

HAMPTON S C H O O L M U S I C S O C I E T Y

**SUMMER
TERM
REVIEW
2022**

Dear Members

Welcome to our summer 2022 HSMS review. Thankfully the summer term marked a year when things returned to mainly business as usual at Hampton.

In the summer term, the Society supported workshops for the first and second years that were open to all boys, and we also purchased a new Steinway piano.

There was also a fabulous U6 leavers' concert where the Hammond was transformed into a performance venue café style with food and drink allowing our U6 to perform one last time, with reviews inside.

Over the summer the Music Society supported the Voices of Lions trip to Edinburgh. The concerts were amazingly well attended. Apparently the average audience size for a show at Edinburgh is six but Voices of Lions averaged over 150!

It is a real pleasure to welcome so many of you as new members to

the HSMS in the new 2022-23 term. Our music society continues to flourish and we are now at record numbers.

Hampton music has something for everyone – all musical abilities and across all genres and the HSMS exists to support all of this. You can see how much the boys gain from all that is on offer which often leads to a lifetime love of music.

We are currently looking for a new membership secretary and general committee members for our committee. We only have two meetings per term and it's a great way to get more involved supporting music at the school and meeting other parents across the years. If you are interested in joining us please email me at Chair@HSMScommittee.com and I would be happy to give you more information.

Wishing you a very enjoyable year of music at Hampton.

Best wishes

Melissa Foux
Chair HSMS

Junior School's Workshop Day

On Sunday 24 April, Hampton School welcomed around 100 musicians from local junior schools for a day of music making. The students ranged in abilities but all were keen to experience Hampton's music department and have the chance to play in an orchestra with others. One of the consequences of COVID is that young musicians have had very limited opportunities to play together in groups, especially with students from other schools.

With guidance from several Hampton students as well as the music department staff, the students spent the day learning new pieces of music including 'Ode to Joy' and 'In the Hall of the Mountain King'.

The musicians split into groups or sections based on their instruments: strings, choir and woodwind/brass/percussion. Each group spent time together practicing a special piece for their instrument section and their parts for the whole orchestra pieces. It was nice to have the opportunity to work with the younger musicians and help them improve their playing.

After a lunchtime spent socialising and playing games on the 3G pitch, there was a dress rehearsal before an informal concert for parents in the Hammond Theatre. There were lots of excited parents and performers. The concert went very well and the improvement from the start of the day was really satisfying. It was incredible to be part of the day - everyone had fun, enjoyed the concert and appreciated the opportunity to make music together.

Rory McEwan



Massed orchestra on the Junior School's Workshop day



Max and Edmund

Junior Academy success

In February, my guitar teacher told me that this time of year is when junior academies start the application process. I originally wanted to audition next year, but he said that there is no harm in trying this year. I chose to apply to the Junior Royal Academy of Music.

For my audition, I was required to play two contrasting pieces and chose a piece from the Baroque period and a modern piece, so that they were completely different.

After hours and hours of practicing, the week of the audition finally arrived. The audition itself was virtual - I had to record myself playing my two songs and send it in. It took me a couple days to get good recordings, but finally I got two that I was satisfied with. I also had to record myself talking about the guitar: when I started playing it, why I chose to play it, as well as comments about my favourite types of music.

When the results finally came in, a few weeks later, I was thrilled to have been offered a place to study. I know that it will be a big commitment, but I cannot wait to see how I can further develop my guitar skills.

Max Carter
Year 4

First year workshop – Samba

I never knew Samba drumming was such fun! Instead of having a normal music lesson, my class went to the Hammond Theatre for the Samba workshop but before we started playing any instruments, we learned some interesting facts about Brazil, and the five-day Rio de Janeiro carnival.

We were then allowed to try out a variety of different instruments and some that you could only get in Brazil.

Our class was put into groups of around six where we learnt to play some different rhythms, and then we began to put together a layer of different rhythms and made some great music!

