

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

AUTUMN
2024
SPRING &
SUMMER
2025

Dear HSMS Parents,

It is, as always, a great pleasure to introduce this newsletter which summarises the musical highlights of 2025 that took place under the auspices of the Hampton music department. Whilst we, as parents, and quite understandably, tend to focus on our own sons in their various Hampton musical endeavours, the additional stand out in this newsletter, in particular, is the support and dedication of the Hampton music department team. Every event write-up is teeming with evidence of the staff dedication and commitment. Particular congratulations to Mr Oyazarbal, Mrs Hutton, and Ms Estall for getting, respectively,

their two Trio's and one Wind Quintet through to the next round of the external Pro Corda competition. My own thanks to Mr Ferrier and Mr Horden for really inspiring their jazz bands at the Jazz Café during what was a great evening of boogie. Last, but by no means least, Declan Goh perhaps best summarised things on the staff front by describing Mr Roland as an 'absolute legend' for his motivational abilities prior to Declan's performance of 'Scene de Ballet'! Thanks again to the whole Hampton musical team – the staff, the support staff, and the Hampton boys – for a wonderfully varied and ambitious 2025 programme!

Mark Morrison, HSMS Chair

Some of our younger woodwind players ready to perform!



Woodwind Concert

The Hampton Woodwind Concert took place on 29 January 2025, showcasing a diverse range of talented musicians performing an exciting and varied repertoire.

The evening featured an array of solo and ensemble performances, highlighting the skill and dedication of Hampton's woodwind players.

The audience was treated to "The Reeders", an engaging clarinet ensemble piece featuring Jayen Li, James Cao, Jerry Du and William McCaheartly, under the excellent coaching of Miss Estall. Another memorable performance was "Suite de Trois Morceaux: Allegro" by Yule Oh on the flute, who demonstrated impressive technical ability and control.

The concert also featured an impressive performance of Haydn's "London Trio in C Major: Vivace", played by Arthur Paynter, Sena Kelly and Dominic Nelson; coached by Miss Koster, which brought the first half to a close and added a lively and engaging element to the programme.

The second half brought equally captivating performances, including Rasmussen's "Quintet in F: Andante Cantabile", featuring a talented woodwind ensemble comprising flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn, again expertly coached by Miss Estall. Another spectacular highlight was Von Weber's "Clarinet Concerto: Rondo" performed by Samuel Hughes with a particularly dazzling cadenza. Paired with Mr Oyazarbal's sensational accompaniment, it proved to be a hit with the packed Hammond theatre audience.

Overall, the concert was a testament to the dedication and talent of Hampton's woodwind musicians. The enthusiastic audience's response reflected the success of the evening, and the performers should be commended for their outstanding contributions. Many thanks to Mr Chakravarty and Miss Estall for conducting and organising this fantastic event, and to Mr Oyazarbal for wonderful accompaniments.

Sena Kelly, Fourth year

Pro Corda

On 30 January 2025, six Hampton School chamber groups, made up of 22 pupils, were invited to partake in the annual Pro Corda competition, held this year at Epsom College.

Each chamber group had the opportunity to play fantastic music to the adjudicator and I can say with absolute certainty that they didn't disappoint. Repertoire ranged from the antiquity of Beethoven, who's "Quartet in B Flat Major" was played contently by Mr Schofield's quartet of Leo Ma, Nathaniel Carson, James Nunn and Xavier Fricot, to the modernity of Bridge, who's trios were elegantly produced like a dance by both Albert Khadzhev, Colin Yeung, and Sion Kim of Mr Oyazarbal's trio and Yangtze Tjoe, Alex Nelson, and Gabriel Lau of Mr Chakravarty's trio.

There was also music by Shostakovich that was played with pinpoint accuracy and intensity by Ms van Ments' quartet made up of sixth formers Declan Goh, Harry Spence, Gabriel Porter and Jian Graffe, along with the playful and characterful performance of the "Trio in A Minor" by Reinecke, excellently performed by Rafferty O'Connor-Zumla, David Tam and Louis Chun.

