

# HAMPTON S C H O O L MUSIC S O C I E T Y

AUTUMN  
TERM 2025  
SPRING  
TERM 2026



## Scholars' Concert

On the 23rd September, the Scholar's Concert took place. There were twenty-five wonderful musicians who played and sang beautifully and filled the whole Hammond Theatre with high spirits, both for listeners and performers.

The concert kicked off with Harry Taylor playing *Marchenbilder Op.113 (mvt.3)*, composed by R. Schumann, on the viola. What a great piece to start; it was fiery and dramatic. This lively start filled the theatre with energy and momentum. I was a little nervous looking at the audience but as the performance went on, I got in the musical mood which lifted my spirits. The first half of the concert engaged the audience with a diverse selection of contrasting pieces showcasing various instruments including viola, cello, violin, clarinet and sitar.

Following the intermission, the Scholar's concert resumed in the Main Hall to watch a spectacular and sensational Organ performance by Mingyuan Du, who played *Tuba tune in D major Op.15*, composed by

## New Pupils' Concert

On Tuesday 11 November, we had the option to perform in the New Pupils' Concert. You could either sing or play an instrument, along with a backing track or an accompanist if required. I played the drums to a backing track. We rehearsed at School until 7.00pm, when it was time for the concert. By the way, they gave us pizza, chips and raspberry mousse for tea! The first half was full of amazing performances. Then it was time for a short interval where we had cookies and juice. I was nervous as I was due to play in the second half. When it was close to my turn, I went to the side of the Hammond stage ready to go on. I thought I was going to make a mistake, but I didn't! I performed perfectly and everyone gave me a round of applause. I was so proud.

**Aahil Upil (1G)**

I was incredibly lucky to perform in and witness the outstanding New Pupils' Concert. I haven't the words to describe the truly remarkable standard of the new Hamptonians' performances. I arrived in the Hammond Theatre before the concert, nervous but excited for the evening ahead. I then left my seat to go to the dressing room as the audience filed in, leaving my music book on my seat. On returning, I saw that my seat had flipped up, and my music had fallen into the darkness of the orchestra pit! My heart pounded against my chest. I had to perform my piece from memory!

The concert kicked off with a bang. The phantasmagorical tunes and

## Dear HSMS Parents,

A very warm welcome to the first Hampton School Music Department newsletter for 2025/26. As evidenced by the wonderful range of musical performances and highlights reported upon, the Hampton Musicians – both new and established - have once again been producing simply superb music. The passion for music at Hampton is demonstrated throughout the following pages: "...filled the whole Hammond Theatre with high spirits..."; "... on the opening night the energy was electric"; "... the phantasmagorical tunes and songs delighted my ears...". Many thanks, as always, to Mr. Roland and team for their dedication, ambition, and highly infectious energy, without which Hampton's musical excellence could not be attained. Finally, on behalf of HSMS, many thanks to you, our members, whose subscriptions and event support is the fuel that underpins what we as a committee can do to support music at Hampton.

**Mark Morrison, HSMS Chair**

C. Lang. The audience, including me, were captivated by the instrument and the sound of the music. Then, the audience made a procession back to the Hammond theatre to hear the wonderful harp duo of Rishi and Amiya Schneider playing an Indian Bollywood song '*Tujhe Dekha to Yeh Jana Sanam*', composed by Jatin Lalit and arranged by B. Dor Groot. The rest of the night was followed by outstanding performances on the cello, guitar, piano, saxophone, electric guitar, and the trumpet. The concert concluded with David Tam on the piano playing Beethoven's *Piano Sonata No.8 Op.13 'pathique' Movement 3*. This was one of the hardest pieces ever written!

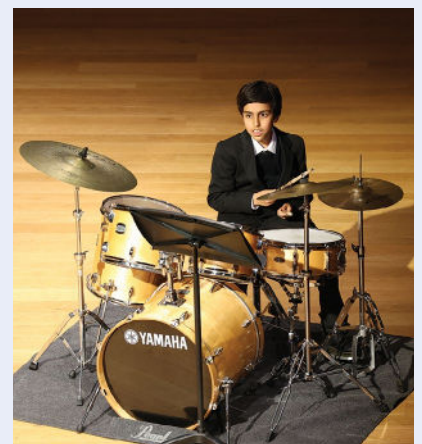
Overall, the scholar's concert was a successful event for the music department as the first concert of the academic year, filled with a vibrant mix of instruments. As a participant, it was a proud moment, and I eagerly anticipate further opportunities to perform again.

