

# Music



# @ St. John's

## *We are back!*

Issue 19 July 2022

Music making at St. John's returns with full gusto as we take the choir back to Edinburgh for our Choir tour 2022 and our many music making traditions are re-established.

### ***Prep. School Summer Arts Festival 2022***

Storme Watson, Mr. Tunnah and Mrs. Newnham collaborate for this year's Arts Festival, featuring 'Music which moves'

### ***Prep. School Summer Concerts***

As a St. John's first, pupils from Prep. and Senior Schools come together to perform a night of music, poetry and story-telling

# MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS...

Dearest St. Johnians,

I cannot believe how quickly the year has gone, and what another incredible year at St. John's it has been! This is a testament to how we have been able to return to normal music making. We have enjoyed a vibrant array of various musical activities, which has involved a re-forming of the choir with more pupils than ever singing, and the orchestra learning pieces that were written especially for them.

The level and standard of music making that I am always plugging away at, is improving and I am so overjoyed that we have some of our very own home-grown St. John's musicians who are playing at Grade 5 and above standard in Year 5 (F.2). As a music specialist, it is highly rewarding to be able to hold musical conversations with the pupils and talk about compositional techniques within various different pieces of music. This year, children have learnt about British Composers and discovering the music of the people 'Folk Music' - even discovering that every nation or country in the world has its own folk music. These are fundamental steps for the department, as music can only thrive in a school when children learn about the values of dedication and commitment. It is only after those have been discovered and the hard work has been planted, that true enjoyment can be found.

This term has been a feast of adventure in music-making. Immediately after returning from the Easter Holidays, children began preparing songs and creating their parts for our brand new Summer Concert. Soon after, we took the Prep. School Choir on a fun-fact-filled performance tour to Edinburgh, where they visited St. Mary's Music school and St. Cecilia's Music Museum. After returning,



we held the school Arts Festival, where Storme Watson of Earthsong came to lead the pupils through a half-day of discovering the movement of music and sounds of various instruments. Finally, at the end of the term, the children came together to produce the Lower and Upper School Summer Concerts. These events were spectacular and set the bar for future music making! Long may it continue!!

**Ruaidhri J. Tunnah**  
**Head of Music** -  
**(Upper Prep. School)**

Dear Reader,

I am writing this welcome article only a few days after our amazing Summer Concerts have taken place and I have a huge smile on my face thinking about what we have all achieved.

Because of the restrictions enforced upon us by Covid, none of you had been through the rehearsal process or performed in front of a large audience for well over two years. But when Mr. Tunnah and I discussed how we would approach the two concerts, we both decided that we would not make any concessions at all to this. In fact, we both decided that we should aim high and make the concerts the best ever and I really do think that this is what you achieved. You came back with a bang and you should all be very proud of yourselves!

A new development for the Summer Concerts this year was the addition of performances from the Senior School pupils, overseen by our newest recruit to the Music Department - Mrs. Scott. Well, I am very pleased to say that KS3 also rose to the challenge that Mrs. Scott had set them. For those of you moving to the Senior School in September, this is an exciting time for the Music Department there and I look forward to seeing your musical development under Mrs. Scott's guidance.

Before I conclude, I must make a special mention here about the Prep. School Choir. When we returned to singing at the start of this academic year, everyone was a little 'rusty' to say the least! We did a huge amount of work in the first term refining our technique and sound and really listening to each other. You all worked so hard and, because of your dedication and commitment, we are now back to full form, so well done! You have been great fun to teach this year and those of you who went on our Edinburgh trip achieved personal goals and made it a very enjoyable experience for all involved. I am really looking forward to next year now, but do be warned, I will be working you even harder!

Enjoy the summer everyone and practise those instruments!

