

# MUSIC

**Head of Music: Mr Simon Taranczuk**

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## WHY KING'S?

### Facilities

- Dedicated Music School ICT suite with specialist software
- Regular performances in the Cathedral and College Hall

### Highlights

- Biennial European Music Tour
- In 2023-2024 over 150 instrumental music exams were taken including 20 Grade 8 successes
- Wide range of performing opportunities in ensembles and as a soloist

### Academic Performance

**100% A\*-B** (A-level)

**88% 9-7** (GCSE)

2024 Results

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Pupils in the Lower Years (7 and 8) have one music lesson a week, while Lower Remove pupils (year 9) have a double lesson as part of their options programme. Projects incorporate elements of the GCSE scheme of work and all pupils are introduced to Cubase music software.

The GCSE course follows the Edexcel specification featuring the academic study of eight contrasting pieces of music (classical, rock, jazz, film and fusion) as well as the practical elements of composing and performing.

The A Level course follows the Eduqas specification which includes studying genres such as the symphony and Rock and Pop. Other elements include aural tests, harmony, composition and performing.

There are many performing opportunities each term catering for experienced and less experienced musicians. These include termly 'Young Performers', informal and formal concerts as well as the School Concert featuring the main ensembles. Open Mic Nights in the Boathouse are a very popular termly event.



A highly successful tour to Venice took place in February 2018 where the choir participated in Mass at St Mark's Basilica. February 2020 saw the choir and chamber orchestra visit Malta, where they performed live on Maltese television.

There are 25 Music Scholars at King's who play a major role in ensembles and solo concerts. There are opportunities to take part in Masterclasses, most recently with Allan Clayton, a former pupil, who has won many awards and accolades as a tenor soloist. The Honours Board in the Music School lists many distinguished OVs who have achieved national and international success as professional musicians. A former Music Scholar, Matthew Kelley who left in 2017, had one of

his compositions performed during Choral Evensong on BBC Radio 3 in 2019. Peter Holder, who left in 2008 recently played the organ at the state funeral for Queen Elizabeth II and Coronation of the King.

The Director of Music is happy to see prospective Music Scholars informally in advance of the audition. Further details can be found in the Music Scholarship leaflet or by contacting the Registrar.



Our soundcloud page has over 600 recordings from school concerts and Open Mic Nights. These can be found at [www.soundcloud.com/ksw-music](https://www.soundcloud.com/ksw-music).

For further information please visit the Music pages on our website