

GRACENOTES

Autumn 2022

*Welcome to the latest edition of **Gracenotes**, the newsletter of Haberdashers' Adams Music Department. Find out about what has been happening in the Music Department over the last few months.*

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A familiar face returns!

Following the departure of Dr Upton in May, our previous Head of Music, Mr Malcolm Brown, has returned to Haberdashers' Adams to run the Music Department until the end of this term. We are delighted to welcome him back and would like to thank him for taking a break from all his exciting retirement activities to help us out! In January, Mr Jonathan Wysome will take over as Head of Music and a new Music teacher will be joining the department. Mr Brown will still be around as he will continue to oversee the summer production and to teach the various Taiko groups.



And yet more familiar faces.....

Four Old Novaportans returned to take part in *A Night at the Musicals*: Nat Hodgkiss, Will Evans, Josh Tagg & Grace Murray.



Summer concerts to end the school year

After several years of not being able to put on musical events, we were delighted to finish the Summer term with two very different concerts. A Night at the Musicals showcased songs from a variety of shows, with choreography by Mrs Mills and accompaniment by Mr Wysome. On one of the hottest days of the summer, the students performed to a packed audience of parents and friends, who enjoyed songs from both traditional and modern musicals. The very next evening, another full house of parents were treated to performances from the Orchestra, Folk Group, Choir, Taiko drummers and Show Band. The Hamilton Concert is an annual event celebrating the musical talent of the students at Haberdashers' Adams.



Groups and Ensembles

There are many opportunities to get involved in extra-curricular Music at Haberdashers' Adams, and there really is something for everyone, whatever music you enjoy playing.

Mondays

CCF Marching Band in Hamilton Hall from 13.00-13.30 with Mr Frost. Brass and woodwind players are needed, as well as percussion players to play side drum. You do not have to be a member of CCF to join the Marching Band. The Marching Band represent the school on Remembrance Sunday and at other local events in the area.

Swing Band in Hamilton Hall from 16.00-17.00 with Mr Brown & Mr Wysome. For brass, woodwind and percussion players at Grade 4 and above, who enjoy playing jazz and big band music.

Tuesdays

Mixed Choir in Hamilton Hall from 13.00-13.30 with Mr Brown & Mr Wysome. For students in all years who enjoy singing.

Folk Group in CH3 from 13.00-13.30 with Mrs Beynon. String players welcome. We are also looking for a drummer and some guitarists.

Wednesdays

Training Orchestra in CH3 from 13.00-13.30 with Mrs Beynon & Mr Massey. For musicians at Grades 1-3. New for this year, the Training Orchestra is an opportunity for musicians at the lower grades to play together, with the aim of preparing them for joining the main Orchestra in due course.

Junior Taiko in Hamilton Hall from 16.00-17.00 with Mr Brown. Students in Years 7-10 are welcome to come along to learn the art of Japanese drumming.

Groups and Ensembles continued

Bandmaker in various rooms in the Coach House from 16.00-17.00 with Mr Jones. Aspiring rock musicians in Years 7-10 have the opportunity to learn how to play in a rock band. (There is a charge for this activity to cover the cost of the necessary equipment).

Thursdays

Chamber Choir in CH2 from 13.00-13.30 with Mr Brown and Mr Wysome, for more experienced singers.

Flute Choir in Hamilton Hall from 12.45-13.15 with Miss Purvis. If you play the flute and you are at Grade 3 and above, Miss Purvis would be delighted to welcome some new musicians to join her choir.

Orchestra in Hamilton Hall from 16.00-17.00 with Mr Brown and Mr Wysome. For musicians at Grade 3 and above. This is our main Orchestra and we play a wide variety of music from classical to film and popular music.

We would welcome new members to all of our groups and ensembles. Music is a social activity – if you play an instrument, we would encourage you to take up the opportunity to enjoy playing with others. With our wide variety of groups and ensembles, we have something to suit all musical tastes. For more information, please speak to Mr Brown, Mr Wysome or Mrs Coomer.

*Our departing Music teachers: Mrs Janine Kitchin,
Mrs Lyndall Bausor-Harris and Mrs Elaine Cook.*



Staff Update – goodbye and hello!

