



50 YEARS OF
EXCEEDING
EXPECTATIONS
1968 - 2018



MUSIC

Department

NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM 2019



ROB HALL FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



As we approach the end of Term Two, our latest Newsletter will hopefully give you, the parents, family and friends of BSAK students, the chance to see what has taken place so far in 2019.

As ever it has been a hugely busy term, but an incredibly enjoyable one with a number of significant highlights. Since our return in January the students have been tirelessly practising individually and rehearsing in countless ensembles in preparation for exams, concerts and competitions; the entire school has been alive with the sound of Music!

As always, Young Musicians of the Gulf was a real highlight for those students fortunate enough to participate. The standard of performance across the 4 days of competition is absolutely mind-blowing and it really is a superb annual event, hosted by St Christopher's, Bahrain. With all competitions there have to be winners and losers, coupled with some controversial adjudications and the 2019 competition certainly had it all!

Our congratulations to all our musicians who competed and who were such fantastic ambassadors for the school.

Particular mention should go to our amazing Guitar Trio (William, Saleh and Christian) who won the Duets and Trios prize, and again to William who retained his Guitar Prize!

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Our Primary Choir have continued to excel themselves and their performance at this year's ChoirFest competition was absolutely fantastic, gaining praise from the judges and fellow competitors alike.

Teachers from other schools also commented that they were 'head and shoulders' above other groups but alas we were unfortunately not invited to take part in the latter stages of the competition. Instead the choir were once again invited to sing at the BSME Head's Conference in Yas and gave a rousing performance of Gary Barlow's 'Sing' to a very appreciative audience of Head teachers from across the Middle East on 20 March.



This term's Musicians' Showcase was a truly memorable evening. 'Beautiful', 'professional', 'incredible' were just three of the adjectives used to describe the concert. The audience were treated to 14 exceptional solo performances from secondary students highlighting the breadth of music-making taking place in the department. The programme included a baroque vocal aria, movements from baroque suites, concerti, romantic piano music, jazz, all the way through to recent musical theatre productions from Wicked and The Waitress.



The recent visit by BSO Inspectors coincided with more 'Outstanding' musical events: a series of early morning pop-up concerts featuring a number of soloists and ensembles which were all superb and the annual Flute, Recorder and Guitar Concert - not forgetting the Ukuleles too! Just shy of 100 students took to the stage for this memorable event. Remarkably, at the same time as the concert was taking place, there were also 'normal' weekly rehearsals going on for other ensembles elsewhere in school - Chamber Orchestra, Senior Strings, Concert Band and Senior Orchestra to name but a few!



As part of our role as a Community School, we continue to focus on giving opportunities to the wider Abu Dhabi community and none more so than this term. Our first recital at Louvre Abu Dhabi took place on 7 March enabling visitors to the Museum to experience first-hand the high quality of musicianship taking place at BSAK.

Despite a couple of technical glitches and tricky climatic conditions, our instrumentalists put on a superb display of virtuosity. The second recital on 21 March was simply stunning and the feedback from the participants, parents and the organisers was incredibly positive. We hope there will be more opportunities of this nature in the near future.

Our Community Brass Day was another *tour de force*, attracting over 50 brass players from across the UAE. Led by the Bavarian Camels, a professional Dubai-based Brass quintet, the students, ranging from beginners all the way up to Grade 8+ players, prepared a range of pieces throughout the day before giving a wonderful recital to parents and friends. The sound produced was nothing short of miraculous given not only the number of players, but the range of abilities.



On Friday 15 March, we also welcomed the Omer String Quartet to give a number of master classes and coaching sessions to young string players. Over 35 string players had the opportunity to have individual 'lessons' with members of the quartet; the engagement and interaction was truly inspirational.



As ever, we continue to strive to give as many opportunities to our musicians as possible, regardless of age and experience. Our regular Beginners' Concerts are a true example of this, featuring students who are just embarking on their musical journeys. Invariably around 40 young instrumentalists or singers will perform in front of a small, yet hugely supportive audience, and they really are special events. As we celebrate the success of our elite musicians, we also should remember that they too were once beginners, only able to play 3, 4 or 5 notes!



