

# Senior School and College Music News

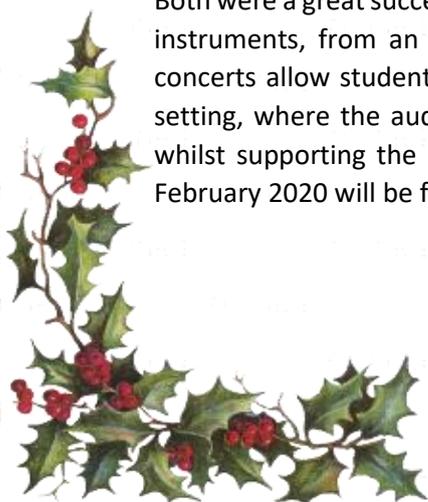
## Autumn 2019

What an amazing term this has been, packed full of music right from the beginning of September. The music wing has been bustling with students of all ages practising and rehearsing various pieces of music at all times of the day and it is lovely to walk through the department and hear different snippets of music floating from all corners of the building. The department is a place for students to use whenever they please, ensuring that they leave it as they find it(!) It gets particularly busy towards our music exam sessions and it is worth mentioning that there are music drop-ins available to help students who are working towards an exam. This can help avoid last minute stress about aural tests or coursework deadlines. Here are the current music ensembles and drop-ins:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Before school		<b>Senior School/College Flutes</b> Octagon	<b>Howell's in Harmony</b> All Year 7 Octagon	<b>Youth Orchestra</b> Grade 2+ Years 7 - 10 Octagon		
1.30-2.00	<b>Lunch 1</b>	<b>Radio Club</b> Year 7-8 Radio Room	<b>Radio Club</b> Years 9-10 Radio Room			
2.00-2.30	<b>Lunch 2</b>	<b>Guitar Group</b> All ages/grades Octagon  <b>Youth Jazz &amp; Youth Rock</b> Years 7-9 Music Wing	<b>College Choir</b> Octagon	<b>Youth Choir</b> Years 7 – 9 Octagon  <b>Aural Tests Gr 6-8</b> All ages Teaching room	<b>GCSE/A level Music Composition drop in</b> Music computer room	<b>Senior Choir</b> By audition only Octagon
3.45-4.30	<b>After school</b>	<b>Senior Choir</b> By audition only Octagon  <b>Rock Band</b> Music Wing	<b>Theory Club</b> All years Teaching Room	<b>Senior School/College Jazz</b> Octagon	<b>Senior Orchestra</b> Grade 5+ students Octagon	

## Tea Concerts

There have been two Tea Concerts this term – a Music GCSE concert on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October and a Years 7-9 concert on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Both were a great success and the audience enjoyed a range of different instruments, from an electric guitar solo to a viola duet. These tea concerts allow students to gain performing experience in an informal setting, where the audience can enjoy refreshments and good music whilst supporting the performers. The next tea concert on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 will be for College students.



## Assembly performances

Each Monday morning assembly is made extra special by having some of our students performing as students arrive to take their seats. The performances this term have been of an excellent standard and a big well done to this term's performers: Trudy & Serena, Year 11 (Piano duet); Miriam, Year 13 (Piano); Annie, Year 10 (Violin); Auvni, Year 11 (Guitar); Chris, Year 13 (Piano); Elen Year 13 (Voice), Limei, Year 7 (Piano) and a song written and performed by Ellie, Year 10, with backing vocals from Sukie, Year 10.

## *The Wizard of Oz* – 21<sup>st</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> October

This was a mammoth team effort where musicians, actors, stage crew, artists and many more came together to create a spectacular production. The musical talent on stage was phenomenal and we were also proud to have several Howell's students in the band pit; well done to Alexia Year 11 (Clarinet); Annie Year 10 (Violin); Chris, Year 13 (Trumpet); Joe, Year 13 (Trumpet); Jake Year 12 (Percussion) and Rookmini Year 12 (Violin) who played alongside professional musicians and coped well with a very complex musical score.