Alexander Laing, Year 1

Second year workshop – Steel Pan

On 11 May, the form groups of the second year were treated to an introduction to the world of steel pans, the genre characterised by its use of steel pan drums and cajons (box drum, originally made out of banana crates).



At the beginning of the workshop, we were informed about the mysterious origins of the steel pan: it is said that empty oil drums left abandoned in the ports of Trinidad and Tobago during the 1930s were heard to be producing enticing “tinkling” noises during the routine thunderstorms of the Caribbean. These oil drums were subsequently cut in half, and when divots on the bases of the oil drums were created, a tuneful musical sound could be made with a cork stick upon hitting the drum lightly; and thus came about the steel pan.

For the rest of the workshop, we learned various note sequences, until we were all able to play a song entitled “Hot, hot hot” by Lord Arrow.

James Brocklebank, Year 2

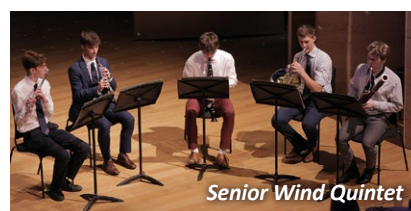
Leavers’ Concert

This year’s U6 musicians took part in the now customary Leavers’ Concert in the Hammond Theatre on 12 May.

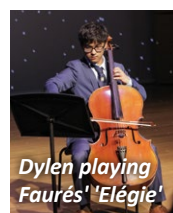
The theatre had been spectacularly converted by the tech crew into what can only be described as Hampton’s very own jazz café – it’s safe to say it would have given Ronnie Scott’s a run for its money!

Of course, any high-quality setting must have music to match, and this year’s programme certainly did not disappoint. What was amazing to see was the variety in all of the performances over the evening - Hamptonians able to truly express themselves and play something personal to them, regardless of theme or instrument.

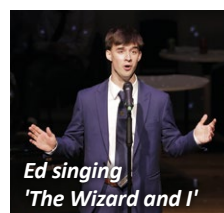
As such, the audience was treated to some brilliant numbers, from songs such as *The Wizard and I* from Broadway and the West End’s hit musical *Wicked*, sung incredibly by **Ed Finnnett**, to more classical pieces like Vivaldi’s Bassoon Concerto, performed by **Luke Jansen**. A special mention must also go to **Nathan Newell**, whose original song *Devine* was definitely a highlight



Senior Wind Quintet



Dylén playing Faurés' 'Elégie'



Ed singing 'The Wizard and I'



James singing 'Corduroy Dreams'



Alex playing with The Other Band



Jazz band closing the concert



Barbershop



Voices of Lions

Overall, it was a privilege to be a part of such a great celebration, but there was a bittersweet element, as we all knew for most of us it was the last time we would be under the Hammond Theatre lights.

At the end of the concert, it was only fitting that we said a massive thank you to **Mr Roland**, as he has put untold amounts of hard work into not only organising the Leavers’ Concert in general, but also everything else that we have managed to do via the music department these last

few years, such as Voices of Lions and numerous other groups, orchestras and societies. I know I speak for all of the departing U6 when I say that he has been the best director of music any of us could have asked for, and we cannot wait for the trip to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, which is back in full swing after a short two-year hiatus.

A huge thank you must also go to the catering staff, all of the music teachers and **Mr Oyarzabal**, for his superb accompaniment and his invaluable advice and teaching that so many of this year’s leavers have been lucky enough to enjoy. We will miss Hampton, but we are all so lucky to have been able to benefit from everything it has to offer, and we will look back with extremely fond memories. Thank you everyone!

“Don’t cry because it’s over, smile because it happened.” (Dr. Seuss)

Luke Michels, Upper sixth form



Luke performing Vivaldi's Bassoon Concerto

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 Music Department can be found on twitter @Hampton_Music and as a webpage <http://twitter.com/HamptonSchool>



Accessing our newsletter online

This edition and past copies of the Music Society’s newsletters are now available as downloadable pdfs on the school’s website.