Last but not least, the woodwind quintet of Jeff Liu, Jonathan Morrison, Boris Duke, Sena Kelly, and Benedict Foley-Cook, led by Ms Estall, presented a wondrous edition of Rasmussen's "Wind Quintet", capping off a quite wondrous overall performance from Hampton School, with Mr Oyazarbal's Trio, Mrs Hutton's Trio and Ms Estall's wind quintet all proceeding to the next round and the talent of all the musicians reaffirmed.

Leo Ma, Lower sixth

Louis, Raff and David made it to the finals!



Rock Concert rocks!

The evening of 31 January 2025 saw Hampton's musical performers return to the Hammond stage for the biannual rock concert, a staple of the school's musical and performing arts calendar, and my favourite evening of the school year, with a wide range of ages from first year to upper sixth all represented on stage.

Not personally featuring until after the interval, I joined the rest of the performers in watching the concert live-streamed to our drama studio. Joint Hampton and LEH band Maman kicked-off the evening with a classy rendition of "Grease" by Frankie Valli. Fifth year band, The Sopranos, raised the energy with a two-man performance of modern rock classic "Out of the Black", whilst Revolver's performance of Led Zepelin's "Rock and Roll" featured a drum solo with only a single stick! A personal highlight from the first half was Chicken Thieves' rendition of "Pour Some Sugar on Me", whilst both junior rock bands impressed, covering hits from Foo Fighters to Black Sabbath, separated by an impressive performance by The Firm of Oasis classic "Champagne Supernova".

Following the interval, Bailey Hornsby-Clifton opened the second half with a mellow acoustic rendition of "Chasing Cars", a favourite with the crowd. Intermediate rock band brought both the funk with "This Old World's Too Funky for Me", and then the energy with rap-metal hit "Bombtrack", which I was able to witness from the wings before my first performance of the night of Slipknot's hit "Before I Forget" in Polyphony. This was followed by Sacred Band of Thebes' performance of the mellow

"Evil Ways", credit to Avi Bhatt who stepped in behind the kit with minimal notice for one of his six songs on the night.

Lower sixth bands, Forgotten Sentiment and Cementheads, upped the ante with their performances of Linkin Park and Nirvana tracks respectively. The

penultimate act of the night was The Beatles smash hit "Hey Jude", performed by Breeze, with the entire cohort joining them on stage for the iconic final chorus. The senior rock band ended the night with a three-track set, covering grunge, punk rock and classic metal from The Smashing Pumpkins, Green Day and Ozzy Osbourne respectively, five years on from our first performance together as the junior rock band.

Overall, the rock concert lived up to its usual and deserved hype, helped in no part by the superb energy and skill of all performers on the night, and the brilliant work of compères John and Kiran. As always, enormous thanks go to everyone involved behind the scenes, including the Hammond theatre team, Mr Eliot and Mr Thompson for their help with mixing, stage design and lighting; Mr Pym and Mr Willmott for their work with the night's school-run bands; and the rest of the music department for all their work behind the scenes.

Eddie Haycock, Lower sixth



Jazz Café

Hampton School's jazz café was once again open for business on 12 March 2025.

The musical entertainment for the evening was divided into five sets, two from the swing band and two from the jazz band and one by a saxophone ensemble. Junior jazz also made their debut (to great acclaim).

In swing band, conducted by Mr Ferrier, some highlights across the two sets were the performances of "Caravan", "Strutting With Some Barbeque", "Go Tell it on the Mountain", which was a funky rendition of the classic Christmas song, and "Chattanooga Choo Choo", which is by far and away the most popular song in swing band, having been played in several different jazz cafés.

Every member of the swing band had the opportunity to play solos during the evening, and the audience acknowledged each solo with applause, which was a great feeling and a unique aspect of the evening.

