



WHITGIFT

MUSIC





Croydon and the surrounding area have a national treasure in Whitgift music

Andrew Bernardi, member of the Teaching Staff at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance

Whitgift is an extraordinary gift to the lives of young, talented people

Illian Garnetz, multi award-winning international violinist

Phenomenal teaching and professional talent ... detailed, personalised tuition, guidance and opportunities

Tarik O'Regan, Old Whitgiftian and Grammy-nominated classical composer

It was a pleasure to have the Whitgift Chamber Choir sing for us ... the sound was strong, precise and met the challenge of the demanding acoustic of St Paul's

The Reverend Jonathan Coore, Minor Canon and Succentor, St Paul's Cathedral

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra is thrilled to be associated with Whitgift and to collaborate with the School's talented young musicians on so many inspiring projects. The energy and enthusiasm which staff and pupils alike bring to each project is infectious, and we look forward to developing the partnership for years to come

Huw Davies, Deputy Managing Director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra



This prospectus introduces the quality and breadth of music at Whitgift.

Whitgift caters for, supports and nurtures every level of musician. Pupils enjoy diverse and exciting programmes.

Our vibrant setting, with outstanding facilities, in some of the most beautiful grounds in Surrey, creates the perfect environment to experience music education at its best.

Dr Christopher Barnett
Headmaster

MUSIC DEPARTMENT



The unique atmosphere in the Music Department emanates from a shared desire to ensure all boys enjoy music to the full.

Our aim to nurture and develop young musicians, of every level, provides them with exceptional performing opportunities, inspirational music lessons and a highly-successful instrumental scheme. Boys are given the chance to experience the joys of learning an orchestral instrument, reflecting the collaborative commitment to music at the School.

Whitgift celebrates live music and the pleasure it brings to so many. We are incredibly proud of the achievements of all our pupils, whether it be performing a concerto with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, with whom we share a very special partnership, or playing, after only a handful of lessons, for parents and staff.

Your son will achieve his dreams at Whitgift, with the encouragement and support of one of the finest music departments in the country.

Rosanna Whitfield
Director of Music



The calibre of teachers enables pupils to experience the highest level of classroom and individual tuition. Alongside the Director of Music, six highly-qualified music staff support specialised visiting music teachers, many of whom have performed with top London orchestras, played for West End musicals and recorded with world-class artists.

- 1 Philip Winter
Director of Orchestral Music
- 2 Lorraine Temple
Head of Brass
- 3 Ronny Krippner
Organist and Director of Choral Music
- 4 Alan Weakley
Head of Academic Music
- 5 William Church
Teacher of Music
- 6 James Griffith
Teacher of Music

VENUES

Major venues at which Whitgift musicians perform include the Royal Festival Hall, the Royal Albert Hall, Cadogan Hall, Fairfield Halls, St. George's Hanover Square, Goodwood House, Leeds Castle and the Royal Pavilion Brighton, as well as at many of the country's cathedrals.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL AND THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

First-class concerts with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra take place regularly throughout the year at both the School and in London. In 2015, an extraordinary concert at the Royal Festival Hall included over 500 Whitgift boys performing alongside the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Whitgift-Minster Choral Society.

CADOGAN HALL

Whitgift musicians are regular visitors to this key London venue, where choirs and orchestras have already performed two major events in recent years. Whitgift soloists and winners of the Whitgift International Music Competition perform concertos with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra.

FAIRFIELD HALLS CONCERT

This annual event showcases the wealth and breadth of music at Whitgift, with over 1,200 local primary school children enjoying a morning concert, and Whitgift parents and special guests attending

an evening performance. Whitgift is the only school in the UK with an initiative that provides an annual concert performed by school boys for local primary school children.

CHAMBER CONCERTS

Throughout the year, several prestigious concerts take place at unique venues throughout the region. Recent concerts have included performing at the Master's Lodge at Trinity College Cambridge, the Bulgarian Embassy, Brighton Pavilion and Chelmsford Cathedral. These concerts offer exceptional performing opportunities for our soloists and chamber music groups.

CHORAL CONCERTS

The Whitgift Chamber Choir and the Whitgift-Minster Choral Society regularly perform large-scale choral items – at venues such as Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral and St George's Hanover Square – and have a reputation for choral excellence. A special link exists with Croydon Minster; the Minster Choristers of Whitgift School, together with the Choral Scholars, sing services three times a week in the splendour of this magnificent building.









