

APPOINTMENT OF

DIRECTOR

OF

MUSIC

September 2021

Closing date: 9am, Monday, 19th April 2021

Interviews to follow thereafter

**Christ’s School, Queen’s Road, Richmond upon Thames, TW10 6HW**

**Tel: 020 8940 6982 e-mail: hr@christs.school**

**www.christs.richmond.sch.uk**

March  2021

Dear Candidate

Thank you for your interest in the position of Director of Music at Christ’s School.

Christ’s School is a Church of England comprehensive school for 940 young people aged between 11 and 18. Our vision is to deliver Excellence as Standard to every member of our Christ’s family: excellent leadership; excellent staff; excellent outcomes and excellent partnerships.

Our school is situated on an enviable site adjacent to Richmond Park in Richmond upon Thames in South West London. We have excellent links with our feeder primary schools and the local community. We are proud to be a faith school and welcome students from Christian and other religious backgrounds.

At Christ’s School we combine our expectations for students’ excellent academic achievement with an emphasis on their personal growth as well-rounded individuals. Our aim is for students to become confident, successful, responsible young people, who love learning, have a desire to lead and serve and are ambitious for their own futures.

Our learning environment is inspirational, supportive and happy, and based on the Christian values of Love, Justice and Peace. We provide outstanding educational opportunities and experiences for each of our students to enable all to explore intellectually, to grow emotionally and spiritually and to achieve their full potential.

Our Behaviour for learning approach focuses on restorative practice and recognises the importance of building positive relationships with individual students. It is based on the work of Paul Dix at Pivotal Education. We are proud to be a Regional Hub School for Pivotal and have achieved their Gold Award in recognition of our work in this area.

Our results continue to go from strength to strength. We were particularly pleased with our 2016 Ofsted inspection in which we performed strongly in each of the criteria and achieved a judgement of ‘Good’ overall. As a Christian school we were particularly pleased that our work to ‘promote pupils’ personal development’ was judged as ‘outstanding’ and ‘the level of care and support for all pupils is of the highest standard’. Our SIAMS inspection report also found the school to be outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners.

Applications should be sent in the form of a completed online application form including a supporting statement. This should outline how your skills and experience fit the job and person specifications, the impact you have made in your current/most recent role and should be no longer than 3 sides of A4, font size12.

Please email completed applications to Mrs Julia Ralph - [hr@christs.school](mailto:hr@christs.school). We are looking for completed application forms (email only) to be returned by **9am on Monday, 19th April. Interviews to follow thereafter.**

Early applications are welcome and we reserve the right to appoint before the closing date if we find a suitable candidate.

**Christ’s School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.**

**Christ’s School is an Equal Opportunities employer as detailed in our Equal Opportunities Policy.**

**Any appointment made will be subject to checks that details given on the application form are as stated. It will also be subject to receipt of a satisfactory medical disclosure form. Before an appointment can be confirmed a DBS enhanced disclosure will be required.**

Please visit our website where you will be able to find out more about our school, ethos, and vision. If you have any queries about the application process or would like to arrange an informal visit, please contact Julia Ralph on 0208 439 9652.

At Christ’s we deliver Excellence as Standard.  If you believe you can help us realise our vision, we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

**Helen Dixon (Mrs)**

**Headteacher**

Job description: Director of Music

**Job details**

**Salary / Grade:** + TLR 2.1 = £2,873

**Hours:** FTE 1.0

**Contract type:** Permanent

**Accountable to:** Headteacher

**Responsible to:** Assistant/Deputy Headteacher

**Mission:**

At Christ’s School we combine our expectations for students' outstanding academic achievement with an emphasis on their personal growth as well-rounded individuals. Our aim is for students to become confident, successful, responsible young people, who love learning, have a desire to lead and to serve, and are ambitious for their own futures.

Our learning environment is inspirational, supportive and happy, and based on the Christian values of Love, Justice and Peace. We provide outstanding educational opportunities and experiences for each of our students, to enable all to explore intellectually, to grow emotionally and spiritually and to achieve their full potential.