Some great performances from the jazz band, conducted by Mr Horden included "Down By The Riverside", which is most recognisable as the New Orleans funeral piece in the Bond film "Live and Let Die", "Sunny" with vocals beautifully sung by Hugo Knowles and an original composition by Harry Skeffington, that included several solos and an incredible trombone solo finale that he performed and which amazed the audience with its impressive length and variety.

Also debuting in jazz café was Mr McQuaid's saxophone ensemble that featured two brilliant pieces, "Solace" and "Travelin' All Alone". They were filled with amazing solos and showcased the range of saxophonists currently at Hampton.

Finally, a big shoutout to the junior jazz ensemble who, under Mr Thomson's guidance, performed a great rendition of the Peter Gunn theme with the swing band backing them up. All four members of the ensemble played wonderful solos with great confidence and hopefully we shall see the return of this breeding ground of young jazz musicians in the next concert.

Overall, this year's jazz café was a triumphant success with a fantastic set of performances across all the year groups. Congratulations to all involved with a special thank you to all the teachers named above and also thank you to the caterers and tech staff who created such a wonderful atmosphere to accompany the music.

Rory McEwan, Fourth year

Choral Society Concert

On 15 March 2025, over 180 musicians and singers from the joint LEH and Hampton choral society gathered in the Hammond theatre for a night of exceptional music, joined by a packed audience.

The concert was opened with Haydn's exciting and dramatic "Inसानae et Vanae Curae", quickly followed by his iconic "Nelson Mass: Missa in Angustiis", a real marathon for both the orchestra and choir, providing lots of variety and incredible singing.

The choir and orchestra were extremely privileged to have been able to accompany four incredible professional soloists, Kirsty McLean (soprano), Stephanie Franklin (alto), James Gilchrist (tenor) and 2009 alumnus Michael Craddock OH (bass).

After the interval, the Hammond audience was also treated to "Fauré's Cantique de Jean Racine", an intricate and delicate piece that provided a lovely contrast from the music beforehand.

I had been preparing my piece, "Scene de Ballet" composed by de Bériot, a virtuosic and playful piece that combines a bit of everything, for more than half a year in anticipation for the opportunity to perform alongside the orchestra, which is a significant honour that the school bestows on upper sixth formers to showcase their abilities, and although nervous, I was more than ready to step on stage. This performance was the culmination of my Hampton musical career, so I needed to really demonstrate why I deserved this opportunity to perform in such a meaningful concert. Right before I went on, I was given a last minute motivational talk from Mr Roland (absolute legend), who managed to clear out most of my doubts and send me on stage brimming with energy.

Playing with an orchestra of such high calibre is something that many dream of doing, so I am extremely thankful that I was able to make this dream come true! For many of those reading, keep working hard and you will have the chance to do this as well.

Finally, the concert ended with Lili Boulanger's epic impressionist work "Vieille Prière Bouddhique", performed by James Gilchrist. It was almost hypnotic and was filled with luscious melodies and was a perfect way to top off the event.

Declan Goh, Upper sixth



Junior Workshop Day

On Sunday 27 April 2025, over 100 pupils from local primary and prep schools came together for the annual junior schools' music workshop at Hampton School.

It is organised and run by the music department and it is a very popular community event.

A number of Hamptonians involved in the music department, including myself, helped out and it was especially nice for me as I had been a part of this day prior to joining Hampton and so I knew what fun was in store.

The music for the day involved both orchestral playing and choral singing.

In the morning, we did sectional rehearsals where the musicians (from grade 1 upwards) were given their music. The leader of the section helped the pupils to play some popular yet quite challenging repertoire. I really enjoyed helping the violin section.