**Paula Bowman**  
**Head of Music** -  
**(Lower Prep. School)**



# In This Issue...

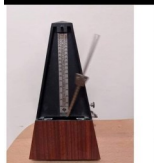
04. **A Year in Music:  
Practice, Practice and what  
it is to Practise.**



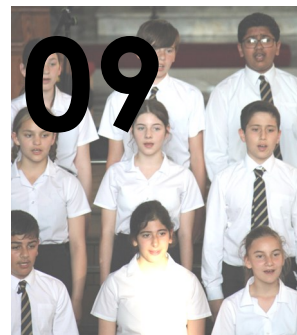
04  
Your TikTok

05. **Composer of the Issue**

06 – 7 **Prep. School Arts  
Festival -  
Music which moves!**



My TikTok



08. **Music In the Lower School**

09. **Senior School Music**

10-11 **Choir Tour to Edinburgh 2022**

12-15 **A St. John's musician would  
say!**

16 **Prep. School Summer  
Concert 2022**



06



16

## Senior School Welcome

*Mrs. Victoria Scott*

Dear St. John's family,

I have had a wonderful year settling into my role as Head of Music at the Senior School. It has been a challenge and a joy to resurrect music after the ravages of the recent pandemic. Music suffered greatly due to the restrictions in place, singing was banned, online lessons were extremely difficult, and many were disenchanted with the lack of personal contact essential for ensuring long lasting inspiration. However, like a Phoenix rising from the ashes, we have all come together again and happily begun rebuilding music in our school, just as others have across the world. I am extremely proud of the Music Department's achievements this year. Not only do we now have an excellent choir in place, we also have a String Ensemble Group, Woodwind Club and Friday Music Club where everyone is welcome to come along and try any instrument and "jam" with their friends.

The uptake of formal individual music lessons has doubled, and we now have students learning Flute, Clarinet, Violin, classical and electric Guitar, Percussion and of course the Piano. Next year, I will be offering singing lessons as well.

**Victoria. L. Scott**

**Head of Music - St. John's Senior School**



## Practice, Practice **and** what it is *to practise*.

“I want to learn the Piano!!”

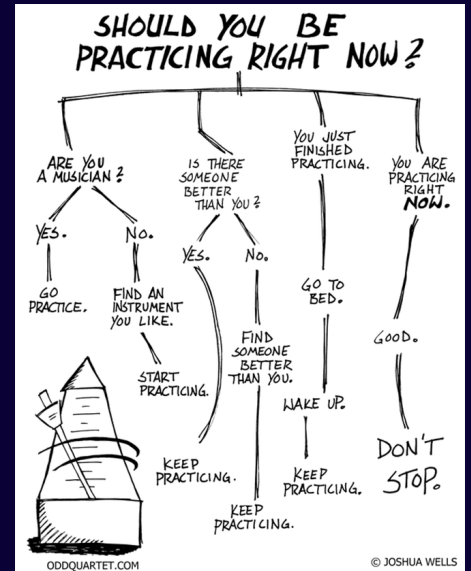
What is this practice thing about anyway? I go to my lesson once a week, so what is the worry about? Why do I have to do this thing every day? - carting my music out from its hiding place in the corner and putting it on the stand, getting my instrument out and going through my pieces? I thought that this was meant to be fun? Why do I have to?... Didn't we do enough in the lesson? My teacher didn't tell me what to practise... Oh no... I've left my music books at school... (5 minutes later) Ok... I've done it now!

The fantasy to go up to any musical instrument and be able to play beautiful music is something that many people dream about. I have to admit that I do think about this a lot and I am already a musician! I even plan to have a special room in my house one day with walls of many different instruments that I can lay my hands on and play whenever I want to. Now that music making at St. John's is on the rise and our musicians are causing a stir - even in the wider-musical community. In this article, I aim to address the elephant in the room which never really gets talked about enough in the right way. This is Practice!

You may ask me: Well... Mr. Tunnah, why have you not already got that room of musical instruments set up? In fact, I do have many musical instruments at home, to the point where my family ask me why I have so many laying around the house that I do not play! Some instruments I cannot actually play though, which is a source of much disappointment, but how much is procrastination and how much is actually the fact that Mr. Tunnah actually just needs to have a rest when he gets home from St. John's. Actually, I do end up practising a lot, because whilst I can play my instruments quite confidently, there is always room for improvement and as you know, we have many events at St. John's to prepare for. In addition to this, I am in a wonderfully privileged position to be called upon more and more to be an accompanist for pupils' exams. How do I fit all this practice in if I am working so much... well as a matter of fact, I have to do it efficiently!