Our ambition is that Christ’s is a community where students:

* achieve their full academic, sporting, musical and artistic potential
* have a life-long curiosity and passion for learning
* are creative thinkers, capable of taking risks in their learning and of studying independently
* are spiritual individuals, compassionate and sensitive to the needs of others and of self
* embrace diversity and have a commitment to equality and inclusivity
* are considerate, polite and always act respectfully towards others
* develop personal qualities of leadership, courage, integrity, resilience and determination
* make a positive contribution to their community and to society as a whole
* are team players, who work collaboratively to achieve shared goals
* feel comfortable socially and express themselves confidently in a range of situations.

**Job purpose**

The post holder would be expected to promote and deliver outstanding teaching, learning and attainment in Music across all Key Stages (3-5) and to ensure the highest standards of assessment and behaviour for learning are applied in all classes. The post holder will be responsible for promoting the safeguarding of all students and be always mindful of ensuring equality of opportunity for all students and staff. The post holder will adhere to the teachers’ professional standards and will also promote the school’s Christian ethos and vision.

**Duties and responsibilities**

**1. Leadership**

* Communicate clear purpose and vision to the Department
* Contribute to the strategic development of the school by implementing whole school new initiatives, monitoring and reporting on key outcomes, to ensure the Department meets academic targets
* Provide clear, cohesive leadership and direction in Department and motivating teaching and support colleagues in developing innovative strategies to enhance the quality of learning, teaching and achievement
* Promote the achievement of high standards through effective teaching and learning within subjects area(s), preparation, evaluation and action planning
* Model the vision and values of the School
* Implement the Department Development Plan to secure continuous improvement and quality outcomes for all students.
* Receive and act on feedback to build on the strengths and improve personal performance
* Develop and review syllabuses, resources, schemes of work, marking policies, assessment and teaching and learning strategies in the department.
* Oversee day-to-day management, control and operation of course provision within the department, including effective deployment of staff and physical resources.
* Monitor and follow up pupil progress
* Ensure that staff development needs are identified and that appropriate programmes are designed to meet such needs.
* Be responsible for the efficient and effective deployment of the Department's support staff.
* Undertake Performance Management Review(s) and to act as reviewer for a group of staff within the designated department.
* Make appropriate arrangements for classes when staff are absent, ensuring appropriate cover within the department, liaising with the cover supervisor/relevant staff to secure appropriate cover.
* Participate in the interview process for teaching posts when required and to ensure effective induction of new staff in line with school procedures.
* Be responsible for the day-to-day management of staff within the designated department and act as a positive role model.
* Manage the available resources of staff, finance, space and equipment efficiently within the limits, guidelines and procedures laid down; including deploying the department budget.
* Champion best practice, demonstrating teaching skills and leadership qualities necessary to command respect, and encourage commitment to raising standards.
* Identify and applaud areas of success for individual teachers and the Department.
* Hold every department member to account for the quality of their teaching and learning and outcomes.
* Help create an effective team by promoting collective approaches to problem-solving and curricular development.
* Comply with the school's Child Safeguarding Procedures and to report concerns to the Designated Child Protection Officer.
* Ensure the Behaviour Management system is implemented in the department so that effective learning can take place.
* Take the leading role in upholding standards of behaviour and classroom management within the classroom and the school’s environment.
* Be the first line of contact for parents and carers concerns with regard to their child’s performance and well-being.
* Increase the numbers taking Music at A level.
* To develop an innovative and challenging curriculum that fosters a love of learning for Music in both staff and students.