**Avirat Prasad (1H)**

songs delighted my ears, the almost tangible notes lingering passionately in the atmosphere. Lost in the music, my nerves subsided, and it was suddenly my turn to wait in the wings. Not long now. When it was my turn, I took a deep breath and walked onto the stage. I played an Irish tune called '*Patrick's Reel*' on my viola. I took another deep breath and started. From the first to final note, I thoroughly enjoyed the piece and took a bow proudly. I did it!

I would like to thank Mr. Oyarzabal, my accompanist; Miss Van Ments, my viola teacher; Mr. Roland and Mr. Daly for looking after all of the performers before the concert in the lecture theatre; Mr. Ferrier for working tirelessly to make the concert a reality; the catering team for preparing delicious food for all the performers; and all the other amazing staff who helped everything run smoothly before and on the night. It was an amazing experience and one I will never forget.

**Alex Bamber (1L)**



## Les Misérables, Senior Musical

This year's Hampton and LEH production of *Les Misérables* certainly didn't disappoint - what a triumph! After auditions in March, whole-cast rehearsals began in June to prepare for what is an incredibly intricate and complex show. *Les Mis* follows the life of a man, Jean Valjean, from his days as an escaped convict on parole to fighting alongside Parisian students in the June Rebellion of 1832. Forever chased down by mortal enemy Javert, the show presents themes of love, rejection and hope. As rehearsals ramped up in late September, the set, the costumes, the orchestra and finally the microphones and technology were added.

Performed over four nights, starting on Tuesday 14th October, to packed Hammond Theatres, there was barely a dry eye amongst the audiences with the exceptional performances from the whole cast. The poignancy of Jean Valjean's *Bring Him Home* (played by Nathaniel Carson), Eponine's *On My Own* (Bria Suri), Javert's *Suicide* (Arun Bhandari) and Fantine's *I Dreamed a Dream* (Anni Smirnova), set against the hope of *Do You Hear The People Sing* (led by Enjolras - Ryan Chen), the love between Marius and Cosette (Devan Banerjee and Tharuni Kalavannan), and comic relief of Gavroche and the Théradiers (Charlie Donald, Hayden Elliot and Leila Simpson) meant there was an incredible amount of emotion packed into the two hour running time.

The whole experience, especially show week, was a truly brilliant experience for the entire cast, crew and orchestra, all of whom had a great deal of camaraderie throughout the process. All of the cast feels incredibly grateful to be able to put on such an amazing show - this would not be possible without the hard work of Mrs. Jones and Mr. Roland; everyone in *Les Mis* is incredibly grateful for their time, humour and efforts.

**Nathaniel Carson (U6 cast member)**

This year's Hampton and LEH Senior Musical, *Les Misérables*, was an unforgettable experience that brought together an incredibly talented cast, a phenomenal band, and a dedicated backstage crew. Being part of a production of this scale was an absolute privilege and stepping into the lead role of Fantine was both an exciting challenge and an immense honour.

From the very first rehearsal, it was clear that this show was going to be something special. Under the brilliant direction of Mrs. Jones, our drama teacher, and the expert musical guidance of Mr. Roland, every member of the cast was encouraged to bring their character to life with utmost energy. Their dedication and belief in us made all the difference; they treated us like professionals and encouraged us to rise to that standard. With around sixty students involved, every scene felt alive with teamwork, enthusiasm, and a shared passion for storytelling.

Playing Fantine was an incredible experience, her emotional journey pushed me to grow as a performer and to connect deeply with the story we were telling. But what made this production truly stand out was the incredible ensemble surrounding me. Watching my fellow cast mates transform into revolutionaries, factory workers, and students was inspiring. Every person on stage brought something unique, and the way we all worked together created a real sense of unity.

