



HEAD OF SINGING

Accountable to the Director of Music



CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

A SCHOOL LIKE NO OTHER

Music at Christ's Hospital

Music plays a central role in the life of this remarkable school. Perhaps uniquely, every pupil hears live music played or sung by their peers on seven days a week in term-time. We aim to be concurrently inclusive and exclusive: pupils of all ages and abilities are encouraged and inspired to nurture enjoyment and skill in music; our 30 music scholars and other specialist musicians are offered an individual programme, allowing them to fulfil their potential and reach ever-higher standards of music-making. The performance opportunities for soloists and ensembles large and small are many and varied, and include regular performances in London.

The Music School is a happy and vibrant place. Between them, the nine resident members of staff and around 30 Visiting Music Teachers (VMTs) offer a full academic programme (including IGCSE, IB and Pre-U) and teach over 550 instrumental lessons a week, supported by a full-time administrator. The vast majority of instrumental lessons are subsidised in accordance with pupil need, and the department provides instruments, scores and accessories as necessary. Pupils are customarily dedicated, high-achieving, and polite, and they relish the broad range of opportunities that are available to them at Christ's Hospital. Where appropriate, pupils are encouraged to take advantage of external opportunities such as junior conservatoires, national ensembles (e.g. NYC and NYO), and summer instrumental and choral courses. The school supports these both in terms of the frameworks and flexibilities it creates, as well as, in many cases, financial terms. Many pupils have gone on to study music at tertiary level.

This is certainly a singing school. Congregational singing in Chapel is strong, and every member of the school takes part in the annual House Singing Competition. There are also many opportunities for specialised group singing.

The Chapel Choir, made up of over 10% of the school, is the most high-profile vocal ensemble, singing at the weekly Sunday Chapel service. The choir also plays a significant role in the annual St Matthew's Day service and parade in London, as well as high-profile 'home' events such as Remembrance, Carol Services, Speech Day and so on. An auditioned chamber choir of 25-30 pupils, the Schola Cantorum, gives senior members of the Chapel Choir the opportunity to tackle more challenging repertoire. There is a Junior Choir for Second Form (Year 7) pupils, a (new) chamber choir for middle year pupils, and a pupil-led Gospel Choir. There is also an 80-strong Choral Society made up of members of the local community who perform regularly throughout the year, including a joint performance with pupils in the Lent Term. There is certainly potential for improvement and increase in the provision for group





singing at Christ's Hospital, and we envisage that the Head of Singing will play a major role in that. We frequently collaborate with the Drama Department, including the production of musicals, most recently *West Side Story* (seniors) and *Bugsy Malone* (juniors).

We have four singing teachers, two classical specialists, a jazz and pop specialist, and one who teaches both. They are line managed by the Head of Singing. There are currently around 75 singing pupils. In recent years, a number of pupils have won choral scholarships and exhibitions at Oxford, Cambridge, London, and other universities and colleges.

For nearly 500 years, Christ's Hospital's mission has been transformation through education: providing first-class opportunities to those who would not otherwise be able to access them. In addition to developing the provision of individual and group singing within this school, it is envisaged that part of this role will have a school and community outreach element, principally to spread the CH message beyond the ring fence, a potential secondary effect (but certainly not focus) being recruitment of musical pupils to the school.

Key responsibilities and accountabilities

As Head of Singing:

- teach singing lessons.
- manage and administrate the Singing Department, including several Visiting Music Teachers, in conjunction with the Director of Music and Music School Administrator.
- manage the Singing Department Library.
- take a share of and assist with in the training and direction of the various choirs by agreement with the Director of Music.
- teach a reduced academic timetable and complete the associated administrative tasks (e.g. reports, insets etc.). The timetable will consist of a relatively small amount of Lower School teaching. Support and training in post will be provided as necessary.
- develop and lead school and community singing outreach opportunities.
- contribute to the training and preparation of singers for productions in collaboration with the Drama Department.
- take a share in the instrumental absence monitoring, the supervision of Year 7 and 8 practice, and aural and theory teaching as required.
- assist with the consultation sessions for the annual singing competitions.
- contribute to wider activities of the Music School, attending school concerts and other events wherever possible, assisting where necessary.
- attend relevant meetings and insets.
- take on any other reasonable duties as required by the Director of Music.
- contribute to the wider life of this busy boarding school, including pastoral duties and broader-curricular activities. This will include departmental supervision for one evening per week, and one Sunday afternoon per term.