ACADEMIC

Music is taught in every year group by specialist music staff. Boys in the Lower School study a wide variety of musical styles through a combination of performing, composing and listening activities. Boys learn about the fundamentals of music, and study how they are used in styles as diverse as African Drumming, Salsa and Electronica. Singing has a special focus in the Lower and Upper First Forms, and in the Lower and Upper Third Forms, pupils explore guitar-based popular styles. As well as providing a significant practical element, use of music-specific ICT plays an increasingly important role in the work the boys undertake.

The same three core skills of performing, composing and listening form the basis of music lessons in the Upper School. Music is offered

at GCSE and A Level, following the Edexcel specification, as well as in the International Baccalaureate. Music Technology is also available in the Sixth Form.

Frequent trips are undertaken to London concert halls and opera houses to complement the curriculum.

Whitgift's unique programme of study aims to develop the essential skills pupils will need for audition and beyond. Many Whitgift boys are successful in applications to top London conservatoires, as well as to Oxford and Cambridge colleges to read Music. Choral and organ scholarships are gained at leading colleges such as King's College Cambridge, and Christ Church Oxford.





INSTRUMENTAL

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

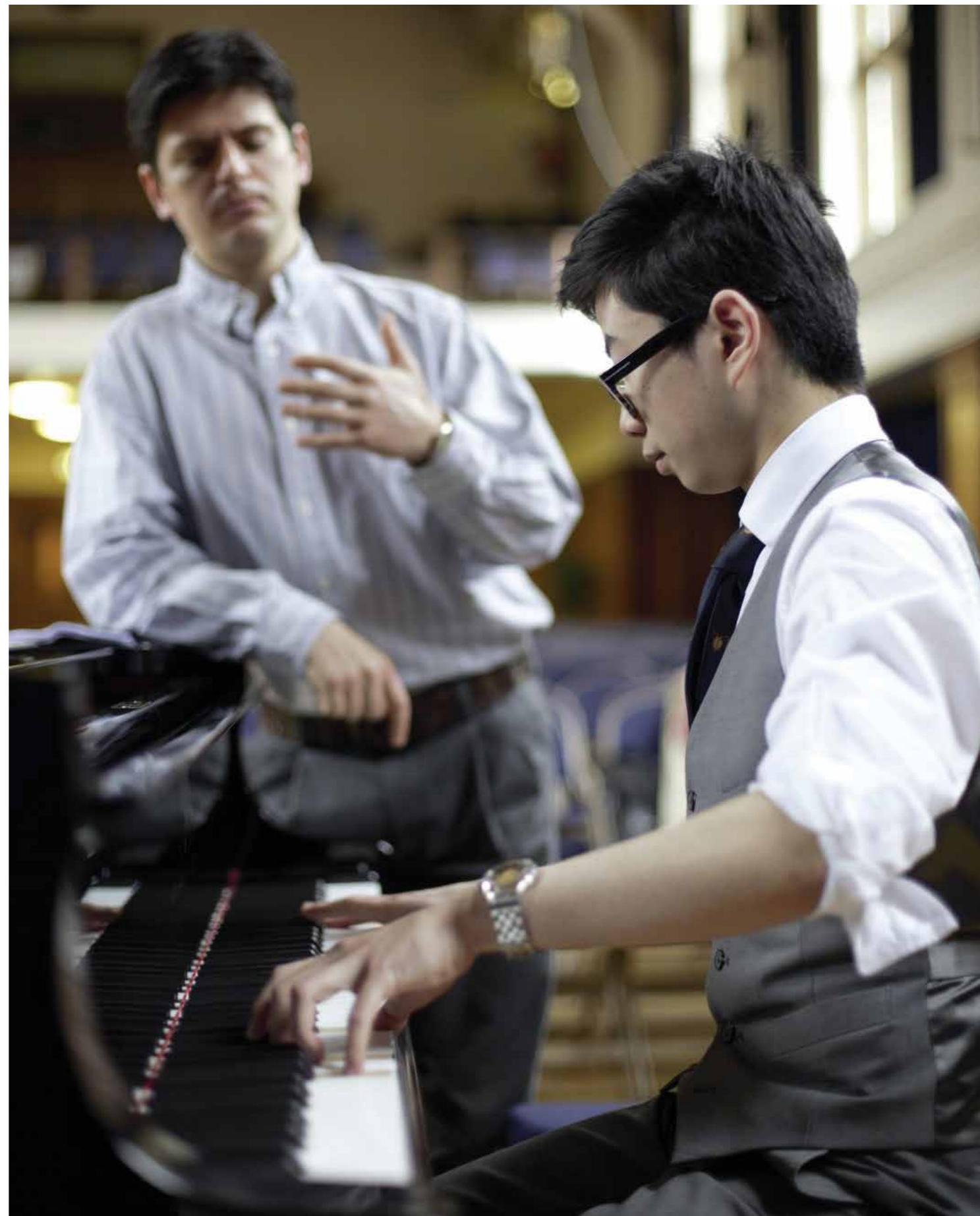
The Music Department offers lessons on every instrument. Over 450 pupils currently learn an instrument at Whitgift. Advanced pupils receive consultation lessons with leading soloists when preparing for conservatoire auditions.

