



## **Specialist piano teacher (3 hours/week; freelance) Required from Wednesday 8 September 2021**

### **The school**

St Paul's Girls' School is one of the country's leading independent secondary day schools for girls aged 11-18 and is a lively academic community with excellent facilities for all subjects. There are approximately 780 pupils with a thriving sixth form. Entry to the school is by competitive exam held in January and there is heavy demand for each place. Public exam results are consistently outstanding and about half of all students every year move on to Oxford and Cambridge. Increasing numbers also go on to higher education at Ivy League colleges in the United States. Aspirations and achievements in many areas go well beyond what one would normally expect from a school, making St Paul's a very exciting and stimulating place in which to work.

Full details of the school, including our curriculum and public exam results, are available on our website at <http://www.spgs.org>

### **The Music Department**

Alongside the Director of Music the department includes a Deputy Director of Music (Heidi Pegler), a Head of Academic Music (Roger Paul), a Composer in Residence and class music teacher (Bernard Hughes) and four Heads of Section: Alexis White (keyboard), Hilary Sturt (strings), Heidi Pegler (singing in addition to class teaching) and Matt Dickinson (wind, brass and percussion). The department is served by a full-time Music Department Manager, Gabbi Freemantle, who also acts as PA to the director of music, and a full-time Graduate Assistant, as well as classroom teacher Rachel Brewer. Instrumental music lessons are popular and there are currently approximately 50 self-employed peripatetic teachers, teaching over 600 lessons every week.

The department is housed in an historic listed building dating from 1913 and designed to Gustav Holst's original specifications. This formed an extension to the original school building designed by Gerald Horsley as the first purpose-built girls' school in the country. At the time, the soundproofed music practice rooms were amongst the first to be designed for the purpose and Horsley's work was seen as being at the forefront of educational architecture. No expense was spared in the use of materials and examples of the original Portland stone facings and oak panelling are still in place. At the heart of the department is the magnificent 230-seat Singing Hall, two class teaching rooms, sixteen soundproofed individual teaching rooms and a departmental office. Large-scale concerts take place in the beautiful setting of the school's Great Hall. The Holst Room, in which parts of *The Planets* were composed, is now a frequently used and busy teaching space housing the original Broadwood grand piano bought for Holst when he became Director of Music. The undercroft of the Singing Hall has also been converted to provide generous storage space for music and instruments.

## **Music curriculum**

All pupils study music for two periods a week from Year 7 to Year 9. In Year 10 and Year 11 it becomes an optional subject and pupils pursue the school's own course at this level.

The school directed course in music is unique to St Paul's. Internally devised and recognised as a GCSE equivalent, it challenges the students to study beyond the confines of a GCSE, developing their musical skills and intellectual curiosity. The course covers a wide range of musical areas, from Hildegard von Bingen to the Beatles. It is taught through four interrelated components; listening, musicology, composition and performance, which are assessed through coursework and an examination.

Music is also taught as an A-level option. While numbers opting for A-level have tended to be quite small in this highly academic school where multi-talented students have many demands on their time, students nonetheless regularly go on to study music at tertiary level, either at university or music college.

## **Co-curricular music**

Music plays a central and much valued role in the cultural life of the school. Students of all levels and abilities are encouraged to participate in co-curricular musical activities. A very high proportion of the girls take music lessons (over 80%); these include singing, all standard orchestral instruments, piano, harpsichord and organ. Lessons are also taught in jazz, pop and rock instruments, including saxophones, electric guitar and kit percussion. For the first four school years, a rolling timetable enables girls to have instrumental lessons during the school day. They can also study theory and aural.

The department runs a very busy and varied co-curricular programme of activities. These include three orchestras, two wind bands and a swing band, five choirs and many smaller chamber and vocal ensembles including jazz, pop and rock groups.

There are numerous performing opportunities, including formal large-scale concerts each term, many smaller-scale concerts throughout the school year and a weekly lunchtime concert series making a total of over 60 concerts and events each year. In addition there are regular staged productions of musicals and operas. Two years ago the music and drama departments collaborated on a production of *The Sound of Music*, and the previous year's Christmas Concert featured a complete performance of Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*. Orchestras and choirs perform major works from the repertoire (such as Holst's *The Planets*, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* and Verdi's *Requiem*) and also perform occasionally outside of school. Performances in recent years have included concerts at St John's Smith Square and the Royal Albert Hall with the City of London Choir. In addition, the department undertakes a major overseas tour every two years. Recent destinations have included Boston and New York, Hong Kong and China, Budapest, Barcelona and Venice.

