



# *Music* 2003/4

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# Music 2003/4



## Lancing Orchestral Day

On 2<sup>nd</sup> of October a group of musicians from Vinehall School went on a trip to Lancing College for a Prep Schools orchestral course. It was a very good experience for everyone and helped improve everyone's playing.

Most of the day was spent rehearsing for the final concert which many parents attended. We played a variety of different pieces on all kinds of instruments. These pieces included *Star Wars* and *Bare Necessities*. The standard of music was high and Vinehall contributed well.

It was a very enjoyable outing with opportunities for swimming and many other fun activities. Thank-you for taking us. *Edward Bridge*

## HOUSE COMPETITION WINNERS



Year 3 Winner



## Lancing Piano Day

On 4<sup>th</sup> November some of the pianists went to Lancing for their Prep School's Piano Day. The day began with a pretend piano exam with a twist - the children were the examiners and the teachers were being examined! After this we split into groups: Mozart, Liszt, Bach and Chopin. We took turns doing four different activities. One of these was seeing the magnificent organ in Lancing Cathedral. We were told what all the stops and pedals did, and some people got to have a go at playing.

Another of the activities was composing in the crypt. We were shown a picture, and had to make up a suitable composition that we thought portrayed the image. We had a break and lunch and then returned to the activities.

The next activity was composing on Sibelius. Some of the children who went had never used Sibelius before, although many were used to it from music lessons at school.

The final activity was playing a chosen piece to your group. After this we went to the 'Grubba' which was the tuck shop, followed by a swim and a chance to try the famous Lancing quiz.

We finished the day with a mini concert with a few people chosen to play from all the groups. It also gave the parents a chance to hear some of our compositions in Sibelius and on paper. Felix Canetty-Clarke gave us his rendition of *The Night Watchman*. It was a very enjoyable day.



Year 5 Winner



Year 4 Winner



Year 6 Winner



Year 7 Winner



Year 8 Winner



## Judith Harmer wins the Brittens Music Award

The winner of Brittens Music Award for service to music, Judith Harmer has been director of music at Vinehall School for 28 years. She has been consistently dynamic, enthusiastic and creative in her leadership of the department which has three full time teachers and 18 peripatetic staff.

Judith is also involved in charity work including taking the choir to St Michael's Hospice in Hastings. *Herald, Friday, April 30 2004*



## BRUNDIBAR



Between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of September we were honoured to have a group from Chetham's school of music join us. Chetham's were on tour with the Brundibar project, an educational, cultural and community outreach project. Brundibar is the first children's opera composed by Hans Krasa and was performed in the Ghetto of Terezin, just north of Prague. The opera symbolically represents the triumph of good over evil and was an enormous and significant success at the time, acting as a form of escapism from the terrible conditions in which the inmates of the Ghetto were held. A few children from the Vinehall senior choir became the chorus for the performances of the opera in Rye as part of the Rye festival. Here are some of the comments from our children about the performance.

*We went to Rye last week to take part in Brundibar with some children from Chetham's school of music in Manchester. It was quite fun, but hard work, especially learning to sing in Czech. It was nice to see the trumpeter from the original performances in the concentration camps. I hope we get a chance to work with them again.*

**Sophie Wakeham**

*From Wednesday 17th September to Friday 19th a small group of Vinehall singers joined with singers from Chetham's School of Music in Manchester. We rehearsed almost from scratch the opera Brundibar, a Czech opera written by a Jewish composer, Hans Krasa, who died in 1944 during the holocaust. We practised hard over the three days and had two performances on the Friday, one at 2.30 and one at 8.00. It was great fun having the Chetham's people to stay and it was a valuable experience.*

**Sam Gilbert**

*Last week Chetham's school of music came to Vinehall, because they had asked us if we would like to sing with them at the Rye church in the Rye festival. We were very lucky to be asked and it was a good opportunity for some of us. I made really good friends with most of them and some gave me good advice. The Brundibar show was great fun and I would like to do it again. Thanks Chetham's you were FAB!!!*