At the Hamilton Concert in July, we said goodbye to our singing teacher, Mrs Elaine Cook, who has worked at Adams since 2010. Elaine played a key role in leading choirs and ensembles over the years and encouraged many students to get involved and enjoy singing. She has decided that the time is right to follow a different path and we wish her well for the future. We welcomed back two former members of staff to the Hamilton Concert: Mrs Janine Kitchin and Mrs Lyndall Bausor-Harris, both of whom retired during the lockdown in 2020. Janine and Lyndall have both given many years of service to Adams, Janine teaching strings and Lyndall teaching flute, clarinet, oboe and bassoon. We have been trying to work out when they started working here. Prior to 2005, all our instrumental teachers were self-employed or worked for the Music Service, so we do not have employment records going back before that date, but we know they have each taught here for over 20 years – a remarkable achievement! In that time, they have worked for five Heads of Music and three Headmasters, and have seen many changes. Janine has told us stories of the old Music Department when she first came here, which was eventually pulled down before it fell down! Peripatetic lessons moved into the green demountables at the back of the Sixth Form Centre, where the walls were so thin, the teachers could talk to each other through the wall! We have come a long way since then. We also paid tribute to Robert Webb, who left us in 2020 when he moved to live in France. Robert is an extremely talented musician, who taught cello, double bass, guitar, keyboards, drums and singing, but many of you will remember him for introducing the Bandmaker programme, which is still running today. As Robert is Janine's son, we were able to ask her to pass on our grateful thanks to him.

We are very pleased to introduce two members of staff who have recently joined the Music Department.

Mrs Olivia Thomas has been teaching voice professionally for 14 years. She began classical training as a child, having already been playing the piano for several years. After training classically for over 10 years, Olivia then moved towards musical theatre, studying Performing Arts at Staffordshire University. Upon graduating in 2009, she then embarked on her teaching career, providing community workshops and teaching in both state schools and stage schools across the county. In 2017, Olivia also began training as a choir leader and has been at the helm of two large pop choirs ever since.



Mr Dan Jones has been playing guitar for over 30 years and has played live and taught professionally for most of his career. He also records and produces his own solo compositions and plays and records music with other musicians. Dan's solo album '*Zero Four Nine*' was released in 2021 and received favourable reviews in the national music press. Dan also recorded and produced four albums with the progressive rock band '*The Dreaming Tree*' and plays regularly with the party covers band '*The Indigo Machine*'. Dan has a keen interest in all styles of guitar, ranging from Folk to Rock, Jazz and Blues.



The National Scout & Guide Symphony Orchestra and Concert Band

Four students from Haberdashers' Adams played with the National Scout & Guide Symphony Orchestra and National Scout & Guide Concert Band during the summer holidays. Concerts took place at Coventry Cathedral and Birmingham Conservatoire. Each concert culminated in a performance with the Orchestra and Band playing together. 170 highly-talented young musicians playing together was a truly amazing sound!



Adams' *f*riends of
*M*usic

Adams' FM – friends of the Music Department

No, it is not a radio station - Adams' FM stands for 'friends of Music', a group of parents (past and present) and friends of the Music Department, who volunteer to support music at Haberdashers' Adams. They provide bars and refreshments at music events, raise money to benefit the students, repair costumes, and volunteer whatever other help they can to promote music at Adams. We would love to welcome some new members. You do not have to join the committee unless you would like to do so. We need parents we can call on to come along and help for an hour or so at specific events. If your son or daughter is involved in music at Haberdashers' Adams, do consider joining this friendly group.

If you would like to get involved in helping the Music Department and the students, Adams' FM would love to hear from you. Please speak to Mr Brown, Mr Wysome or Mrs Coomer and they will pass your details on to the Adams' FM committee.

Return to the Forbidden Planet

Rehearsals are underway for our summer production, *Return to the Forbidden Planet*. Inspired by Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, this juke box musical is packed with great pop hits, from *Good Vibrations*, *Great Balls of Fire*, *Young Girl* and *She's Not There*, to *Shake, Rattle and Roll*, *The Young Ones*, *Born to be Wild* and *Telstar*. With dialogue largely adapted from well-known passages from Shakespeare and a roller-skating robot, this show is like nothing we have ever staged before! The show will be performed on five consecutive nights at the end of the Summer Term and the cast will be joined each night by a class of Year 7 boys, one House each night, who will be singing some of the songs, which they will learn in their class lessons. Directed by Mr Brown and with choreography by Mrs Mills, this is a fun, vibrant and colourful production.

After an absence of several years due to Covid, our legendary musical productions are back! Join us on our journey into space in July 2023. Look out in the Spring for information on how to purchase tickets.



Dates for your diary

Family Carol Service	Thursday 15 th December	St Nicholas Church
Music Parents' Evening	Wednesday 1 st February	Hamilton Hall
<i>(for pupils receiving instrumental lessons at Haberdashers' Adams)</i>		
House Music Competition	Thursday 16 th February	Sports Hall
Spring Concert	Monday 27 th March	Hamilton Hall