

Music News



Camden School for Girls
Celebrating 150 years of education

January 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to the January 2022 edition of CSG Music News!

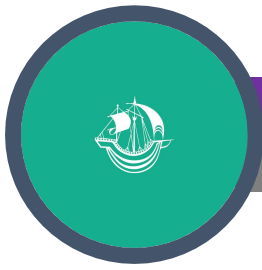
We begin the year with a sense of excitement and optimism in the Music Department, as the musical community at Camden School for Girls continues to thrive. In this edition of Music News we look back at last term and December's orchestral concert, our first public performance in almost two years. We also pay tribute to the adaptability - not to mention the musical talents! - of our Year 7 students, who created a wonderful online performance.

At the end of last term we said sad farewell to Mr Byers who leaves CSG to continue his work as Head of Music in a new school, after 15 years of teaching at Camden School for Girls. This term we give a warm welcome to new and returning members of the Music Department teaching staff, Mr Huckfield and Mrs Hirsch.

Music continues to be an integral part of life at Camden School for Girls and this year we hope to restore as many as possible of the much-loved CSG music traditions that have been interrupted by COVID in recent years – onwards and upwards!

Onwards & Upwards





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*Pictures of the workshop at CSG;
the Rosellas performing at
Islington Assembly Hall*

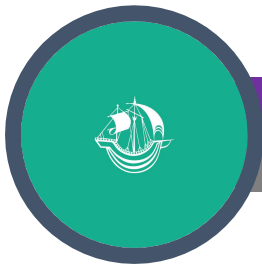
Vocal workshop

On Friday 7th January, 50 of our singers (members of the Year 7 Choir and CSG Choir) took part in a vocal workshop run by professional vocal trio *The Rosellas*.

Choir members spent the afternoon working on a range of a cappella vocal arrangements led by the trio. Our singers developed their performance and vocal harmony skills with the most beautiful results!

Trio members Megan, Mabel and Sara Lily are former CSG students and formed *The Rosellas* whilst still at school. They compose and perform their own acoustic arrangements of popular, jazz and folk songs, and have performed nationally at venues including Camden's Green Note and the Islington Assembly Hall.

CSG students described the workshop as 'a really fun', 'an energising way to start the term' and 'musically inspiring' – thank you *Rosellas*!



Farewells and new beginnings for CSG Symphony Orchestra

At the end of last term we said a sad farewell to our Director of Music Mr Byers. The Orchestral Concert on Wednesday 8th December was Mr Byers final concert with the orchestra of over 90 students, who gave an outstanding performance of Borodin's *Polovtsian Dances* and Walton's *Crown Imperial*.

Mr Byers was conductor of the CSG Symphony Orchestra for ten years. Under his direction, orchestral playing in school flourished and we have seen increasing numbers of CSG students becoming involved in orchestral playing, tackling sophisticated and challenging repertoire, and delivering performances of the highest standard.

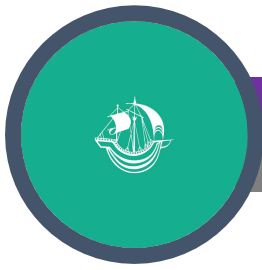
Student members of the orchestra gave a moving farewell speech at the end of the concert, reflecting upon the important role that Mr Byers has played in the musical life of the school. He will be greatly missed.

Looking ahead, we are delighted to welcome our new conductor Christopher Stark, who takes over as conductor of the Symphony Orchestra. Mr Stark works with a number of high-profile orchestras including the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Aurora Orchestra, Oper Köln and Glyndebourne Festival and Tour and is currently Musical Director and Conductor of the Multi Story Orchestra.

Mr Stark also works with community music groups and younger players, and some of our students may remember working with him in previous years during the orchestral participation project, run collaboratively between CSG and the Ernest Read Symphony Orchestra.

Mr Stark is committed to showcasing composers from under-represented groups and it has been wonderful to hear CSG Symphony Orchestra begin working on works by French composer Mélanie Bonis, as well as music by Aaron Copland and Edward Elgar.

We look forward to the orchestra's debut performance under Mr Stark's direction at the Founder's Day commemoration in April. Rehearsals have resumed at the regular time of 3.30pm on Tuesdays in the Music Department.



CSG Year 7 Concert

The annual Year 7 Concert has been a regular highlight of the Autumn term at CSG for many years, and last term was no exception. Our Year 7 students worked very hard in their music lessons to prepare their class performances.

Although it was not possible to hold a live event, Year 7 were keen to share their performances with family and friends. They responded to adversity with typical CSG spirit and quickly adapted their work to create a brilliant online concert!

On Thursday 17th December students spent the morning preparing and recording their work, along with members of the Junior String Group and Year 7 Choir.

As ever, the concert programme reflected the diversity of music-making at CSG, and included music by JS Bach, Led Zeppelin, the Pointer Sisters, the Beastie Boys and much more.

Each music class performed their own instrumental arrangement and the entire year group performed songs including *Neutron Dance* and *Gold* with terrific vocal solos by Indigo, Kitty, Lulu, Queenie and Xanthe.

We would like to congratulate all of our Year 7 students for their outstanding effort and fabulous musical performances!

The full concert recording is available to watch on the school website [here](#) - scroll down to *Year 7 Concert, December 2021*.





A message from our Music Ambassadors

A message from our Year 12 Music Ambassadors Biba and Lucia with news about their new lunchtime club:

“Calling all ukulele players!

We have started a brand new Ukulele Group for students at school. We love playing the ukulele and this group is for everyone – from beginners learning to play for the first time, to existing players looking to learn some new songs.

We will be meeting in the Music Department on Tuesday lunchtimes at 1pm, come along!”



Music events coming up:

Year 10 GCSE Recital

Thursday 27th January

CSG Bands Night

Friday 4th February

Choral Concert
at St Martin’s Church

Wednesday 16th March



CSG Music Department presents...

Bands Night

7pm Friday 4th February 2022

in the Main Hall



**Join us for an exciting evening of live
music performed by student bands**

Refreshments will be available

Audience tickets can be bought in advance via ParentPay