



The Purcell School  
*for young musicians*

# Prospectus







# Nurturing Talent Making Music Enriching Lives

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and Innermedia.

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*‘I am blown away by the commitment, skill and  
infectious energy of the remarkable young musicians  
at The Purcell School.’*

Sir Simon Rattle OM CBE, President Patron





# Welcome

## Nurturing the Next Generation of Musicians

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*'Pupils will flourish in the specialised environment of The Purcell School.'*

Vladimir Ashkenazy, Patron

The Purcell School is Britain's oldest specialist music school. Situated on the outskirts of London in Bushey, Hertfordshire, the co-educational boarding and day school is home to around 180 musically gifted young people, all of whom are passionate about fulfilling their talent.

We aim to provide young musicians of remarkable ability and promise, from all backgrounds, with the best possible teaching and environment in which to fulfil their potential. We deliver the very highest world-class musical instruction and hold the UNESCO Mozart Gold Medal in recognition of the School's unique contribution to music, education and international culture.

The School affords ideal opportunities for practising, performing and developing musicianship, while also providing a balanced academic education which helps to prepare our students for life-long careers as musicians. The high quality of teaching and outstanding pastoral support is further complemented by a nurturing environment in which students can form stimulating and mutually supportive relationships with similarly gifted young people.

*'The School is a vibrant place where creativity and discipline go hand in hand, providing specialist training for musicians of the future, alongside an excellent general education.'*

Sir Simon Rattle OM CBE, President Patron







This image: Students of The Purcell School, Harrow  
Image top right: Rosemary Rapaport  
Image bottom right: Irene Forster



# A Brief Background

## A History of The Purcell School

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Rosemary Rapaport and Irene Forster founded the School in 1962 at Conway Hall in central London under the original name of the Central Tutorial School for Young Musicians. The School later moved to Morley College, then to Hampstead, and on to a large Victorian house in Harrow on the Hill. As it continued to grow and develop, the School changed its name in 1973 to The Purcell School, after the English composer Henry Purcell, and in 1997 relocated to the site of the former Royal Caledonian School campus in Bushey, Hertfordshire.

The School has been in Bushey ever since and, over 50 years later, is considered a national treasure. It offers an exceptional music education, in a creative and nurturing environment, for students from around the United Kingdom and all over the world.

*'The School has developed from very modest beginnings into a sizeable school, which is justifiably proud of its place in the provision of specialist education for some of our most talented musical children.'*

HRH The Prince of Wales, Royal Patron

# At Home

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Being on the edge of London, the School takes advantage of all that the capital has to offer, while also enjoying the semi-rural environment.

The close proximity to London, as a global centre for music, is of enormous benefit to the School and students. The immediacy of the capital provides access to the eminent international musicians who comprise the instrumental teaching faculty, affords outstanding performance opportunities at many of London's principal cultural venues, and stimulates successful applications to the country's foremost music colleges and conservatoires.

The School's seventeen acres of Hertfordshire greenery have also made significant developments to the campus possible. In 2007, for example, a new boarding house and a state-of-the-art Music Centre were opened. These additions create a fascinating and harmonious blend of solid Edwardian and sensitive postmodern architecture. Built for specialist use, the facilities have enriched the musical lives of our students and teaching staff alike.

*'For children who possess that desire to learn music, to perform, and have the commitment to practice, the School provides an environment where budding musicians can thrive.'*

Purcell Parent





# Music Overview

## A Programme of Musical Excellence

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The Purcell School aims to provide a stimulating and challenging musical environment, at the heart of which is an individually tailored programme for every student.

We strive to ensure that the balance of musical studies and the weighting of musical and academic work are balanced to suit each individual boy and girl.

