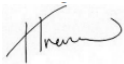


There has been so much fantastic music making going on across all the schools this term. It's been wonderful to see the breadth of talent our young people have across a whole range of genres. This term we've had several younger beginner musicians join our ensembles (some of whom only started learning in September!). We've seen children across the first and middle schools join with students at Hardyes and adult professional groups for various events and we've seen some of our older students do some outstanding performances of an exceptionally high level both in and out of school. There have also been a host of activities going on in various individual schools, including a fantastic production of the Wizard of Oz by students at St Osmund's. In addition, curriculum music across the schools is thriving, one aspect of which is our annual Singing Schools Festival which took place this term and included 450 children from across our first schools.

I hope this newsletter gives a glimpse of the range of musical opportunities that we have available to the young people in this area and that in reading it, a few more young people might be inspired to get involved next year (or even next term!).



Hanna Trevor
Head of Wessex Schools Music



Students from St Osmund's Middle School and their performance of The Wizard of Oz

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Gabrieli Roar



On 9th December, over 90 students from the three middle schools and Thomas Hardye School, travelled to Exeter Cathedral to perform in a massed concert as part of a project called Gabrieli Roar. This project involved young people coming together to perform a selection of Christmas pieces from the 18th Century accompanied by professional singers and

instrumentalists from the esteemed Gabrieli Consort. To sing in Exeter Cathedral was an amazing experience and the feedback from parents was that the overall sound was fantastic. It was a very long day, but all of the students performed brilliantly. We hope to work with the Gabrieli Consort again in the future.



In November, the Thomas Hardye School music department hosted their first ever barn dance. Students and parents from across many different schools attended and enjoyed an evening of different dances, all led by the student folk band. We hope to run more in the future and hope to inspire the next generation of folk musicians and dancers!

Skylarks Choir



Our cross-school choir for children in years 2-4. If your child enjoys singing and you would like them to take singing lessons in the future, joining Skylarks choir would be a great first step. Many of our previous Skylarks members have gone on to become professional singers and musical theatre performers in their adult lives!

Thursdays 3:45 – 4:30pm @ Prince of Wales School

<https://music.wessex.ac/wessex-schools-music-vocal-ensembles.html>

Christmas Concerts



On 4th December, around 180 students from across the schools took part in our annual Christmas concerts. There were some brilliant performances from all the groups.

For some video highlights:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OYEkvTJLkx4>

Fauré Requiem



On Friday 21st March, TH Singers and Nightingales Choir (featuring children from the middle schools) joined together for a concert of French music at the United Church in Dorchester, which included a magnificent performance of Fauré's Requiem. The Nightingales choir performed a French piece from the film 'Les Choristes' brilliantly (off by heart, with fantastic French pronunciation!) and then joined the TH Singers for the end of the Requiem. In addition to these vocal pieces, several students from Thomas Hardye and St Osmund's Middle School performed solos and duets, including Ella Trevorrow (year 8) who played The Swan on cello and Sophie Taibjee (year 10) who played Debussy's First Arabesque on piano. The church was completely full and feedback from the audience was superb. A fantastic evening of beautiful music!

Wizard of Oz at St Osmund's



In March, a cast of around 70 students performed in the musical, The Wizard of Oz at the Thomas Hardye Theatre, to packed-out audiences. Students from all years were involved and there were lots of outstanding performances. KS3 students took the various leading roles and showed maturity and charisma in their performances, acting as true role-models for the younger students in the chorus. Fantastic singing, great dancing, very clear and convincing acting, brilliant costumes and lovely set design. Huge congratulations to the whole team!

Rock night



On 30th January, around 50 students took part in the annual Rock and Pop night at Hardyes, with around 10 bands performing throughout the evening. There are lots of rock bands which form at the middle schools and it is lovely to see these groups continuing to play together (and sometimes expanding!) when they move up to Hardyes. The night included several pieces written by the students themselves as well as a selection of (mainly 1990s!) covers! Great playing from all involved!

Singing Schools Festival



Over three days on 17th - 19th March, 450 Year 4 children came together to perform at our Singing Schools Festival. Mrs Trevorrow had worked with all fourteen schools over the previous eight weeks, running vocal workshops and teaching them all the five songs that they would eventually perform together.

The theme for this year's concert was 'Our World' and the songs either celebrated a variety of cultures and countries from around the world, or had the theme of 'working together' and 'supporting each other'. Songs included an Indian Celebration song celebrating the festival of Diwali (sung in Hindi), a Ukrainian spring folk song (sung in Ukrainian) and a celebratory traditional wedding song from Zimbabwe. They also sang the traditional English folk song 'Roll the Old Chariot Along (complete with audience participation in three part harmony!) and the song 'This is Our World', which included some brilliant harmony and part singing!

In addition to these songs, each school performed their own solo song of their own choice. Each night was performed to a packed-out theatre and the children all performed and conducted themselves brilliantly. Well done to all involved!

Children join Orchestra with Martin Clunes!



On 15th March, Thomas Hardye String Ensemble and Dorchester Children's Orchestra, took part in a concert with Dorset Chamber Orchestra, which also featured Martine Clunes narrating 'Peter and the Wolf'!

The DCO joined the orchestra for Haydn's Toy Symphony. Most of the children played the 'toy' parts, but some joined with string players. Whilst the toy parts are not difficult from a notes perspective, counting the rests and knowing when to come in was quite tricky! All of the children played brilliantly, confidently playing their parts correctly and really adding a sense of joy to the performance.

The TH Strings played in the Haydn, but also joined with the orchestra for the world premier of a piece that has recently been written by Thomas Hardye year 12 student, Freya Murray. To hear Freya's piece played by a semi-professional orchestra was fantastic. You can hear Freya's piece played again at the Thomas Hardye Spring Concert on 3rd April. We hope to see some of you there!

Looking ahead...

We have a few exciting events planned for the remainder of the year. Read a bit about them here and put these dates in your diary. Do come and support us if you can!

- **3rd April Thomas Hardye Music Department Spring Fundraiser** – a great chance to see some excellent performances and for younger students to be inspired. Tickets from: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/77545>
- **26th April National Children's Orchestra workshop day** at Thomas Hardye School – for all children who play orchestral instruments around grade 2+ in years 5-9. Deadline for applying is 28th March.
- **10th May Wessex Arts Fest.** This is a day of music, drama and dance for all the family – performances, workshops, come and try sessions and much more!
- **6th June Ossies Fest** – an afternoon of music, fun, food and fundraising. More info soon!
- **26th June TH Singers perform Evensong** at St Peter's Church in Dorchester
- **8th & 9th July Dorchester Middle School Aladdin the Musical** @ Dorchester Corn Exchange.
- **8th – 11th July Thomas Hardye School The Addams Family.** Tickets available soon from Trybooking!



FREE!

WESSEX SCHOOLS **music**

WESSEX ARTS FEST 2025

Saturday 10th May
@ Thomas Hardye School
10am – 2pm

A day of music, drama and dance performances with workshops for all the family.

Performances by orchestras, jazz bands, rock bands and individual young musicians from across the local schools.

Drama and musical theatre performances by students from Thomas Hardye School.
Workshops for all to take part in (sign-up in advance!)

Come and Try instrument sessions and drop-in music tech sessions
Barn dance, Drama workshop, Big-sing workshop, Pre-school music, Samba workshop, Klezmer workshop, Street band workshop, SEND inclusive music session.

BBQ, refreshments and more!

music.wessex.ac

