July 2026

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL
A SCHOOL LIKE NO OTHER

INSTRUMENTAL AND CHORAL MUSIC AT CH

At CH we aim to offer as wide a variety of music lessons and ensembles as possible, so as to encourage every student to find and nurture their musical talent. We teach around 650 instrumental lessons per week, with many of our students learning two or even three instruments. We also have a great many ensembles and choirs so that everyone who wants to can get involved.

This document aims to provide all the necessary information for instrumentalists and their parents/guardians:

- Part 1 (pages 2-5) is a list of questions frequently asked by **students**, and the answers.
- Part 2 (pages 6-8) is designed to give **parents and guardians** more information.
- Part 3 (pages 9-13) is the **terms and conditions** for instrumental tuition
- Part 4 (page 14) is the list of **music charges** for 2026-2027

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch via music@christs-hospital.org.uk

INSTRUMENTAL AND CHORAL MUSIC

INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS ABOUT LESSONS AND ENSEMBLES

On which instruments do we offer lessons?

Strings	Wind	Brass	Keyboard	Percussion
Cello	Bassoon	Euphonium	Organ**	Tuned/orchestral
Double Bass	Clarinet	French Horn	Piano	Drum kit
Guitar*	Flute	Trombone	Jazz Piano**	**Voice**
Harp	Oboe	Trumpet		singing
Violin	Saxophone	Tuba		
Viola				

** classical/acoustic, electric guitar or bass guitar offered.*

*** for organ and jazz piano you must be at least grade 5 piano*

If you would like lessons on an instrument not currently offered, please contact us.

How should I choose an instrument?

If you are keen to take up an instrument but are not sure which one, perhaps have a look at the list of ensembles (on page 5) and see if there are any you aspire to be a part of. You can then choose an instrument to enable you to do this. Heads of Sections are always willing to help people try instruments before they commit to lessons. Learning less-common instruments (e.g. trombone, horn, oboe, bassoon) increases the likelihood of playing in major ensembles. We run an 'endangered instrument' scheme where we will offer certain instruments free of charge for Second and Third Forms. These instruments will change based on popularity (or lack of!) – contact us for more details.

Do I need to own an instrument, or can I borrow one from school?
Some students have their own instruments, but many borrow school instruments. These are provided free of charge (depending on availability) on condition they are well looked after.

How can I apply for a music scholarship?
Music scholarships are awarded at 11+, 13+ (Yr 7 entry, Yr 9 entry, internal and external) and 16+ (Yr 12 entry, internal and external). There is a short and relaxed audition where we look for talent, commitment, and potential. Please contact us for further details.

How often should I practise?
As much as your timetable allows! It's always best to practise for short periods regularly, rather than one long session a week. Students in the Second and Third Forms (Yrs 7 and 8) are required to attend two 25-minute supervised practice sessions per instrument per week. The Music School is open throughout the school day, in the evenings, and at weekends; students come in and practise whenever they can.

How does the lesson timetable work?
Those in the Second Form, Third Form, LE, and UF (Yrs 7-10) have lessons during the school day. This is on a rota, meaning the same subject is not missed more than twice per term. Those in the GE, DG, and GR (Yrs 11-13) have their lessons outside of academic commitments.

What performance opportunities are available?
There are many, from regular performances by the Band and the Chapel Choir, to formal evening concerts, to informal Lunchtime Concerts. There is no obligation for non-scholars to perform, but all are encouraged to do so.

Do I have to do music exams?
There is no obligation, but often students find these a good way to focus their learning. It is entirely up to you, in consultation with your teacher.

Can I learn more than one instrument?

Yes, and lots of students do!

The Music Department is much bigger and busier than the one at my last school; what should I do if I need help?

There is a lot going on at CH and it sometimes it can seem like you have to be in several places at once. The most important thing is to communicate. If you find you have accidentally missed a lesson or rehearsal, or you're not sure which room you're meant to be in, do ask any member of staff. We in the Music School are all very friendly and helpful. Your Houseparent and Tutor will also be able to help.

Can I learn the organ?

Absolutely. There are several organs at CH, and organ lessons are provided for free of charge. We expect students to have Grade 5 piano.