Almost every pupil I ask, how do you practise? They all tell me they start at the beginning and play through and then that is it. Ok, so imagine doing that same thing every day? No doubt with the same mistakes in the same places every time? No wonder so many young musicians give up having lost interest! If we look at it another way, then why, when you are playing a computer game do you often go back to the last checkpoint each time to try a different tactic to solve a puzzle and get through to the next level. You do not necessarily go right from the beginning of the game every time you load it up. If you did have to, I am sure that you would give up that as well!!

The other approach is that of timing. How well do you really know the music that you think that you know? I often started with an accompaniment and thought... oh this is easy!! I go through a couple of times and then stop for a cup of tea. The next day, I go back and pick up that music again and realise that what I thought was easy the previous day is/was in fact much much harder. How well was I looking at those notes the first time? Did I pay enough attention to what I was doing? I put the metronome on too and discover to my horror... no way!! I need to play it so much faster too!! Your friend is the metronome, but also you must know how to navigate from one bar of the music to the next without stopping. Next time you go for that performance at home... record yourself and listen back. Let me know how it goes!





# COMPOSER OF THE ISSUE

## George Frederic Handel by Rohan Bakrania: Form 2

### Introduction

George Frederic Handel was a German-British Baroque composer well known for his operas, oratorios, anthems and organ concertos.

In 1705, George Frederic Handel made his debut as an operatic composer with 'Almira.' He produced several operas with the Royal Academy of Music in London before forming the New Royal Academy of Music in 1727. When Italian operas fell out of fashion, he started composing oratorios, including his most famous 'Messiah.'

### Early Life

George Frederic Handel was born on February 23, 1685, to Georg and Dorothea Handel of Halle, Saxony, Germany. From an early age, Handel longed to study music, but his father objected, doubting that music would be a realistic source of income. In fact, his father would not even permit him to own a musical instrument. His mother, however, was supportive, and she encouraged him to develop his musical talent. With her cooperation, Handel took to practising in secret.

When Handel was still a young boy, he had the opportunity to play the organ for the duke's court in Weissenfels. It was there that Handel met composer and organist Frederic Wilhelm Zachow. Zachow was impressed with Handel's potential and invited Handel to become his pupil. Under Zachow's tutelage, Handel mastered composing for the organ, the oboe and the violin alike by the time he was 10 years old. From the age of 11 to the time he was 16 or 17, Handel composed church cantatas and chamber music that, being written for a small audience, failed to garner much attention and have since been lost to time.

Despite his dedication to his music, at his father's insistence, Handel initially agreed to study law at the



**Born:** 23 February 1685, Halle (Saale), Germany

**Died:** 14 April 1759, London

**Full name:** Georg Friedrich Händel

**Nationality:** English, German

**Siblings:** Johanna Christiana Händel, Dorothea Sophia Händel

**Parents:** Dorothea Händel, Georg Händel

University of Halle. Not surprisingly, he did not remain enrolled for long. His passion for music would not be suppressed.

In 1703, when Handel was 18 years old, he decided to commit himself completely to music, accepting a violinist's position at the Hamburg Opera's Goose Market Theater. During this time, he supplemented his income by teaching private music lessons in his free time, passing on what he had learned from Zachow.

### Death and Legacy

On April 14, 1759, Handel died in bed at his rented house at 25 Brook Street, in the Mayfair district of London. The Baroque composer and organist was 74 years old.

Handel was known for being a generous man, even in death. Having never married or fathered children, his will divided his assets among his servants and several charities, including the Foundling Hospital. He donated the money to pay for his own funeral so that none of his loved ones would bear the financial burden. Handel was buried in Westminster Abbey, a week after he died. Following his death, biographical documents began to circulate posthumously.

# ARTS FESTIVAL 2022

On Thursday and Friday 26th and 27th May, St. John's held its annual Arts Festival. Following the success of last year's events where pupils came together to design and create their own musical instruments based on drumming workshops that they had received from multicultural music workshop specialist Storme Watson and his company 'Earthsong.'