There are six Instrumental Music departments within the School, each led by an experienced Head of Department:

1. Strings
2. Keyboard
3. Brass, Percussion, Harp & Voice
4. Woodwind
5. Composition
6. Jazz

Students musical lives are cared for by their Head of Department who, in collaboration with the student and instrumental teacher, will craft a bespoke programme of study to best suit the individual's needs and afford the flexibility to enable daily practice. Disciplines of Academic Music, including aural, theory, harmony, composition, music history and analysis, support and broaden students' instrumental studies, and are a key part of the School's holistic approach to a musical education.

Our expert specialist teachers, many of whom also teach at the London conservatoires, have considerable experience working with motivated young musicians and will develop individual practice goals and strategies for students. We also provide practice supervisors, themselves graduate musicians, to support efficient and effective practice.

*'The School's supportive family atmosphere allows pupils to immerse themselves in their musical studies alongside other talented young musicians, and to get closer to the heart of their music.'*

Vladimir Ashkenazy, Patron



# 6

Instrumental  
Music Departments

# 57

Instrumental Teachers

# 3

Practice Supervisors

*‘The combination of characteristics of the School is a winning one: respect for the individual, high educational standards, the stressing of practice discipline, and the chance to make chamber music and orchestral performance to the highest standards.’*

Nicholas Daniel, Oboist and Alumnus





# Music Overview

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Regular masterclasses, recitals, courses and collaborative projects with celebrated visiting musicians further enhance our students' instrumental studies and offer invaluable exposure to the wider music world.

They benefit from an enriched musical programme that includes chamber music, orchestral playing, choirs, jazz and piano recitals. Performance opportunities are frequent and varied, and can range from daily lunchtime concerts in School to formal recitals at London's leading performing venues. There are, for example, numerous opportunities to audition for the chance to play with the School's orchestras and give solo recitals at prestigious venues such as the Royal Festival, Cadogan, Wigmore and Milton Court Halls.

Our Music Centre provides excellent facilities. A state-of-the-art recording studio, recital hall, computerised composition classrooms, and a suite of dedicated teaching and practice rooms offer ideal surroundings in which our students learn and flourish.

Each department maintains close links with music colleges and conservatoires around the country; all have excellent records of entry and of securing scholarships. Accolades from the music world are fittingly similar, and students are regularly the recipients of prestigious and fiercely competitive awards.

*'I don't think that I would have developed musically as much as I have, had I not come to this School. The excellent tuition and performance opportunities make for an incredibly focused and musical environment.'*

Purcell Student

# 13,875

Music lessons every year

# 180

Performances every year

*'Purcell is a truly unique environment, full of once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, a mix of vibrant characters from all over the globe and a mutual appreciation of music.'* Purcell Student



# Strings

## Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass and Guitar

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Our thriving Strings department nurtures string players as they work towards acquiring a solid technical foundation and, as well as developing their skills as soloists, become accustomed to working as part of a group.

Chamber music and orchestral playing are key to the musical education of our string players. The School runs a Junior String Orchestra, a Chamber Orchestra and a Symphony Orchestra in support of this, and all students in Year 9 and above are given the opportunity to play chamber music in weekly coaching sessions.

Furthermore, students can attend the School's Chamber Music Academy which benefits from the immense experience of members of Chilingirian, Endellion, and Elias Quartets, to name but a few. String masterclasses take place regularly with outstanding visiting artists such as Zakhar Bron, Natalia Gutman and Craig Ogden.

Over and above the usual School orchestral and concerto opportunities, selected string ensembles will perform in our annual Chamber Music Concert, and senior string players can audition to perform a short recital in one of our solo instrumentalists' concerts.

### Recent Masterclass Musicians

Atar Arad | Remus Azoitei | Sandy Baillie  
Marius Bedeschi | Zakhar Bron  
Luis Cabrera | Robert Cohen  
Graham Devine | The Elias Quartet  
Natalia Gutman | Alina Ibragimova  
Guy Johnston | Louise Lansdown  
Natalia Lomeiko | Craig Ogden  
Gabriele Ragghianti | Declan Zapala





87

Piano Fleet

3

Fazioli

10

Steinway

22

Grotrian-Steinweg

1

Shigeru  
Kawai

7

Kawai

31

Yamaha

3

Harpsichords

1

Johannes  
Electronic  
Organ



FAZIOLI  
CENTRE OF  
EXCELLENCE

# Keyboard

## Piano, Organ and Harpsicord

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First study pianists comprise approximately a quarter of the School's student body, making the Keyboard department a dynamic and inspiring place in which to study.