**Teaching and Learning**

* Ensure the delivery of an appropriate, comprehensive, high quality and cost-effective curriculum programme which complements the School Development Plan.
* Be accountable for the development and delivery of the Department’s curriculum.
* Keep up to date with and respond to national developments in the subject area and teaching practice and methodology.
* Produce an annual examinations analysis and department review as part of the school’s self-evaluation cycle.
* Help devise, implement and monitor SoW to ensure they focus on consistent and effective learning and teaching to produce progression for all.
* Analyse and interpret data on students’ attainment and action plan accordingly, reviewing with teachers their assessments of progress for classes, groups and individuals.
* Reflect on the success of teaching strategies, individual lessons and SoW in meeting the needs of students.
* Apply current guidelines on effective learning and teaching.
* Take part in coaching and mentoring programmes to support colleagues and develop own practice.
* Deliver outstanding lessons.
* Deliver interactive lessons with students.Provide good quality assessment using formative and summative methods in conjunction with school policy.
* Maintain effective behaviour management in the classroom using positive behaviour strategies to ensure learner’s engagement in the lesson.
* Assess appropriately the work of the students following the course in accordance with the school assessment policy
* Ensure that every student’s book in the department is marked in line with the school’s marking policy.
* Set effective homework and extension work to encourage and enliven student learning.
* Ensure differentiation and personalisation of learning for all students.
* Be aware of the KS2 curriculum and the standards of progression and attainment for KS3 students.
* Oversee and implement an extensive extra-curricular programme which will include developing existing and new ensembles
* Continue the department's tradition of a full programme of music events which reflect opportunities for both the wider cohort of students within the school and the musically able, as well as developing a wide variety of musical styles which will include classical, jazz, popular and world musics.
* Oversee and administer the work of our team of independent music tutors and ensure that this provision always caters for the needs of all students; this will include: managing the move to secondary school and ensuring that uptake of instrumental tuition is what it should be; communicating with and advising parents; keeping the tuition agreement (which parents of those taking instrumental lessons have to sign) up to date; setting a standard rate of pay for all tutors (although tutors bill parents directly); dealing with any issues which arise; recruiting new tutors where necessary; supporting the team of teachers in all ways, and developing a relationship which will maximise the support that the tutors can give in terms of helping with GCSE/A level and concert preparation
* Maintain the very considerable equipment stock within the department and planning effectively for new acquisitions which support the aims of the department.
* Maintain and develop the high profile of Christ's musicians within the wider community, both within and outside the school.
* Take on the overall responsibility for the musical development of every student within the school, which will include: advice in regard to the in-class curriculum; advice on the uptake of instruments; guidance on taking up GCSE or A level music; advice and suggestions about participation in ensembles and events; liaising with instrumental teachers where appropriate about a particular student; advice in participation in ensembles outside school, participation in Saturday junior schools, etc; long-term advice for the musically able in regard to opportunities beyond Christ's.
* Work with other staff in the department collaboratively to achieve these ends.

This job description will be reviewed annually and may be subject to amendment or modification at any time after consultation with the post holder. It is not a comprehensive statement of procedures and tasks, but sets out the main expectations of the school in relation to the post holder’s professional responsibilities and duties. Elements of this job description and changes to it may be agreed at the request of the Principal or the incumbent of the post.

**Christ’s School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. Applicants will undergo appropriate child protection screening including checks with past employers through the Disclosure and Barring Service.**