A recurring question which struck us last year, was the way in which sound can make you move. If you close your eyes and allow yourself to absorb the music and engulf you, you find your body starting to move and respond to the music naturally and almost instinctively - especially if the music was produced for that purpose. There is no question that dancing makes you feel good and this is why the dance industry is a multi-billion dollar industry, also being why so many people spend their leisure time going out for dancing.

Our aim with this workshop was to unlock the children's natural energy for movement. Interesting really, as we spend so much time telling our children to sit still and not to move, so when given the opportunity to express themselves freely through dance, it actually can take a while for some young people to open up to it.





The workshops also included elements of how sound works in a scientific context and how vibrations cause different instruments to react in different ways. Storme brought a whole set of Gongs, which were hung in the corner of the music room. During one exercise, the Gongs were played almost like violins, where a very small rubber mallet was stroked against the surface to cause a singing sound. Other vibrations were then added, by softly tapping the surface of the instruments in different areas, causing waves of varying sounds, which sent some of us into almost a euphoric state or took us on an out of body experience. Who knew that musical instruments could be so powerful!



The children then explored the concept of how different instruments use vibrations to make their sounds. What is actually vibrating and how sometimes we have to develop some quite intricate skills in order to be able to make our instruments vibrate properly and make a sound. Instruments, such as the trumpet, or the didgeridoo where you need to vibrate your lips in order to start the process off. One or two pupils tried the Tibetan Dugchen Longhorn and made a surprisingly good sound. Clearly we need to start featuring brass on our first-access scheme!



# Lower School Music

with Mrs. Bowman



The way we teach music in the Lower School can be separated into several different areas of learning: composing, singing and performing, and responding to music - all with the emphasis on fun and confidence building.

After the restrictions of Covid had stopped us singing together for such a long time, it was very important to get the children singing again. I must admit that it took some time to get back to the our pre-Covid standard of singing, but, as those of you who came to the Summer Concerts will no doubt agree, we are now back in full voice!

All pupils regularly play the classroom percussion instruments. Prep. Two have also studied the glockenspiel this year and the Lower Transitus have studied the violin. There are few schools that offer instrumental study like this to such young pupils and as a weekly, timetabled lesson (as opposed to

just one term) and we must thank Mrs. Tardios for that provision, because she really values Music as a subject and acknowledges its importance to a child's all-round development.

In composition lessons this year, the Lower School children have often worked on a theme (such as: the beach, weather, animals, etc.) over several lessons in order to develop and refine ideas. Pupils use a wide range of instruments and are encouraged to consider all of the musical elements in their composing. These are the individual elements such as tempo, rhythm, dynamics, and so on, which give each piece of music its distinguishing characteristics. You would be amazed, as I always am, at the innovative, imaginative and original ideas the children come up with – far more imaginative and far less restricted by convention than those an adult would produce!

Listening to and talking about the music of other composers is fundamental to developing an ability to evaluate your own work. We try to listen and respond to as many different styles of music during lessons as time allows and cover a huge range from the development of Western music and music of other countries and cultures. Responding to music in Pre-Prep. may mean moving freely to music; in Lower Transitus, it may mean drawing pictures of how the music sounds. But listening to and responding to music is something that you can also help with at home. Try to expose your child to as wide a variety of musical styles as you can. All styles are equally valid and useful. When they were little, I introduced my own children to many different styles of music, sometimes with surprising reactions! What may be your favourite most certainly may not be theirs! Let them make their own decisions and help them to develop a confidence in their own preferences that could well last a lifetime!





# Senior School News

*with Mrs. Scott*



Once again, music at the Senior School has had an overhaul, with our new music teacher Mrs. Scott now taking the helm and leading from the front, to inspire our young musicians and to spread the proven benefits that music has to offer into our developing Senior School children.

Year after year, each new member of staff that comes to the school brings something different to

the department, from Mrs. Gorelik and her pianistic skills, to Mrs. Ritou and her drive towards music theory. This year, Mrs. Scott has been teaching the senior school children to sing and has finally got our older children to sing with joy and use their God-given musical instruments.