STEINWAY AND FAZIOLI PIANOS

The Steinway grand piano ensures advanced pianists are able to practice and perform on one of the finest instruments in the world. A Fazioli grand piano is also available, enabling many pupils to take part in first-class chamber music and masterclasses. Pianists are also encouraged to prepare recital repertoire for performance in concerts staged throughout the UK and abroad.

TRINITY AND ABRSM EXAMINATIONS

With 35 visiting music staff, pupils are actively encouraged to enter for graded exams; both Trinity and ABRSM examination boards visit the Department termly. Many boys achieve Grade 8 and beyond during their time at Whitgift.





ORCHESTRAL MUSIC

The Symphony Orchestra comprises members of the Senior String Ensemble and advanced wind, brass and percussion players. Pupils perform in concerts in school and at prestigious external concert halls.

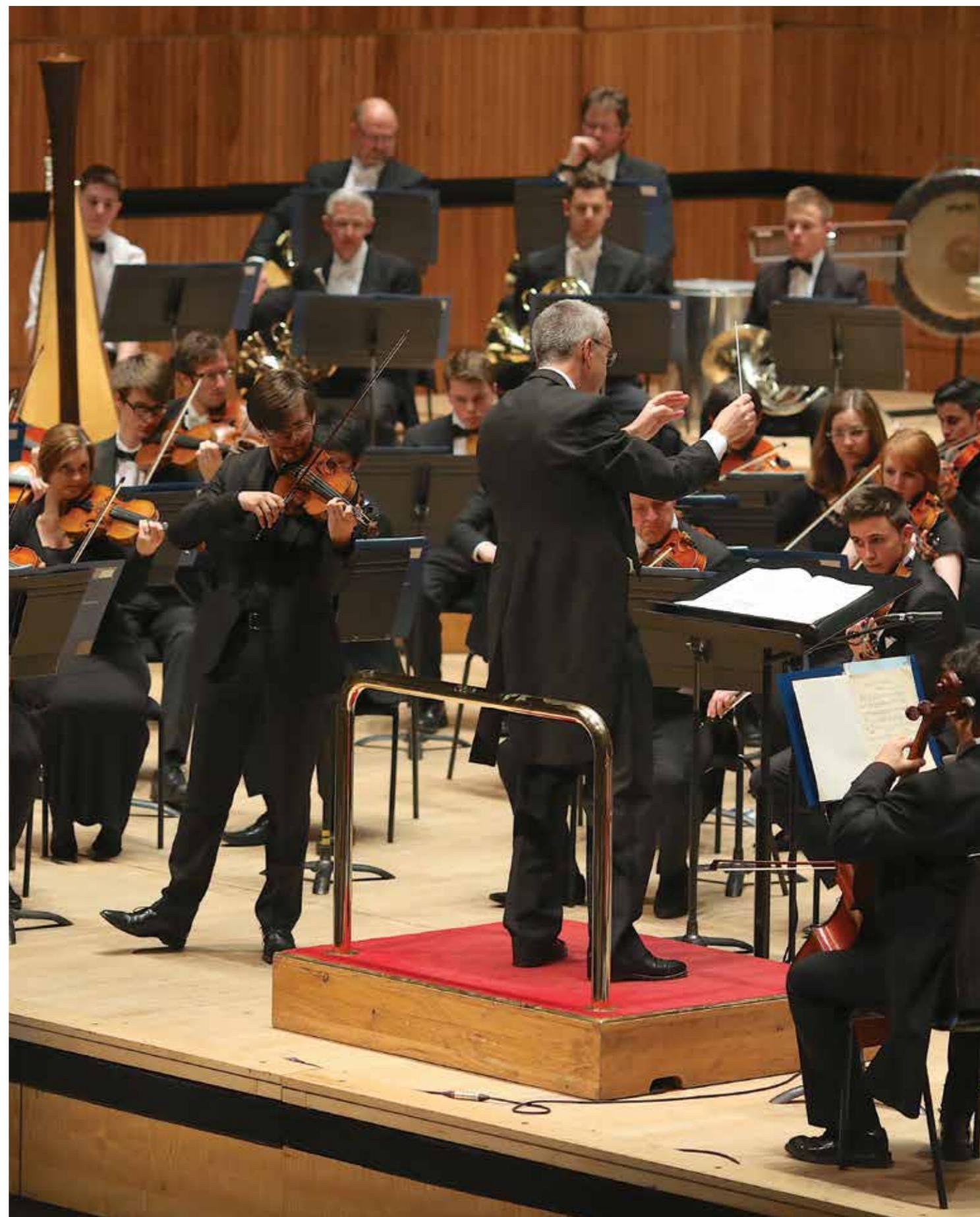
The Concert Orchestra allows Lower School students, who are not yet ready to join Symphony Orchestra, the chance to experience performing as part of a large, mixed-instrumental ensemble.