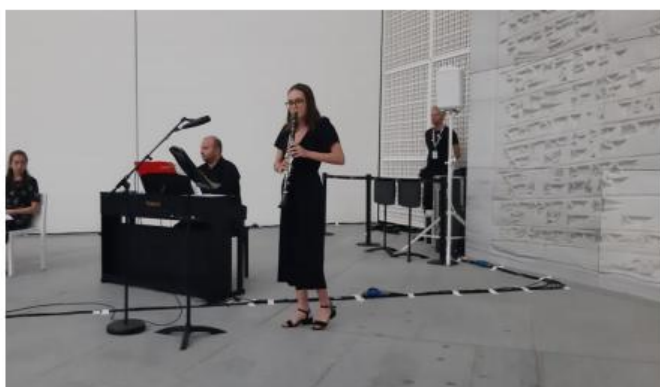
Over the past year or two, we have been actively trying to give our rock n pop singers more opportunities to gain recognition and exposure for their outstanding talents. The recent Unplugged Concert was a tremendous success, showcasing the breadth of styles and artists that our singers enjoy so much. Accompanied by a live staff band, it is an incredible experience for them and consequently this event continues to grow in popularity!



Towards the end of term we welcomed Paul Phoenix to share his expertise, knowledge and skills with us. After starting out as a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral in London, Paul was later members of the King's Singers, with whom he performed at most of the major concert halls around the world, giving 120 concerts per year. Most recently he has set up his own company 'Purple Vocals: Perform and Engage' and through this he has been engaging with our choirs, music classes and scholars to pass on the skills that he has learnt from 20 years as a professional singer, as well as giving an unforgettable recital to a hugely appreciative audience.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the fabulous academic and instrumental staff who work so incredibly hard to ensure that each and every student's musical experience is a positive and enjoyable one. The range of musical opportunities available to BSAK students genuinely is second to none and I have every confidence that we will continue to improve, diversify and adapt in order to remain one of the best schools for music in the region.

I wish you a very pleasant and relaxing spring break.



STAFF NEWS

At the start of term we welcomed **Karen Mowat** as our new Music Administrator. Karen comes to us with vast experience in administration and management and we hope that she will enjoy working in the department.

Tanja Stefanovic our Head of Singing will be leaving us at the end of term to return to Serbia in preparation for the birth of her first child. We thank her for all her efforts throughout the year and wish her every health and happiness on the arrival of her baby.

WELCOME TO THE MUSICAL WORLD!

Wonderful news—Mr Hall and his wife Louise are now the very proud parents of a beautiful, bouncing, baby boy Elias!! We wish them all the very best for their amazing journey together

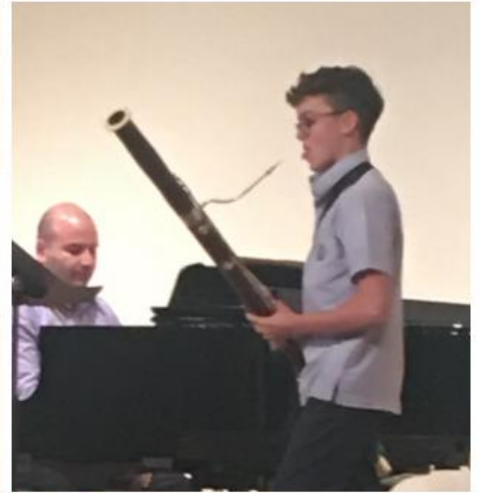


DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

One of our main areas of focus this term has been the preparations for our **50th Gala** which takes place on 1 May at NYU Abu Dhabi. The dress rehearsal will take place after school on 30 April. We will also ask most of our musicians to attend a day of rehearsals on Saturday 20 April. We would be grateful if these dates could be added to your diaries! All performers will be asked to wear all-black for the concert, so we ask all parents to ensure that their son or daughter have appropriate 'concert dress' - smart and suitable for our environs.

YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE GULF (YMOG) 2019





INTERVIEW WITH MRS DALLAS



Why did you become a Music teacher?

I always knew I wanted to be a teacher from a very young age but I had no idea that I would end up being a Music teacher!

I am actually a qualified Primary school teacher but I have a Music Degree so am able to teach Music as a specialist subject. I started teaching Music for the first time ever here at BSAK . I began as the Infant music teacher back in 2001 and later moved up into the Junior school. I'm now teaching Music in the secondary school, which means I have taught every year group from Nursery through to Year 13, and I am very grateful to have been offered that breadth of experience. I love my job, I don't have very many other talents so I am very happy to be doing something that I love so much as my profession.

