

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

**SUMMER
TERM
REVIEW
2021**

Dear Members

Welcome to our HSMS review. As this is written the ensembles are back playing in person and across year groups and rehearsals are well under way for the up-coming production of *Guys and Dolls* with LEH. After so many months of quieter times at school it is marvellous that so much live music is being created again.

At the start of the summer term with restrictions still in place concerts were online without an audience. The HSMS has supported the music department throughout the last 18 months to provide funds to facilitate the recording and production of these concerts and you can see from the reviews that were written how much the boys enjoyed performing even in these rather strange times. The phenomenal music output over the last year involving so much effort and coordination is a real tribute to the department, music teachers and support staff.

By the end of the term audiences were back in the Hammond enjoying our wonderful summer concerts and sending our U6 off with a final farewell at the Leavers' concert. The ever-popular brass

band is now a marching brass band debuting its moves outside at the summer concert!

It is a real pleasure to welcome so many of you as new members of the HSMS. I hope to meet you at our live concerts this term.

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.

Last year we said a fond farewell and a very big thank you to committee members Celica Lucas, Caroline Muller and Samanji Wijesena who have done so much for the society over the years. We are currently looking for a new membership secretary and general committee members. 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

Online recording of Purcell's 'Hear my Prayer'

The process to make a virtual recording of Henry Purcell's '*Hear my Prayer*' started when we received an email from Mrs Esser asking if we were interested in recording a Purcell choral piece.

This was during national lockdown in January 2021 when music was scarce, and I'm pleased to say nine of us accepted, from first trebles down to second basses.

We met via Teams, when Mrs Esser introduced the piece to us, and went through the more technical side of things. We received a marked copy of the score and guide tracks, which we practiced for about a month, until the end of February, when we were ready to record.

Although you couldn't see it in the video, there was a lot of work put in by all of the students to get the recording device and the multiple sheets of music in the right place to ensure everything was perfect for the video.

Mr Traves worked his magic on the videos and expertly fitted all the recordings together. Finally, on the 29 April, it was released.

Personally, I really enjoyed listening to it, and was really impressed by the end result!

On behalf of everyone involved, I would like to thank Mrs Esser, for masterminding the whole project, and Mr Traves, for making the tracks sound amazing. I'm sure everyone would want to do it again!

Nathaniel Carson (second year)

Chamber Concert 1

In these Corona virus times, the only music performances you can see are on screen. It's no substitute for the real thing.

But there was something electrifyingly real about the performances at the Hampton chamber concerts. Maybe it was because I knew how it felt to go onto the stage and perform? How nervous I felt, with the camera recording my every mistake, when my classmate and I played the first part of Peter Warlock's '*Capriol Suite*' on the piano.

In particular, the jazz trio jumped out at me. They performed *How Insensitive* by Antônio Carlos Jobim, a piece I didn't know, it was amazing to hear this new music performed by Henry, Finlo and Toby. It was unusual and brave to perform a mellow evening tune in the glaring light of the stage - listening to it felt like I was transported to a jazz club.

Music can bring much needed joy and relief in these - still - challenging times. Thanks to all the brilliant Hampton performers for sharing your usual with us!

Alex Nelson (second year)

U6 students Jack and Luke performing a movement of the Capriol Suite



Alex and Alex performing their movement of the Capriol Suite



L6 Wind Quintet playing Taffanel's wind quintet



L6 students performing Bach's double violin concerto





Guitar Ensemble playing Piazzola's Libertango



Fifth Year Piano Trio playing pieces by Carreño and Haydn



Clarinet Ensemble

Chamber concert 2

All Hampton concerts have one thing in common – a huge amount of variety – and I have to say, this really didn't disappoint. It's not often you see a piano at a concert, but when you do, it never fails to impress.

We started with a Haydn Trio – No.39 in G, before a Waltz by Carreño. Well done to Pranav, Johnny and Tetsuro for some excellent playing of some difficult parts.

Libertango, by Piazzola. Guitars are often overlooked, I think, but this piece said otherwise. This high level of playing really stood out to me. Freddy, Theo and Cameron, well done.

Two trios followed – one string trio and one piano. Haydn, again, this time in C, played by Nathaniel, Ryan and Xavier, before Mozart, played with a clarinet and viola by Tomas, Theo and Thomas. No, that's not a typo(!).

They say all good things come in threes and that couldn't be more true than of the piano trios. A third one, with Ishaan, Logan and Charlie at the helm. Getting through all the great composers, we found ourselves listening to Beethoven, before the clarinet ensemble, with Sooho, Elijah, Jack, Eugene and Boris. Some excellent playing all around.

