Axel Milston-Bonde and Rishi Schneider.

The overall winners of the competition were the String Quartet, coached by the amazing Miss Van Ments, which included Leo Ma, Colin Yeung, James Nunn and Jian Graffe. It was an incredible event to be a part of, the level of music was akin to a professional concert, and I can't wait to take part in it next year!

Rishi Schneider (2G)

Spring Concert

The annual Spring Concert is always special, and this year was no different. The theme was 'TV and film', and it was a fantastic evening from start to finish, showcasing the breadth of musical talent across the school.

In the first half there were stellar performances by, among others, Junior Jazz Band with a lively 'Theme from Spiderman', Voices of Lions with an energetic 'Shut Up and Dance', and Swing Band with an impressively tight rendition of 'Shofukan'. Each group brought its own style and personality to the stage, creating a varied and engaging programme that held the audience's attention throughout.

Then in the second half it was all about the Symphony Orchestra, who delivered a polished and expressive performance. Following two concertos, led by two standout upper sixth musicians, they



finished with a delightful medley of songs from 'West Side Story', which was both nostalgic and full of energy.

An extra treat at the very end was a rousing performance of 'Mambo' from the same film, which brought the evening to an exhilarating close. The whole audience were toe-tapping throughout and left on a real musical high.

Oliver Champkin (5A)

ABRSM EXAM SUCCESSES

ABRSM results for the Spring 2026 term:

Pass – 19 Merit – 21 Distinction – 16



Brass Concert

This year, the Brass Concert was an amazing evening featuring a wide range of performances from Hampton's brass talent. I was playing in the Trombone ensemble, the Brass band and doing a solo performance. Unexpectedly, I was told on the night that the Trombone ensemble were going first, so we got out our instruments and went on stage. We played Pavane by Faure and Harlem Nocturne by Earle Hagen. After some other amazing performances from the other Brass players, it was time for me to go on for my solo performance. I was playing Moon River by Henry Mancini. I think I played well, although there were many other stand out performances on the night. Finally, it was time for the grand finale where I and the Brass Band played Slaidburn by William Rimmer, (I later found out that this piece gets its name from a village in Lancashire), Manhattan Skyline by David Shire and Back to the Future by Alan Silvestri. It was an excellent evening showcasing Brass talent from first years all the way up to sixth formers. I am already looking forward to the next one!

Reuben Nicholson (3A)

Rock Concert

The 2026 Summer Rock Concert was an absolute blast to perform in, and the atmosphere was just as incredible as I remembered. Stepping into the cool Hammond Theatre was a welcome relief from the scorching heat outside. During soundchecks, all the performers hung out and relaxed in the theatre, and after grabbing some food, it was time to gear up and prepare for the show. Since this was my second time on stage, I felt a lot more confident compared to the nerves I had back at the Winter Concert. The acts before us were phenomenal, each showing off the immense hard work and dedication they'd put into their sets. But as the clock ticked closer to my band's slot, the butterflies started to kick in again. When we finally stepped up to the stage, those nerves we had before, turned into energy, and we played our hearts out. The atmosphere was electric—the flashing lights and the hyped-up, dedicated crowd brought so much life to the room. In the end, I walked off the stage feeling incredibly proud and grateful to have been part of such an unforgettable concert.

Joshua An (4B)



Junior Keyboard Concert

The Keyboard Concert, held on 18th June, was a wonderful experience, with lots of outstanding performances from pupils in the lower years. The pieces all showed off the performers' individuality and exceptional ability, and none failed to be impressive works of art, with the standard of performance incredibly high. There was a great variety of repertoire, ranging from tango and classical to blues and pop. Highlights included a dramatic rendition of Tsunami by Stephen Montague performed by Gabriel Knowles-Szuniewicz, an avant-garde style piece excellently depicting the horror of a natural disaster, and a Schubert waltz that was played remarkably well. Another performance that made quite an impression was Alexander Wright's of the Merry-Go-Round of Life from an anime. The opportunity to perform in front of my peers and listen to all their wonderful performances was one I am very grateful to have had. Thanks to all the incredible staff, especially Mr Chakravarty who organised the event and made it possible!

Shishir Vaddadi (4B)

Leavers' Concert

The 6th May saw the finest musicians of the class of 2026 gather to showcase one final time their incredible musical talents in a multitude of performances, ranging from bands giving so much energy in rock songs to solo classical performances that reached the souls of the audience.

The concert started lively, with its first act starting with spirited performances of 'Letterbomb' by Green Day (played by the Cementheads, consisting of Saarthak Srivastava, Avi Bhatt and Eddie Haycock), followed immediately by Dvorak's American Quartet performed by Leo Ma, Jian Graffe, alongside James Nunn and Colin Yeung from 4th and 3rd year respectively. The first act continued with wonderful performances with pieces and songs by Brahms, Alter Bridge, and Pasek and Paul, concluding with the Barbershop Quartet of Nathaniel Carson, Oli Lenox-Smith, Arjan Walia and Ryan Chen, who gave the audience a catchy performance of 'Dream a Little Dream' by The Mamas & the Papas, followed by 'You Got a Friend in Me'.

The second act started with some blasts of songs, with Flux starting with 'Prayer' by Kendrick Lamar. Highlights of the second act include Eddie Haycock pouring his soul into the microphone while singing 'Blind' by Korn, Ralph Yao's beautiful rendition of 'Fantaisie-Impromptu' by Chopin, Gabriel Lau and Leo Ma joining forces to play Hadelich's very difficult violin-cello duet arrangement of Brahms' 'Hungarian Dance No. 5', Daniel Frith giving the premiere of his own composition of 'Yeux Embués', and Jian Graffe's soulful depiction of the 3rd movement of Rachmaninoff's 'Sonata for Cello and Piano'.