What qualifications do you need to be a Music teacher?

To become a teacher you must have a degree and a teaching qualification. I have a BA honours Degree in Music and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE). I later went on to gain my Masters in Education, but this is not a specific requirement to teach, I just did this for fun! Obviously the job requires a pretty good understanding of Music?

although there are no specific requirements to be able to play to a certain standard. I play the piano on a daily basis, which is not my first study instrument, but it is definitely useful to be able to find your way around a piano in my job!

What do you love most about your job?

I love the variety my job brings. Every day I find myself doing something amazing, something crazy or something totally memorable. Yesterday I was outside on the pitch rehearsing our house song at 7.30am, today I am teaching Year 9 jazz whilst dressed as Minnie the Minx, this afternoon we are performing at The Louvre and next week I am playing at the Special Olympics. There aren't many people who get to experience stuff like that in their jobs. It is so important that you find yourself a job that you love, a job where you get up in the morning and really want to go to work, a profession that makes you happy. It's not always about the money, it's also about your own mental well being.

Who are your favourite musicians?

There are so many! I love Stevie Wonder, Jools Holland, Jamiroquai, Beyonce, Debussy. I am a big jazz fan, there is nothing quite like the sound of a big band. Jools Holland is an amazing performer, if you have never seen him perform live then you should try and get to one of his concerts, he is brilliant to watch. Choosing music to listen to really depends on my mood, if I'm getting ready to go out then I will choose something loud and funky with a strong bass line so that I can dance around my bedroom! If I'm exercising then I would choose something fast and furious like techno as the strong beat and repetitiveness keeps me moving. But then there are times when listening to classical music is the perfect way to wind down at the end of a busy day. If I am in the car then I am usually forced to listen to whatever my kids want to listen to!

How many instruments do you play?

I play the cello, the clarinet, the piano and I really enjoy singing. I regularly perform with UAENSO and I also sing in a swing trio called The Desert Roses. Of course when I was younger there were times when I didn't want to practise and there were times when I thought it wasn't very cool to be a musician and I wanted to give up many times, but my mum always managed to keep me going. My parents spent hours driving me to rehearsals and they must have sat through hours and hours of concerts and performances. They invested a lot of time and money in it all so I am extremely grateful to them for supporting me like they did because without their help I don't know what I'd be doing today.

What are your other passions?

My family, keeping fit and eating!

Why do you think students should learn a musical instrument?

There are so many benefits to learning a musical instrument, whether it's building your confidence, enhancing your memory, widening your social circle or simply used as a stress buster. It is important to mention that universities hold music in high regard, even if you are applying to study Science or Maths, if they see Music on your application you can guarantee they will want to talk to you about it in your interview. It is important to show that you are a well rounded student who can bring something more to the university.

I am not a natural musician, I had to work incredibly hard to pass my music grades and to become the musician I am today, and I still work hard at it even now. Whilst natural talent is a wonderful gift, absolutely anyone can be taught and everyone can learn given the right opportunities. Remember - "If you can talk you can sing, If you can walk you can dance".

HEAD OF BRASS ALI BRYCE SHORLAND



We always seem to have a busy and fun time in the Brass Department, and this term has been no exception!

In January our Funky Brass and "Music" Ensembles headed to Bahrain to compete in Young Musician of the Gulf. It wasn't to be the "Music" Ensemble's day unfortunately, but the judges praised their "heartfelt performance" and "superb ensemble".



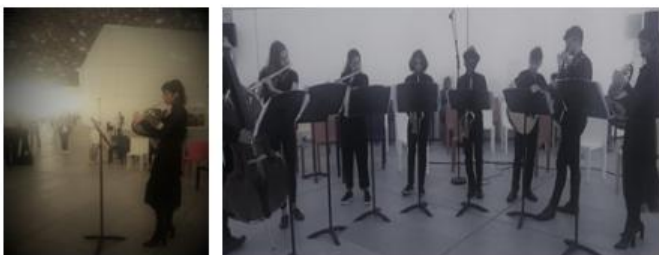
Despite the stiff competition, Funky Brass made it through to the semi-finals with the judges praising their "wonderful ensemble" and saying "is it possible to be any cooler?"

All fantastic and well deserved accolades for both groups!



Inayah, our year 12 Horn Scholar played beautifully at the Musicians' Showcase and at The Louvre-where it was blowing a gale and the broken piano meant she had to play unaccompanied.