In addition to providing expert individual tuition, the department runs weekly faculty classes to allow pianists the opportunity to come together, share ideas and learn from each other. Student progression is further enhanced by regular masterclasses given by internationally renowned pianists, and an annual piano course which culminates in a concert involving all Middle and Upper School pianists.

There are many standout performance occasions for pianists. Auditions are held each year to secure the chance to perform a piano recital in a prominent London venue, and the department undertakes international and

domestic performance tours when possible. Notable destinations have been Italy, to perform at the Fazioli Concert Hall in Sacile, and Scotland, to play at and collaborate with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland as part of their International Piano Festival.

The faculty has a strong international outlook, designed to prepare students for life as professional musicians, which has, for example, seen Alim Beisembayev become the first winner of the Van Cliburn Junior Competition while a student at the School and triumph as an alumnus in the 2017 Jaques Samuel Pianos Intercollegiate Piano Competition.

Alexander Ullman, a Purcell alumnus, won the 11th International Franz Liszt Piano Competition, and Martin James Bartlett, then a student at the School, was the winner of the 2014 BBC Young Musician of the Year.

### Recent Masterclass Musicians

Bernard d'Ascoli | Dmitri Alexeev  
Vladimir Ashkenazy | Paul Badura-Skoda  
Federico Colli | Philip Fowke  
Martin Jones | Angela Hewitt  
Vanessa Latache | Dominique Merlet  
Hamish Milne | Ronan O'Hora  
Vladimir Ovchinnikov | Andras Schiff  
Nina Svetlanova | Fou T'song  
Nataliya Trull | Uta Weyand



# Brass, Percussion, Harp and Voice

## Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Timpani and Percussion, Harp and Voice

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The Brass, Percussion, Harp and Voice department provides exciting opportunities for learning and performing, with a world-class team of instrumental teachers who are leaders in solo, chamber and orchestral performance.

Each student's journey is individual, and the department offers rich and diverse programmes for these instruments which develop students both as solo players and as flexible ensemble members – a combination of qualities that will be essential for their future success.

Players from this department form a vital part of the Chamber and Symphony Orchestras, as well as chamber groups and the Contemporary Ensemble. In addition to mixed chamber music there are several

family-group ensembles which provide additional performance opportunities, and for first and second study voice pupils there are chamber choirs and many solo performance opportunities.

Many of our students are members of the National Youth Orchestra (NYO) and National Children's Orchestra (NCO), and attend Junior conservatoire departments on a Saturday.

### Recent Masterclass Musicians

Henry Baldwin | Alison Balsom  
Adrian Bending | Nigel Black  
Phil Cobb | Oliver Cox | Mark David  
Tim Evans-Jones | Byron Fulcher  
Owen Gunnell | Patrick King  
Arthur Lipner | Kevin Price  
David Pyatt | Rex Richardson  
Marisa Robles | Adrian Spillett









# Woodwind

## Flute, Oboe, Recorder, Bassoon, Clarinet and Saxophone

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The Woodwind department at The Purcell School is staffed by an outstanding team drawn from Britain's finest woodwind players, several of whom also are professors at leading conservatoires and all of whom share a clear focus to help prepare students for a career in and around music performance.

With chamber music at the heart of the Woodwind department, students play a key role in the School's orchestras and baroque ensembles, as well as regularly performing in family groupings. They also play a vital role in the contemporary ensembles and often collaborate with players from other departments on new projects. This diverse range of performance opportunities allows students to gain experience as soloists, chamber musicians and orchestral players.

Frequent visits and recitals from leading musicians further enhance the department's dedication to encouraging students to challenge their own playing and explore new performance styles.