All these performances were exceptionally well made, and the range of talents made this concert one of the best ever at Hampton.

Jian Graffe (U6LP)





Summer Concert

The music department's year was rounded off by a brilliant Summer Concert, in which all of Hampton's ensembles performed. After the audience was welcomed by the Jazz Band in the Cloisters, they settled in for the first performance of the night: Bach's Concerto in C Minor performed by Oli Hudson and Nathaniel Carson. The Consort of Voices then gave a moving rendition of Billy Joel's 'And So It Goes', before the Percussion Ensemble performed 'Clapping Music', using only their hands. Brilliant soloing in Swing Band followed, and fittingly for the third day of the Wimbledon tennis competition, Sinfonia performed the popular BBC theme tune 'Light and Tuneful'. Some of Hampton's junior ensembles then took to the stage, with performances by ROAR!, Hampton Strings and Junior Jazz. The first half was rounded out by Voices of Lions singing the famous theatrical ballad 'Send In The Clowns' from 'A Little Night Music', and Brass Band (complete with an electric guitar) playing 'Gonna Fly Now'. All ensembles performed brilliantly, and it was a first half to be proud of.

The second half's main event was three solo performances accompanied by the Symphony Orchestra (who were led superbly by Leo Ma). Oscar Qian was first up playing the second movement of Saint-Saens' Piano Concerto, a lively piece which demanded incredible precision from the soloist. Oli Lenox-Smith followed by playing Koussevitsky's double bass concerto. This was similarly excellently performed – a very moving performance. The final soloist was Nathaniel Carson, singing two songs from Ralph Vaughan Williams' 'Five Mystical Songs' ('Easter' and 'Love Bade Me Welcome'). This was supported by the Chamber Choir, with soloist, orchestra and choir coming together to create a marvellous spectacle. The concert was officially closed with 'Les Toreadors' from Bizet's 'Carmen' suite, fun for both players and audience alike. As it was the last concert of the year, this was to be the Upper Sixth's last ever end of term concert up on the Hammond stage, and to mark the occasion they paid tribute to Mr Roland by singing David Bowie's Starman Star-Dan. This topped off what was an impressive night showcasing Hampton's incredible talent, as well as the leavers' gratitude to a department that has forged friendships, given amazing opportunities and created memories to last a lifetime.

Nathaniel Carson (U6LP)

News and Information...

To keep updated with the musical performances and achievements from Hampton, visit: **hamptonschool.org.uk/about/associations/music-society**

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Staff Interview

with Sarah Mattinson

Head of Academic Music



Tell us a little bit about your time at Hampton?

I've been lucky enough to have been teaching at Hampton for five years now. It has been something of a whirlwind, but I have loved (almost) every minute of it! I started off as a Teacher of Music, doing my PGCE early in my time here, and have since taken on the role of Head of Academic Music, which I have so enjoyed doing for the last two and a half years. It's a remarkable department to be a part of, with truly outstanding colleagues and a phenomenal and ever-changing set of pupils to work with.

What are your academic responsibilities within the Music department?

My main role is to oversee the academic side of things here in Music. It has been such a pleasure helping to shape our curriculum design and supporting my colleagues in delivering their teaching across all year groups. It is great that pupils not only have access to an incredible co-curricular Music programme here at Hampton, but that they are also able to engage with the subject to such a high level academically. From First Year to Upper Sixth, Hamptonian pupils have been so impressive in engaging the subject in the classroom, and it has been lovely to see so many recent pupils going off to study Music at university.

What have you most enjoyed teaching whilst here at Hampton?

I love the variety that teaching all the way from First Year to Upper Sixth affords. One period I'll be teaching Reggae to First Year and the next I'll be unpacking Tchaikovsky's Sixth Symphony with my A Level class. But the one topic that I've enjoyed teaching the most is the Jazz area of study in the A Level course. The pupils explore Jazz from 1920-1960 and so we are able to dive into the music of so many iconic Jazz artists, from Louis Armstrong to Dizzy Gillespie, Sidney Bechet to John Coltrane, Billie Holiday to Sarah Vaughan. My Spotify is now always dominated by Jazz, particularly the Cool Jazz of the late 1950s, and I have loved having the excuse to delve into the music of so many hugely influential artists from this era.

What are your responsibilities outside of the classroom?

Alongside my passion for academic Music, I have been so thrilled to direct a number of ensembles during my time at Hampton. At the moment, I run ROAR!, Chamber Choir and Consort of Voices, all of whom have been such a pleasure to work with. With such capable and enthusiastic pupils involved, we are able to be so ambitious with our repertoire choices. Whether singing songs from the shows with ROAR! or complex sacred repertoire with Consort, I have just loved preparing Hampton's choirs for concerts and services alike. And outside of music, one of the highlights of my week is always running Hampton's Cryptic Crossword Club with Mr Haynes – Hampton's cruciverbalists are a very impressive bunch!

Which one piece of music would you choose for your Desert Island?

My answer for this changes on an almost daily basis. Today I'm leaning towards Herbie Hancock's version of the slow movement from Ravel's Piano Concerto in G. But I could just as easily choose the aria from Bach's Goldberg Variations, ideally played by Glenn Gould (in 1981, 1955). Or Bill Evans' Peace Peace. Or Chet Baker's I Fall in Love Too Easily. Or Olivia Dean's Dive. There are too many options!

And your Desert Island luxury?

In my last HSMS interview I said that I would take a piano. A good choice, I think. But I would struggle without reading material – so perhaps a fully stocked e-reader or, even better, an enormous library.

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