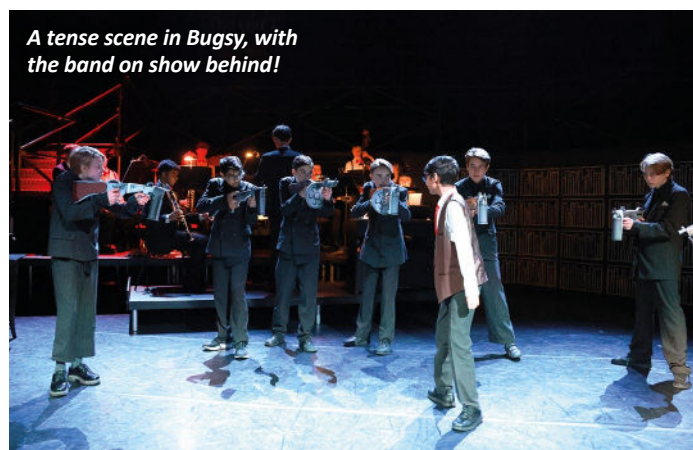
The first full orchestra rehearsal was after lunch where we all went to the Hammond theatre. For many pupils this was the first time that they had been on our wonderful Hammond stage and also the first time playing in such a large orchestra. You could really tell how excited they were.

Some of the pieces we played together were from Harry Potter, and Lord of The Rings. The choir also sang "Sherando" and it sounded amazing.

At the end of the day, the parents were invited to watch their children play in a final concert and everyone was so proud. It sounded wonderful especially considering the pupils were still only in primary school. The adults watching looked so delighted and clapped loudly. Everyone had worked so hard all day to produce amazing music together. The parents and the participants all had huge smiles as they left the Hammond.

The teachers put such a lot of work and preparation into the day - it is an incredible event and one, I am sure, many will remember for years to come.

Raff, First year



A tense scene in Bugsy, with the band on show behind!

Junior Musical: Bugsy Malone

The Bugsy Malone production injected a lot of energy into the very tired last week before the half term break. It was the result of months of work from an amazing cast, crew, band and staff. I will always be pleased that I made the decision to audition to be involved in such a wonderful experience when I was just a few weeks into my time at Hampton.

We rehearsed twice weekly and as we learned to sing, dance and master the New York accent, the musical slowly but surely came together.

Set in the 1920's, the production opened with the amazing voice of Devan Banerjee who sings the introduction of our charismatic hero Bugsy Malone played by the gifted Charlie Donald. A burst of colour, movement and sound saw our cast welcome us into Fat Sam's Grand Slam, the liveliest joint in town. The audience is taken on the journey of the romance between Bugsy Malone and Blousey Brown, performed by the incredible Meg Chaytow (all the female roles were performed by girls from Waldegrave School, nearby); and the rivalry of Fat Sam and Dandy Dan.

Bugsy Malone is a lively, hilarious and at times poignant story which had audiences tapping and humming the tunes for weeks.

Special mentions must go to James Nunn for his brave and brilliant performance of Fizzy, and Isabelle Blake for her sassy and soulful performance of Tallulah, but this is an ensemble production and everyone created the magic including the crew who are the backbone of every production, and the band, who seem to telepathically know what's required of their magnificent musical talent.

From massive inside jokes to numerous new friendships, Bugsy Malone has taught me that "you CAN be anything that you want to be" and that "if you give a little love, it all comes back to you".

Edward Jolliffe, First year



Aaron performing Grøndahl's Trombone Concerto with the Symphony Orchestra

Spring Concert

As the spring term came to a close, what better way to celebrate an absolutely amazing term than with the annual spring concert. The programme this year comprised a multitude of Hampton School ensembles and groups demonstrating their talent and dedication for all to see, this time with the theme of the celebration of women in music, and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

The concert commenced with a touching rendition of "The Cider House Rules" by Rachel Portman, realised by the brass band, followed by a dramatic contrast in style with "The Highland Games" by Jesselyn Joy Dudinsky performed with vigour by the sinfonia.