Funky Brass and the "Music" Ensemble also performed brilliantly at this iconic venue, albeit with a slightly different sound to normal without a piano! However, they all rose to the challenge without breaking a sweat! Bravo everyone.



Friday 9 March saw the second BSAK Community Brass Day with the Bavarian Camels. It was a fantastic day with 57 students and staff coming together from all over the UAE to play together.



Beginners to Advanced students were able to play side by side with specially arranged parts to Attitude Dance (Tower of Power), A Million Dreams and Everybody Needs Somebody to Love.

What a sound!! The room was buzzing and the children all had a fantastic time, as did all of us adults! Junior Funky Brass, Al Khubairat/Community Brass and Junior Brass all played superbly in the concert too.

The Bavarian Camels are charismatic, fun and extremely talented and the message communicated to the children is that playing a brass instrument is simply the best!

(If you'd like to hear sound bites of the day, please go to our @BSAKMusic twitter feed)



With ABRSM and Trinity exams almost upon us, I'd like to make a plea that instruments are not left in their cases over Spring Break. It is a disaster for Brass players especially to have 2 weeks off as it will take them 4 weeks to get their lips back after a break like that; which is no use if the ABRSM exams are early (like last time!) Please keep up the practice in the holidays so you are well prepared for the Summer exam session. Even if you are not doing an exam, please keep playing.

Finally, may I wish you a restful Spring Break and thank you for your support of the Brass Department in everything we do. It is appreciated!

Ali Bryce Shorland

HEAD OF GUITAR KALANA DE SILVA

This term the Guitarists have thrived and achieved another milestone, making history in Young Musicians of the Gulf competition. We are delighted that William won best guitarist award for the second consecutive year and our phenomenal Guitar Trio won the small ensemble category.

All the soloists, together with the Advanced Guitar Ensemble and Guitar/Flute Duo performed exceptionally well.

They all have made BSAK proud and we hope they enjoyed the trip.



We would like to thank these students below for their excellent effort and dedication during YMOG music competition this year!

Soloists

Aden
Christian
William

Advanced Guitar Ensemble

Abdus, Aden, Alex, Calum, Christian, Emma, Joshua, Liya, Ryan, Saleh, William



Guitar Trio

Christian, Saleh, William



Guitar/Flute Duo

Emma, William



Beginner and Informal concerts

We are delighted with all the young guitarists who have appeared in Beginner and Informal concerts this term. They all have performed fabulously and certainly this has raised their confidence!



Guitar/ Ukulele/Flute /Recorder Concert

Approximately 90 students performed at this event which featured most of our guitar ensembles. This was a fantastic opportunity to exhibit our diverse groups from beginner to advanced. The main feature of this event was where all the students performed the song "Final Countdown" - it was clearly a crowd winner!!



Louvre Abu Dhabi concerts Series

We are grateful to the Louvre Abu Dhabi for inviting us to perform at this prestigious venue; our guitar ensemble groups have enjoyed being part of these events! A special mention must once again go to William for his performance on the Oud.



We are overjoyed with this term's achievements and look forward to sharing more exciting news of our amazing department in our next Newsletter.

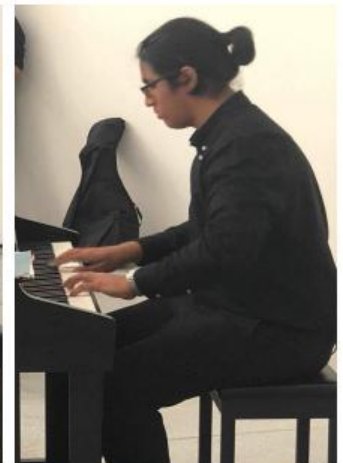
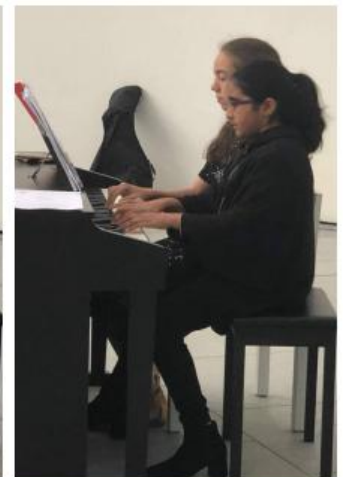
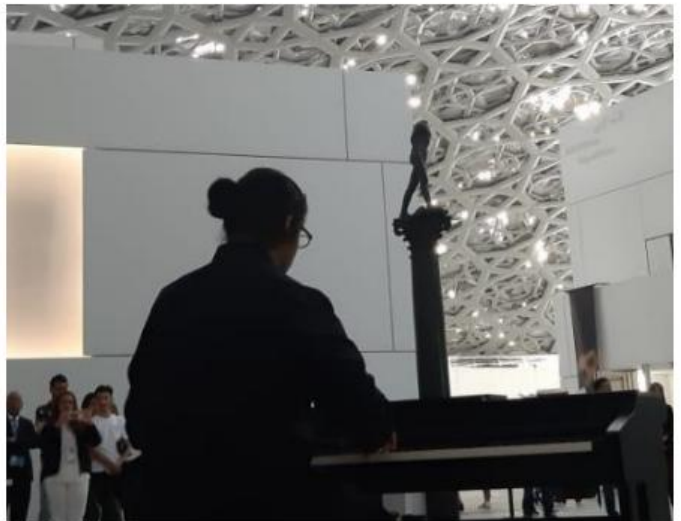