The live band, led by Mr. Roland, added an extraordinary power to the

show. Hearing the music fill the theatre each night made every performance feel epic. Even in moments where things didn't quite go to plan, the backstage team worked tirelessly to keep everything running seamlessly and the support



shown by all the cast members was genuinely incredible. It was the collaboration between every department, and collective effort which made the final performances so magical.

On opening night, the energy was electric. Every performer gave their all, and the audience's response was overwhelming. Being part of such a passionate, hardworking company reminded me why I love theatre so much, it's not just about individual roles, but about creating something together that touches people's hearts.

Playing Fantine was of course a highlight, but it was the friendships, teamwork, and shared commitment of everyone involved that made *Les Misérables* truly unforgettable.

**Anni Smirnova (LEH U6 cast member)**

I always wanted to know what it was like to experience playing in a pit orchestra for a musical theatre production, where the spotlights aren't on you. So when I got the opportunity to do so for this year's Hampton School Musical *Les Misérables*, I was ecstatic! I had the privilege of playing the tricky but fun violin part in the band underneath the stage, alongside the amazing Hampton School music teachers, oboe invitee, and 5 other incredible Hampton student musicians: Jian Graffe, Oli Lenox-Smith, Ralf Sauer, Boris Duke, and Oliver Champkin. This was, of course, all under the superb direction of Mr. Roland, conductor and musical director, who made sure that the music sounded the best that it's ever been.

While the cast and ensemble rehearsed together, the band did so separately from them, on every Friday from 16:00 - 19:00, making sure that everything was fine-tuned to perfection before the 10th of October, when finally, all parties joined together at the Sitzprobe! This run-through gave us lots of hope and excitement for the actual performance week, which in my opinion, did not disappoint one bit. All 4 shows went amazingly well, with the chemistry and link-up between the cast and orchestra clearly showing itself.

Overall, it was a fantastic opportunity, probably the best experience that I've had in my life, playing music of such high calibre underneath the stage in near complete darkness. I am so incredibly grateful for having been given this role of which I will remember for years to come.

**Leo Ma (U6 pit orchestra musician)**

## Woodwind Concert

On Thursday 20th November, many woodwind players came together to perform in the annual Woodwind Concert. Many quality pieces were played, such as the Clarinet Ensemble, which performed Grundman's *Bagatelle* and Brand's *Grandfather's Clock* and the Saxophone Ensemble, which performed *Liza* by Gershwin. Some other ensembles were the Wind Quintet, which played *Pavane Pour Une Infante Défunte* by Ravel and a trio consisting of two flutes and a bassoon, which played *Allegro moderato* by Haydn. Furthermore, there were a host of impressive solo performances among a large range of instruments, consisting of flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and saxophone. Some of the major solo highlights were Sena Kelly's performance of Mozart's 'Allegro' from *Quartet No. 1 in D Major for flute*, Samuel Hughes' performance of Pierné's *Canzonetta*, and *Scherzo*, and *Vivace Ma Non Troppo* by Hurlstone, performed by Jayen Li. Overall, the concert was a very exciting virtuosic display of musicianship.



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**Yule Oh (4J)**

## St Cecilia's Dinner

On Saturday 22nd November, the school's annual St Cecilia's Concert took place, once again celebrating some of the school's top musicians. With its traditional black tie dinner for audience members, there was a lovely atmosphere as the 17 sixth formers took to the Hammond Theatre stage. There was a varied programme with Harry Ng starting the evening, playing *Danse Espagnole* on the violin and Samuel Hughes closing the first section with the *Sonatina for Clarinet and Piano* by Arnold. The first dinner interval was beautifully accompanied by the Jazz ensemble, before the evening continued with Oscar Quian on the piano and Arun Bhandari singing. A particular highlight was Jian Graffe performing Saint-Saens' *Allegro Appassionato* with great commitment. After the second dinner interval, during which more music was ably provided by Daniel Tresidder, Daniel teamed up with Hayden Elliot to sing *The Times They Are A-Changin'* by Bob Dylan. The evening ended with a moving rendition of Rachmaninov's *Vocalise* played by Leo Ma on the violin, and the *aria Bella Siccome Un Angelo* by Donizetti, sung by Nathaniel Carson. The evening cemented the fact that St Cecilia's is one of the school's most looked-forward-to concerts of the year - a lovely show of Hampton's incredible talent.