Scan the QR code from your phone or tablet to go straight there.



Memories of Hampton School

Without a doubt, my favourite memory was acting, singing and dancing on stage in 'Guys n Dolls'. This experience was particularly memorable for me as being a classical instrumentalist, it was completely out of my comfort zone and something I will likely never do again.

I also have very fond memories of the Konstantz orchestra tour where we played 'Die Fledermaus' overture with a school in Germany. It's clearly a good sign that I'm struggling to fit in all my musical memories at the school because there have just been SO many; from the Voice of Lions tour to Edinburgh, brass band playing in the Albert Hall, and the vast number of concerts I've been able to play in over the years. I am so grateful for all of the opportunities this music department has given me. Thank you!

Henry Ward

Music at Hampton has been a phenomenal experience. I will never forget my first Edinburgh experience. The shows at the church gave me an amazing feeling of excitement combined with nervousness at not knowing all the songs properly and angering Mr Roland.

Every summer and winter concert has been a magical experience with new pieces being learnt every couple of months for seven or eight different choirs and orchestras.

Singing at St Paul's Cathedral with the chamber choir was also another highlight of my time here, alongside the choir's tour of Barcelona in the third year.

All in all, my time of Hampton has been brightened by my musical journey. A huge thank you to Mr Roland, Mrs Esser, Mr Zuckert and all of the members of the music department who made my musical experience here unforgettable.

Pallav Bagchi

Music at Hampton has probably been the most enjoyable part of my time at the school. The special moments include the choir tour to Barcelona where we sang in the amazing La Sagrada Familia; and going to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with the Voices of Lions where we performed everyday and then were able to check out other acts in the evening.

However, it was the number of opportunities available to me that really made life at school special; the weekly rehearsals in three different choirs for concerts that were always looming.

I had always dreamt of getting a band together to play any songs we wanted and in the lower sixth I made the leap to audition for the rock concert.

Thankfully, I had friends who also liked the same music - we were very talented and were able to put on performances of King Krule or Mac Miller and this was even more fun as I was on stage with a great group of people and we always had the groove!

Oskar Chu

One of the best things about music at Hampton is the diversity of music I've been a part of over the past few years and it's hard to pick any one highlight: from the Jazz Cafe to the keyboard concerts and even singing in Barcelona Cathedral and the Sagrada Familia.

Having seen lots of old sixth formers perform concertos, getting to perform one myself with the orchestra last term was an amazing experience I'll never forget - even if a bit nerve-racking.

Also being able to be part of the band for 'Crazy for You' and the other annual musicals has been another highlight of my time at Hampton. Playing such good music and getting to see it (sort of) with the singing and dancing for a whole week of performances was so much fun. We really have been lucky with how much the music department have done to give us as many great musical experiences as possible.

Daniel Morgan

The Garrick building has always been a safe space for me to rehearse, perform and make music so I am very sad to be leaving it behind. At Hampton, I have thoroughly enjoyed all the wonderful musicals we have performed, from 'Oliver', to 'Crazy For You' and 'Guys n Dolls'.

The experience of singing and acting, accompanied by a fantastic live orchestra, will always stay with me. Rehearsing with smaller ensembles such as the Wind Quintet and Clarinet Ensemble has also been thoroughly enjoyable and I will miss performing with them.

Lastly, the teachers in the department are so talented and inspirational - I can't thank them enough for their hard work during my time at Hampton.

Edward Finnett

2022 leavers



The music department has honestly been incredible in supporting and providing me with opportunities over the years - there are countless memories I have of Hampton music - I have loved every second: being lucky enough to get to sing for the prestigious Voices of Lions (thanks Mr Roland), performing in every rock concert, as well as compering the last one, which was an unbelievable opportunity. I also loved being part of multiple bands, such as the illustrious 'Atlantico Oceanus', who stole the audience's hearts in every performance, but also the percussion band with Mr Wilmott, which really allowed us to explore the world of drumming in greater depth.