**Person Specification**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CRITERIA** | **Essential / Desirable** | |  | **Assessed by application / interview process** | |
|  | **E** | **D** |  | **A** | **I** |
| **QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Honours degree or equivalent | √ |  |  | √ |  |
| Qualified Teacher Status | √ |  |  | √ |  |
| Up to date CPD related to teaching and learning/pedagogy | √ |  |  | √ |  |
| In sympathy with the Christian values of the school | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Displays a commitment to the protection and safeguarding of children and young people | √ |  |  | √ |  |
| **KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING** |  | √ |  | √ |  |
| Good knowledge of national curriculum, relevant schemes of work and national strategy for secondary education | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Good understanding of assessment processes at KS4 and KS5 and how to use these to support planning styles and raise student attainment | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Ability to use and understand assessment data | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Good knowledge of a wide range of pedagogic approaches to cater for different learning styles and ensure that all students are engaged and make progress | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Good knowledge and understanding of strategies for promoting good relationships with students and effective behaviour management techniques | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Excellent understanding of what constitutes effective teaching and learning | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Proven ability to teach at Key stage 5 | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Familiar with effective learner and progress intervention strategies | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| **SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Proven track record of raising and maintaining high educational standards through Key Stages 3-5 | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Experience of leadership roles within a team including design and development of resources to support learning | √ |  |  | √ |  |
| Successful experience of teaching students of all abilities, including SEN and Able and Ambitious students | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Excellent communication skills orally and written | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Effective and efficient use of data to improve learning | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Involvement in the planning and/or delivery of extracurricular/enrichment activities | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| The capacity to make decisions based on sound judgements | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Evidence of innovative practice |  | √ |  | √ | √ |
| Successful experience of coaching staff to raise performance | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Excellent interpersonal skills | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| A commitment to a team ethos | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Professional integrity and honesty | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Ability to meet deadlines | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Self-motivated with an ability to use own initiative | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Able and willing to scrutinise own practice and to make their practice accessible to others | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| The capacity to form positive learning-centred relationships with other professionals | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Believe they can improve on their previous best | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Commitment to safeguarding children and young people | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Potential for promotion |  | √ |  | √ | √ |
| Ability to engage, motivate, enthuse and support colleagues | √ |  |  | √ | √ |
| Drive, resilience and self-confidence | √ |  |  | √ | √ |

**MUSIC AT CHRISTS SCHOOL 2020**

There is a strong musical life at Christ’s School, with opportunities abounding for a broad range of music making at all levels. The state-of-the-art facilities were opened by Sir Tim Rice in 2004, and the present Director of Music, Mr. Philip Wilson, has been at Christ’s since 2005, a period which has seen expansion in all areas, the development of new schemes of work, consistently good GCSE results, increasing numbers learning instruments, more extra-curricular opportunities and more music events. With an expanding department within an expanding school, the department now consists of two teachers and two teaching areas: one specialising as a performance space and the other as a technology hub. A level music is offered in our sixth form. Mr. Philip Wilson is assisted by Ms Lorraine Latin in the department.

**The Curriculum**

**Lower School classes:** years 7 and 8have an hour and a half of music every week, year 9 one hour per week; in these lessons musical ideas, techniques and styles are covered in a practically-based course which includes plenty of performance (keyboards, singing, xylophones and percussion) and composition. Students often get to work in groups, perform to the class and have their work recorded onto computer or video. There are also activities which aim to develop the students’ listening skills. The use of music technology is embedded in the lower school curriculum throughout the key stage. Each of the three years has an overarching theme:

**Year 7 The Elements of Music**

**Year 8 Music of Other Cultures**

**Year 9 The Roots of Modern Popular Music**

Most years, the entire Year 7 cohort gets together for a performance in the autumn concert. Past projects have included Flanders’ *Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo* and *Running on Rails*; these have included performances in front of pupils from local primary schools.

Every lower school project is designed to focus on all three of the music “attainment targets” – performing, composing and listening/appraising.

**GCSE**. Students can opt to take GCSE in Year 10 and 11. They have 2.5 hours per week, and be expected to demonstrate a firm commitment to develop as composers and performers, as well as developing a more technical and theoretical knowledge. Listening is structured by the study of set works: these pieces are studied from the point of view of musical elements/techniques such as melody, harmony, texture, timbre, structure etc. etc. The GCSE course is practically based, with plenty of scope for the students to create their own music in a wide variety of styles. For any student wishing to consider study beyond GCSE, the facilities exist for the study of musical theory, and those students will be expected to have achieved Grade 5 theory as well as their GCSE.

**Sixth Form**. A Level music is a possible pathway for students in our sixth form, using the Edexcel syllabus. Two of our recent A level students have gone on to study music full time at tertiary level. The opening of the sixth form centre about five years ago coincided with the opening of our music technology suite in the lower room of the music centre.