The department holds an annual Woodwind Day, which is open to young woodwind players of Grade 6 standard and above. Coached by members of the faculty, the workshops, ensemble playing and performance classes provide a valuable insight for prospective students into this enthusiastic, supportive and vibrant department.

### Recent Masterclass Musicians

Sarah Burnett | Nicholas Daniel  
Kate Hill | Chi-Yu Mo | Naomi Sullivan

# Jazz

## Trumpet, Trombone, Saxophone, Piano, Guitar, Drum Kit and Voice

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Jazz is an established and flourishing department. Renowned within and outside the School, it comprises an inspirational team of experienced teachers and performers who are uniquely placed to oversee the development of creative musicians.

Ensemble provision is an important part of the Jazz programme. As well as the School's senior and junior improvisation groups, students can participate in ad hoc ensemble-based groupings and become part of The Purcell School's celebrated Big Band. The Big Band gives non-jazz specialists a chance to perform alongside first study jazz players, and has provided students with the opportunity to work with eminent jazz players such as Steve Waterman, Troyka and Stan Sulzman. Jazz students will also be given the opportunity to

play in some of London's most renowned Jazz venues, including Pizza Express Dean Street and the 606 Club.

The department is a great gateway into studying jazz at conservatoire level, and students from the Jazz department regularly achieve considerable success. In 2016, for example, first study jazz trumpeter Alexandra Ridout won the prestigious BBC Young Musician Jazz Award, and jazz students are often sought after as members of the National Youth Jazz Orchestra (NYJO) and the National Youth Jazz Collective (NYJC). Recent graduates of the department include the multiple Grammy Award winning jazz pianist Jacob Collier, Kit Downes, Jake Labazzi and Seth Tackaberry.

### Recent Masterclass Musicians

Laurence Cottle | Geoff Gascoyne  
Gareth Lockrane | Gerard Presencer  
Orphy Robinson | Stan Sulzman  
Clark Tracey | Troyka







# Composition

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The Purcell School is able to offer exceptional opportunities for young composers who will thrive in the stimulating and creative environment of the Composition department.

First study composers receive up to two hours of individual tuition in composition per week, alongside an agreed programme of instrumental study appropriate to their individual needs. Regular seminars, workshops, group discussions and meetings with young and celebrated composers enable students to learn more about new music, the contemporary scene and how to create opportunities for their work to be heard and appreciated.

Composition students are encouraged to submit their work for consideration in national festivals and competitions, and to participate in a wide range of composers' projects, concerts

and performances in collaboration with professional organisations such as the Saatchi Gallery, UK Beijing Arts Association and the UK's music conservatoires. Senior students are afforded the opportunity to submit an original composition for performance in the School's annual Symphony Orchestra Concert.

As a core component of the Academic Music curriculum, students from Years 6 to 10 receive regular class tuition in composition. Composers are taught the technique of developing ideas in a coherent way and are exposed to a variety of methods and styles.

Celebrated alumni of the Composition department include Oliver Knussen, Dru Masters, Simon Bainbridge, Jacob Collier, Mica Levi and Alissa Firsova.

## Recent Masterclass Composers

Joaquim Badia Arumi | Lloyd Coleman  
Philip Dutton | Shiva Feshareki  
Graham Fitkin | Karin Henricksen  
Joy Hill | David Horne | Emily Howard  
James Hoyle | Haris Kittos  
William Mival | Music Off Canvas  
Roxanna Panufnik | Polo Piatti  
Matt Rogers | Robert Saxton  
Lucie Treacher | Judith Weir  
Dr Cheng Yu

# The Core Music Programme

## An Education with Music at its Heart

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In addition to instrumental teaching, The Purcell School provides a general musical literacy coupled with the practical experience of the great musical masterworks appropriate to each student's specialist study.