HEAD OF PIANO **ALEX TCHOBANOV**

It has been a very productive and exciting term for our piano students here at BSAK. Two of them, Jonathan and Isabella entered the YMOG Competition in Bahrain at the end of January with Jonathan advancing to the second round.

This was followed by our fabulous Piano Concert, where pupils of all ages performed pieces from beginner all the way to Diploma level.

Another remarkable event was the Music Showcase Evening where we heard William, Isabella, and Shayaan play some challenging piano repertoire of the Romantic Period. Last but not least, we would like to congratulate William and Jonathan for taking part at the two BSAK concerts in the prestigious Louvre in Abu Dhabi.



HEAD OF SINGING **TANJA STEFANOVIC**

Congratulations to our singers who took part in this year's YMOG Competition. Once again it was a fiercely competitive field and we were delighted that Caitlyn, Rose and Daniella all had the chance to perform Die Forelle in Round Two. Our thanks also to Mr Tchobanov for navigating his way through some fiendish accompaniments! It is always a great pleasure to listen to young students and admire their desire to participate.

I hope that everyone will continue to practise and strive for even better results. I would like to congratulate all the students who showed great interest in their work, and to those who have achieved excellent results so far.

Most recently we have had the chance to get to know the famous and respected singer Paul Phoenix who visited us at the end of the month. He is truly inspirational and motivational as well as being an incredible performer and speaker. We hope that the singers will reflect on his advice and take singing to an even higher platform in future.

UNPLUGGED CONCERT





Singing Unplugged 13 March 2019

The nights are still cool here in Abu Dhabi and so is the music belting out from BSAK's Science Garden at 7 pm on a Tuesday night.

The cats on the street pace a little more intensely, the birds in the trees line up to listen and Yes! Magic happened- rock and pop was in the building and people were moved, hearts melted, soothed, rocked and broke as a string of young artists took to the stage for the 4th BSAK Unplugged concert.

The word on the street by the end of the night was that this was the best yet and certainly, there were outstanding moments by any gig standards.

The classic Adele country blues of 'One and Only', kicked off the evening at full emotional throttle.

A full line up of piano, guitar, bass, drums, cello and a trio of backing singers joined our first performer under the setting sun and the bar was set high! But how marvellous then to witness, one by one, each of the performers take the stage, step up to that bar and make it their own.

Jazz classics, R&B favourites Rock standards, fabulous folk, New popster chart toppers, all rang out over the playing fields, showcasing quirky, individual performances, high energy clap-along belters, classic renditions and heart wrenching, torch song ballad-eering of the highest calibre.

It was all there.

From Year 4s to Year 13s and everything in between.

Our excellent Year 13 MCs called up talent through the evening from right across the school and from every age group the performers engaged and delivered.

It is easy sometimes to forget the power of contemporary music to unite us, to move us collectively. It is our common language in many ways.

The soundtrack to our lives. And last Unplugged IV, it appeared we were all speaking the same language.

Briana Corrigan

HEAD OF STRINGS **MOLLY CARTER**

It has been an incredibly busy term, with students preparing for the Young Musicians of the Gulf Competition in Bahrain, performances and the fast-approaching ABRSM examinations. Students have been fortunate to have so many performance opportunities, whatever their level, and whatever their musical goal.