**After Christ’s**

Advice and mentoring is given on the requirements post-16 and post-18 of various music courses and pathways. Part of our remit within the music department is to ensure that students are fully prepared and briefed for future study; these considerations place Christ’s music department in a strong position to be able to advise students on career possibilities related to music and the arts, university entrance and music college requirements. We are proud of our musical alumni: several of our recent students have gone on to study music and won awards in the field of classical, jazz and popular music. Currently, ex-students of Christ’s including a member of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra and a scholar at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, a music student at West London University and another at Royal Holloway College, and multiple members of at least two professional rock bands. Many others are also involved in the world of music and the performing arts in a variety of roles.

**Music Lessons**

Christ’s School music department hires independent tutors offering **high-quality one-to-one tuition in the full range of instruments**, including voice. Numbers in all areas continue to expand. The department is flexible and will aim to provide tuition in areas not previously covered if there is a need. Tuition is currently offered in piano, guitar (classical/jazz/rock/bass guitar), drums, flute, oboe, clarinet/saxophone, brass, singing, violin/viola and cello/double-bass. A possible future area of development is individual tuition in the field of music technology.

Clarinet/saxophone *Ms Stephanie Frankland*

Oboe *Mr. Mark Radcliffe*

Violin/viola *Mr. John Haworth*

Cello *Ms Amy Sims*

Double Bass *Mr. Enrique Galassi*

Drums/percussion *Mr. Alex Maxted*

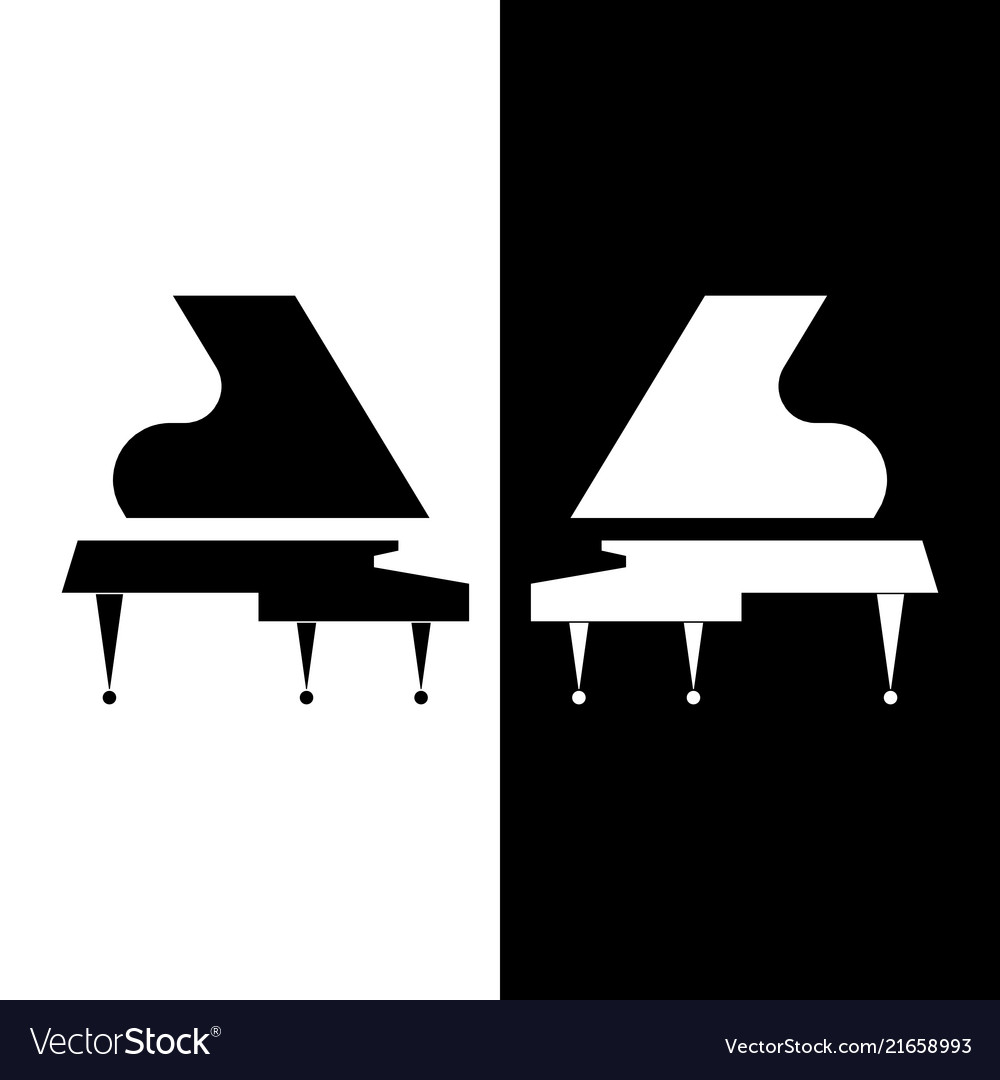
Guitar (all styles) *Mr. Elliot Frost; Mr. Enrique Galassi*