Analysis, aural training, music theory and history of music are integral parts of the School's curriculum, and it is through the teaching of these subjects and skills that our students are able to develop a broad and

rich musical awareness. Similarly, we aim to provide them with all the tools necessary for success in the highly volatile and competitive world of music. We ensure that they are able to promote themselves in the wider world and online, that they possess a sound understanding and experience of organising musical events, and have a comprehensive awareness of the range of roles available to them.

*'To be surrounded by so many people who share the same interest as you is a wonderful feeling, and it has helped my playing and musicality to improve massively.'*

Purcell Student





# Academic Music

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The goal of the Academic Music department is to assist students in becoming informed, imaginative and enquiring musicians. It aims to provide a wide range of musical skills and to enable students to use these skills creatively.

In addition to aural and composition classes, all Year 6 to 9 students study a series of set works which form the basis of creative and analytical projects designed to expand their general musical knowledge and inform their practical instrumental studies. Students are entered for IGCSE at the end of Year 10. In Year 11 students undertake an intense harmony course and an in-depth study of larger scale works. They also work on various creative projects, including training in workshop leadership, culminating in outreach performances in local schools. In addition, they undertake an introductory course in Music Technology.

In the Sixth Form, students work towards the Cambridge Pre-U qualifications in Music and have lessons in analysis, music history, harmony, composition and aural. They are coached in preparation for Music College entry tests, and Upper Sixth students who intend to go to university are given a series of lessons to prepare them for entrance examinations and interviews. Each year a number of pupils go on to read Music at university, including Oxford, Cambridge, Durham and King's College, London.

The School was awarded the ISM Gold Certificate in Music for GCSE attainment, and were confirmed as ranking top in the UK's Academic Music results.

*'Purcell enables me to be immersed in a musically rich environment alongside like-minded people who share a mutual passion.'*

Purcell Student

Dmitri Alexeev



# No.1

ISM Ranked School  
for IGCSE Music in 2016

# 100%

A\* or A GSCE Music  
ISM 2017

**ISM**  
GOLD  
MUSIC '17







# Music Technology

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The Music Technology department generates and fosters creativity in students using the latest recording and computer technology.

With six AV links allowing the recording of our best pianos direct to the studios and all concerts in the School being captured direct to the two automated recording systems, music technology touches on many areas of music making.

The course covers all aspects of creative studio work including stereo ambient recording, multi-track recording, electro-acoustic music, arranging, studio engineering, producing and composing for film. Students have access to cutting edge technology and are equipped with essential knowledge for future work in the studio-music environment.

The subject is taught at AS and A Level following the Edexcel syllabus and students are encouraged to work well beyond the briefs and limits set by the board. Special courses

involving the use of technology are taught lower down the School, and all students have access to the computer rooms throughout the day for their individual work.

Composition for film is a growing feature of the department's work. Performances of new music for silent film, composed and conducted by students, are a regular feature in the concerts diary. It is the School's two annual Sound Image Movement concerts, however, which enable students to use technology most creatively and across multiple genres. These concerts, and the facilities of the department, were the main outlet for the work of several notable alumni, including Jacob Collier and Mica Levi, as well as many other students who have gone on to study on electronic music courses at the Guildhall and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music. Many alumni are working as producers, film composers, and sound engineers in the industry.

*'Purcell is a truly unique environment, full of once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, a mix of vibrant characters from all over the globe and a mutual appreciation of music.'*

Phelan Burgoyne, Drummer, Composer and Alumnus

# Academic Study

## An Inspiring Academic Programme

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The Purcell School believes that world-class musicianship is best nurtured when young performers and composers are possessed of a broad cultural awareness, cultivated by an excellent general education. Students are encouraged to regard their academic studies as an essential complement to their performing skills: the curriculum aims to nurture a rich cultural hinterland for each young person, such that their musicality is deepened as a result.

Running alongside the music programme, our academic curriculum allows students to fulfil their musical potential without limiting their choices. Although most of our students are aiming for a career in music and will progress to a conservatoire or university to read music, this path is never taken for granted.