**Nathaniel Carson (U6)**

## Christmas Concerts

On the 4th of December, the Hampton School Christmas concerts had begun. The excitement and buzz before the concert were like nothing before.

The concert kicked off with a very pleasant and warm welcome by Mr. Roland. The First-Year choir then sang the classic *'It's the most wonderful time of the year'* and *'Mary's boy child'*. The First Years sang with passion and pride as they cherished the moment together singing as one in harmony.

Hampton Strings then came in with a strong and lively Military March (op.51) by Franz Schubert and the classic *'Jingle Bell Rock.'* With their strong and enthusiastic violins, violas, cellos (and jingle bells!), they created a holiday sensation reminding us that Christmas was on the way. The wonderful group of 6 people produced a jolly and lively atmosphere, continuing the mood set by the First-Year choir whilst playing to the best of their abilities.

The first concert followed on with Junior Jazz, ROAR!, Hampton Sinfonia and the Swing Band. They all produced fabulous, sensational and outstanding performances. They all set a high standard and a Christmassy, jolly atmosphere for the performances ahead of them. The students

## Carol Service

On the 9th December 2025, the biggest choral event of the year had arrived: the Christmas Carol Service. A vast horde of students walked to St Mary's Church for rehearsals during the morning, with repertoire varying from Classics such as *'O Come All Ye Faithful'* to more modern pieces such as *'Mary Did You Know'* from Roar!. Night came and, with all lights off, VOL (Voices of Lions) started off the show with an amazing acapella performance of Silent Night. This was followed by *'Once In Royal David's City'* performed



by Chamber Choir with the opening solo performed by Raf. A mix of readings and choral pieces then ensued, with Chamber Choir performing a stunning version of *'Midwinter'* by Bob Chilcott and *'Welcome Yule'* by Hubert Parry, and School Choir performing a piece never published by the composer, Benjamin Rogers, *'Behold I Bring You Glad Tidings'*. The congregation also joined in for some more traditional pieces such as *'O Come O Come Emmanuel'* and *'O Little Town of Bethlehem'*. The Consort of Voices then joined the action with a stunning rendition of *'A Spotless Rose'* by Herbert Howells. Being a member of Consort of Voices, Chamber Choir, Roar!, and School Choir, the evening was pretty much a non-stop scramble to get ready for the next performance quickly enough, but overall, the evening was very much enjoyable for both myself, the performers, and the congregation.

**Elliott Parker (3G)**

## Unsilenced V

On Thursday 12th of February, the wonderful concert, Unsilenced, took place for the fifth time ever. This concert is solely based on supporting, celebrating and making female composers heard, hence the name - Unsilenced. Before every performance, sixth-formers Ryan and Nathaniel beautifully read out the history and accomplishments of the various women composers' music played that evening.



Many instruments and pieces were played including the cello, violin, piano and flute. There was a violin ensemble that was beautifully performed by Colin Yeung, Harry Ng, Leo Ma and James Nunn, which was a piece composed by Grazyna Bacewicz, a Polish composer with Lithuanian origins.

Rafferty O'Connor Zumla performed a most moving rendition of *Sicilienne* by Maria Theresia von Paradis, an Austrian female composer that went blind in her childhood, and developed an incredible ear, and who was a close friend of Mozart.

Another amazing performance that stood out to me was Leo Ma who played the violin with virtuosic skill and was accompanied by Mr. Oyarzabal. The composer was Marguerite Canal, who in 1917, became the first woman in France to conduct an orchestra. The performance was masterful, breathtaking and a beautiful farewell from Leo.

The concert ended with a string ensemble performed by Colin, Albert, James and Sion, composed by Marie Dare, a Scottish composer famed for chamber music, which was both poignant and powerful, and a perfect conclusion to Unsilenced V.

**Rishi Schneider (2G)**



performing played and sang to their absolute best, full of liveliness and energy which blew away the audience. In concert 2, on that same day, all the other performances kept the tone and environment set by the concert 1 performers and ended the day on a good note.