The last performance is often, at least in my view, one of the best, and I'm totally not saying that because I was in the group... Enterprising Young Men from Star Trek, played by Declan, Harry, Gabriel and myself.

Having been quite some time since the last few concerts, it was really good to be able to see people performing in the Hammond once again, and I can't wait to see more in the future.

Edmund Ng (third year)

Rock Concert

The air was thick with the noise of bass-boosted drums and phenomenal electric guitar riffs at the rock concert. It was the talk of the town, featuring ten different bands and two solos by Felix Von Der Geest and Daniel Tresidder.

Yet also, (fun fact here) featuring two different fire alarms throughout the concert, which was hilarious.

The whole atmosphere surrounding the concert and the stage was exhilarating, from the beaming lights highlighting the bands and the stage to the captivated audience, it all added to make such a sensational experience, especially coming from someone, like myself, who had never witnessed anything like this before. I've got to say that the witty introductions to each band by Felix and Tom were some of the highlights of the concert, inspiring laughter from the crowd with every sentence.

As one of the performers, in the Second Year Junior Rock Band, the whole evening as a whole was definitely the pinnacle of my whole year at Hampton, ending the year with a bang. Definitely a 11/10 experience!

Ryan Chen (second year)

Unbeatable energy of Samba

The Samba workshop was super fun! We were taught some important Samba rhythms and by the end completed a whole Samba performance.

I learnt a lot about the history of Samba and its origins from African music and the slave trade, and we became familiar with some famous samba instruments such as the Agogô (a metal set of bells that is struck by a wooden stick) and the Xequeré (an empty gourd surrounded by a woven net of beads or seeds).

During the session we played different instruments as a group as well as including other Samba features like pauses and layering. We grew in confidence with the instruments and all felt the samba beat. The class then performed together and created our very own Brazilian carnival at Hampton!

It was a really fun morning and we learnt a lot about Samba and Brazilian culture, but above all we were all dancing and tapping the catchy rhythms for the rest of the day!

James Eggelton (second year)



Art & Music

On the final day before half term, we saw parents come to the Hammond once again to watch the art and music concert – the first live concert in over a year!

It was a concert dedicated to Norwegian composer, Edvard Grieg and showcased a wide variety of his music, from the playful 'March of the Dwarfs' performed by Joe Strong, to Henry Ward's more reflective performance of 'Remembrance' which ended the concert.

Each piece was accompanied with a painting painted by a group of second years who managed to effectively capture the mood of each piece with their artwork. We are really grateful to Mr Oyarzabal, not only for teaching each of the performers but for organising this lovely event to end half term.

Daniel Morgan (lower sixth)

ABRSM EXAM SUCCESSES

We have received the ABRSM results for the summer term: 52 boys took an exam, the results are shown below.

Pass – 16 Merit – 30 Distinction – 6



Felix singing his own song



Junior Rock Band



Third Year Rock Band



Gamelan workshop

Music students from the third year recently had the opportunity to participate in a Gamelan workshop, learning the basics of playing and respecting the instruments. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and learnt a great deal.

The teacher did an outstanding job at giving us a sense of what it would have been like playing Gamelan in Indonesia, and the importance of the music in the country. He walked us through the roles of each instrument, and how to respectfully play them.

The trickiest part of Gamelan is dampening each note the beat after it's played, but it's an exciting musical challenge for anyone wishing to give it a go!

I'd like to thank the Hampton music department for organising this workshop, and also Mike, from *Inspire Works*, for sharing his knowledge and passion. I'd encourage everyone to give it a go if you get the chance!

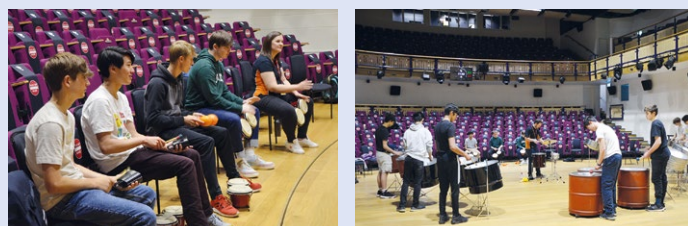
Tommy Skeffington (third year)

The beating drums of Calypso

On Friday 28 May, 13 lucky fifth year boys were treated to an engaging workshop where we were taught about Calypso, a form of music from Trinidad & Tobago.