The key to the success of our curriculum is balance. Depending on a student's age and instrumental commitments, between 25% and 50% of curricular time is spent on musical activities.

*At The Purcell School a career in music is not taken for granted and a broad range of academic subjects is included ... without diminishing the musical priority.'*

Sir Thomas Armstrong, Founding Patron





*Please note that the curriculum and its delivery are under constant review and may change from year to year.*

*For recent exam results, please see the supporting cards at the rear of the prospectus.*

# 1:4

Teacher to student ratio

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## Year 6

Year 6 teaching focusses on the development of good social and moral attitudes, on the enjoyment of learning and on the acquisition of skills and knowledge. The dedicated Year 6 class teacher covers English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education). Musical activities, Art and PE (Physical Education) are taught by specialist staff. There is one supervised practice session during each School day.

## Years 7 and 8

Students have lessons in Music, English, Mathematics, Science, French, History, Art, Drama, Games and PSHE. For overseas students EAL (English as an Additional Language) lessons may be substituted for, perhaps, a foreign language, Art or History. Practice sessions during the school day are supervised.

## Year 9

In Year 9, students follow a full range of academic courses while musical commitments continue to increase. German is added for all as a second foreign language.

## Years 10 and 11

Students are advised to take seven or a maximum of eight GCSE or IGCSE subjects. All students take IGCSE Music at the end of Year 10. Other GCSEs and IGCSEs are taken at the end of Year 11. All students take Mathematics, English Language and Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics, with most students gaining a Double Award). Optional subjects include English Literature, French, German, Additional Science, History, Art and Drama. All students have one session each week of Physical Education. Examination boards vary from subject to subject, and are chosen according to which specification suits our students best.

## Sixth Form

To enter the Sixth Form, students are expected to have five or more GCSE or IGCSE passes at grade C or above, or the equivalent for overseas students. Some subjects require a minimum GCSE grade to continue the subject in the Sixth Form, as outlined in the Sixth Form Options booklet. Sixth Formers are advised to take three subjects – Pre-U Music and two A Level subjects – over the course of Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth. Very exceptionally, a student may take four subjects but only after discussion with the Deputy Head or Head of Sixth Form. For overseas students EAL can replace one A Level option. In addition to the compulsory Cambridge Pre-U Music, A Level subjects on offer are: Art, Biology, Chemistry, English Literature, French, German, History, Mathematics, Music Technology, Physics, Theatre Studies, and Pre-U Philosophy and Theology.









79%

Students are Boarders\*

4

Boarding  
Houses

15

Boarding &  
Pastoral Staff

1

Onsite  
Nurse

1

Onsite  
Physiotherapist

1

Onsite  
Counsellor  
(weekly)

*'All the facilities are on site all the time ... at home I had to practise in my kitchen!'*

Purcell Student

*'We've all got the same interests – we're interested in music – so instantly everyone has something in common.'*

Purcell Student

*'Pupils are supported by excellent pastoral care.'*

Independent School Inspectorate, 2014

\*Statistic from 2017/18

# Pastoral Care

## A Home from Home

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The Purcell School is an informal and welcoming place, with a strong sense of community and determination to provide students with the best possible environment for both work and home life.

The School offers flexible solutions to meet the needs of different families in terms of full or weekly boarding, and, whether attending as a boarding or day student, all students are assigned to one of the School's four boarding houses for pastoral support and to provide a social base.

### Boarders

With approximately 79% of students boarding, the School feels like a home from home, and the boarders lead very full lives. As travel time is reduced there is more time to practise, to ensure academic work is completed to a high standard, to be involved in a breadth of musical and co-curricular activities, and to build lifelong friendships. Boarding also prepares students

for the independence they will have in Further Education.

The boarding houses are run by a dedicated team of warm and caring boarding and pastoral staff, who are responsible for each student's welfare and wellbeing. Weekend activities, evening events and social gatherings are regularly organised, and students are able to travel into London to attend the junior departments of the capital's music colleges and conservatoires or enjoy concerts and events. All boarding first study Sixth Form pianists have the use of an upright piano in their study bedrooms.