When children reach their Senior School years, there are many changes happening within them. Many of which are happening internally and physically, which can cause anxiety and self-consciousness for the first time in their lives and even cause temporary disorientation within the voice, where what you hear and process mentally does not quite match up with the sounds that you are making. Mrs. Scott has had a lot of experience in coaching young voices and children out of this phase within various different school settings and so she has hit the ground running. Mrs. Scott trained at the Royal Academy of Music in London, one of the best musical conservatoires in the UK as a classical singer and her recent performance at the Prep. School Summer Concert really proved to the children that the voice really can be used as an amazing musical instrument.

Mrs. Scott has succeeded in kick-starting a revolution of music-making at the senior school, to the point where we will in the future be able to offer GCSE music to eligible St. John's musicians. Last month, pupils from the senior school also participated within the Prep. School Summer Concert, proving that the feeding through of musicians from the Prep. School to the Senior School is taking effect. Mrs. Scott has been working on building up her own team of musical specialists and so we wish her all the very best as she goes into her next phase of musical development at St. John's.

**KS3 classroom lessons have gone from strength to strength. Our exciting curriculum topics include Film Music, World Music, Digital Composition (using new software on our suite of computers in the Music Department), Vocal technique, voice types and styles including Opera and Musicals. We have also acquired a classroom set of Ukuleles and a beautiful set of African Drums. In September, we will also be introducing a class set of Flutes!**

**I am very excited to see the future progress of all Senior School students in the Music Department, which has become a special place for students to connect and enjoy music together.**

**Enjoy the summer and long-live the future of music making at St. John's.**

**Victoria L. Scott**

**Head of Music - (Senior School)**



Everybody say...

# Edinburgh

After having a strange couple of years, where we have been prevented from putting on our usual programme of music-making events, such as our regular assemblies, concerts, outreach and recitals, and have been severely restricted to our movements of what we can do at school, such as singing or playing large numbers of wind instruments. As a mark of school and travel restrictions lifting, it seemed fitting that we should put on a Prep. School choir tour straight away, to set the bar for the standards that we strive to achieve. The choir travelled to Edinburgh during our first tour in 2018, which established the pattern and format for our future tours as a department. Previous to that, the Prep. School choir has travelled to Europe, and we certainly want to be able to get back to that again, however, after a period of uncertainty, we really needed our first tour back to be an absolute resounding success. Mr. Tunnah and Mrs. Bowman looked up their contacts in Edinburgh and spoke to St. Mary's Music School who are one of the top—5 specialist music schools in the UK and who were delighted to host us again. The choir left from Cockfosters on 17th May, where they travelled by train all the way up to Edinburgh. This was a trip of a lifetime because it contained so many special details that the pupils will likely never experience again, such as our musical walking tour of all the old streets and backways of the city - led by Graeme Pearson and his guitar singing traditional Scottish folk songs and the opportunity to learn about how to make chocolate at Edinburgh's chocolatarium. After a wonderful and relaxing night at the beautiful Bruntsfield Hotel, the children went to spend the day at one of Edinburgh's well-kept secrets, the amazing and wonderful St. Cecilia's Concert hall and Music Museum. Guided by Dr. Sarah Deters of Edinburgh University. The children were able to explore and listen to many hundreds of historical instruments and learn about how they sound and have been developed over the centuries. Our week culminated in an amazing trip to Edinburgh Castle at the top of the city, with views out for miles over Scotland and all the way out to the sea. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed their experiences and hopefully it will be talked about for many years to come.





## Zara Shah:

# A St. John's musician would say...

**Which instruments are you currently learning?**

*My main instrument is the violin and I have now reached Grade 7*

*My second instrument is the piano and I am at Grade 3*

**What made you want to have your own lessons? What inspired you to learn?**

*We used to have a mini violin that my mum occasionally let my brother and I play. I liked it so much that I started having violin lessons at the age of 5. I wanted to learn the piano because all of my friends played and it also looked fun!*

**Performances are an integral element of life at St. John's - How do you prepare for a big performance? Do you have any tips for others?**

*I practise lots and lots, usually for one hour a day. A tip is always to think that you are not performing in front of a large audience, but to play like you do for your teacher or parent/guardian.*

**How do you keep motivated and on top of your practice?**

*I keep motivated by working well with my teachers to choose the pieces that I like and which will be important for my development.*

**Why do you think Music is important in schools?**

*I think that music is important in school because it enables people to become musicians when they grow up if they want to and shows them the many ways in which music can feature in their lives.*