However, the highlight for me has to be performing in 'Guys n Dolls' in the October 2021 musical, with LEH. The feeling of singing on that incredible Hammond Theatre stage was incomparable, the cheers from the crowds, and the family-like unity that was created between my fellow cast members. I will never forget that moment when the curtain closed at the end of our final performance, and the cheers that followed!

I would like to thank both Mr Roland and Mr Wilmott specifically, who have been an ever-present form of support in the music department for me. Mr Roland has been part of my Hampton life since it all began, in the first year, and I have seen Mr Wilmott every week for seven years! They have shown me such kindness and generosity, and I am so grateful towards them. Thanks so much to all the music department at Hampton, you have made my time unforgettable.

Milo Heard

There were many highlights in my musical life at Hampton, one of the most memorable being the exchange with a Heinrich-Suso Gymnasium which had us performing both in England and in Germany.

The musicals I contributed to from the pit were amazing to be a part of, especially 'Guys n Dolls'.

We had many opportunities to play solos, though the two that I remember most are my last keyboard performance where I played the second Rachmaninov prelude, and one of my earlier performances of 'Pirates of the Caribbean', which I hope others enjoyed as well.

Dylen Singah

To pinpoint a single, or series of, moments of Hampton music I have been a part of at first seems easy: Edinburgh Fringe festival with Voices of Lions; playing Nathan Detroit in 'Guys n Dolls'; performing Leroy Anderson's 'The Typewriter' with the symphony orchestra, and Jazz Café 2022.

But upon any further thought I find a huge number of memories that are each a wonder to relive; indeed, it is that vast bank of musical memories that makes up Hampton music for me, rather than any one moment.

Those mentioned above are culminations of years of experiences: a chorus role in 'Crazy for You!', 'Tin Pan Ali' and 'Oliver!'; playing behind some brilliant percussionists in orchestra; tentatively prodding a marimba in the swing and jazz bands.

From my first year I got into everything 'music' I could at Hampton, and as the years have gone by my involvement in pretty much every large ensemble in the school has not only grown but changed in a truly inspiring way; shy little Ben somehow managing to play an instrument silently is now a rather more outgoing individual! And as much as each ensemble in their own way has certainly contributed to this, (particularly regarding singing!) it has certainly been the teachers, old and new, academic and practical, who have made it all so special and memorable; of course, my fellow pupils have also been 'instrumental' in making Hampton music what it is.

Leaving Hampton for me is definitively centred around our year's final summer concert (and of course Edinburgh Fringe with VoL!), and I think that says everything for how important and inspiring the music department has been throughout my time here.

Ben Francis

'TEN-MINUTE' INTERVIEW

with **Mr Hinchliffe** (Visiting Teacher of Music)

Tell me a little bit about yourself!

I'm a 26 year old freelance percussionist/drummer and visiting music teacher at Hampton School.

As many a modern musician must do, I have fingers in lots of pies. Work for me can take many forms, whether that be in the guise of a West End show or tour, such as Falsettos, The Other Palace (2019) or more recently The Simon and Garfunkel Story, or running my own entertainment business, coordinating weddings and events across the UK and internationally. Outside of music I'm massively into my running, and (unfortunately) am an avid Everton Football Club Fan.

What were your musical experiences growing up?

I have been playing drums for as long as I can remember. Aged 4, much to the dismay of parents, my grandparents purchased a beginner's drum set for me, due to my never-ending tapping on literally anything I could get my hands on. From an early age I was able to over-enthusiastically jam-out to anything from the metronomic rhythm of a car indicator, to my dad's fantastic selection of rock music. I was extremely lucky to grow up in a very musical family, with all three of my siblings all involved in music in some form to this day (my extremely talented twin actually plays tuba for the official England Football Association's matchday band). Alongside my father's impeccable taste in music and tireless roadie-ing, I owe a great deal to Jayne Obradovic at Wells Cathedral School, the team at North Somerset Music Service and the National Children's Orchestra for my early musical education. I'm very thankful.