### Day Students

Day students at The Purcell School are able to take full advantage of the boarding school day and reap the many benefits from all that is on offer. As they progress through the School, they will often stay late in the evening to participate in events.

*'My daughter has blossomed in an environment that has nurtured her, both musically and personally. It has been amazing to watch her develop ... to say she is happy at school is an understatement.'*

Purcell Parent

# Life After The Purcell School

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Having received an outstanding musical and strong academic education, most students go on to be successful in their chosen fields. We take great care in nurturing and offering guidance to ensure our leavers make informed choices about their futures and find the right place to continue their studies. In the main they graduate to study music at one of the top London music colleges, often having been offered scholarships.

Destinations of leavers also include the UK's top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. These routes are usually taken to study Music, but each year a handful will follow other interests such as Physics, Aeronautical Engineering and History.

We are very proud of our former students, many of whom have enjoyed national and international success. They can be found in the major orchestras of the UK and across the world, as well as in leading ensembles. Recent notable alumni include BBC Young Musician of the Year 2014 pianist Martin James Bartlett, Royal Harpist Anne Denholm, twice Grammy Award winning Jazz pianist Jacob Collier and Oscar and BAFTA nominated film composer Mica Levi, to name but a few!

## Alumni Include

Martin James Bartlett | Alim Beisembayev  
Julian Bliss | Daisy Chute | Robert Cohen  
Jacob Collier | Nicholas Daniel  
Anne Denholm | Julius Drake  
Catrin Finch | Teo Gheorgiu  
Janice Graham | Kerem Hasan  
Oliver Knussen | Min-Jin Kym  
Jack Liebeck | Mica Levi  
Lara Melda | Joseph Phibbs  
Alexandra Ridout | Karim Said  
Joo Yeon Sir | Yevgeny Sudbin  
Alexander Ullman





*'All pupils achieve their ambition of securing  
a place at a prestigious music college or  
university in the UK or abroad.'*

Independent School Inspectorate, 2014



# Applications

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The Purcell School welcomes applications from all talented young musicians between the ages of 10 and 18.

We consider musical ability and promise to be more significant than grade attainment, and are looking for evidence of musical skill, desire, commitment and potential. However, pupils do require five or more GCSE or IGCSE passes at grade C or above, or the equivalent for overseas pupils, in order to enter the Sixth Form.

## How to Apply

To be considered for a place at The Purcell School, you must first apply for an audition. The audition process takes part in two stages – the preliminary and main auditions.

## Application Form

All candidates must complete the School's application form. This can be found in the prospectus and on our website as a downloadable PDF and an active entry form. Applications can be received by post, email or online.

## Postal Applications

The application form must be returned to the Registrar with a £35 application fee and a written recommendation from the applicant's instrumental teacher(s). We ask that any overseas candidates include evidence of a recent performance, be this in the form of a DVD, YouTube link or similar.

Please make all cheques payable to 'The Purcell School'.

## Online Applications

Applications can also be received directly through the active entry form on the website or by emailing the completed application form to the Registrar. To submit an application online, the £35 registration fee must be paid through the website and the applicant's written recommendation attached. We require overseas applicants to provide YouTube footage or Sound Cloud recordings of a recent performance for consideration.

*Please direct any queries about the application process to the School Registrar, on [admissions@purcell-school.org](mailto:admissions@purcell-school.org)*



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## Preliminary Audition

The preliminary audition is similar to the main audition except that the candidate will play to the appropriate Head of Department only. This is to assess the level of candidate musicianship, musicality, technique, and potential. It is a less pressurised environment than a main audition and often helps to settle nerves.

## Main Audition

For a main audition, candidates will be asked to prepare and play two pieces on their first instrument and one piece on their second instrument (if relevant). The pieces are of the applicant's own choice. Sight-reading and aural tests will be set. Candidates will be interviewed by an audition panel, which will include the relevant Head of Department, and will sit a Theory of Music paper.