Flute *Ms Lorraine Latin*

Piano *Mr. Gamal Khamis; Mr. Mark Radcliffe; Mr. Gianni Boscarino*

Singing *Mr. Philip Wilson*

Brass *Mr. Chris Guy*



**Extra-curricular music**

Plenty of opportunities exist at Christ’s for extra-curricular music. We generally host two major concerts each year, which give the chance for singers and instrumentalists to exercise their skills on the public stage. In recent years there has been considerable investment in sound and lighting equipment by the school. In addition, Christ’s music department hosts about six informal concerts (our “*At Home*” series) each year; these are smaller in scale and give students the opportunity to perform solos in a friendly setting; this is often a stepping stone to performing in the main concerts. Performances are also a regular part of our school assemblies, PTA events, the school’s Awards Evening and on the annual jazz band primary schools tour.

The department has established a schedule which results in a major music/drama production alternating with a choral and orchestral concert in the summer term. In the summer of 2019 the Christ’s School and Community choir and orchestra performed Carl Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, along with trombone and cello concertos plus orchestral compositions by two of our best young composers. Please email Mr. Wilson, Director of Music, if you would like to hear and view a high quality recording of this concert, and he will send you a link. In the Spring, the department hosted a young composers’ workshop in collaboration with the Nonesuch Orchestra, one of the foremost amateur London orchestras. Other recent productions have been the world premiere schools’ production of Gypsy Kings’ and John Cameron’s *Zorro the Musical*, *Oliver* and (in Summer 2014) *Bugsy Malone*. In the summer of 2015 the school performed Sir Karl Jenkins’ iconic *Adiemus – Songs of Sanctuary*, which directly resulted in an invitation to perform the piece in the presence of Sir Karl in the Carnegie Hall, New York in January 2016. In summer 2017, we performed Faure’s *Requiem*, and this concert was also the third in which we have given our most advanced musicians the opportunity to play a concerto movement with a professional orchestra. Christ’s Jazz Band, which is rapidly gaining a local reputation and has established an annual primary schools tour, our string ensemble, run by Mr. Robin Wedderburn and Christ’s dectet, containing our most advanced instrumentalists, are three of our main regular ensembles, and our school orchestra is always a part of events such as our annual carol service. Flute and recorder ensembles also rehearse on a regular basis.

The department has an open-door policy at lunchtimes and after school, where students can come in and practise/rehearse. Typically during most lunchtimes all available spaces in the department are being used by students, if they are not in use by visiting teachers and the department is indeed a vibrant place.

Musically gifted pupils will be strongly encouraged to join external youth music organizations to supplement what can be achieved in school. A number of students have joined local youth orchestras (such as Ealing, Thames or Stoneleigh Youth Orchestras and the London Schools Symphony Orchestra) and have been encouraged to attend the junior departments of the main London music colleges such as the Royal College of Music and the Guildhall.