We learnt about the origins of the genre, while a personal highlight was being given the chance to play 'One Love' by Bob Marley on the steel pans. A big thank you to Mike and Lindsay, from *Inspire Works*, for a thoroughly enjoyable and intriguing experience.

Johnny Evans-Hutchison (fifth year)



Class Performance



First year VOCES8

On 24 June 2021, the first year had a music workshop in the Hammond theatre from Apollo 5. It was spectacular.

After introductions, we started making music with our bodies such as flicking our fingers, clapping or stomping. After that, Apollo 5 sang an a Capella version of 'Human' by Rag'n'Bone Man, which was very cool and amazing to hear all of their voices link and combine into an incredible sound.

After lunch, we were split into groups with a member of Apollo 5 to support us as we created a performance together which would be presented to everyone else.

This was a lot of fun but it was a bit difficult to pick some moves.

After this we listened to Apollo 5 sing some more fantastic songs followed by our own performances which was nerve-racking.

Finally, we asked if we could hear Jacob, the beatboxer, beat box. And I think he was our favourite. I would recommend this workshop to every school.

Jaipaal Ghotra (first year)

Whole of First Year being briefed by Apollo 5



Class Performance



Jazz Band performing as part of the Rock Concert



Rock Concert

Putting an end to a musical drought at Hampton, the Summer Rock Concert was a testament to rock n' roll being alive and well.

There was a bit of everything, from fan favourites such as MGMT's 'Kids', and The Animals' 'House of the Rising Sun', performed by The Matt Chapmen and Dynamix respectively, to an original songs debut by What Happens Next.

Mr. Horden's Jazz Band and The Last Call Quartet brought some lighter, smooth jazz and fusion to the audience, and the Upper Sixth Rock Band finished the concert off with a trifecta of songs from Led Zeppelin, Radiohead and Alter Bridge.

The energy and excitement that playing in front of a live audience after so long brings meant that each of the musicians couldn't stop thinking: "it's good to be back".

Oscar Leonov (upper sixth)



Upper Sixth leavers' performing Letting Go written by Jack



Oscar's trio performing Counting, written by Oscar



Joe performing Rachmaninov's Prelude in C# minor

The Leavers Concert

The Leavers' Concert was a very heart-warming and moving experience for everyone, giving us a chance to create music together, and to reflect on the past seven years at the school.

There were many powerful performances; for example, Joe's passionate depiction of Rachmaninov's prelude in C sharp minor, balanced by many light and jovial performances; for example, Sathin's gripping rendition of "I got plenty o' nuttin'" with the house band.

It was exhilarating to finally be able to hear and create live music (especially being able to perform with professionals!) and it made this concert a very fitting end to seven years of music at Hampton.



Upper Sixth Ensemble



Matthew playing Carreño's Un rêve en mer



Saul playing Dragonetti's Waltz no 6



Jack, Miss van Ments and Miss Oliver playing Mendelssohn's Piano Trio in D minor, mvt 1



First Year Chamber Choir



Christopher and Rupert performing Vivaldi's concerto for two trumpets



Alumnus update with Nathan Klein

What dates were you a student at Hampton?

I think 2004-2011...!

What are your memories of your time at Hampton? (good and bad!)

In our last year Eddie Cummings took it upon himself to consume an entire Swiss roll in one go every week before orchestra rehearsal... success depended on the size of the roll. His achievements were so prolific that he was challenged by his Konstanz exchange, Max, to a Swiss roll face off in front of both orchestras. I don't think Eddie would advise anyone to take up the mantle. I genuinely think the 'Swiss Roll Challenge' was an important and positive part of orchestral team atmosphere at the time. Eddie took orchestral performances very seriously and I can still remember the look of severe concentration he would have on his face during them.

What musical instruments did you play at school and has this changed since you left?

My first instrument was the trumpet, studying with the masterful Colin Clague. I had some basic piano technique but didn't take more serious lessons until sixth form. Alan Jones was a brilliant teacher and I still use those skills in some form every day for work!

What were your A level choices?

Music (of course), maths, history and economics.

What did you study at university?

Music.

Tell us about your career after university?

I'm incredibly fortunate to compose music for films, TV and adverts for a living. My first film scoring experiment was as part of a Hampton music lesson in the third year. I got the bug and have never seriously considered any other career. After university I found a great mentor who gave me lots of work as an orchestrator. This allowed me to build a foundation for my own composition work and see how other established composers approached things. Work ethic and humility are probably good things to keep in mind. I would say patience but having a bit of drive to get where you want to go is probably needed as well. You need to be a perfectionist but also willing to throw a day's work in the bin without too much of a fuss.