Boys who play an orchestral instrument to a higher level are invited to audition for the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra (WCO). Established in September 2000, this ensemble is made up of both Whitgift pupils and the

most talented boys and girls in the London area, who are able to perform regularly at major national venues alongside the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO).

The unique relationship with the RPO began in 2011, with a hugely successful inaugural concert at Cadogan Hall. Members of the RPO regularly lead rehearsals and play alongside the WCO.

The WCO has also welcomed guest soloists over the years, including renowned pianist Philip Fowke, and celebrated 'cellist and winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year 2000, Guy Johnston.







CO-CURRICULAR

Alongside the main orchestras, several smaller ensembles are available to Whitgift musicians.

STRINGS

Three string orchestras accommodate a range of abilities, from beginner to diploma level and beyond. Advanced players are also encouraged to take part in a chamber ensemble, such as a string trio, string quartet or piano trio.

WIND

The Flute Ensemble, Double Reed Ensemble and Saxophone Ensemble are available to wind players. There are also opportunities to play alongside other instruments, such as the Wind Chamber Ensemble.

BRASS

There is an established, progressive structure of mixed brass ensembles to accommodate the huge interest in brass-playing at Whitgift. Instrument-specific groups are also available for trumpet, horn, trombone and tuba players. When required, they join forces to create Whitgift Brass, which involves all players from Grade 1 to diploma-standard in one formidable ensemble. In addition to regular performances throughout the year, an annual Brass Concert involves all brass players, as well as providing a

stage for the final of the Solo Brass Competition, which is open to all Whitgift brass players.

PERCUSSION

Percussionists at Whitgift have access to some of the finest instruments available, and regularly perform with the School's orchestras and bands, as well as in the weekly Percussion Ensemble.

JAZZ

Both jazz and popular music are encouraged at Whitgift, with many students forming their own groups, as well as taking part in school-organised ensembles. Groups regularly perform at school Guest Nights and external events, and have many opportunities to perform to their peers at events such as the House Music Competition, school assemblies, and at several student-organised charity concerts throughout the year. The Junior Jazz Ensemble welcomes boys from the Lower School, many of whom then progress into the Big Band. A selection of Big Band members is also chosen to form the Jazz Combo, a small ensemble allowing advanced students opportunities to arrange and rehearse jazz standards independently, with staff coaching as and when required.

GUITARS

Two guitar ensembles rehearse weekly, the Rock Guitar Club for electric guitarists, and the Guitar Club for classical and acoustic players.

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

All musicians at Whitgift are encouraged to perform on a regular basis. As well as the major school concerts, informal lunchtime concerts are held each week, giving soloists and small ensembles a chance to perform frequently in front of a supportive audience.





CHORAL MUSIC

Singing has a very important place in Whitgift musical life, and the School boasts a number of excellent choirs, all under the direction of Mr Ronny Krippner, Whitgift's Organist and Director of Choral Music.