**How do you make practice fun?**

*I get all of the important things out of the way first, before having some fun with my instrument. I make sure I have a good balance.*

## Lucy Graham:

**Which instruments are you currently learning?**

*I am currently learning the piano with Mr. Bielicki at school*

**What made you want to have your own lessons? What inspired you to learn?**

*I wanted to learn to play because I thought that it would be exciting to have the ability to sit down at the piano and to make music.*

**Performances are an integral element of life at St. John's - How do you prepare for a big performance? Do you have any tips for others?**

*You need to believe in yourself and on the day you perform, make sure you smile!*

**How do you keep motivated and on top of practice?**

*You need to practise at least once in every two days, otherwise it will become too much and you will forget what you need to do.*

**Why do you think Music is important in schools?**

*Music is important, because children need to have a break from other subjects, for example English and Maths. They need to be able to be taken away somewhere else where the learning is different. I love to relax, sing and learn in a different way when I go to the music room.*

**How do you make time for practice?**

*I practise by adding fun elements to what I do. I also make sure I breathe and am calm before I begin, otherwise it will be stressful. I want to be able to play with confidence.*



## Tiana Patel:

*A St. John's musician would say...*

**Which instruments are you currently learning?**

*I am currently learning the piano and the violin. We began learning the violin when we were in Lower Transitus and I enjoyed it a lot!*

**What made you want to have your own lessons? What inspired you to learn?**

*Seven years ago, I watched an orchestra and I was inspired by the pianist. I begged my mum to let me have piano lessons, eventually I got my own piano and started to play.*

**Performances are an integral element of life at St. John's - How do you prepare for a big performance? Do you have any tips for others?**

*I prepare by practising in my spare time and before lessons. If you are worried about making a mistake, just remember that the audience will likely not notice and enjoy your performance anyway!*

**How do you keep motivated and on top of your practice?**

*I always think of my favourite pieces of music and this always motivates me to carry on, so that I can some-day learn them.*

**Why do you think Music is important in schools?**

*I think music is important because it is special. Music is special because it is creative and helps children to relax and focus better.*

**How do you make practice fun?**

*I plan out when to practise and when to have a break. For example: one hour of violin, then half an hour to play tennis.*



## Aryan Bhagat:

**Which instruments are you currently learning?**

*I learn two instruments. I learn the drums at Grade 3 level and the piano, also at Grade 3 level.*

**What made you want to have your own lessons? What inspired you to learn?**

*For piano, I would always hear my sister play wonderful pieces. For drums, I really like rock music and I have always wanted to play in a band.*

**Performances are an integral element of life at St. John's - How do you prepare for a big performance? Do you have any tips for others?**

*I practise every day. If there is a bit that I always struggle with, I try to cover it up with other notes. The same with the drums, where I can improvise and add extra fills.*

**How do you keep motivated and on top of practice?**

*If I feel like I cannot do this any more, I think of what I could do with my abilities on the piano and drums if I persevere. This always wins!*

**Why do you think Music is important in schools?**

*It is always good to learn an instrument. Music makes the world a happy place!*

**How do you make time for practice?**

*I don't just practise every day for 30 minutes. Sometimes I change the amount of time I practise for. If I cannot quite fit enough in one day, I work a little harder the next. Don't Stress!*



**Irmak** Tuzunalper:**Q. Which instruments are you learning?***A. I am learning the piano and I am on grade 5. I also sing in a theatre group and a choir***Q. Why do you think music is important in school?***A. Music is very important as it lets you express who you are and it helps you calm down after a stressful day.***Q. How do you prepare for a big performance?***A. I warm up before going on stage and whenever I get stressed before going on stage, I tell myself "I will do great".***Q. How do you motivate yourself to practise and progress with what you do?***A. I motivate myself by telling myself that once I learn or master something, it will be so much more fun playing and performing it.***Q. What do you want to do in the future with your musical studies?***A. I would like to inspire others to learn music.***Christian** Simo:**Q. Which instruments are you learning?***A. I play the piano and I am working towards Grade 2. I also play the drums.***Q. Why do you think music is important in school?***A. Music helps people express themselves better, sometimes through words and by improving their mood. Music makes you happy if you are feeling down, so it will get you through the day.***Q. How do you prepare for a big performance?***A. Practice a lot and get some rest too because it is important to have balance in your life.***Q. How do you motivate yourself to practise and progress with what you do?***A. I try to be focused on what I am doing. Sometimes I mix too many things together at once and that isn't good for me, so I try to concentrate on one instrument at a time.***Q. What do you want to do in the future with your musical studies?***A. I would love to be able to teach others how to play the piano so that the love for music continues. I would like to play with others in a group.*

