



MERCHANT TAYLORS'
School

Music Calendar

Spring Term 2026



01923 845495

music@mtsn.org.uk



All information correct at time of going to press: 29th January 2026

Music Department Staff

Director of Music	Mr Simon Couldridge DipTCL
Assistant Director of Music	Mr Ian Crawford MA (Oxon) MA LRSM
Head of Academic Music	Mr Daniel Tonks MA (Oxon) MSt DipLCM MCCT
Teacher of Music	Miss Fiona Martin BMus MEd (Cantab)
Graduate Musician	Mr Andy Deng BMus MMus PGDip
Music Administrator	Mr Samuel Hill BA (Dunelm)

Visiting Music Teachers

Mr Warren Alexander DipTCL	<i>Guitar</i>
Mr Joseph Atkins DipRAM ARAM ARCM	<i>Trumpet</i>
Miss Celine Barry BA (Hons) RCM	<i>Cello, Double Bass</i>
Miss Poppy Beddoe BMus MA LRAM ARAM	<i>Clarinet</i>
Mr Steven Byron BMus (Hons) RCM	<i>Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba</i>
Miss Susan Clark MA (Cantab) MA (OU) LRSM ARCM DipRCM CTABRSM	<i>Piano</i>
Ms Karen Cormican GTCL PDOT	<i>Violin, Viola</i>
Miss Odette Cotton BMus (Hons) MA	<i>Oboe, Recorder</i>
Mrs Rosie Couldridge GTCL	<i>Violin, Viola, Piano</i>
Mr Andrew Gathercole GGSM	<i>Trumpet</i>
Miss Nicola Hawkins GLCM FLCM ARCM	<i>Classical Guitar</i>
Mr Dieter Hester DipTCL LTCL PDOT	<i>Bassoon, Music Production</i>
Miss Rebecca Jansen	<i>Cello</i>
Mr Jonathan Lawrence BA	<i>Percussion</i>
Mr Leon Liu BMus MPerf ArtDip DipABRSM	<i>Piano</i>
Mrs Naadia Manington BMus LGSM	<i>Piano, Jazz Piano</i>
Mr Neil Martin	<i>Percussion</i>
Mr Damon Robb RMSM LRAM	<i>Saxophone, Flute</i>
Mr Duncan Saunderson GGSM	<i>Singing</i>
Mrs Mayumi Stone BMus MA DipRAM	<i>Piano</i>
Mrs Joan Stubbs MusB ARCO ALCM	<i>Organ, Piano</i>
Mrs Nicola Tait LRAM (Hons)	<i>Cello</i>
Mr Richard Wainwright BA (Hons) LRAM (Adv) DipRAM ARAM	<i>French Horn, Trumpet</i>



Friday 23rd January
– Thursday 24th January
24 Hours of Music
From 9:00am

Musicians from across the school perform music continuously for 24 hours to raise money for Phab. Doughnuts will be sold in the Quarter at the Thomas White Statue.

(not open to the public)



Friday 23rd January
Teatime Concert
4:30pm, Recital Hall

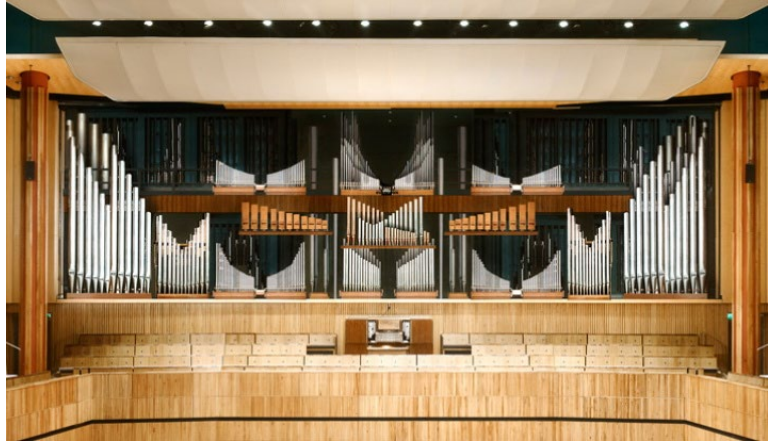
As part of the 24 Hours of Music, there will be a Teatime Concert with solo and ensemble performances of music from a wide range of genres.