YMOG

At YMOG this year, our wonderful advanced string musicians performed in at least two ensembles – Chamber Orchestra and the Jenkins Ensemble. They worked extremely hard to memorise both pieces in time for the competition. Special thanks to Sharadhi for learning and memorising the Viola part in just two weeks and Aden for stepping in last minute as the percussionist for 'Skyfall'! If there was an award for performing in the most ensembles, Christian and William would certainly have won, belonging to at least 8 ensembles each! They performed brilliantly in the run-up to the competition in Bahrain, and although they did not come home with trophies this time, we were so proud of their progress and dedication.

Bravo Jonathan, Andrew, Sophia, William, Shradhi, Daniella, Christian, Isabella and Aden !

Year 5 Planets Show

Our Junior String Trio performed fantastically for the Year 5 Planets Show; giving the audience a wonderful and fitting rendition of 'Jupiter' by Holst as they arrived to the performance.

Well done Clement Herran, Eliza Lovell and Brea D'Arcy



Beginners Concert

On 26 February our youngest string musicians took to the stage once more. Watch this space – these are the musicians of the future! They all performed brilliantly and we look forward to seeing their musical journey unfold.

Congratulations to Aviana, Jennah, Riad, Celine, Salehah, Ava, Joe, Jovie, Ellen, Sky, Fraya, Ari, William, Serafina and Marianne





Congratulations to Aviana, Jennah, Riad, Celina, Salehah, Ava, Joe, Ceadhla, Jovie, Ellen, Sky, Fraya, Ari, William, Serafina and Marianne!

MUSICIANS SHOWCASE 27TH FEBRUARY

The annual Musicians Showcase recital gave our most advanced string musicians the opportunity to perform challenging musical masterpieces. Jonathan wowed the crowd with a fantastic delivery of two movements from 'Winter' by Vivaldi. He played with great gusto! Lucie performed the Sarabande from Bach's C major suite, in preparation for her ARSM Diploma Exam next term. Well done to them both!



Strings Showcase in the Primary Foyer

During the BSO Inspection, several of our Junior String players, supported by Seniors, performed in the Primary foyer as people arrived to school in the morning. They performed beautifully, and really did themselves proud.

Well done Hector, Kenodh, Sura, Omar, Cristina, Daniella, Lucie, Clement, Eliza, Breah and Savanna.



Recital at Louvre Abu Dhabi

Parents and visitors alike were treated to a musical showcase of ensembles and soloists on Thursday 7 March. Our Violinist Jonathan and Cellist Lucie performed challenging works by Vivaldi, Bach and Bloch. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to perform in a different context and in an informal setting, and one they will probably remember forever – music was literally flying off the stands!

Bravo Jonathan and Lucie!



Informal Concert – Wednesday 13 March

On Wednesday 13 March, several of our intermediate level string musicians performed in the Informal Concert in the Auditorium. This proved a really useful experience for those students preparing for ABRSM Examinations next term, and all of the string players performed really well. Thank you to Mrs Willson for accompanying several of her students on the piano for this concert.

Well done Savanna, Alice, Evie , Amelie,
Munachi , Jaden and Katie!
You performed brilliantly!



String Day with the Omer Quartet Master classes and Ensemble coaching

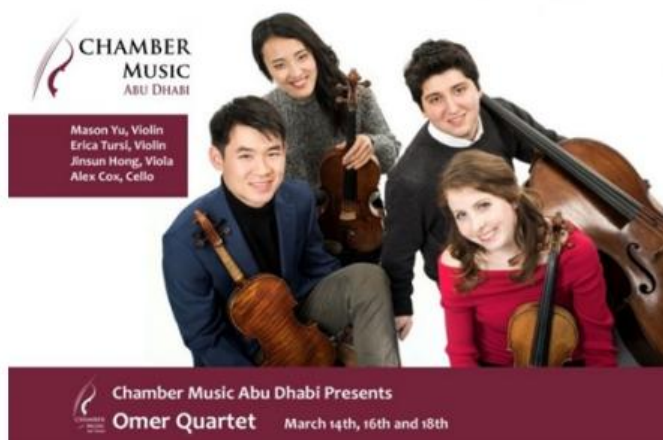
Thank You to Chamber Music Abu Dhabi and the US Embassy for sponsoring the Omer Quartet's visit to the UAE. BSAK students were so fortunate to gain inspiration from individual masterclasses and ensemble coaching from members of the Omer Quartet at our String Day on 15 March.