This was followed by the emotional "Sicilienne" by Maria Theseria von Paradis, led via the expertise of Mr Ferrier conducting the concert orchestra, who directly after, directed what was an emphatic performance of Adele's "Skyfall", with the mastery of ROAR! A sequence of internationally renowned pop songs composed by the likes of Taylor Swift and Katy Perry then proceeded, carried out by ROAR! and the Hampton percussion ensemble respectively.

Theo Tang, winner of the composition competition, had his marvellous piece performed by the consort of voices, which was followed by the soothingly beautiful realisation of "The Call" by Gail Randall. The Hampton School chamber orchestra then succeeded in giving us a beautiful and lyrical interpretation of "Heather Hill" by Constance Warren, one that touched the hearts of all who were present.

The first half was yet to finish, as the string quartet merged with the Voice of Lions, directed by none other than Mr Roland, executed a flawless and powerful performance of Billie Eilish's "What Was I Made For?" succeeded by Jennifer Lucy Cook's "Time". The swing band, conducted by Mr Ferrier, put some groove into the mood with a rendition of "Struttin' With Some Barbecue" by Lillian Hardin Armstrong, followed by the virtuosity of "Caravan" by Ella Fitzgerald and Duke Ellington. Last but not least, to cap off the first half, the chamber choir, conducted by Miss Mattinson, executed "O Love" by Elaine Hagenberg, and "Let all the World" by Greta Tomlins, with much feeling.

The second half also didn't disappoint as we had not one, not two, but three concertos, all performed by Hampton School pupils and ensembles, the first of which was a melancholy but touching performance of Mozart's "Piano Concerto No. 23, Second Movement", with soloist Adam Gaunt putting all of his expertise and soul into his playing, accompanied by the chamber orchestra.

The booming dominance of Aaron Corpaul's trombone playing then proceeded, as he emphatically dispatched a wonderful performance of Launy Grøndahl's trombone concerto with the help of the symphony orchestra. Lastly, Edmund Ng touched the soul of everyone in the concert hall with his production of Kabalevsky's "Violin Concerto's Second Movement", to end the course of the three incredible concertos.

Finally, the symphony orchestra played with much joy and movement, Florence Price's Juba "Dance from her 1st Symphony", to energetically bring an end to what was a vibrant and magnificent concert.

Leo Ma, Lower sixth

Scholars' Concert

The inaugural scholar's concert successfully took place on 4 October 2024. It was a wonderful celebration of the talent the Hampton musicians had to offer. There was a warm positive reception from a great audience as 23 pupils took to the stage to perform. There were many highlights from a fantastic concert. David Tam and Harry Ng both played Greig's "Nocturne" on separate occasions with great musicality and Oli Lenox Smith played Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" with expertise. Phillip Lorenc's rendition of "Tequila Sunrise" on the trumpet was a very fun, upbeat listen. Monti Smith and Nathaniel Carson both sang with beautiful precision and Aleks Lorenc sang "Flow my tears" with much emotion. Overall, it was a very enjoyable evening.

Samuel Hughes, Fourth year

Chamber Music Concert

The Hammond theatre ghosts were once again treated to yet another incredible evening of music on 4 March 2025, as Hampton's finest chamber musicians took to the stage for a concert filled with variety, energy, and some truly unforgettable performances.

From the flowing woodwind melodies to the delicate interplay of strings to the rhythmic drive of jazz, the evening showcased the immense talent and dedication of 17 of the school's chamber ensembles.

The concert began with a series of engaging performances, but one of the biggest crowd-pleasers of the first half was a stunning acoustic guitar duo performance of "Bohemian Rhapsody". Their expressive playing and seamless coordination earned them a thunderous round of applause from the packed Hammond.