The Choristers are an auditioned boys' choir, providing the treble line for the Whitgift Chamber Choir. They rehearse every morning in the dedicated Song School, and maintain a busy schedule of concerts, services and tours.

The Minster Choristers are amongst the most musical and vocally-talented boys within the Whitgift Choristers. They receive a Choristership award (up to 10% off day fees, plus free flexi-boarding on occasion), and sing Evensong every Tuesday, and a service every Sunday (during term-time), in Croydon Minster.

The Chamber Choir of boys and men is Whitgift's flagship choral ensemble, and performs regularly in the splendour of Croydon Minster, as well as in cathedrals and abbeys around the country. The Choir has toured to Germany, Romania, Italy and Hungary.

The Whitgift-Minster Choral Society is a massed choir made up of parents, staff and singers from Whitgift, as well as the Croydon Minster community. They regularly perform large-scale choral pieces with orchestral accompaniment.





MUSICAL THEATRE

Performance opportunities exist for boys of all ages, with professional set and costume hire, throughout the year. Recent musical theatre productions, for which the School has a fine reputation, have included: *Carousel*, *Oliver!*, *My Fair Lady*, *Carmen*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Captain Stirrick*, *The Producers*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Bugsy Malone*, *West Side Story*, and *Monty Python's Spamalot*.

Many boys also appear in the West End, and in opera productions with the English National Opera and at the Royal Opera House.





INTERNATIONAL

WHITGIFT INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION
Attracting gifted young musicians from around the world, the WIMC includes prizes offering solo concerto opportunities with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at renowned London concert halls. The competition is unique in its provision, and offers full music scholarships to Whitgift. Musicians have gone on to gain music scholarships to prestigious conservatoires.

MASTERCLASSES AND RECITALS
World-renowned professional soloists – including Janina Fialkowska, Remus Azoitei and Ilian Garnetz – visit to work with talented pupils and to perform recitals.

INTERNATIONAL LINKS AND TOURS
Whitgift's long-standing links with some of the best music schools in the world ensure pupils have every opportunity to develop their skills, taking part in regular international festivals, competitions and music tours.