Joint performances with St Paul's School are also a prominent feature; with a joint concert involving amalgamated orchestras and choirs performing Stravinsky's *Petrouchka*, Bach's *Magnificat* and Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony in recent years. The schools also collaborate at an annual service at St Paul's Cathedral to celebrate the founder of the St Paul's schools, Dean John Colet, as well as other liturgical events.

Students are regularly represented in the National Youth Orchestra, the London Schools' Symphony Orchestra and the National Children's Orchestra. Many pupils also study in the junior departments of the London music colleges.

### **Music scholarships**

We are keen to attract students of outstanding musical potential to the school and offer a scholarship assessment process for entry at 11+ and 16+. These assessments are based on practical audition and interview. There are currently about 35 music scholars and exhibitioners.

### **Post and candidate profile**

The school is seeking an experienced first study piano teacher with a proven track record as a teacher and performer. This is an excellent opportunity for an experienced musician and teacher to join a very distinguished department within a vibrant and high-achieving school. There are currently circa three hours of teaching available (about 5 pupils) with the potential for expansion.

Working in the Music Department at St Paul's Girls' School is challenging, stimulating and rewarding. We strive for excellence in all we do whilst giving opportunities to all pupils, whatever their level or experience. The successful candidate is likely to possess some or all of the following: a degree or equivalent professional qualification at tertiary level; experience of teaching in a secondary school; experience as a performer at a high level; the ability to play the piano in order to accompany lessons; the enthusiasm to inspire very academic pupils; the flexibility of approach to work within a large, diverse department and excellent organisational and interpersonal skills.

### **Terms and conditions of the post**

This is a freelance post and contracts are between the teacher and the parents. The rate of pay is currently £280 per pupil per term, for nine 35 minute lessons. It is expected that 27 lessons will be delivered over the course of a year to each pupil.

### **Application and interview procedures**

Please submit applications using the form provided. In addition to a covering letter addressed to the Head of Keyboard, Alexis White, we ask candidates to provide a full curriculum vitae with details of qualifications and experience and the names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of two professional referees, one of whom should be the head of the applicant's present or most recent school or college.

Applications should be submitted before the final closing date of **Monday 23 August, 4pm**. Applications will not be considered without a covering letter, cv, and completed application form.

We will invite shortlisted candidates for a video interview on **Tuesday 31 August**. Candidates are generally expected to teach a lesson and perform a short piece, although under current circumstances the expectations may be adapted to maintain government social distancing guidelines.

### **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and overseas police checks**

St Paul's is a "registered body" under the Police Act 1997 because employment here involves access to children under the age of 18. This post will require an enhanced DBS check from the Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly Criminal Records Bureau) before we can confirm an offer of employment. Unless you are a member of the DBS Update Service you will need to apply for a new disclosure, even if you already hold one. Former members of staff who are not on the Update Service who re-join us also require fresh disclosures unless less than three months have passed between their leaving and their re-employment date. If you have lived or worked abroad for a period of 6 months or more during the past 5 years you will also need to provide appropriate paperwork, such as a police certificate of good conduct, from the countries you have lived in.

**Safeguarding guidelines**

The post-holder's responsibility for promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children and young persons for whom s/he is responsible, or with whom s/he comes into contact, will be to adhere to and ensure compliance with our child protection policy statement at all times. If, in the course of carrying out the duties of the post, the post-holder becomes aware of any actual or potential risks to the safety or welfare of children at St Paul's, s/he must report any concerns to our safeguarding designated teacher or to the High Mistress.

**Closing date: Monday 23 August 4pm**

**Interviews: Tuesday 31 August**

**Contact details:**

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## **Appendix A**

### **Job description**

#### **Visiting Music Teacher at St Paul's Girls' School**

Teaching at St Paul's is a uniquely stimulating and rewarding experience because we are committed to creating an exciting and dynamic environment for learning. All Visiting Music Teachers are encouraged to participate fully both in the life of the music department and the wider life of the school, as well as to pursue their own professional development.

#### **Teaching and learning**

- Planning and preparing lessons in accordance with departmental and school policy
- Teaching such students and groups/sets as are assigned
- Setting and marking work as required
- Promoting the progress and musical development of students, differentiating for ability where appropriate
- Recording and assessing progress
- Producing subject reports
- Preparing students for public examinations according to the specifications
- Contributing to the work of the department including the development of resources

#### **Other responsibilities**

- Upholding the school's code of conduct
- Maintaining good order and discipline amongst students and actively implementing the school's policies on rewards and sanctions
- Supporting students as appropriate at major departmental events, e.g. concerts
- Attending departmental meetings

#### **Professional development**

- Attending appropriate INSET and training, making such reports as necessary