How has music influenced your life?

Quite profoundly! It has certainly given me an internal identity. It has also been a lot of work and meant I missed out on getting to do other things I might have liked to... but equally many brilliant experiences.

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

Generally, you get out what you put in, but try not to take things too seriously. Humour, empathy and self-awareness are key ingredients of any happy, healthy musician.

What artist(s) have inspired you?

Everyone from Bach to NIN and beyond. I was recently pointed in the direction of Frank Bridge's 'Enter Spring' which is an incredible orchestral exploration I wasn't aware of. The following track in my Spotify liked songs happens to be 'Earthquake' (feat. Tinie Tempah). My next project could easily be inspired by either...

What's next in your career?

Hopefully just continuing on the same path working on a wide range of interesting projects!

Musical memories of Hampton by departing sixth formers

Since arriving at Hampton, getting involved with the musical opportunities have been some of the greatest decisions I have made. Some of my earlier highlights include the first-year choir tour to Italy, where we sang in St Marks in Venice, and the incredible school jazz trip to Malta, where I was awarded the 'coolest bass player' award by the upper sixth students. Later on in my school career, I had the opportunity to go to Lake Konstanz with the orchestra, where I was surrounded by friends and staff members who made the trip so enjoyable. My whole musical experience at Hampton has been extremely enjoyable and made possible by the amazing musical team at Hampton.

Saul

With so many memories of my musical life at Hampton, it is hard for me to choose one that truly stands out from the rest. Playing in the Jazz Café concert and performing my first improvised solo with the jazz band was great in allowing me to express myself on stage and to showcase the love I have for both jazz and the trumpet. Taking part in Music for Youth with the brass band was also a great experience, as it allowed me to play in locations I still feel fortunate to have played in today, such as the Royal Albert Hall and Birmingham Symphony Hall. Being able to experience these events alongside excellent musicians and the support of teachers, however, is what has stuck with me throughout my five years at the school and has given me the most pleasure out of what I have contributed to musical life at Hampton.

Hugo



(left to right) Angus, Hugo and Saul

What makes Hampton music so special is how serious it is taken by everyone involved, but how there always remains room for a laugh. The school's musicals and Voices of Lions' annual trip to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival are, for me, where this is most evident. In both cases we rehearse until every detail is right and performances feel as if they are of a professional standard. Yet, it never feels like we are working too hard because everyone wants to be there and there's always something to joke about – especially watching us boys attempt to dance during the musicals, which is a particularly tragic and comical sight before we are quickly whipped into shape.

Angus

Summer Concert

This year's long-awaited summer concert was an amazing experience. From the magnificent roar of the Lower Sixth Percussion Ensemble to the lyrical singing of Angus Whitworth, this concert was one to remember.

I enjoyed performing with a lot of the ensembles present.

The Voices of Lions opened with Tobias Droy beautifully performing his solo for Loch Lomond, followed by a new favourite of ours, a fantastic rendition of Stevie Wonder's 'Superstition'.

The Lower Sixth Symphony Orchestra welcomed fifth years' Johnny Evans-Hutchinson and Freddy Liang and upper sixth students, Jack Lucas, Joe Strong, Hugo Hamilton and Vlad Penzyev, to perform Dvořák's orchestrated version of piano duet number 8, which blew the audience away.

The Lower Sixth Jazz Band closed the show with a finale of Bags' 'Groove and Down' by the Riverside. The rapturous applause we received indicated that the audience still wanted more.

After the audience's applause had died down, the upper sixth formers took to the stage to thank everyone for their wonderful time at Hampton. It was a sad farewell, not just to this year's leavers but also to Mrs Oldfield and Mr Goodwin. We wish them all the best for their future endeavours, but I can safely say that this concert was a rousing success, one which will be remembered for years to come.

Pallav Bagchi (lower sixth)



First Year Chamber Choir



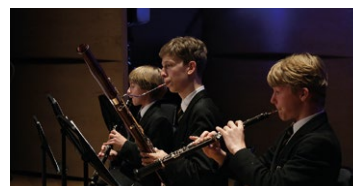
Symphony Orchestra



Second Year Sinfonia



Upper Sixth Clarinets



Lower Sixth Orchestra



Third & Fourth Year Choir



Tobias singing Loch Lomond with Vol



Angus performing solo



Glinka Trio



L6 Percussion Ensemble



Brass Band – marching between concerts



Jazz Band



Third Year Orchestra

'Ten-minute' interview

with Angharad Thomas,
visiting bassoon teacher

Tell me a little bit about yourself!

