

External Senior Music Scholarships & Exhibitions

Senior Music Scholarships (16+) are offered to **external** candidates in their final GCSE year at another school who have passed the senior entrance examinations for entry to St Paul's. Holders of Senior Music Scholarships receive an amount equivalent to lessons in two instruments/voice each year (currently £1800 per annum) for the two years.

The school runs a comprehensive co-curricular programme in which music scholars play a high-profile and valued role. They are expected to be members of large ensembles, such as orchestras, bands and choirs, and to make the most of the many opportunities to perform in concerts throughout their time at the school. They also receive weekly professional coaching in a chamber music group.

Candidates can be considered for a music scholarship or singing exhibition or can apply for both. Instrumentalists need to be of **Grade 8 Distinction** standard. Music scholarships will require singers to be performing repertoire of **at least Grade 7 Distinction** level with the intention of moving towards Grade 8 by the end of their first year. Exhibitions are available for singers who are Grade 6 standard and upwards. **In deciding whether to apply, it is worth considering that those who gain these awards will be highly proficient technically, and able to play accurately and musically with a natural communication of character and style. Although we see great potential in all our musicians, in order to be successful in this process applicants will already need to be playing or singing at a high level at the time of audition.**

MUSIC EXHIBITIONS may be awarded to instrumentalists or singers who demonstrate a commitment to music or singing in a choral setting. Holders of exhibitions who are singers will be given solo opportunities within our choirs where possible. Exhibitioners receive an amount towards lessons (currently £900 per annum).

MUSIC AUDITIONS will last for approximately 20 minutes. Candidates should present **TWO** pieces or excerpts, lasting a maximum of **ten minutes**, which may be only on the first study or cover first and second study. The first study piece should be at least **six minutes**. It can support an application if an orchestral instrument is offered but it is not essential. An official accompanist will be provided but candidates are welcome to bring their own by arrangement. Candidates will also be given some sight-reading and a short informal interview with members of the Music Department.

When sending in an application, all candidates must provide a reference, written by their current teacher, outlining the candidate's particular merits and provide any other information that may assist in the decision-making process. Candidates should also provide a brief personal statement outlining why they would like to be a music scholar at St Paul's Girls' School.

See over the page for more details about being a music scholar. If you require any further information, please do contact the Music Department Manager, Gabbi Freemantle, on musicadmin@spgs.org or telephone 020 7605 4812.

Being a Music Scholar at St Paul's Girls' School

We value the contribution that music scholars make and will monitor their progress carefully and ensure that all possible support is given to enable them to get the most out of school music. They are a crucial part of music making here and we hope that they will enjoy all the opportunities that we offer.

Although we do not put undue pressure on our scholars, we do have serious expectations of them. Acceptance of the scholarship assumes acceptance of these expectations, although we find that most scholars are already fulfilling these obligations as a normal part of their life. If a scholar is not performing to our expectations support will be given to help get them back on track, but as a last resort a scholarship can be removed. The Deputy Director of Music oversees the music scholars and their activities as well as providing pastoral support. The Director of Music will have the final say in all matters relating to a music scholar's activities and is always happy to discuss this with them.

Summary of expectations

- ✓ to continue to play instrument(s)/sing to a high level
- ✓ to be a member of major ensembles, as well as other groups as appropriate, in consultation with the Director of Music and Deputy Director of Music
- ✓ to be a role model and mentor to other musicians
- ✓ To take part in part in Music Department partnerships projects such as the Jupiter Project
- ✓ to be in at least one chamber music group
- ✓ to take a full and active role in extra-curricular music rehearsals and concerts including setting up and clearing away
- ✓ to attend all rehearsals except in exceptional circumstances. It is often possible to be flexible with a small number of rehearsals each term as we do understand the huge commitment scholars make
- ✓ to communicate any clashes to the Music Department promptly and to respond quickly to any communication from the Music Department

Support

- ✓ instrumental/singing teachers will write a report on each scholar's progress
- ✓ each scholar will meet formally or informally with the Director of Music and/or Deputy Director of Music as arranged
- ✓ heads of section will monitor a scholar's participation throughout the year and pass on any concerns

Solo opportunity in VIII

Scholars may also have the opportunity, following a successful audition, to perform a solo movement with orchestra in a concert during the final academic year. Auditions will usually be held during the autumn term for those in VIII and solo opportunities awarded as appropriate. Please note that this is not guaranteed, and the Director of Music will make the final decision in consultation with the rest of the department.

Holding an exhibition at St Paul's Girls' School

Those with an exhibition in singing are expected to be committed to Paulina Voices and Senior Choir. They will be expected to take a leading role in these groups and will be offered some solo opportunities within the choirs if possible. Many of the general expectations above will also apply to those who hold exhibitions. Instrumentalist exhibitioners will be expected to be in major ensembles throughout their time in the senior school.

String scholars

Loans from our collection of fine string instruments may be available as part of a music scholarship.