The second half of the evening featured an intense and striking performance of Shostakovich's "String Quartet No. 3: Allegretto", a piece full of sharp contrasts and dramatic shifts: the ensemble tackled its erratic energy and intricate textures with great skill, keeping the audience captivated throughout. To close the concert, the fourth year jazz group delivered a stylish and effortlessly cool performance of "Sway" by P B Ruiz, ensuring that no one left the theatre without at least a little swing in their step.



The impressive Lower Strings Ensemble performing Metallica

The evening was a true celebration of chamber music, and a testament to the dedication of both the performers and their teachers. Many thanks to all the visiting music teachers for their expert coaching, and to Mr Chakravarty, Miss Van Ments and Miss Estall especially for organising such a fantastic event. With performances like these, Hampton's chamber musicians continue to set the bar high, and the theatre ghosts look forward to the next concert!

Sena Kelly, Fourth year

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 also be found on X (Formerly Twitter) @Hampton_Music and as a webpage <https://x.com/HamptonSchool>

Accessing 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.



STAFF INTERVIEW

with Mr Arijit Chakravarty

MUSIC TEACHER

How did you become a teacher?

I had worked as a freelance violinist in my early career, playing in various UK based orchestras and chamber ensembles. Life was busy and often quite glamorous, with lots of performing, recording and international touring. Though my work was very fulfilling and rewarding, I somehow felt something was missing and felt a calling to teach music in the classroom.

Please tell us about your music degree and education.

I was very fortunate to have spent three fabulous years studying for a music degree at King's College, Cambridge. It was very inspiring to study and work alongside so many amazing and talented students, and to be taught by such eminent and scholarly tutors. For me this was a time of great academic and musical discoveries. After Cambridge, I went to the Royal Academy of Music, London, as a postgraduate violinist. This was a very intense period. A lot of discipline, stamina and long hours practicing, which eventually paid dividends and helped to prepare me for my subsequent career.

How did you come to join the music department at Hampton?

Having worked at my previous school for nine years, I was looking for a change and to broaden my horizons, and hence I applied for the position at Hampton School.

What are your responsibilities within the music department?

I teach music to all year groups including GCSE and A level. I also help out by playing in the school symphony and chamber orchestras, coach chamber music, run the lunchtime recital series, take theory and aural classes and assist with essential concert planning, programme printing and administration.

Tell us about your own musical journey growing up?

At school, I took four A levels: physics, maths, further maths and music. Additionally, for seven years, on Saturdays, I attended the Centre for Young Musicians, London. This gave me a wealth of experience in chamber music, orchestral repertoire, composition, music theory and, of course, piano and violin instrumental studies.

Is there a musician you particularly admire, or did a particular musician influence your own musical journey?

The pianist, Maria Joao Pires – her interpretation of Bach, Mozart and Brahms is quite sublime. I find myself in awe just listening to her.

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

Playing the guitar and/or piano can be very fulfilling as you can play chords and harmony: this can be very satisfying as you can accompany yourself whilst playing melodies. You don't have to rely on anyone else to provide accompaniments. However, it can be a solitary experience, whereas learning the clarinet or violin means that you can eventually play in ensembles and orchestras and make friends socially.

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

I have personally found that pursuing music as a career can be immensely rewarding. Top tip would be to make sure that you are head over heels in love with music, whether performing, composing, teaching or whatever field of music you are considering. Your genuine passion and love of the subject will carry you through, and hopefully make you shine!

Do you still get an opportunity to perform?

Yes, but the demands of school life means that I find less and less time to devote to performing and practicing; but performing is great because it reminds me why I went into music in the first place!

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

Be 110% committed to your musical study. Music is a very all-immersive subject and the deeper you go the more rewarding it can get; and remember, don't forget to enjoy your journey as it is perhaps more important than the destination.

Do any artists inspire you and why?

The Aurora orchestra – because of the quality of their music-making and their commitment to perform orchestral music off by heart on the concert platform.

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

Beethoven's string quartet op. 132.

And your Desert Island luxury?

All the Beethoven late string quartets!

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