Free; no registration required.

Tea and homemade cake will be served from 4:00pm.

Tuesday 27th January
**Organists' Trip to the
Royal Festival Hall**
7:00pm

A group of the schools' organists will attend a concert in the Festival Hall given by Daniel Hyde, Director of Music of King's College, Cambridge.



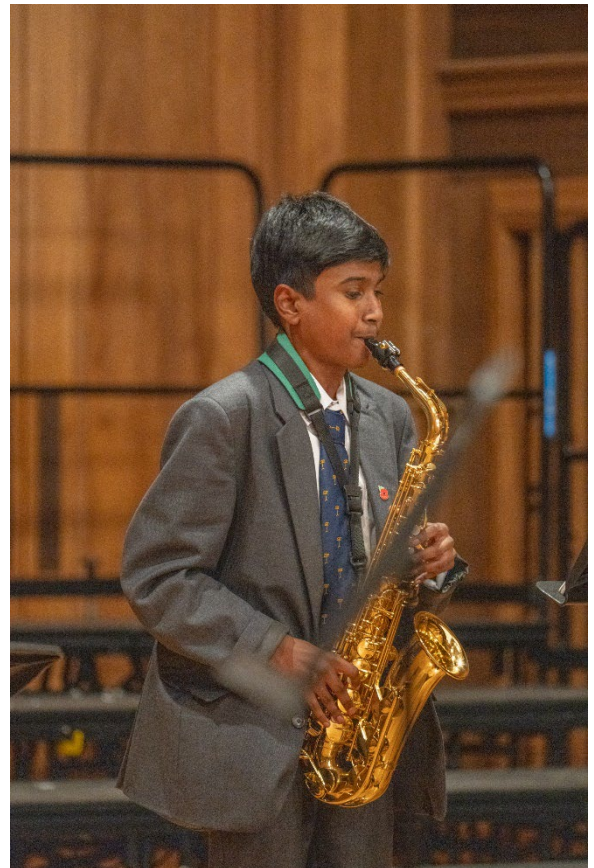
Wednesday 28th January
**Merchant Taylors' Young
Musician of the Year
Competition: Final**
6:00pm, Lalani Barn Theatre,
Merchant Taylors' Prep

Musicians from MTS and MTP take part in the final of this year's competition to be crowned Merchant Taylors' Young Musician of the Year 2026.

Free; please email nstuart@mtpn.org.uk to reserve a place.

Preliminary rounds: week beginning Friday 9th January.

Visiting Adjudicator: Barry Hopwood, Director of Music, St John's School, Northwood





Monday 2nd February
Winter Concert
7:00pm, Great Hall

Featuring performances by the
Concert Band, Dixieland Band,
Taylors' Brass, Wind Band, Big
Band, Chamber Orchestra,
Percussion Ensemble, Sinfonia,
and Symphony Orchestra.

Free; registration at development.mtsn.org.uk/events

Tea and coffee served in the Undercroft from 6:30pm.



Friday 6th February
Choral Evensong
5:00pm, St Albans
Cathedral

Members of the Chamber
Choir sing the office of
Choral Evensong.

Smith
Responses

Gibbons
Short Service

Byrd
Ave Verum

Friday 13th February
**Teatime Chamber
Music Concert**
4:30pm, Recital Hall

To round off the half term, ensembles and small groups perform a short concert of chamber music from across the ages.

Tea and homemade cake will be served from 4:00pm.



Tuesday 10th March
**Lunchtime Organ
Recital**
1:00pm, St Mary-le-Bow,
EC2V 6AU

As part of the school's institutional accreditation to the Royal College of Organists, several of our pupil organists give a lunchtime recital at this famous London church.