## Danielle Akwaka:

**Q. Which instruments are you learning?**

*A. I am learning the piano and working towards my Grade 1 exam.*

**Q. Why do you think music is important in school?**

*A. You can use it for a lot of different things in the world. This benefits your other subjects, and so it is a really good skill to have.*

**Q. How do you prepare for a big performance?**

*A. It is important to relax. If you are nervous, then focus on your breathing.*

**Q. How do you motivate yourself to practise and progress with what you do?**

*A. By making a balanced timetable, so that I don't get too caught up in just one thing. I think about the benefits that learning the piano can give me, like learning other instruments too or playing in an ensemble or accompanying in a play.*

**Q. What do you want to do in the future with your musical studies?**

*A. I would like to play in front of an audience in a concert as a soloist.*



## Eros Ng:

**Q. Which instruments are you learning?**

*A. I play the drums at Grade 7 standard, and the violin at Grade 6*

**Q. Why do you think music is important in school?**

*A. Some people have a talent for music, and so they can explore this in school and find a new skill.*

*Learning an instrument can really help your social skills, as you have things in common to talk about with other musicians. If you join an orchestra or an ensemble, you can meet new like-minded people.*

**Q. How do you prepare for a big performance?**

*A. Practice regularly. A few months before a performance, I will work hard with my teacher. I work intensely, breaking down the detailed sections to perfect the piece.*

**Q. How do you motivate yourself to practise and progress with what you do?**

*A. I like a variety of musical styles and so I vary my practice so that I stay interested. I want to achieve as high a standard as other members in my family.*

**Q. What do you want to do in the future with your musical studies?**

*A. I want to study music at university and become a teacher.*



# Prep. School Summer Concerts

## 2022

### Lower School Summer Concert - Tuesday 14th June 2022

What a night!

After more than two years of Covid restrictions, it was a joy to finally see the whole of the Lower School performing together at our first annual Summer Concert since 2019.

Even though the rehearsal process and the experience of performing in front of a large audience was completely new, I was determined that we would come back with a bang and that we would still aim for the same high standards that we have always strived for at St. John's.

Well, I was not disappointed! All children worked so hard to learn their songs, readings and instrumental or vocal solos. Even though the two mornings of rehearsals at the church were a completely new experience for every pupil and therefore, they had to work doubly hard, all of the children rose to the occasion to create something very special that we all loved.

**Mrs. Bowman - July 2022**

### Upper School Summer Concert - Tuesday 21st June 2022

As a first during my time at St. John's, instead of putting on a summer theatre production at the Wyllyotts, this year we decided to return to performing with an all-singing and colourful Summer concert at St. Mary's Church. Mrs. Bowman's summer concerts are legendary and so it was with this idea in mind that the concept came together. From the onset, I set out with a brief to the children that it was to be a wonderous evening of music, poetry and storytelling. In the beginning stages, each class was set a storytelling brief, based on life as a pupil at St. John's. Each child had the opportunity to tell their own stories and after some editing, we were able to create something unique which flowed and described the magic of St. John's. We heard stories of what life was like for the pupils during the lockdown and even heard an original poem written by one of the Form 2 pupils. Soloists came to audition, the orchestra worked hard, the choir had a full-programme. What started as a fragment of imagination, very quickly spiralled into a full-on performance which would have lasted most of the night. Sadly, we could not perform it all, because even the Seniors were coming along to show us all what they had been up to. Amazingly after programming over 40 items, it flowed from one to the next, creating wonder, excitement, love and magic - which is certainly what a St. John's concert is all about!

**Mr. Tunnah - July 2022**