Overall, all the concerts were a huge success. I would also like to thank all the music teachers/conductors/Hampton School Christmas Band. Without them, this would never have been so brilliant! I hope all the music teachers can organise many more of these musical feasts in the coming terms and years!

**Avirat Prasad (1H)**

## Rock Concert

The close of January meant The Hammond Theatre was once more set to become the site of the Winter Rock Concert, my most anticipated event of the year. This is when Hamptonians from across the year groups have the opportunity to perform to a packed-out audience.

The first half of the programme was a chance for any pupil to audition as a band or solo artist, and showcased the wide range of tastes across the Hampton community. *Blue Moon* opened the show with an emotive cover of Radiohead's biggest hit, *'Creep'*, immediately followed with the high-energy U6th act Polyphony, performing *'Walk'* by Pantera. Other standout performances included the concerts' two soloists Bailey Hornsby-Clifton and Alex Bubb, capturing the attention of the audience with just an acoustic guitar and their beautiful singing; The Senaxes, who delivered a brilliant rendition of The Beatles' track *'Drive My Car'*, and Back and To The Left, performing a cover of *'Like A Ritual'* by post-hardcore act Title Fight.



Various acts also showcased their original music, with Revolver, The Cementheads and Forgotten Sentiment all performing their own tracks. However, they belonged to completely different genres, with Revolver opting for a more bluesy approach, The Cementheads leaning into pop-punk, and Forgotten Sentiment delivering 2000s metalcore.

The most memorable act I had the fortune of watching in the first half was Flux, performing *'Clint Eastwood'* by The Gorillaz, which stands alone as one of the most unique bands from an instrumental standpoint, performed to the exceptionally high standards that a Hampton Rock Concert always holds.

The second half was a chance for the school-organised bands to perform, under the tutelage of Mr. Pym and Mr. Willmott, with the former responsible for the Junior groups and the latter for the Intermediate and Senior groups. The Junior Rock Bands impressed with rock classics *'Smells Like Teen Spirit'* and *'Hells Bells'*, and other music by Deep Purple and The Arctic Monkeys. Intermediate Rock Band masterfully performed the funkier *'Front Line'* by Stevie Wonder, and the song *'When the Levee Breaks'* by classic rock band Led Zeppelin. Senior Rock Band closed the night, as is tradition, starting with one of the more creative song choices of the night. They delivered a metal-infused cover of Carly Rae Jepsen's hit song *'Call Me Maybe'*, followed by Motley Crue's *'Dr. Feelgood'*, and ending in a crowd-favourite rendition of *'Somebody Told Me'* by The Killers.

As an Upper Sixth myself, this is now my sixth and final Winter Rock Concert, and it has been such a privilege to take to the Hammond Stage throughout my schooling career. Starting off as the quiet bassist in Junior Rock Band, I never would have imagined I'd reach the point I'm at now in my music career. I performed not only in Senior Rock Band (as bassist/vocalist), but in five other bands throughout the night across both instruments. The excitement of performing has never once wavered, even after all these years, and I am eternally grateful for the music department and Hammond Theatre team for the amount of work they have put in over my years at the school in creating some of the fondest memories of my time here.

**Eddie Haycock (U6)**

## Senior Keyboard Concert

On Tuesday 4 November, I went to the Senior Keyboard Concert. It was wonderful and I immensely enjoyed listening to the Senior Hamptonians playing. All the performers were skillful and had extraordinary talent. There were all kinds of styles, like classical, romantic and pop. Although there was only one instrument, the piano, it was still spectacular. My favourite was a piece called 'Leave me behind'. The musician Daniel T, L6, who performed this wrote the song himself. He was singing the song and playing the piano at the same time. It was fun, and the concert was incredible.



Mingyuan Du (1P)

## String Concert

On Tuesday, 3 February, the annual String Concert took place and proved to be a thoroughly memorable evening of music showcasing the impressive depth of musical talent at Hampton. The concert featured a diverse and engaging programme, with performers demonstrating both technical excellence and expressive musicianship across a wide range of styles and instruments.

