

Visiting Music Teacher of Bassoon



Introduction

Christ's Hospital wishes to appoint a part-time Visiting Music Teacher of Bassoon, beginning September 2024.

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 students 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. Students 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 78% of students 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 plays a fundamental role in the life of this remarkable school. Perhaps uniquely, every student 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: students 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, including regular performances in London.

The Music School is a happy and vibrant place. Between them, the nine resident members of staff and around 35 Visiting Music Teachers (VMTs) offer a full academic programme (including IGCSE and A Level) and teach over 600 instrumental lessons a week, supported by a full-time administrator. 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 orchestras and band pits.

The role

The position would suit a well-qualified and capable bassoon specialist who has an enthusiasm for teaching music within the framework of a large co-educational boarding school. Additionally, the ability to teach piano would be an advantage.

- Part-time teaching role, line-managed by the Band Director & Head of Woodwind.
- Dates and hours of teaching duties will be agreed by the Band Director & Head of Woodwind / Director of Music.

The practical facets of a VMT's role include:

- teaching a number of students, 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 student attendance.
- reporting student absences in accordance with CH procedure.
- reporting any student concerns to the relevant Head of Section, Director of Music, or Designated Safeguarding Lead as appropriate.
- writing student reports and attending INSET as required.

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

- setting high expectations which inspire, motivate, and challenge students, promoting good progress and outcomes;
- planning and teaching well-structured lessons, adapting teaching methods to the strengths and needs of each student;
- 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 student participation in ensembles, examinations (where appropriate), the weekly lunchtime concerts and other performance platforms; communicating regularly with colleagues (Heads of Section specifically) about student 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 free parking on the school site.