CHOIRS & ENSEMBLES

How can I join an ensemble?

Most are by invitation, following a recommendation by your instrumental teacher once you have reached the required standard. If you are keen to join a particular ensemble, please talk to your instrumental teacher. All students who take instrumental or vocal lessons are expected to contribute to an ensemble of some kind.

How can I join a choir?

There are many choirs here, some that require an audition and some that don't. All are welcome, and we encourage everyone to give it a go! Once you are here, speak to your music teacher or listen out for information.

How can I join the Band?

Membership of the Band is by invitation. Those in the Band tend to be at least Grade 5 on any woodwind or brass instrument, or drum kit. This can vary depending on need: the standard for more popular instruments (e.g.

flute) may be higher, and certain minority (e.g. bassoon, trombone etc.) instruments may be lower.

MAJOR ENSEMBLES	For whom?	
Choirs	Chapel Choir	Open to UF (Yr 10) and above.
	Gospel Choir	Older year groups. By audition
	Schola Cantorum	Advanced. By invitation.
Orchestras	Symphony Orchestra	Advanced. By invitation.
	Intermediate Orchestra	02-LE (Yrs 7-9) By invitation.
	Chamber Orchestra	Advanced. By invitation.
	The Band	Advanced. By invitation.
Bands	Big Band	Advanced. By invitation.
	Training Band	02-LE (Yrs 7-9).

SMALLER ENSEMBLES			
Brass	**Strings**	**Woodwind**	**Choirs**
Brass	Guitar	Saxophone	For year groups 02/03/LE (Junior Choir)
Junior Brass	Chamber Groups	Flute	
Tuba Quartet	String Quartets	Double Reed	
Brass Quintet	Training Strings	Clarinet Quartet	
Bugle Band	**Jazz**	**Percussion**	**Other**
Trombone	Senior Jazz	Various	Theory
	Dixieland Band		

Other ensembles may be formed throughout the year as and when required and available.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TUITION

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

(it is also recommended that Parents/Guardians read the INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS above)

COMMUNICATION

Should you have any questions or wish to raise any concerns, please do contact us at any time. In the first instance it is best to direct any correspondence to the relevant Head of Section. Our Heads of Section are very experienced and are able solve issues quickly and effectively.

All email addresses are *[Teacher's Initials]*@christs-hosptal.org.uk).

- **Keyboard:** Michael Leach (MJL)
- **Woodwind & Percussion:** Tim Carter (TMC)
- **Singing:** Verity Bramson Hay (SVMB)
- **Strings (including guitar):** Emily Marsden (EJM)
- **Brass:** Steve Titchener (ST)

Additional useful contacts are:
Music School Administrator: Sarah Kingsford (music@christs-hospital.org.uk)

Any member of the music staff will be pleased to help and can be contacted at any time. We will return the communication as soon as we are able.

CHOIRS AND ENSEMBLES

There are a great many number of opportunities for students to perform in choirs and ensembles, from the Chapel Choir and the Band to smaller groups. Students can express interest in joining ensembles to their instrumental teacher or another member of the music staff at any time.

All students are encouraged to sing, be it in the congregation in Chapel, as part of the whole-school House Singing Competition, or, for more specialist singers, as a member of one of our renowned choirs. Second and Third Form and LE have their own dedicated group, the Junior Choir – membership is compulsory for students taking singing lessons, but all are welcome! The Chapel Choir is open to all in UF and above. For more advanced singers in older years, the Gospel Choir and Schola Cantorum – both auditioned groups – provide challenging opportunities for singers of the highest standards.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

We aim to offer all of our students a range of so performance opportunities, from informal lunchtime concerts to more formal evening recitals. The most able musicians in the top year of the school will be offered the chance to play a concerto with the Symphony Orchestra towards the end of their time here. Our ensembles perform regularly, both in school and at exciting external events.

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES OUT OF SCHOOL

We regularly perform out of school; at least twice a year in London, more locally (e.g. Chichester Cathedral), and abroad. We ask that parents make music teachers aware of any non-school events in which they wish their child to participate.

