



MERCHANT TAYLORS'
School

Music Calendar

Autumn Term 2025



01923 845495

music@mtsn.org.uk



Music Department Staff

Director of Music	Mr Simon Couldridge DipTCL
Assistant Director of Music	Mr Ian Crawford MA (Oxon)
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
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 BA MA 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 3rd October
Music Scholars' Concert
4:30pm, Recital Hall

We welcome to Merchant Taylors' new music scholars and exhibitioners who will perform alongside existing award holders.

Free; no registration required.

Refreshments will be served in the foyer from 4pm.



Saturday 11th October
Lunchtime Organ Recital
11:30am, Aldenham Church

As part of the church's programme of Saturday lunchtime concerts, staff and pupil organists present a short organ recital of music from the 17th century to the present day.

Free; no registration required.

Tea and cake will be served from 11am.

Wednesday 15th October
**Final of the
Senior Music Competition**
7:00pm, Recital Hall

The most accomplished musicians of the fifth and sixth forms compete to win the Reynolds Cup for Excellence in Musical Performance.

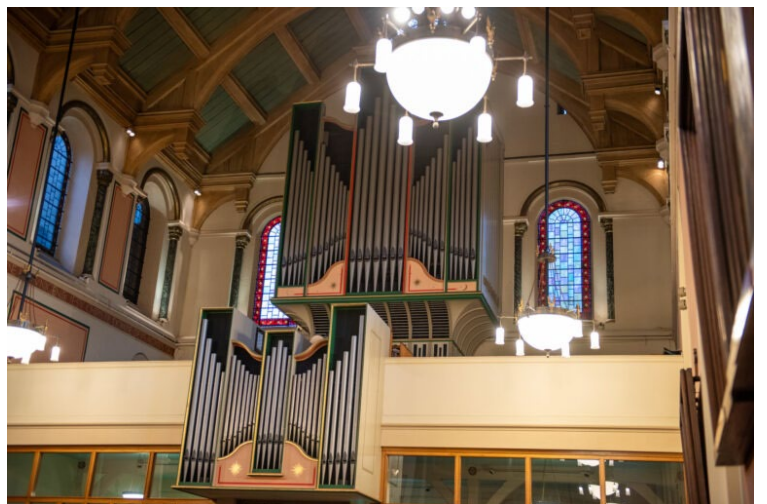
Preliminary rounds: week beginning Monday 22nd September.

Visiting Adjudicator: to be confirmed.



Friday 17th October
Lunchtime Organ Recital
1:30pm, St John's RC
Church, Islington

Ahead of their tour to Germany, pupil organists will give a short lunchtime concert on this fine Flentrop organ in Islington.



Free; no registration required



Saturday 25th – Wednesday 29th October **Organists' Tour to Germany**

Based in Hamburg, organists will receive expert tuition on both historic and modern instruments, and will also visit two churches in Lübeck. There will be one public recital on Sunday 26th October at 5:00pm in St Katharinen, Hamburg (*pictured*).

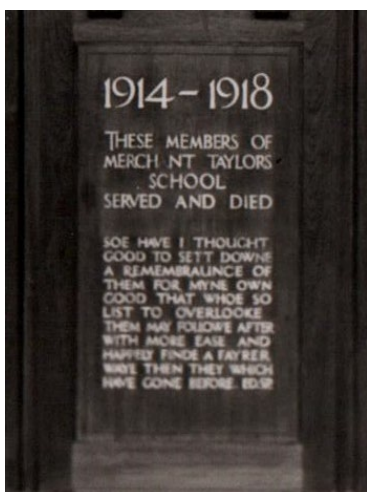
Parents' information evening:
Thursday 25th September, 5:00pm



Friday 7th November **Choral Concert** 4:30pm, Great Hall

Under the direction of the new Assistant Director of Music, Mr Ian Crawford, the choirs of Merchant Taylors' School will perform a concert of choral music from across the ages.

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



Monday 10th November **Remembrance Service** 8:35am, Great Hall

(not open to the public)

Wednesday 12th November
Pipes and Pizza
1:50pm, Great Hall

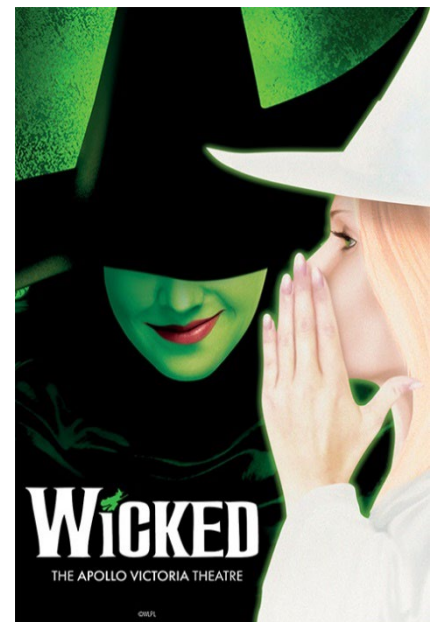
As part of the Royal College of Organists' *Play the Organ Year 2025*, we welcome boys to have a chance to play the 'King of Instruments' in the Great Hall... and have some pizza!

(not open to the public)



Thursday 13th November
Music Trip to Wicked
7:30pm, Apollo Victoria Theatre

As part of the GCSE music course, boys in the Divisions and Fifth Form will watch a live performance of *Wicked* in the West End.



Wednesday 19th –
Thursday 20th November
Gamelan Workshop
Recital Hall

The Third Form take part in a workshop exploring Gamelan Music.

(not open to the public)





Wednesday 26th November
Lower School Concert
 4:30pm, Great Hall

Together with the Wind Band and Sinfonia, musicians from the Third and Upper Third forms perform a variety of music from across the ages.

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

Tea and coffee will be served in the Undercroft from 4:00pm.



Wednesday 3rd
 – Friday 5th December
ABRSM Practical Exams

Internal deadline for entries:
 Friday 17th October, 1pm

(not open to the public)



Wednesday 10th December
Vernon's Anniversary Service
 12 noon, St Michael's, Cornhill

The Chamber Choir sings at the Company's annual service commemorating the munificence of John Vernon, Master of the Company in 1609.

(not open to the public)

Sunday 14th December Festival of Lessons and Carols

3:30pm, Great Hall

All are welcome to attend this traditional carol service, which includes familiar scripture readings and congregational carols alongside seasonal music led by the Merchant Taylors' School Choir, Chamber Choir, and Choral Society.



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

A buffet tea will be served in the Dining Room after the service.

Tuesday 16th December Christmas Music in the Undercroft 2:00pm

Soloists and small ensembles present a short programme of largely festive music during the Hour. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served.



(not open to the public)

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*	<i>Not for those who get the early coach</i>
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	Saxophone Ensemble	MU65	Mr Robb
	*	1.50pm	Chamber Music	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	Chamber Music	MU82	Mr Couldridge
Tuesday	*	1.50pm	Dixieland Band	Recital Hall	Miss Martin
	*	1.50pm	Thomas White Singers	MU89	Mr Crawford
	*	1.50pm	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
		4.00pm	Choir: Trebles & Altos	Recital Hall	Mr Crawford
Thursday	*	8.15am	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	Taylors' 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. † Rehearsals begin after Half Term				