Over 35 Students came from across Abu Dhabi and Dubai. 15 BSAK students attended, and approximately 20 students from other UAE schools including Cranleigh, BISAD, American International School of Abu Dhabi, Al Bateen Secondary School, Brighton College, Gems Dubai and Repton School.

The Quartet were here in the UAE as part of Chamber Music Abu Dhabi's annual chamber music festival, in which they also performed at NYU Abu Dhabi, Brighton College and Khalifa University.

We hope that BSAK's relationship with Chamber Music Abu Dhabi will go from strength to strength so that we can offer more fantastic opportunities like this to our wonderful students!

A huge Thank you to Mrs Willson for all her logistical help as well as accompanying students for their masterclasses. Additionally thank you to Mr Tchobanov and Mr Norkie for also accompanying students on the piano.



Quotes from parents and external teachers about the String Day:

'The girls said they learnt a lot and we are grateful for this opportunity'

'The students benefitted a lot from the experience. These are wonderful opportunities and I hope we can have more of them in Abu Dhabi.'

'Yesterday was magnificent... an amazing opportunity.'

'My son was inspired by the Quartet - it was an amazing opportunity and has motivated him immensely.'



Strings Recital

Several of our Junior Ensembles have the opportunity to learn from 6th formers who are keen to develop a new skill, such as Andrew who gave his premier performance as a conductor with our Junior String Orchestra on 20 March. Thank you and Congratulations to Andrew!



Additionally, we have Daniella who supports Cello Time and Sophia who supports Junior Beginner Violin Ensemble. Thank you to you both!

Our Strings Recital on 20 March featured approximately 50 of our young string students who performed as soloists as well as within various string ensembles.

Bravo to all, for a truly fantastic concert!

Junior Beginner Violin Ensemble, supported by Sophia; Evie, Styliana, Alice, Jovi and Marianne.

Junior Advanced Violin Ensemble; Breah, Clement, Eliza, Katie and Savanna.

String Trio; Breah, Clement and Eliza.

Junior String Orchestra conducted by Andrew; Breah, Clement, Eliza, Katie, Evie, Mishika, Stylian, Alice, Savanna, Munachi, Kenodh, Hector, Amelie, Cristina, Sura and Omar.

Violin Time: Aviana, Jennah Riad, Celina, Salehah, Ava, Joe, Ceadhla, Jovi, Ellen, Sky, Fraya, Ari, William, Serafina and Marianne.

Cello Time, supported by Daniella; Munachi, Kenodh, Hector, Amelie, Cristina, Sura and Omar.

Chamber Orchestra (Piano Ensemble); Jonathan, Andrew, Sophia, Sharadhi, Hana, Sarah, Amelia, Daniella, Taraz, Shayaan, Zoya and Maisie.

Soloists: Savanna, Brea, Sharadhi, Lucie, Eliza, Amelie, Munach, Clement, Jonathan, Katie, Adam, Jaden and Gigi.

Thank you to Mrs Willson, Mr Norkie and Mr Tchobanov for their ensembles coaching and piano accompaniment.

HEAD OF WOODWIND CLAIRE DAY



What an amazing start to the term we had as we travelled off to Bahrain for the Young Musician of the Gulf Competition! The Woodwind Department were represented by Emma, Paige and Tanya as solo flautists along with Monty on Bassoon and Dautari on Saxophone - each student put their heart and soul (and skill and expression) into their playing so although we thought they all deserved a place in the next round we were delighted for Emma, Monty and Dautari who made it through to Round 2! BIG congratulations to Monty who also went on to earn a place in the semi-final and represented the Woodwind Department with some gorgeous playing!

The Woodwind Department was very strong in the ensemble category of the competition with students playing in the following ensembles - Funky Brass, 'Music', Senior Flutes, Elite Flutes plus the Flute and Guitar Duet. You can imagine the excitement when both Funky Brass and Senior Flutes made it through to the semi-finals that evening! This was such a thrilling and inspiring experience for all of the woodwind musicians involved and showed to all just how brilliant our young musicians really are!

Thank you to Emma, Paige, Tanya, Isabella, Kirstie, Joe, Zoya, Mia, Sasha, Sarah, Monty, Dautari, Ryan for all the hard work and energy you invested in preparing for YMoG and for your impeccable behaviour - you each represented BSAK and especially the Woodwind Department brilliantly.

