



## Musical Extravaganzas

### **A Magical Summer Evening: Reflections Mr Keating-Roberts (Director of Music)**

Reflecting on our Summer Senior Concert held on Monday 8th July, I feel immense pride and joy. This evening was more than just performances; it was a celebration of talent, hard work, and our school community's vibrant spirit.

The assembly hall was beautifully transformed with bunting, flowers, and fairy lights, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere.

As the concert began, there was a palpable sense of anticipation. Our Festival-winning choir, Bel Canto, opened the evening with their renditions of *Moon River* and *What a Wonderful World*. Their harmonies set a tone of elegance and grace, making me proud of their ensemble skills and emotional expression.

The solo performances that followed showcased the incredible talent of our students. Each performer brought something unique to the stage, from Alex Gentry's challenging *Sonatina for clarinet* by Malcolm Arnold to Bella Pringle's controlled performance of *Times are Hard* from *Amélie the Musical*. It was a joy to witness their growth and confidence. Students like Ivy King-Lee with her performance of *Colours of the Wind* from *Pocahontas* and Liberty McNiff performing *Life I Never Led* from *Sister Act the Musical* delivered commanding performances. I was also very proud of Lauren Blower, one of our Lower Sixth students, who performed *Prelude in C# minor* by Stephen Heiler with precision and expression.

The first half concluded with stunning performances by Eleni Zorn, one of our Upper Sixth leavers, whose renditions of Beethoven's *Romance in F* accompanied by the string orchestra and Accolay's *Violin Concerto in A minor* were masterful.

After a short interval, the second half began with energetic performances from our Genesis choir. Their renditions of *Opening Up* from *Waitress* and *You Will Be Found* from *Dear Evan Hansen* were highlights of the evening. Grace Berry's solo in *You Will Be Found* was particularly noteworthy, delivered with natural grace and confidence.

Throughout the evening, we enjoyed a range of musical styles and talents. From expressive Musical Theatre solos by Meg Miles and Ellie Thompson to superb instrumental performances by Ella Coupland and Frances Penny, each moment celebrated our students' dedication and artistry. Ellie Rhind's rendition of Haydn's *Trumpet Concerto* connected us to our school's rich musical tradition.

Our symphony orchestra transported the audience with excerpts from *Scheherazade*, culminating in a triumphant rendition of Handel's *Music for the Royal Fireworks* and Florence Price's *Juba Dance*.

The evening concluded with heartfelt performances by our Lower Sixth bands, Astrophe and Counter Act. Their music, dedicated to the memory of our late guitar teacher, Philip Davies, was a touching tribute.

The students' impromptu rendition of *Thank You for the Music* by ABBA as a farewell to me was an emotional and unforgettable moment. It was incredible to realise the impact music had on our students, instilling confidence and providing a sense of belonging. This is my proudest achievement—making music accessible to all and fostering a sense of family.

Thank you to everyone who made this night so special, and best of luck to all of you.

## **Musical Magic**

### **By Mrs Parsons (Deputy Director of Music)**

The Junior Concert on Wednesday 17th July night was a resounding success, with the performers blowing away the audience with their incredible talent and hard work.

A range of exceptional Year 6 soloists, including Nyah Wooding with her piece de resistance *Naughty* from the musical *Matilda* and Ayla Akhtar performing Huber's *Concertino no. 4*. Ensembles including Junior Choir, Junior Strings and Junior Orchestra played and sang their hearts out and the audience were delighted with the musicality and obvious enthusiasm in the performances.

A special mention must go to Year 6, who performed en masse the *Juba Dance* by Florence Price – this was such a fabulous showcase for the work they have been doing in their Music lessons and demonstrated what a talented and committed group of students they are.