In order to best determine a suitable academic programme, candidates will sit a Reasoning Test in English and be interviewed by a senior member of staff. The Head of EAL will assess candidates for whom English is not their first language.

Following the main audition, candidates and their parents will be given a tour of the School, which for boarders will include a visit to a boarding house, and will meet with the Head and Bursar.

An audition fee of £50, payable to 'The Purcell School' by cheque or online, must be made and received by the relevant audition date to guarantee an audition.

## Offer

Following a successful audition, the candidate will either be offered a place (normally within two weeks of the audition) or placed on a waiting list and informed if and when a place becomes available.

## Important Dates

The closing date for applications for candidates who meet the eligibility criteria for support under the Department for Education Music and Dance Scheme is the last day of The Purcell School Easter holiday.

Auditions for candidates who do not meet the eligibility criteria for support under the Music and Dance Scheme finish in March.

Please note that boarding places in particular have often been filled by the end of March, and candidates are therefore encouraged to apply as early as possible in the School year.

Applications are considered in the order they are received.



# Fees and Financial Assistance

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## The Music and Dance Scheme

The School's key priority is to ensure that every young musician can attend The Purcell School based on their musical ability and not their ability to pay. Means-tested funding from the Department for Education is therefore essential. For example, in 2016/17, 63% of students received support from the Government's Music and Dance Scheme and, as a direct result, 49 students paid less than £1,000 per year in fees.

To be eligible for a place on the Music and Dance Scheme, students must have been resident in the UK for at least two years. Special rules apply to European students.

Additional information can be found at [www.gov.uk/music-dance-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/music-dance-scheme).

## School Bursaries

Students who are not eligible for the Music and Dance Scheme may apply for assistance from The Purcell School's Bursary fund. Funding is based on need and parents are required to declare their financial circumstances for consideration by the School's Bursary Committee.





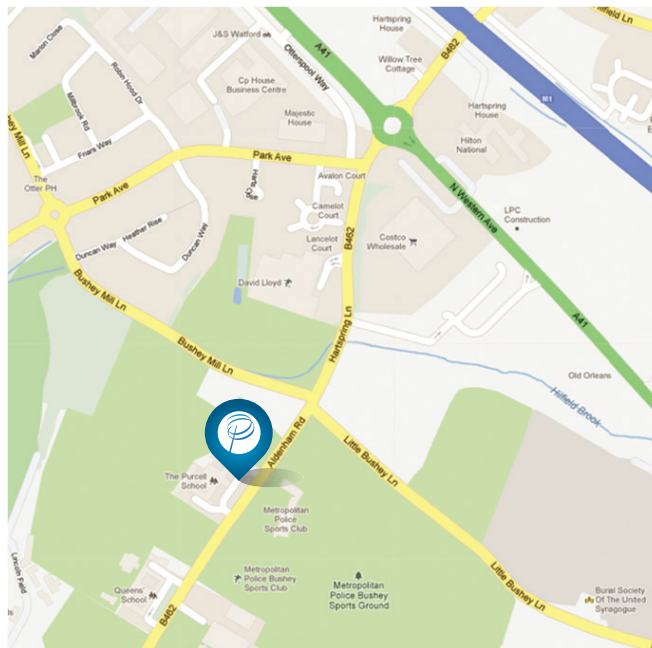


# How to Find Us

The Purcell School is situated on the outskirts of London in the town of Bushey, Hertfordshire.

We are a 30-minute walk or a five-minute drive from Bushey railway station, which has a fast (19-minute) connection to the capital. The M1 and M25 are minutes from the School, giving easy access to the rest of the UK. Heathrow and Luton airports are 30 minutes away by car, while Gatwick and Stansted are closer to an hour's journey.

There is ample car parking on site.



**The Purcell School**  
**Aldenham Road**  
**Bushey**  
**Hertfordshire**  
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# The Purcell School

*for young musicians*

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