ORGAN LESSONS

Organ lessons are provided free of charge for any student who shows an interest. We recommend that the student has Grade 5 piano before starting the organ. Please contact us for further details.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Our Music Scholars are the backbone of the Department. They are given specialist coaching and performance opportunities and are expected to be at the forefront of music life at the school, both as solo performers and in terms of contribution to ensembles. Scholars also enjoy trips to concerts and social events. In addition to any fee remission, Scholars have lessons on one instrument paid for by the school. For further information such as requirements and deadlines, please see the school website or contact the Admissions Department.

JUNIOR CONSERVERTOIRES

Some of our most talented students have successfully auditioned for the junior conservatoires in London (recently the Royal Academy of Music and Guildhall). This is something we encourage and support, and in some cases have been able to assist with travel expenses. It is of course very convenient to have a direct train to London right on our doorstep!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TUITION

Terms & Conditions

SIGNING UP FOR MUSIC LESSONS

Please contact Sarah Kingsford at music@christs-hospital.org.uk for a **Music Lesson Request** form, which grants permission for the music lessons to commence and relevant fees to be charged. In the case of some instruments, there may well be a waiting list for lessons. Once the completed form has been received, the Music Department Administrator or Head of Section will be in touch with further details (e.g. teacher, lesson time, room etc.).

INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

Although students tend to acquire their own instruments, in many instances the school undertakes to provide an instrument of good quality for use throughout a student's school career. Please note that we do not have any electric or bass guitars available for loan. Instruments are currently loaned to students free of charge on condition that they are cared for and well maintained. The cost of replacement or any insurance excess and/or the cost of repairing any damage will, if deemed appropriate by the Director of Music, be charged to parents. Strings, reeds, mouthpieces and music are also currently provided, free of charge to parents, by the school. However, if these are damaged or lost by the student, they will be charged for. If a student brings their own instrument to school, it must be insured privately, and the school will not be responsible for any loss or damage.

LESSONS AND TIMETABLING

We offer one-to-one tuition for 35 minutes per week with one of our skilled and professional specialist teachers. Students receive 30 lessons per year in total. Those in the Second Form, Third Form, LE, and UF (Yrs 7-10) have lessons during the school day. This is on a rota, meaning the same academic period is not missed more than twice per term. Those in the GE, DG, and GR (Yrs 11-13) have their lessons outside of academic commitments. The flexibility of the timetable depends on the individual teacher; some are here 7-days-a-week, others perhaps just one day. We endeavour to work around the student's other commitments as far as we are able.

Students can find the times of their lessons in three ways:

- Timetables are displayed on a notice board in the Music School.
- The forthcoming week's music lesson times are published in boarding houses every weekend.
- Via SOCS under 'lessons and timetabling'

Should the student be confused about the timing of their lessons, there are a great many people who can help. They can see or contact their instrumental teacher, and member of the music staff, or their Houseparent or Tutor.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUMENTS

Many students learn more than one instrument. In the case of those in 02, 03, LE, and UF (Yrs 7-10), one of their instrumental lessons will be during the school day on a rota, but the other(s) will be 'fixed' (i.e. at the same time each week) outside of academic commitments.

FEES AND SCHOOL-SUBSIDISED TUITION

Please see page 14 for the current list of fees for instrumental tuition.

For those studying Music academically (for GCSE or A level), the school covers the cost of tuition on one instrument. Music Scholars are entitled to gratis tuition on one instrument as part of their award. Those students who receive free music tuition on one instrument may also learn a second instrument and the fees for this will be charged according to parental income. If a student decides to opt for more than two instruments, full fees will be charged for the third instrument.

Where a student is not taking any of the above-mentioned academic music exams, up to two instrumental lessons will be available and fees will be charged according to parental income. If a student decides to opt for more than two instruments, full fees will be charged for the third instrument. Those liable for fees are invoiced termly, in arrears.

We are currently operating an 'endangered instrument' scheme whereby the school will cover the cost of one set of lessons on an instrument with low uptake. This will apply to 2nd and 3rd formers (and in some cases LE and UF at the discretion of the DOM). We ask that those learning an endangered instrument commit to attending lessons for at least their Second and Third form (Years 7 & 8). Please contact Sarah Kingsford at music@christs-hospital.org.uk for more information.

