



MERCHANT TAYLORS'
School

Music Calendar

Autumn Term 2026



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) MA LRSM
Head of Academic Music	Mr Daniel Tonks MA (Oxon) MSt DipLCM MCCT
Teacher of Music	Miss Fiona Martin BMus MEd (Cantab)
Teacher of Music	Mr Jonathan Coleman BA LRSM
Graduate Musician	Miss Xia Liu BA MPerf
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</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>
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>Drum Kit</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</i>
Mrs Nicola Tait LRAM (Hons)	<i>Cello</i>
Mr Richard Wainwright BA (Hons) LRAM (Adv) DipRAM ARAM	<i>French Horn, Trumpet</i>



Friday 2nd October
Music Scholars' Concert
4:30pm, Recital Hall

Music scholars old and new
open the musical year with a concert of
instrumental and vocal music.

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



Tuesday 13th October
Lunchtime Organ Recital
1:10pm, Grosvenor Chapel, Mayfair

Pupil organists present a short recital
of organ music from across the ages.

Free; no registration required.



Friday 16th October
**Final of the
Senior Music Competition**
6:30pm, Recital Hall

Musicians in the Fifth and Sixth forms
compete to win the
first music competition of the year

Adjudicator: Alexander Hamilton OMT
(Director of Music, HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court)

Monday 26th –
Wednesday 28th October
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



Friday 6th November
Choral Concert
7:00pm, St Matthew, Oxhey

Together with soloists, the choirs of Merchant Taylors' School present a varied programme of choral and vocal music.

Free; registration at

development.mtsn.org.uk/page/events





Monday 9th November Remembrance Assembly 8:35am, Great Hall

The Chamber Choir sings in the annual assembly of Remembrance, led by the Chaplain.

(not open to the public)



Saturday 14th November Friends' Quiz Night 7:00pm, Dining Hall

The Dixieland Band performs throughout the evening, which raises money for the Serenaders Music Support Group.

Tickets £35/15; available from
development.mtsn.org.uk/page/events



Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th November Indonesian Gamelan Workshop

The Third Form are visited by an expert Gamelan player, who will also give them the opportunity to play authentic instruments.

(not open to the public)

Wednesday 18th –
Friday 20th November
Joint Schools' Musical:
Guys and Dolls
7:00pm, Great Hall

Pupils from Merchant Taylors' and St Helen's
perform Frank Loesser's classic musical.

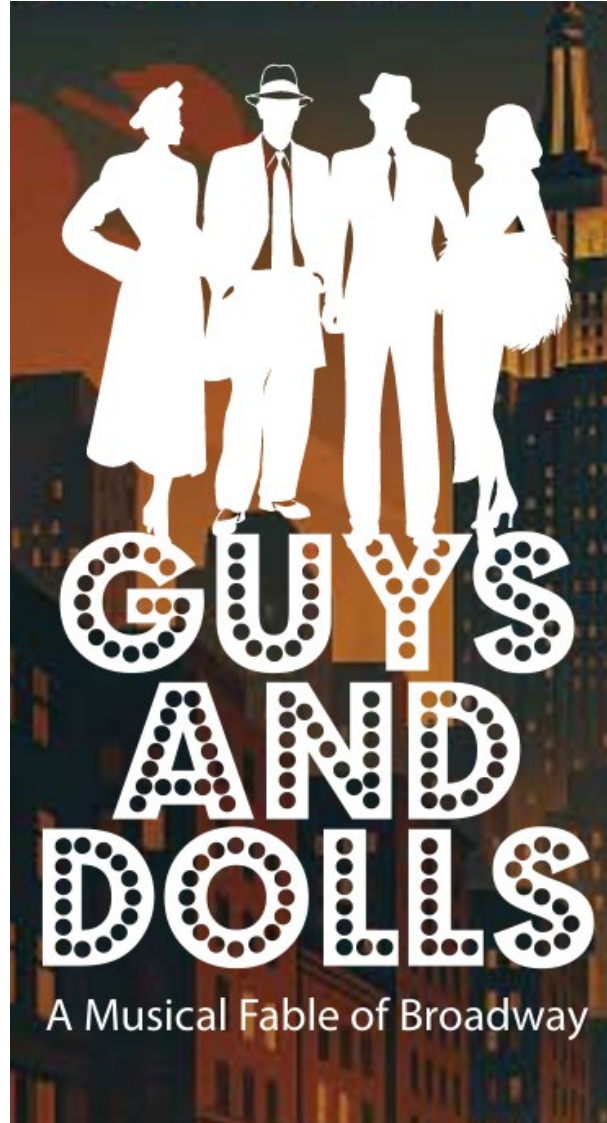
Tickets £24/12; available from
development.mtsn.org.uk/page/events

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

Together with the Wind Band and Sinfonia,
musicians from the Lower School perform a variety
of music from across the ages.

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

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





Tuesday 1st December –
Thursday 3rd December
ABRSM practical exams
Recital Hall

Internal deadline for entries:
Friday 16th October

(not open to the public)



Wednesday 9th December
Vernon Service
12 noon, St Michael, Cornhill

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

(not open to the public)

Festival of Lessons and Carols

in the Great Hall



3:30pm, Sunday 13th December

Tickets free; registration at
development.mtsn.org.uk/page/events or 01923 845495

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 exams up to grade 5; 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, Mr Simon Couldridge, is always happy to meet prospective candidates and answer enquiries at any stage. For more information, please contact the Music Administrator, Mr 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 Mr Hari Singh at serenaders@mtsn.org.uk

Information and Tickets

For more information, and to book tickets by phone, please contact the Music Administrator, Mr Samuel Hill:

E: music@mtsn.org.uk

T: 01923 845495

W: mtsn.org.uk/co-curricular/music

Tickets may be booked online here:

W: development.mtsn.org.uk/page/events

Weekly Rehearsal Schedule

Monday	*	8:15am	Big Band	Recital Hall	Mr Gathercole
	*	8:15am	Piano Trio	MU82	Mrs Tait
		1:50pm	Choir: Lower Voices	Recital Hall	Mr Crawford
	*	4:00pm	Concert Band	Recital Hall	Mr Tonks
	*	4:00pm	Piano Trio	MU82	Mr Couldridge
Tuesday	*	1:50pm	Dixieland Band	Recital Hall	Miss Martin
	*	2:00pm	Wind Quintet	MU82	Miss Cotton
	*	4:00pm	Symphony Orchestra	Recital Hall	Mr Couldridge
		4:00pm	Sinfonia	MU82	Mr Coleman
	†	8:00pm	Choral Society	Recital Hall	Mr Crawford
Wednesday	*	2:00pm	Saxophone Ensemble	MU65	Mr Robb
		4:00pm	Choir: Upper Voices	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	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 3rd November