



THE PERSE SCHOOL CAMBRIDGE

Self-employed piano teacher (fixed term) From September 2022

The Perse Upper School is seeking an inspirational, experienced piano teacher and accompanist to join our vibrant Music Department, teaching pupils across the 11-18 age range on a fixed-term basis (September 2022-July 2023).

The Department



Music is a dynamic, ever-growing department with a rich and varied programme of high-quality events throughout the school year. Our overriding aim is to foster a culture of inclusivity and music for all but with a mindfulness for realising the potential of our most gifted pupil musicians. More information about recent events and activities can be viewed via the [music section](#) of The Perse School website and via the Department's [Twitter page](#).

The Department consists of the Director of Music, Assistant Director of Music, Head of Curricular Music, a specialist part-time teacher and a term-time Music Administrator. There are 30 self-employed peripatetic teachers who collectively teach around 550 instrumental lessons each week, with the whole range of orchestral, band and keyboard instruments and singing taught. Five of the peripatetic teachers assume additional roles as Head of Strings, Keyboard, Woodwind, Brass and Vocal Studies respectively.

A wide-ranging programme of around 65 ensembles takes place on a weekly basis. Our groups include seven choirs, two full symphony orchestras, four string orchestras, three wind bands, three jazz bands, three percussion ensembles and two big bands. There is also a comprehensive chamber group provision; many of these smaller groups take part, often with great success, in the yearly Pro Corda inter-school chamber music competition. We act as a major ABRSM and Trinity private examination centre, holding around 80-100 exams each term for pupils across the 3-18 foundation. There is a wide-ranging programme of aural and theory tuition to support work towards ABRSM and Trinity qualifications.

Around 70 events take place in a typical Perse year, ranging from informal sign-up concerts to high-profile and large-scale instrumental and choral events. Highlights include the annual Perse Musician of the Year competition; termly orchestral and band concerts featuring solo concerto performances; a Charity Cabaret featuring jazz/pop repertoire; and the always hotly-contested House Song competition. While most concerts take place within the school, we have also forged strong links with external venues and annual performances have taken place in venues such as King's and St. John's College Chapels, Saffron Hall, Westminster Abbey and Ely Cathedral.

We regularly invite a number of internationally-renowned professional musicians each year to give masterclasses and performances to our pupils. In recent years, the Department has been pleased to invite names including Peter Donohoe CBE, Roderick Williams OBE, Joanna MacGregor CBE, Nicholas Daniel OBE, Joseph Middleton, The Doric String Quartet, members of the Academy of Ancient Music, and The Swingles.

The Department's facilities are as follows: a large rehearsal hall/performing space, 18 acoustically-treated teaching/rehearsal rooms all equipped with an upright or baby grand piano, and a recording studio. There are also three academic classrooms equipped with PCs and Macbooks running Sibelius, Logic Pro X, Cubase and Soundtrap. The Department benefits from the state-of-the-art facilities of the Peter Hall Performing Arts Centre, which includes a 300-seater auditorium and smaller adjoining rehearsal space. The School invests heavily in the Department's instruments and resources. There is a large collection of nearly every orchestral/band instrument, a fully-equipped percussion suite, a 3-manual organ and three Steinway grand pianos.

The Department has an exceptional track record in academic music. It is taught to all in Years 7 and 8 and a popular option in Year 9 and at GCSE, with a 100% A*-A (or 9-1 equivalent) rate in GCSE outcomes. Several pupils take the OCR A-Level course in the Sixth Form, with similar success at examination and recent success in Oxbridge admissions for music courses.

There is a separate Music Department at the Prep School (ages 7-11) with its own Director of Music and a thriving music tuition programme at the Pelican Pre-Prep School (around 5 minutes' walk from the Upper School) overseen by a Music Co-ordinator.

The role

The successful applicant, as a self-employed Visiting Music Teacher, will be offered the opportunity to teach a number of piano students in weekly individual lessons on the school site, totalling 1-2 days of lessons per week.

Individual instrumental lessons are invoiced directly to parents/carers of pupils in a private agreement detailed in the School's Self-Employed Visiting Music Staff Service Agreement. This document is available on request.

The hourly rate is agreed by all self-employed peripatetic teachers in advance of the academic year. The rate for the current academic year (2021-22) is £44.00 per hour. Lessons are usually 30 minutes in length and teachers usually aim to provide 30 music lessons in any one academic year.

Individual lessons operate on a rotational basis for pupils in Years 7 to 11; Sixth Form pupils normally have their instrumental lesson fixed into a free academic period.

The successful applicant will also be contracted by the School (on a self-employed basis) to undertake *at least the first* of the following further opportunities as required/requested by the Director of Music and depending on the applicant's skill-set, interests and availability as discussed at interview:

1. Accompaniment of pupils in rehearsals, coursework recordings, concerts and/or exams.
2. Direction of small piano-based chamber ensembles.
3. Delivery of ABRSM/Trinity aural training sessions at Grade 5-8 standard.
4. Delivery of ABRSM Grade 5 theory sessions.

Requirements

Essential

- Highly-qualified, skilled and experienced piano teacher and accompanist
- Excellent sight-reading ability for accompaniment of repertoire (including Grade 8+)
- Enthusiastic, confident, and able to inspire pupils of all abilities
- Engaging, warm and friendly, with excellent interpersonal communication skills with pupils, parents and staff
- Thorough and up-to-date knowledge of ABRSM and Trinity examination requirements
- Flexibility to be able to accompany rehearsals, coursework recordings, concerts and/or exams as requested by the Music Department

Desirable

- Experience of coaching small piano-based chamber ensembles to a high standard
- Experience of teaching ABRSM and/or Trinity aural to Grade 8 level
- Experience of teaching ABRSM theory to Grade 5 level

Safer Recruitment

The Perse School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post including: references from previous employers, a Disclosure and Barring Service check at the enhanced level, as well as eligibility to work in the UK (in compliance with UK immigration regulations). All work carried out at the School on a regular basis amounts to regulated activity. This role is also exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. The School is committed to acting in the best interests of the child so as to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The School requires everyone who comes into contact with children and their families to share this commitment. Interviews will be conducted in person, and they will explore candidates' suitability to work with children.

Applications and interview

Applications are to be made by sending a CV with covering letter to music@perse.co.uk.

The closing date for applications is at 12.00pm on Monday 13 June and interviews will take place in the week commencing Monday 20 June.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to visit the School and to meet the Director of Music and colleagues within the Music Department. Candidates will be asked to take a short individual lesson with a pupil pianist and a short accompaniment session with another pupil as part of the interview process; further details will be

provided by the Director of Music for those candidates who are shortlisted. Part of the interview process will cover candidates' suitability to work with children.

The Perse School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and the successful candidate will be subject to child protection screening including an enhanced DBS check (for which the School will pay).

The Director of Music, Mr Ben Wingfield, will be very happy to discuss any aspects of the role with applicants via email (music@perse.co.uk) or phone (01223 403831).