ABSENCE

If a student misses a lesson, they will be contacted by the relevant Head of Section or the Director of Music in order to explain why. Should illegitimate absence be persistent, the Director of Music may write to parents in order to terminate the lessons. In the case of legitimate absences (e.g. illness), instrumental teachers will endeavour to re-timetable lessons where possible.

Students will be charged for lessons that they miss, except when they are prevented from attending by a school commitment or a pre-booked medical appointment.

If a student is absent due to reasons other than a school commitment or a pre-booked medical appointment and has lessons paid for by the school, these missed lessons will be charged for in accordance with any bursary in place i.e. the missed lessons will be charged at the amount that would be paid were the cost not being

met by the school. Students on a full bursary will be charged at the lowest increment.

TERMINATION OF LESSONS

Lessons may be terminated by the Director of Music at any time if a student ceases to show aptitude or application, evidence of which is given in written reports. Lessons may also be terminated by parents, by writing to or emailing the Director of Music. At least **half a term's notice** must be given so that teachers' and room timetables can be adjusted accordingly. Music fees will continue to be charged for at least half a term after notice is given – i.e., if notice is given *before* half term, then fees will be charged to the end of that term; if notice is given *after* half term, then fees will be charged to half term of the following term. If notice is given during a holiday period, fees will be charged until the next half term/end of term. Please note that once started lessons will continue each year until notice is given.

PRACTICE

There is a practice expectation for all students in receipt of instrumental tuition; there is no doubt that an advanced sense of self-discipline from the student is required. Duration and frequency will depend on the individual and will be discussed with the teacher. The Music School is open every day throughout the day, and at periods in the evenings; students are encouraged to come in and practise whenever they have the opportunity. Students in the 02 and 03 (Yrs 7 and 8) are required to attend two 25-minute supervised practice sessions per instrument per week.

REPORTS FROM INSTRUMENTAL TEACHERS

Parents and guardians will receive a full report on their child's progress in instrumental lessons at the end of each term. Please email the relevant Head of Section (see **Communication** above) should you wish to with to make contact between these reporting times.

MUSIC EXAMS

The school holds music exams (ABRSM, LCME and Trinity) at the end of every term. There is no compulsion for any student to take music exams – many students prefer to progress without jumping these hurdles – but for many they can provide a useful and motivating goal.

Should the teacher and student feel that the time is right to sit an exam, the student will be registered for the exam through the school. Parents are required to pay for ABRSM, LCME and Trinity music examinations; parental agreement is sought for this near the beginning of the term in which students are entered. A piano accompanist is provided for each examination candidate where necessary, and they will arrange adequate time to rehearse in preparation for the examination. Additional opportunities available to support the preparation of music exams include mock exams with a member of the music staff, as well as regular aural training sessions.

MUSIC THEORY

Students taking ABRSM exams are required to have passed Grade 5 Theory before they can progress to Grade 6 and beyond on their instrument. The school offers various weekly theory sessions, and exams are arranged through school. Parents are required to pay for ABRSM theory exams; parental agreement is sought for this near the beginning of the term in which students are entered.

PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

A piano accompanist will be provided for any exam, concert or other performance as necessary. The student and their accompanist will communicate to arrange adequate rehearsal time prior to the performance.

Music Charges for 2026-2027 **(based on a term of 10 lessons)**	**Termly (including VAT)**
For parents on a full bursary	£0
For parents paying fees up to £361 (per term before any scholarship or grant)	£165
For parents paying fees £362-£740 (per term before any scholarship or grant)	£248
For parents paying fees £741-£1,155 (per term before any scholarship or grant)	£331
For parents paying fees £1,156-£1,495 (per term before any scholarship or grant)	£413
For parents paying fees of £1,496 or more (per term before any scholarship or grant)	£495

- **Fees are charged per instrument, per term. We aim to schedule 30 x 35-minute lessons over the course of the academic year, though occasionally calendar constraints, school events, or teacher illness may reduce that number. Students are only billed for the lessons scheduled. Students who begin lessons after the start of the academic year will receive a proportionate number of lessons.**
- **Music Charge includes the cost of providing some music for each student's personal use.**