## St Cecilia's Concert – 20<sup>th</sup> November



The Music Scholars of HSL paid tribute to the patron saint of music by providing a recital made up of solo performances with a group performance to close the evening. The standard of music making was incredible and included repertoire ranging from Vivaldi to Brubeck. Our music scholars showcased some of the amazing musical talent we have at Howell's, and were thoroughly professional

in all aspects of their performances. A group performance of Bach's *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* ended the evening on a high. Well done to all involved.

## Llandaff Lights – 27<sup>th</sup> November

The Senior Choir braved cold weather conditions to lead the community in singing Christmas carols at the switching on of the lights on Llandaff high street. The students sang beautifully and kept spirits high. Guest celebrities included Iggle Piggle and Father Christmas, who also joined in with the festive singing.



## ESU Dinner – 5<sup>th</sup> December

Musicians of Howell's provided musical entertainment for the annual ESU dinner in the Great Hall. Xinrong, Year 5, performed *O, Holy Night* on the 'cello beautifully. A brass quintet made up of Chris, Joe, Tabi, Sonali and Mr Cheeke played a jaunty arrangement of *Jingle Bell Rock* and the Year 12 Performing Arts Group sang two festive songs. Senior Choir performed several items but also led the audience in singing Christmas carols, with Miriam, Year 13, performing the opening solo for *Once in Royal David's City*. The standard of music was incredibly high and all students involved should be very proud for putting together such a fun and festive programme.

## HSL Carol Services – 11<sup>th</sup> December

The carol services are always a special way to end the Autumn Term and this year was no exception. The Senior Choir set the atmosphere with their processional carol by candlelight and then Lily and Mali, both Year



13, alternated in singing the solos for *Once in Royal David's City* and *Tomorrow Shall be my Dancing Day*. Senior Choir were captivating in their performances of *Sussex Carol* and *Stille Nacht*. College Choir sang *a cappella* this year; they performed *In the Bleak Midwinter* and *I Saw Three Ships* beautifully.

Special thanks go to the talented members of staff who were part of the choir. Youth Choir, directed by Mrs Thomas, sang their hearts out and led the congregational carols superbly. This is such a special occasion where the school, community and alumni can come together in song, with Senior Orchestra and Mr Thomas's incredible organ skills making the music extra special. A huge well done to all involved.

## ABRSM Examinations – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December

Well done to the 20 students who sat their ABRSM music exams at the end of term. We wish the best of luck to all entrants! Hopefully all of your hard work and practice will pay off. Another reminder that aural tests and theory weekly drop-ins are available to avoid that last minute rush.

## Cocktails at Christmas – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December

This annual event, where Hywelians are invited to reunite over Christmas cocktails in the Great Hall was a great success, as always. The Performing Arts Ensemble, directed by Mrs Thomas, provided musical entertainment with two festive songs, accompanied by Ms Edwards on the piano. Well done, all!

## Christmas Assembly – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Well done to the Prep Orchestra, Youth Orchestra and Senior Orchestra who put on their Christmas hats and joined forces to entertain the rest of the school with very merry renditions of *Jingle Bells* and *White Christmas*. We also had performances from a brass quintet and Senior Choir. What a lovely way to end the term!



## Student Achievements

**Alexia**, Year 11 is a talented clarinettist who spent the summer on a National Youth Orchestra of Wales course working on Shostakovich's Symphony No 10 under the baton of Andrew Litton (Musical Director of the New York City Ballet).

**Rookmini**, Year 12 sang in a carol concert with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain Training Choir and Albert's Orchestra in the Royal Albert Hall at the beginning of December.

Thank you, as ever, to all parents, colleagues and students for your support of the Music Department. I look forward to another fantastic year of music from HSL students and staff. Merry Christmas, Everyone!

**Ms Amy Edwards**  
*Director of Music*