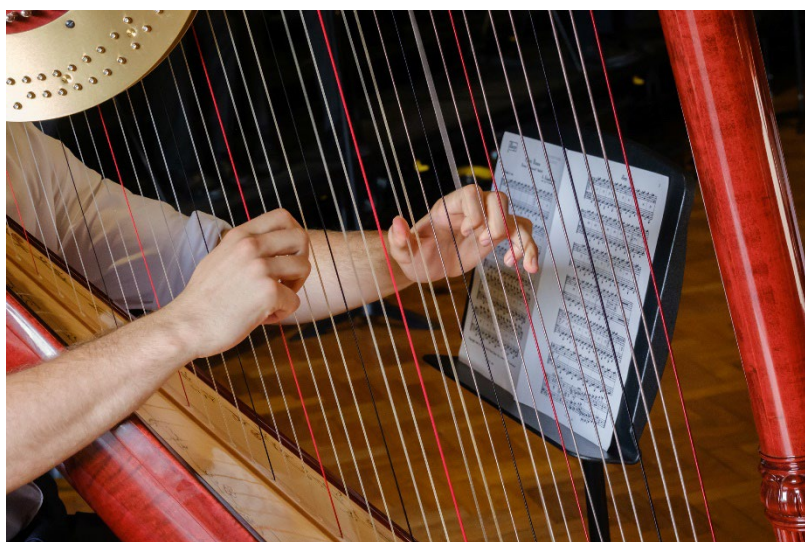
Free; no registration required.





Wednesday 11th March
Music Scholars' Trip to
Into the Woods
7:00pm, Bridge Theatre, SE1

The Music Scholars travel to London to
see Stephen Sondheim's 1986 musical
Into the Woods.

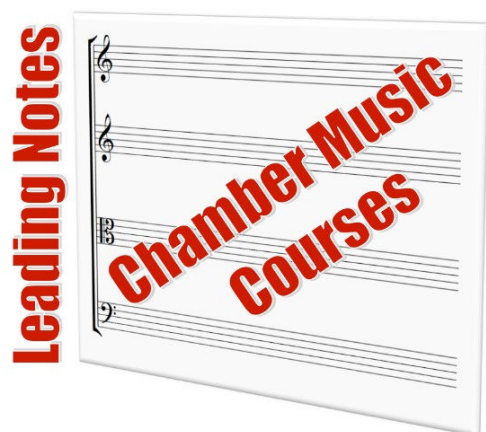


Wednesday 11th
– Friday 13th March
**ABRSM Practical
Exams**

Internal deadline for entries:
Friday 6th February, 1pm

(not open to the public)

Tuesday 7th
– Thursday 9th April
**Leading Notes
Chamber Music Course**



A three-day non-residential chamber music
course during half term led by the MTS Director
of Music and professional chamber musicians.
For advanced and improving string players
(minimum standard: Grade 4) of all ages.

For more information, please contact

leading.notes@hotmail.co.uk



MERCHANT TAYLORS'
School

Mozart's Requiem

Joint Schools' Choral Concert 2026



7:00pm, Monday 23rd March

Great Hall, Merchant Taylors' School

Tickets £15/10 from development.mtsn.org.uk/events or 01923 845495

Merchant Taylors' School • Merchant Taylors' Prep School
St John's School, Northwood • St Helen's School, Northwood

Guide to Music Lessons

Instrumental and singing lessons are 40 minutes long, and take place throughout the day starting at the following times:

7.40am*	<i>Early risers only</i>
8.20am*	<i>Pupils will need to register at Reception after this lesson time</i>
9.00am	<i>These times rotate the most</i>
9.40am	
10.20am	
11.20am	
12 noon	
12.40pm	
1.50pm*	
2.30pm	
3.10pm	
3.50pm*	
4.30pm*	

* The lessons at these times may be fixed.

The lesson times are agreed with pupils' instrumental/singing teachers and are published on SOCS, accessible at socscms.com/login/180. This can be accessed by pupils, teachers, and parents.

Most instrumental/singing lessons are rotated each week so that pupils only miss parts of different academic lessons throughout the term. It is intended that pupils who learn more than one instrument will have one lesson fixed outside the time of academic lessons. Pupils in the Upper Sixth will have lessons fixed in a free period. Apart from organ lessons, all instrumental lessons take place in the Music Department. The whiteboard near the Instrument Store displays where the VMTs will be teaching each day.