Can you tell me more about your degree / education, and how did you become a teacher?

I took a slightly unconventional route post-secondary school, in that I studied an academic music course at The University of Birmingham, rather than taking the music college route. I've always been fascinated by essay writing and forming arguments, and studying music from that perspective was a pleasure. The amazing connections that UOB had with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and CBSO ensured that I was able to study a joint course where I could balance my performing with academic study. I did, however, decide to throw everything at performance after graduating in 2018, and was lucky enough to study a masters, and subsequent fellowship, at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama when I moved to the capital for the first time and cut my teeth gigging in London. As for becoming a teacher, I have been teaching nearly as long as I have been playing. I ran ensembles and groups of all sorts at both my primary and secondary schools in Portishead, near Bristol, from barbershop quartets to tuned percussion ensembles, sharing my passion with friends and peers alike. Music is such a lovely thing to pass on.

How did you come to join the music department at Hampton and what does your role entail here?

As a visiting music teacher, my role is to provide percussion and drum kit tuition to the lovely students at Hampton! I have been an educator for a little while now, working at schools and institutions across the UK, but the role at Hampton School really jumped out at me when I came across the advertisement for a number of reasons. Having the opportunity to

share my love for percussive study at a school where music and the arts are valued so highly

has to be the biggest draw. I'm looking forward to seeing where this role takes me, and I've some really exciting plans for ensembles and repertoire that the students can get involved in.

How are you involved in music outside school and what achievements are you most proud of?

Music is my life. As I'm sure the reader has gleaned from my previous answers, there isn't a genre or ensemble that I won't consider performing in or with. I would say that given the awful few years that the arts have suffered, I'm especially proud of the fact that I'm a self-sufficient musician in the 21st century. I'm also extremely proud of the small business that I have grown, in particular the ensembles that I have curated and set up, Charlie and the Funk Factory and The Oomparty Band. We are now seasoned outfits around the UK and even out in Europe, and I'm so grateful that my job allows me to work with friends, as well as colleagues. Feel free to check out our videos on YouTube; I guarantee you won't have seen anything quite like the Oompah band (I'd recommend the 80s or Football Medleys).

Is there a musician you particularly admire?

What a HUGE question! I think I'd find it too difficult to narrow this down to any one performer or musician, however there are a number of performers who have really influenced me, and continue to do so in countless ways. From a drum kit perspective, I have always admired Neal Peart (Rush), Philly Joe Jones (Miles Davis Quintet) and Dave Grohl (Nirvana/Foo Fighters). When it comes to percussion, you simply cannot mention the "percussion" word without thinking of Evelyn Glennie, and I've always loved watching Colin Currie perform Steve Reich at concert halls in and around London.

If someone wants to learn a musical instrument, what advice would you give?

Pick an instrument that you feel you can relate to and express yourself on. Whether that's simply how the instrument sounds, or that it's featured in music that you enjoy listening to. I feel like being a drummer is as much a personality trait as it is a career or hobby, and I'm sure there's many instrumentalists out there who feel the same way about their instruments.

Are there any top tips for those wanting to pursue a professional music career?

Be open. You never know which conversation or performance can lead to the next one. There is no set path for a successful career in music.

What advice would you have to a boy who wants to study music?

.... Take up the drums (although I think I might be a little biased).

Which album would you choose for your Desert Island?

It would have to be Stevie Wonder's "Songs in the Key of Life". It's got everything.

And your Desert Island luxury?

The full set of Harry Potter books. To say I'm a "Potterhead" would be an understatement.



ABRSM EXAM SUCCESSES

ABRSM results for the Summer term are shown below.

Pass – 16 Merit – 29 Distinction – 11

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