MUSIC FOR ALL

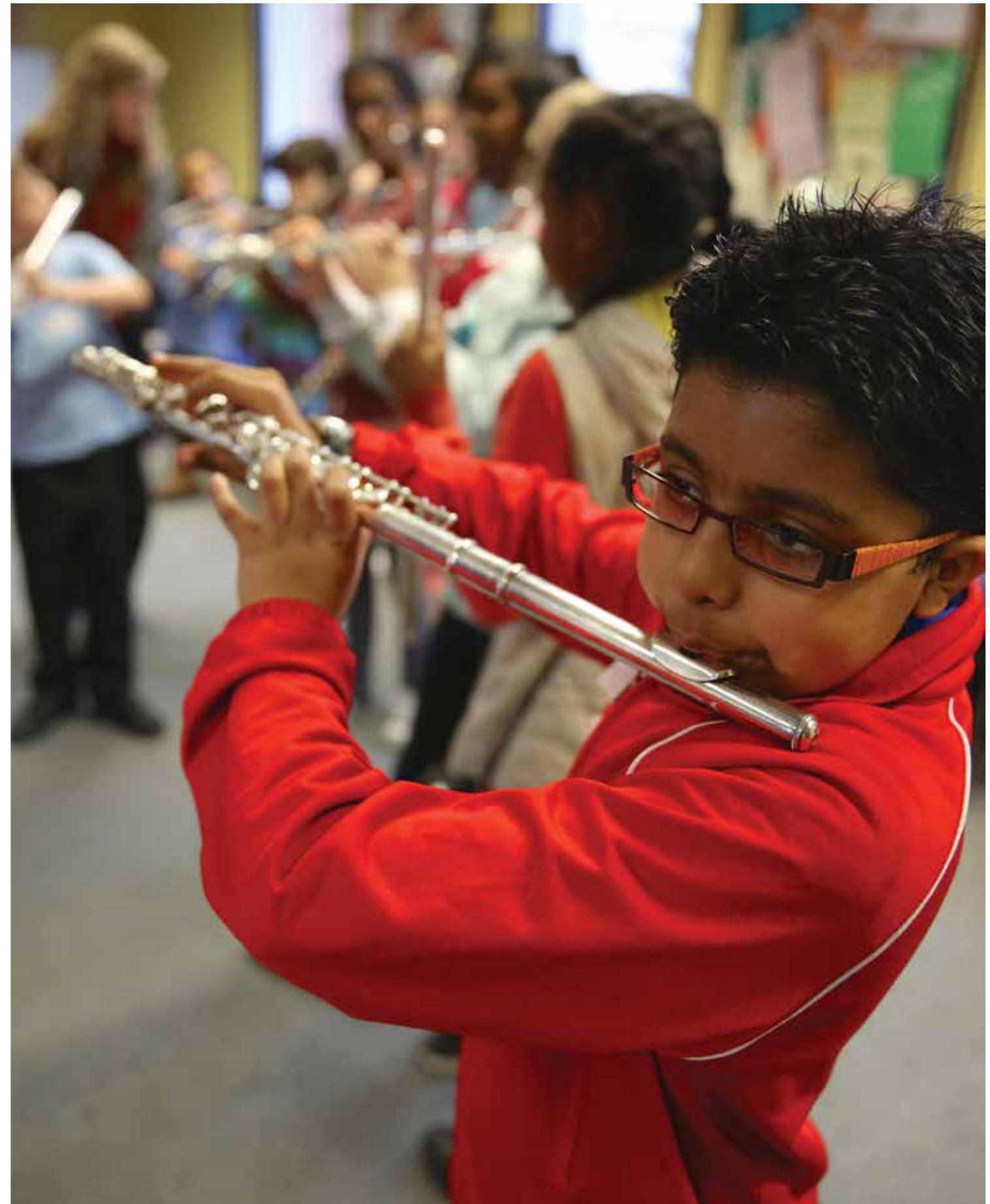
FREE INSTRUMENTAL SCHEME

Whitgift offers a free term of lessons for all pupils in the First Form, who don't already play an orchestral instrument, with tuition from a team of over 35 experienced professionals. As 65% of boys continue to learn after these lessons finish, this has proved to be an extremely successful initiative. Boys on the scheme are provided with instruments to take home, at no extra cost. Should they decide to continue, the School assists with instrument provision until the pupil reaches a stage which requires one of a more advanced level.

The Instrumental Scheme provides a stream of aspiring young musicians for our numerous ensembles. All pupils take part in a concert at the end of their free term, when parents and staff make decisions regarding taking lessons full time.

PRIMARY PROJECT

Since 2000, the Whitgift Primary Project has been offering primary-aged children from across the Borough of Croydon the opportunity to spend time at Whitgift. Whitgift is a very special environment, and the learning experience we are able to offer the primary school pupils is very different to their normal school week. Classes learn the Djembe drums during a week of varied and fun-filled activities. Whitgift holds an annual concert for the Primary Project schools at Fairfield Halls, where an exciting variety of performances is provided by Whitgift pupils.