It is important that pupils check the time of their music lesson(s) regularly so that they can ask permission from their academic teachers to attend their music lessons. Pupils must let their teachers know at least 24 hours in advance. Pupils must contact their music teachers immediately if they think that there will be a problem with the scheduled time of their music lesson, no later than 48 hours before the lesson. The teacher will try to reschedule the lesson, but this may not always be possible. Academic teachers will always give pupils plenty of notice of important tests so this should never be a reason for missing a music lesson.

Theory and Aural Classes

Free theory and aural classes are run by Miss Clark at 8:15am on Thursday and Friday mornings respectively. Theory classes are open to pupils preparing for any grade; aural classes are offered to support those pupils preparing for grades 6, 7, and 8 practical exams. To sign up for these classes pupils should add their names to the sheets on the ensemble notice board.

Music Scholarships and Exhibitions

Scholarships and exhibitions in music are offered annually to pupils at 11+ and 16+ entry, and offer free instrumental and/or singing tuition on two studies. Each year the school awards one scholarship of up to 25% of the school fees, one scholarship of up to 15%, and two scholarships of up to 10% of the fees. The school also awards up to four exhibitions each year, offering free tuition on two studies.

The Director of Music, Simon Couldridge, is always happy to meet prospective candidates and answer enquiries at any stage. For more information, please contact the Music Administrator, Samuel Hill, via email at music@mtsn.org.uk or by telephone on 01923 845495.

Serenaders Music Support Group

The Serenaders Music Support Group is a group of parents and friends which since 1994 has supported the musical life of Merchant Taylors' School through fundraising events, and by serving refreshments at concerts.

To find out more about the Serenaders, please contact serenaders@mtsn.org.uk

Information and Tickets

For more information, please contact the Music Administrator, Samuel Hill:
E: music@mtsn.org.uk T: 01923 845495
W: mtsn.org.uk/co-curricular/music

Where events require tickets or registration, this can be done through the school Development Office:
E: events@mtsn.org.uk T: 01923 845545
W: development.mtsn.org.uk/events

Weekly Rehearsal Schedule

Monday	*	8.15am	Big Band	Recital Hall	Mr Gathercole
	*	1.50pm	Piano Trio	MU82	Mrs Tait
	*	1.50pm	Chamber Music	MU89	Miss Martin
		1.50pm	Choir: Tenors & Basses	Recital Hall	Mr Crawford
		1.50pm	5ths Composition Clinic	MU72	Mr Tonks
	*	4.00pm	Concert Band	Recital Hall	Mr Tonks
	*	4.00pm	Piano Trio	MU82	Mr Couldridge
Tuesday	*	8.15am	Thomas White Singers	MU89	Mr Crawford
	*	1.50pm	Dixieland Band	Recital Hall	Miss Martin
	*	1.50pm	Wind Chamber Music	MU82	Miss Cotton
	*	4.00pm	Symphony Orchestra	Recital Hall	Mr Couldridge
		4.00pm	Sinfonia	MU82	Mr Crawford
		8.00pm	Choral Society	Recital Hall	Mr Crawford
Wednesday		1.50pm	Changing Voices	Recital Hall	Mr Crawford
		1.50pm	5ths Composition Clinic	MU72	Miss Martin
	*	2:00pm	Saxophone Ensemble	MU65	Mr Robb
		4.00pm	Choir: Trebles & Altos	Recital Hall	Mr Crawford
Thursday	*	8.15am	Woodwind Chamber Music	MU89	Miss Beddoe
		8.15am	Percussion Ensemble	Recital Hall	Mr Lawrence
		8.15am	Music Theory Class	MU82	Miss Clark
	*	1.50pm	Chamber Choir	Recital Hall	Mr Crawford
		4.00pm	Wind Band	Recital Hall	Miss Martin
	*	4.00pm	Chamber Orchestra	MU82	Mr Couldridge
Friday	*	8.15am	Taylor's Brass	Recital Hall	Mr Byron
	*	8.15am	Recorder Consort	MU88	Mr Tonks
		8.15am	Music Aural Class	MU89	Miss Clark
		1.50pm	Choir: Full	Recital Hall	Mr Crawford
		1.50pm	Guitar Ensemble	MU82	Miss Hawkins
	*	Entry by invitation			