As a full-time **member of staff**:

- contribute to providing an outstanding education (academic, pastoral and broader curriculum) for students.
- support the ethos, mission and charitable objectives of the School.
- meet and uphold the core Teachers' Standards (DfE).
- plan and deliver consistently good or high quality teaching and learning.
- actively contribute to the broader curriculum and pastoral aspects of students' education.
- cover for absent colleagues in any of the three strands above.
- support the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership in implementing all aspects of statutory guidance for education and school policy.
- create a positive culture of student welfare and share in the corporate commitment to the safety and welfare of students.
- ensure the safety and welfare of students at all times.
- have a thorough understanding of statutory and School safeguarding requirements and ensure appropriate action and compliance at all times.
- ensure timely and accurate registration of students in all lessons/tutor time.
- take an active role in all relevant pastoral matters.
- undertake tutor duties, liaising with House Parents, Assistant Head (Pastoral) and Head of Year/Department as appropriate and attend pastoral and other relevant meetings as required.
- participate in Chapel Services as directed.
- participate in assemblies and lead as directed.
- undertake any relevant administration or organisational tasks relating to this area of School life.



Person Specification – Head of Singing

Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honours degree or equivalent in Music or related subject. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PGCE (secondary phase). Qualified Teacher Status (secondary phase). Evidence of further professional development/ study e.g. Masters.
Experience / Abilities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful specialist subject teaching experience, with evidence of impact, across Key Stage 3 and 4. Experience of using/teaching a variety of vocal techniques and methods. Evidence of teamwork in aspects of departmental development. Able to set and model high expectations for learning and behaviour. Able to work in a pastoral team as a tutor. Able to uphold the ethos, policies etc. of the school. Able to develop and share resources in support of new curriculum developments. Clear evidence of a willingness and ability to participate positively and fully in the whole life and work of the school including broader curriculum, pastoral and ceremonial aspects. Ability to respond flexibly and adapt to changing and challenging circumstances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience of, or evidence of ability to teach specialist subject up to Key Stage 5. Previous experience of working in the boarding sector. Previous pastoral experience. A proven record of consistently good or outstanding classroom practice. Evidence of using a range of teaching and learning strategies successfully. Experience of using data perceptively to inform teaching and plan appropriate interventions. Able to organise assessment data and track progress towards targets. Evidence of integrating literacy, numeracy and SMSC elements effectively into teaching.



Knowledge, Skills, Aptitudes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure subject knowledge. • A clear understanding of how learning develops in your subject area. • Awareness of new qualifications and requirements in your subject. • A good understanding of how to use data for planning and monitoring. • A reflective practitioner, ensuring culture of continuous improvement with clear strategies for dealing with professional setbacks/disappointments. • Evidence of ability and willingness to make a clear and active contribution to the broader-curriculum. • Able to use ICT effectively to support learning and administration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the main issues in education today. • Willingness to develop subject knowledge beyond specialism.
Personal Qualities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective time management skills. • Resilient and able to meet deadlines and work with sustained pressure and periods of stress and challenge. • Generally able to achieve and bring balance between professional and personal life. • Personable and able to work well with a diverse range of personalities and these with differing experience. • Able to offer help/support to others and open to accepting help. 	



Statutory / Policy	
<p>Evidence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility to work in the UK. • Full understanding of safeguarding requirements and how teachers promote the welfare of children. • Commitment to implementing whole school/staff policies relating to the safeguarding of children. <p>Able to obtain satisfactory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced DBS. • validated references. • fitness for work. • overseas police checks (where applicable). 	

The above will be evidenced by a variety of means including: Application Form; Letter of application/ Personal Statement; References; Interviews; Relevant Testing; Documentation required upon interview; checks done via the Teaching Regulation Agency and other statutory pre-employment checks.

Safeguarding and Personal & Professional Conduct

All staff are required to follow published statutory guidance and the School’s Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy at all times and to share in the corporate commitment to promoting the safety and welfare of students.

In addition to a thorough understanding of safeguarding procedures, staff are expected to demonstrate consistently high standards of personal and professional conduct.

This job description is not intended to be comprehensive. It will be reviewed regularly and may need to be modified. It should be read in conjunction with the Teachers’ Standard published by the DfE which “*set a clear baseline of expectations for the professional practice and conduct of teachers and define the minimum level of practice expected by teachers in England.*”

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