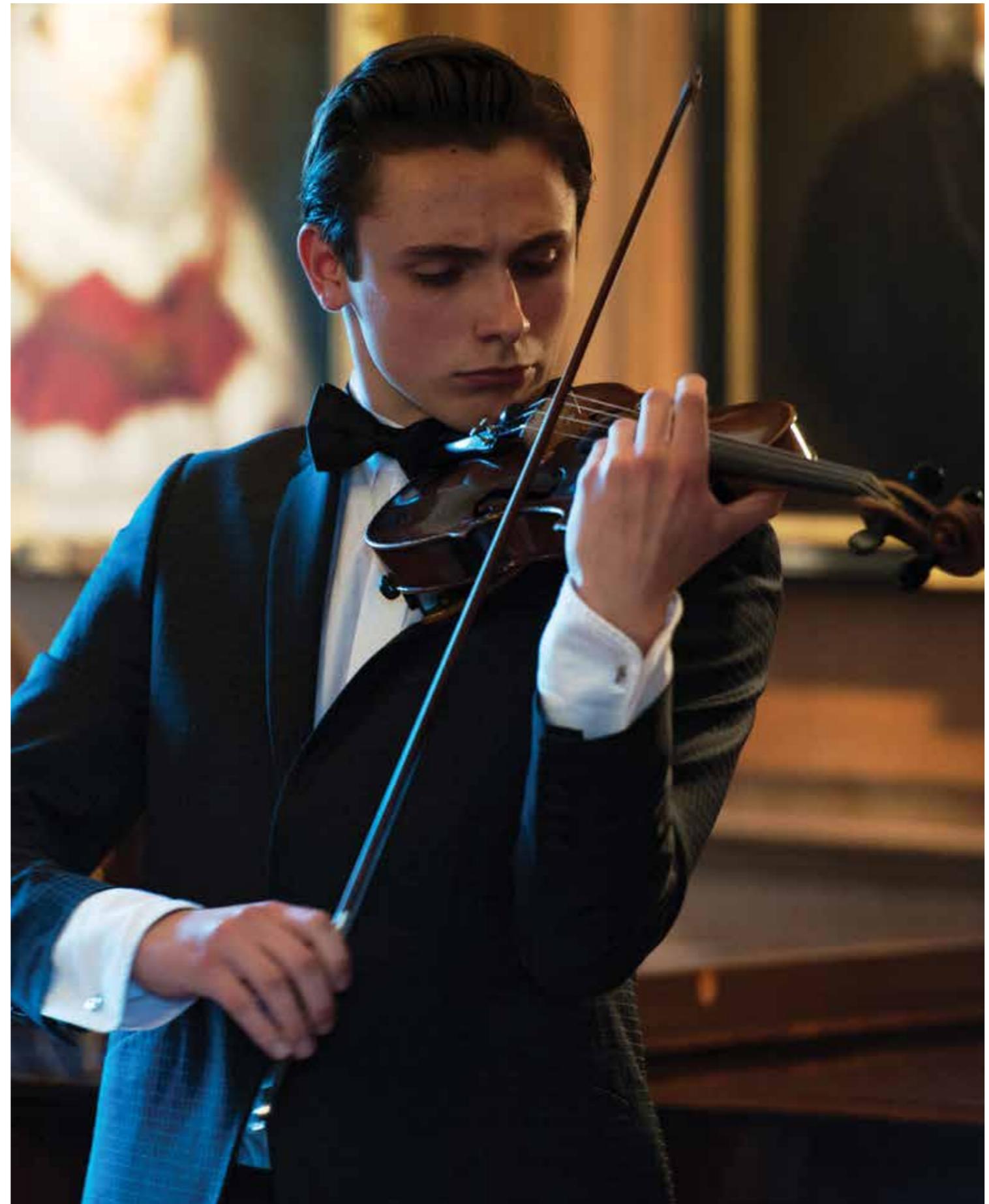




SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARIES AND AWARDS

Scholarships carrying substantial remission, up to 50% of fees, are offered to candidates of outstanding merit, regardless of parental means. Scholarships are awarded to boys showing exceptional talent in music. All candidates are automatically considered for the Academic Scholarship when they sit the Entrance Examination papers.

Bursaries are also awarded on the basis of performance in the Entrance Examinations and interviews, for those who qualify in terms of their income.





FACILITIES

The Music Department at Whitgift enjoys outstanding facilities. The Concert Hall, with superb acoustics, is an impressive venue for concerts and professional recitals. The Performing Arts Centre and Big School convert to tiered-seating amphitheatres, and the main hall of the Sports and Conference Centre offers an audience capacity of more than 1,800, making it one of the largest music halls in London. There is also a dedicated Song School, Music ICT Suite, a well-equipped recording studio and multiple practice areas. Musical accompaniment also features in outdoor plays and events, in the Andrew Quadrangle and Founder's Garden.







[The Whitgift Chamber Choir was] superbly trained and prepared ... with commitment, vibrancy, tenderness and real understanding

Nicholas Cleobury, Principal Conductor of the Oxford Bach Choir

My life took an amazing upward turn when Whitgift found me

Dan-Iulian Druţac, Whitgift International Music Competition 2013 winner and winner of the Junior Guildhall Lutine Prize 2015

The facilities, staff, fellow students and environment all helped shape the person I am now, and without the inspirational Music Department, I may well be on a different course

Anthony Strong, Old Whitgiftian and chart-topping jazz pianist, singer and songwriter

The Whitgift International Music Competition provides wonderful opportunities for local and overseas students

Guy Johnston, Professor of 'Cello at the Royal Academy of Music and winner of BBC Young Musician of the Year and a Classical Brit Award

I was bowled over by the passion and dedication I found in the Music Department. The School's music facilities are top-class, and the standard of playing achieved by its gifted young musicians has been truly inspiring

Jessica Duchon, author, journalist, critic and Editor of The Amati Magazine





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