



*Music
at Marlborough*



Symphony Orchestra

A full Symphony Orchestra of over fifty of the best instrumental players in the school perform at termly themed concerts. Some of the best players are invited to perform concerto movements in the annual Concerto Concert. The orchestra, conducted by the Director of Music, with specialist coaching from both the Head of Strings and Head of Wind as well as other visiting specialists, rehearses for two hours each week and performs a wide ranging and demanding repertoire.

Chamber Orchestra

This successful group is directed by the Head of Strings and explores a diverse range of repertoire which is continually changing. Wind players occasionally augment the orchestra for 20th century repertoire and the accompanying of concertos and vocal operatic extracts. In recent years the Chamber Orchestra has received high acclaim for its performance at the National Music for Youth Festival at the Royal Festival Hall.

Brasser

Brasser is a full wind band of seventy and is the flagship of the wind department, performing at concerts regularly throughout the year. The repertoire is varied, from contemporary works to the more traditional repertoire, and each year the band, directed by the Head of Wind, is featured in the wind department's own popular Christmas Concert. Both the Wind Band and the Big Band have reached the finals of the National Festival of Music for Youth on two occasions, placing them amongst the top ensembles of their kind in the country. Both Brasser and Big Band recently toured South Africa.

Big Band

The Big Band rehearses weekly and performs regularly during school concerts. The full-size line up of trumpets, trombones, saxophones and rhythm section plays a variety of swing and rock as well as traditional folk music. The ensemble, directed by the Head of Wind, provides as many opportunities for whole band improvisation and playing by ear as possible. This group is a real bridge between formal, teacher-led activity and more informal music.

Chamber Choir

Chamber Choir comprises some twenty of the College's best singers and is directed by the Assistant Director of Music. They perform a wide-ranging repertoire, from the early sacred music of Byrd and Monteverdi to modern choral works by Britten and Tavener; in addition they sing secular pieces including madrigals, part-songs and arrangements. They perform at College events but also give annual fund-raising concerts in local churches.



Chapel Choir

The Chapel Choir, numbering some fifty-five singers, benefits from the presence of ex-Cathedral choristers. It sings fully choral services most Sundays and at major festivals as well as at the Advent and Christmas Carol services, arguably the highlight of the school year. Conducted by the College's Director of Music, the Choir also sings Evensong in a Cathedral twice a year: recent visits have included Gloucester, Bristol, Winchester, Salisbury and Bath Abbey. The Choir has been on a series of summer tours travelling as far afield as the USA, Portugal, Italy and Eastern Europe and has recorded several CDs, the latest – "Carols from Advent to Christmas".

Chamber Music

Regular weekly sessions are organised for groups at all levels to rehearse Chamber music and the more successful ensembles find their way into College concerts and occasionally outside special events. The College regularly enters the National Chamber Music Competition and the Midsomerset Festival.



Musical Ensembles

Chapel Choir

Chamber Choir

Choral Society

Opera Scenes

Junior Singers

Octet

Symphony Orchestra

Chamber Orchestra

Percussion Ensembles

Shell Concert Band

Junior Strings

Gypsy Strings

Big Band

Brasser

Chamber Music

Jazz Ensembles

Rock Soc

A termly calendar of events within the Music Department is available.



Academic Music

Class music is part of the normal curriculum during the first year (Shell). Large numbers take GCSE Music as an option in the Remove and Hundred years. AS is offered to both Lower and Upper Sixth pupils with A2 regularly taken by some ten or so candidates in their final year. The College enjoys excellent Music Technology facilities and the subject is offered at both AS and A2 levels.



Music at Marlborough

This creative and highly stimulating department has six full time staff and thirty-three visiting music teachers. The teaching is organised into four areas: strings; wind, brass and percussion; piano and singing. There are up to 30 Music Scholars who make a distinctive contribution to the musical life of the College. A number go on to read music at University, gain Choral or Organ awards, or take their instrumental studies further at Music College.

The Department

Music at the College is by no means geared entirely to specialists and we hope that all pupils feel that there are plenty of opportunities for participation through Junior Informal Concerts, Lunchtime Concerts, Advanced Pupil Recitals, Singing, Strings and Piano Days, Masterclasses, trips, Musicals, House Concerts and the House Singing Competition.



Music Scholarships

Up to six instrumental scholarships are offered at 13+. These are awarded by competition each year in February. Sixth Form Scholarships are also available and are auditioned in November. Merit is determined chiefly by the candidate's performance in the scholarship examination and full details can be obtained on request.

A number of pupils represent the College in the National Youth Orchestra, the National Youth Wind Orchestra and the National Youth Choir.



The purpose built Music School, the Henry Honry Centre, comprises the Ellis Theatre, the Goodison Hall, a Music Technology Suite and a whole series of teaching and practice facilities.

Marlborough College Concert Society

There is a thriving Concert Society which has been in existence for over sixty years. It organises an annual series of six concerts, bringing international musicians to perform at the College. These concerts are famous throughout Wiltshire and are generously supported by local businesses.

The Director of Music is always happy to meet parents of prospective pupils to offer advice and to talk about the musical opportunities available at Marlborough.

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