

Visiting Music Teacher of Piano



Introduction

We seek a passionate, sparky, virtuoso teacher to join our Keyboard Department as a Visiting Music Teacher of Piano, beginning September 2022.

A school like no other

Set in several hundred acres of beautiful Sussex countryside, Christ's Hospital is an independent co-educational boarding and day school of 900 pupils aged 11-18. Founded in 1552, the school moved from the City of London to a large, purpose-built campus just outside Horsham in 1902. Pupils wear the distinctive Tudor uniform, barely altered since the foundation of the school.

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. We are unique amongst UK independent schools in that around 75% of pupils receive full or majority remission of fees; the average bursary currently stands at 86% of the full fees. The resultant mix is refreshingly down-to-earth and lacking in pretension, coupled with an underlying desire to make the most of the opportunities on offer.

Academic lessons at Christ's Hospital are spread across six days on a one-week timetable. There are rehearsals, broader-curricular activities and other events throughout the week, including in the evenings and at weekends. The school works on a three weekly cycle, with a Leave Weekend or longer break at the end of every three week period.

Music at Christ's Hospital

Music is the beating heart of this remarkable school. Christ's Hospital is perhaps the only school in the world where every pupil hears live music played or sung by their peers on six days a week in term-time. All pupils are encouraged and inspired to nurture enjoyment and skill in music; our 30 music scholars and other high-level musicians are given specialist support. The performance opportunities for soloists and ensembles large and small are many and varied, and include regular performances in London.

Our Teachers

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 and A Level) and teach over 550 instrumental lessons a week, supported by two administrators. We have a superb team of dedicated VMTs, diverse in age and career background. Some colleagues have dedicated their working lives to teaching; some are recent music college graduates establishing their careers; others balance teaching with high level playing in the country's best orchestra and band pits.

Our Pupils

Pupils are customarily enthusiastic, high-achieving, and polite, and they relish the broad range of opportunities that are available to them at Christ's Hospital. The vast majority of instrumental lessons are subsidised in accordance with pupil need, and the department provides instruments and accessories as necessary. 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.

There is huge diversity in terms of racial and socio-economic background at this school, perhaps more than any other independent school in the country. For example, around 51% of our pupils are from black and minority ethnic backgrounds. We welcome applications from musicians of all backgrounds as we aspire to build a staff body that more closely reflects the social and cultural diversity of our student intake.

The role

This position would suit a teacher who can engage and motivate pupils at both ends of the spectrum and everywhere in between; a teacher who will challenge and champion their pupils, finding ways for them to learn and grow as individual musicians whilst feeling supported and enjoying the process; a teacher who is interested in and understanding of the specific pastoral circumstances of their pupils, and the wide variety of demands upon them; a teacher who is creative, proactive, and understanding of the challenges of teaching and learning in a busy boarding school.

This is a part-time role, line-managed by the Assistant Director of Music (Performance) & Head of Keyboard. Dates and hours of teaching duties will be agreed by the Assistant Director of Music (Performance) & Head of Keyboard and the Director of Music.

The practical facets of a VMT's role include:

- teaching a number of pupils, timetabling lessons in accordance with other school commitments;
- potentially leading and manage ensembles, as agreed with the relevant Head of Section;
- keeping up-to-date registers, both electronic and paper copies (training will be provided if necessary), of pupil attendance;
- reporting pupil absences in accordance with CH procedure;
- reporting any pupil concerns to the relevant Head of Section, Director of Music, or Designated Safeguarding Lead as appropriate;
- writing pupil reports and attending INSET as required.

Specifically with regards to teaching, requirements of our VMTs include:

- setting high expectations which inspire, motivate, and challenge pupils, promoting good progress and outcomes;
- planning and teaching well-structured lessons, adapting teaching methods to the strengths and needs of each pupil;
- demonstrating strong technical and repertoire knowledge;
- establishing a positive and welcoming atmosphere in the teaching room, one in which effective learning can take place;
- making accurate and productive use of assessment and reporting;
- managing behavior effectively to ensure a good and safe learning environment;
- encouraging pupil participation in ensembles, examinations (where appropriate), the weekly lunchtime concerts and other performance platforms;
- communicating regularly with colleagues (Heads of Section specifically) about pupil progress and welfare.

Remuneration and other details

Christ's Hospital has its own five-tier system of payment to VMTs which closely resembles the ISM/MMA/MU recommended rates. Any ensemble direction will be paid at one rate above the normal rate the holder is paid for individual tuition. Travel expenses are paid up to a maximum of £23.46 per visit.

Christ's Hospital is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All successful applicants are required to complete an enhanced disclosure application with the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service). More details on the disclosure process can be found on www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check.

Christ's Hospital is an Equal Opportunities employer.

Christ's Hospital has its own railway station, with direct trains to and from London Victoria and the South Coast. There is ample parking on the school site.