Throughout the evening, the audience was treated to performances on violins, cellos, guitars and sitars, highlighting the variety and inclusivity of the string programme. Each piece was performed with great care and confidence, reflecting the dedication and hard work of every musician involved. The high standard of playing was evident in both solo and ensemble performances, with many moments drawing enthusiastic applause from the audience.

A particularly special moment of the concert came with Upper Sixth students Jian Graffe and Leo Ma performing in their last ever string concerts.



Their contributions were delivered with maturity and assurance, serving as a fitting conclusion to their time in the string programme. Their performances were met with warm appreciation and stood out as memorable highlights of the evening.

The concert concluded with Bartok's 'Romanian Dances', performed by the Big Hampton String Orchestra. This energetic and vibrant piece brought the evening to a thrilling close, with rich harmonies and lively melodies filling the Hammond. The orchestra played remarkably well, resulting in a performance that earned a well-deserved applause from the audience.

The evening clearly demonstrated the remarkable talent, commitment and enthusiasm present within the Hampton School Music Department.

A final thank you must go to Mr. Oyarzabal for his outstanding and compelling accompaniment throughout the concert, and to Miss Van Ments for her dedication in organising the event and leading the orchestra.

Sion Kim (4D) and Leo Ma (U6)

## News and Information...

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[www.hamptonschool.org.uk/music](http://www.hamptonschool.org.uk/music)

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# STAFF INTERVIEW

with Mr M Daly

Teacher of Music &  
Assistant Head of Fourth Year



### What were your musical experiences growing up?

Growing up in Wales, I was exposed to a lot of choral singing in school. This led me to sing in the local church and a male voice choir. I also had trombone lessons in school which allowed me to join my local brass band. During my time at school, I became a member of the National Youth Choir and Orchestra of Wales, BBC National Chorus of Wales and winner of Welsh Young Singer of the Year (11-15 category).

### Please tell us about your music degree / education:

At undergraduate level, I studied Music with Mathematics at Cardiff University, followed by a Masters in Musicology at Magdalen College, Oxford. During my time at Cardiff University, I was a lay clerk at Llandaff Cathedral and Director of Music at the university chapel. During my masters, I was a lay clerk at Magdalen College and also sang at other chapels and cathedrals during college holidays and days off.

### What are your responsibilities at Hampton?

In the music department, I teach classes from First Year through to Upper Sixth, lead the School Choir in rehearsals and concerts, play in the brass section of the orchestra and support Mr Roland in Voices of Lions rehearsals. My wider Hampton responsibilities include organising all of the Fourth Year inter-Form competitions, pastoral leadership in the Fourth Year, and coaching the U14B football team.

### Is there a musician you particularly admire and why?

The musician I am most intrigued by is Benjamin Rogers (1614-1698), former Informator Choristarum (Director of Music) at Magdalen College, Oxford. He composed music throughout his life, including during the English Civil War and after the Restoration of Charles II. My postgraduate research showed Rogers to have been a key figure in the development of the 'short service' style of English church music during the 17th century. Despite this, he is a relatively unknown composer whose music is not widely performed. As part of my research, I edited various pieces of music from his manuscripts and turned them into performing editions to be used today, leading to their first performances in over 300 years.

### Do you still get an opportunity to perform?

Yes, I enjoy singing and playing the trombone in the orchestra and choirs here at Hampton. I am also on the deputy list at a number of chapels and cathedrals where I get asked to sing during school holidays. Last summer, I recorded a CD with the Choir of Magdalen College, Oxford, and went on their summer tour to Sweden.

### Which one piece of music would you take if you were stranded on a Desert Island?

I am a huge fan of R&B (Renaissance and Baroque), so the piece of music I would want with me on a desert island would have to be Handel's opera Semele (HWV 58).

### And your Desert Island luxury?

This would have to be my Wales football shirt from Euro 2016 when we got to the semi-finals! It reminds me of my school years and the height of Welsh football which put a smile on my face on the desert island.

## ABRSM EXAM SUCCESSES

ABRSM results for the Autumn 2025 term:

Pass – 12 Merit – 23 Distinction – 8

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