**This academic year and Covid-19**

Like all educational institutions, the current pandemic is currently clipping our wings in terms of performance and musical events. As the year begins, for example, we are currently unable to run any ensembles for students using students from more than one year group. Generally, we regard this diversity as a strength of the department, but now it is bringing in restrictions which hit us particularly hard. However, we are always looking for new opportunities; for example, in the lockdown earlier in the summer the department produced **three virtual concerts,** which are available for listening on the school website. Our **autumn concert will also be a virtual event**, but this will be more ambitious with a number of our ensembles recording at home and being stitched together in software. We are hoping for our **carol service this year to be recorded with live ensembles in Holy Trinity church**, but without a congregation. In addition, our **young composers’ workshop** with the Nonesuch orchestra will be going ahead in some format or other. We have a second composition project planned with a young professional music ensemble called the **Hermes Experiment**. We have high hopes that we will be able to run our major **choral and orchestral concert this summer**, but decisions about that will obviously come further down the line. In addition, some new music ensembles involving single year groups arecurrently being set up. We will continue to use our ingenuity to keep the flame of music alive at the school!

**Music Technology**

This has taken a quantum leap forward recently, with our state of the art Apple Mac suite of computers equipped with Logic Pro X and Sibelius software. We also have a good selection of high quality microphones for various purposes. It has a hard disc recorder, other recording hardware and a PA system in the school hall for productions/concerts.

Music Technology has been fully integrated into the Lower School curriculum, is a major feature of GCSE work and there is also a Music Technology after school club. Students often use the equipment in the lunch hour and after school, learning to record their own music, as well as using the technology as a tool for composition. Through taking responsibility for sound, lighting and stage management for musical and other events at school, pupils can, under the guidance of the Director of Music, develop invaluable skills in the technical side of productions.

*Recent* **events** *have included:*

* 2012 - 2016. World schools premiere of the Gipsy Kings’ and John Cameron’s *Zorro the Musical.* Other music drama productions have included *Bugsy Malone, Oliver* and *Arabian Nights.*
* Choral and Orchestral concert 2015, featuring Sir Karl Jenkins’ *Adiemus – Songs of Sanctuary*; this concert led directly to an invitiaton for our choir to sing the work at the Carnegie Hall in New York in January 2016.
* March 2020 Annual Jazz Band mini-tour of local primary schools. We were very fortunate to get our annual tour in just before the lockdown!
* Choral and Orchestral concert July 2017 with a performance of Faure’s *Requiem* in the church of St. John the Divine, Richmond. Concerto movements by Mozart, Haydn and Hoffmeister by our advanced students accompanied by a professional orchestra also featured in the concert.
* July 2018. Major summer popular concert featuring choir (joined by our community choir), dectet, jazz band and numerous soloists and ensembles
* March 2019 and 2020. Nonesuch Orchestra young composers’ workshop project. One of our students participating in this project, Jacob Cavendish, also entered his piece “River” for the presitigious BBC Young Composer 2020 competition and received a “highly commended” award. This project was completed shortly before the lockdown.
* July 2019. Choral and Orchestral concert featuring Carl Orff’s *Carmina Burana* performed by Christ’s School and Community choir and orchestra. This concert also featured two student compositions for orchestra and two concerto performances by two of our most advanced players.

**Every year** we also have:

* a major autumn concert,
* a large-scale Carol Service in our local church featuring choirs, orchestra, brass group and dectet.
* a series of around six “At Homes” – informal concerts giving students the opportunity to perform in front of a small audience in the friendly setting of the Christ’s Music Centre.
* **Either** a major summer concert **or** a music drama production
* Once or twice a year, we now host a visit to the school by the ABRSM for those wishing to take instrumental or vocal graded exams.

**……… A GRAND PIANO FOR CHRIST’S SCHOOL**

In the summer of 2018 the department formed the ambition to raise money to buy a high quality new grand piano. Six months later we had managed to raise around £13,000 with the help of parents and friends of the school; local businesses; ex-students, local charities and other generous donations including a very generous contribution from our very active PTA and a gift of £500 from Sir Tim Rice, who opened our music centre in 2004. We are now the proud owners of a new six-foot Yamaha grand piano, which has already given pleasure and inspiration to our many pianists in the school, and been the focus of several concerts.