I'm originally from Cardiff and currently work out of London as a professional bassoonist, bassoon teacher and music educator. During the pandemic, I retrained as a donor carer for NHS Blood and Transplant, and for the last year, I took plasma and blood donations at the Stratford Clinic.

What did you study?

I read Music at New College, Oxford where I held both academic and performance scholarships. I graduated from New College with first class honours. I completed my Master's degree at Oxford, and graduated with distinction. It was at this point that I felt the time was right to pursue my passion for performance. I was awarded a Leverhulme scholarship to study for two years at the Royal Academy of Music in London and graduated with a Master of Arts (distinction) DipRAM and was also awarded my Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music (LRAM).

How did you join the music department at Hampton?

While studying I was heavily involved in leading music workshops and education projects both through the Academy and with my wind ensemble, Moriarty Winds. When the opportunity came to apply for the position of visiting teacher of bassoon at both LEH and Hampton I jumped at the chance. I'm delighted to have been working across both schools for the last five years.

What are your responsibilities within the music department?

The role gives me the opportunity to promote this 'rare beast' of an instrument as well as introduce the boys to a wide variety of musical styles and genres. I am passionate that everyone should be given the opportunity to get to know the bassoon. I'm an advocate for the wealth of opportunities playing an unusual instrument can offer. The bassoon is such a versatile instrument, and it allows the player to take a real ownership of their role and voice within any ensemble. The bassoon isn't just the comedian of the orchestra, it can be both beautifully expressive too!

How are you involved in music outside school?

I am a professional freelance musician and have had the privilege of playing with many of the best orchestras in the country including the RPO, LPO, BBC Philharmonic, WNO and RNS. I'm looking forward to returning to the Proms again this summer and playing at both Glyndebourne and with Glyndebourne Touring Opera. I also regularly perform solo recitals at venues across the UK, including the performance of major concertos in the repertoire. Chamber music forms an extremely important part of my career as a musician. My wind ensemble, Moriarty Winds, held a Chamber Music Fellowship at the Royal Academy of Music, and have performed a wide variety of repertoire in venues including St. Martin in the Fields and Wigmore Hall. The name 'Moriarty' comes from an appreciation for the Royal Academy's close proximity to Baker Street, home of Sherlock Holmes whose famous adversary was Moriarty!



Tell me more about your own musical journey growing up.

Music has always been a part of my life growing up. My mother played piano, flute and harp and my grandfather introduced me to a wide range of musical styles and repertoire. I studied as a member of the junior department at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, which was where I was first introduced to the bassoon. I played in the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain and then The National Youth Orchestra of Wales as well as many independent orchestras and chamber groups.

Is there a musician you particularly admire?

Bob Codd – he was my first bassoon teacher and former principal bassoonist of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. He is an absolute genius: lesson time with him never seemed a chore and, as well as being an outstanding musician, he had a natural talent for teaching. I started learning with Bob when I was eight and he opened up a new world for me with his stories about the composers and their music.

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

Find an instrument that excites you and a teacher that inspires you, and make sure you have the time to dedicate to learning – even professional musicians need to practice!

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

Be passionate, determined, organised and resilient. Be musical, be expressive, be characterful. Having your own voice as a musician can set you apart.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to study music?

Music is an international language with international appeal. I firmly believe that being exposed to high quality instrumental teaching and rigorous academic study prepared me for a life enriched by music, but also provided me with a broad range of transferrable skills. Explore everything and be curious. I discovered some of my favourite music and composers today through attending unusual lectures at university. Take every opportunity that is given to you as you never know where it might lead.

What artists have inspired you?

I am in awe of all of the musicians whose performances at the Wigmore Hall were live streamed during the pandemic. This recital series gave me real hope for the arts, and faith that the classical music industry would recover. Of all of the recitals though, Alina Ibragimova's performance of Schubert's Sonatina in A minor really moved me and inspired me to continue to practise in the knowledge that live music performance would return!

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

For me, it would have to be Mahler's First Symphony. When I performed this piece for the first time with the National Youth Orchestra of Wales, it was the first time I experienced the true power of a symphony orchestra. Sitting within the orchestra during the last movement, I found the energy overwhelming. I could listen to the last movement of this piece again and again, and still get goose bumps.

And what would be your Desert Island luxury?

I have a wonderful English Setter named 'Calan' (Welsh for new beginnings) because he was born on New Year's Day. I couldn't leave him behind and hopefully, with his setter breeding, he may be able to hunt me down some food!

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.



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