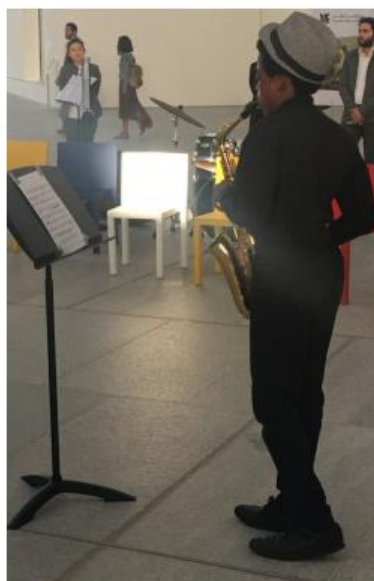


Our Musical Showcase in February was an evening of breathtaking performances...thank you to Imogen, Ryan, Kirstie and Clodagh who each played so beautifully and with such style - you make myself and Mrs. Cathrine very proud.



I have really enjoyed the two spectacular Woodwind Concerts that took place this Term; Resplendent Reeds and the combined Flute and Guitar concerts were both magnificent and managed to show all sides of music - beginner to diploma level - classical to pop and all sorts in between! The flute and guitar concert (and recorder and ukuleles!) included nearly 100 students playing 'The Final Countdown' which seemed to be the favourite for students, parents and teachers alike but I think that was beaten by Mrs. Cathrine's 'Fortnite Intro Song' as we all 'lost control and slipped and slid on the dancefloor!' Thank you Ali A!!!





We were really lucky to be invited to perform at Louvre Abu Dhabi on two occasions this term - what an experience for our young musicians playing to an unknown audience in such an inspiring space. I was so proud of all the participants and I realize that as al-

ways music is very subjective; but for me when Dautari played Ravel's Piece en Forme de Habanera, a liltingly poignant Spanish sounding dance, without accompaniment I was transfixed listening to the sound of his sax reverberating around the Louvre dome; watching people stop and stare in silence, moved by the beauty of his playing confirmed for me the power of music and the wonder it creates.



SPOTLIGHT ON **A SCHOLAR**

May I introduce you to Imogen (Imi) a Year 13 Music Scholar who plays the clarinet at diploma level. Imogen started learning the clarinet at BSAK when she was in Year 4, age 8, and is now preparing for university entrance in September - we thought it would be nice to get her perspective on music at BSAK as we prepare to say farewell to one of the brightest stars of the Woodwind Department



What do you enjoy about music Imogen?

I enjoy the freedom music gives me to express myself through my playing. I love how each piece I play is so individual – it allows me to give a different character and style to my playing.

What difference has being a Scholar made to you?

It has given me much more of a sense of responsibility and self-achievement, particularly through being able to mentor younger students and be trusted to organise myself and my own musical contribution to the school.

Do you have a favourite talk so far?

I thoroughly enjoyed the talk by Mrs Day and Mrs Kilgour on performance techniques as it taught me how to introduce myself as a way of performing in itself which I believe has improved my confidence in performing in front of an audience.

You are coming to the end of your time at BSAK. What musical memories do you have?

One of my favourite memories of playing music while at BSAK was when I had the opportunity to play in the pit for the school's production of the operetta, 'Pirates of Penzance', and also 'Bugsy Malone'. While being extremely fun and a wonderful experience, it also taught me skills of playing alongside a production which is a style of performance I haven't come across previously. It is something I definitely want to try and do in the future again.

Where do you see yourself taking music in the future when you go to university? Do you think you will continue?

While I am going to be taking a non-music-based course at university,

I will definitely look to join an orchestra and maybe even start teaching beginner players as I already have some experience of this. It is too big a part of my life to just give up!

Look out for further **SPOTLIGHT** on a **SCHOLAR INTERVIEWS** in our next **WOODWIND** news edition

WIND QUINTET

We are launching a Wind Quintet in Term 3 so watch this space for some gorgeous tunes from these guys...

| | |
|---------|-------------|
| Monty | Bassoon |
| Seb | Clarinet |
| Maisie | Oboe |
| Katie | French Horn |
| Clodagh | Flute |



Wishing you a great Spring Break - those sitting ABRSM exams the countdown is on so please continue to practise during the holiday. You don't have to be mad to work here.... but it does help



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