**Peter Everall**

*On Friday we went to Rye church and performed the Opera 'Brundibar' with Chetham's School of Music. It was about two children who need to buy milk for their mother but they do not have any money. The evil organ grinder Brundibar steals the money they make by singing. We were the chorus and the main parts were played by Chetham's.*

**Emma Kirk**

## ASSEMBLY PLAYERS' OUTING



The people who play instruments in assembly were lucky enough to go on an outing with Mr Farley, Mrs Harmer and Mr Yeats-Brown. We took the minibus down to Pevensey Bay beach where we got out our school packed lunches. After stuffing our way through those and some chips we trundled off in the minibus to the bowling centre. We had two rounds of bowling, and Mr Farley won them both. It shows how he spends his free time! After that we tried Laser-Quest. It was great fun and quite exhausting. Thank you to all the teachers who gave up their time to take us, we really enjoyed it!

*Claudia Weston*



## Trip to Madame Butterfly

On Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October, Vinehall students travelled to London to see Madame Butterfly at The Royal Opera House in Covent Garden.

The journey took almost two hours and we got a bit lost in the Theatre District, after everyone followed Mr. Whitehead, who didn't really know where he was going.

We eventually found Covent Garden and ate our packed lunches. We then had 20 minutes to go and look in the shops.

We then went into the Opera House, and found that we were sitting in the boxes. We were very pleased at this as the boxes have little screens translating what is being sung.

The opera was wonderful and very sad, with great music and very talented performers. Thanks very much for taking us Mr. Farley.



# Music 2003/4



## VINEHALL SCHOOL MUSIC SOCIETY Fifteenth Season 2003-2004

Having booked one of the world's great concert pianists, it was not at all surprising when the bookings for the new season descended like a tidal wave in the first week of August! We started the season with the Hugo Wolf Quartet who performed quartets by Mozart, Mendelssohn and Beethoven's great first Rasumovsky Quartet. As ever, it is lovely to hear the audience in the interval and at the end debating which work they had enjoyed most.

The second concert was meant to be by Radu Lupu. Unfortunately, the great man was unwell and we were left to find a pianist at very short notice. Fortunately, the Australian pianist Piers Lane was available and he stepped into the breach superbly. With performances of Schumann's C major Fantasy as well as works by Chopin and Rachmaninov the audience was treated to some exceptional playing.

In February we welcomed back the Fibonacci Sequence. This talented group of players combine to perform works which irritatingly cross the normal lines of instrumental combinations and thus tend to be heard mainly in the recorded format and not so much live. Hence we had a beautiful Mozart Flute Quartet, Ravel's Introduction and Allegro for Flute, Harp and Quartet and finished with Mozart's Clarinet Quintet.

The March concert was by the talented group of young musicians known as the Chamber of London. Unfortunately, the concert was affected by a replacement baritone, who had developed a cold and the vagaries of the Vinehall electrics, which plunged us into darkness as the Dvorak Piano Quartet was being performed. The players managed to play the slow movement in semi darkness, while I raced around pushing switches until light was restored!

The Oxford Orchestra da Camera is a group of talented players who came to Vinehall in their 'string ensemble' format. They performed works by Elgar, Dvorak and Tchaikovsky. It was lovely to hear a fuller string sound from a larger number of players. It is difficult to fit more than about eighteen on the Vinehall stage, so we were at our limits!

The May concert was given by the outstanding duo of the Austrian violinist Ben Schmid and the Chilean pianist, Alfredo Perl. Their performance of sonatas by Ravel, Beethoven and Schubert were absolutely first-class.

The season finished with a performance of songs by the American Mezzo, Barbara Rieck accompanied by Sir Richard Rodney Bennett. They chose a selection of songs by Spanish composers and a selection of songs by Sir Richard and then Harold Arlen, Cole Porter and an outrageous encore by Stephen Sondheim! The evening was made even more perfect by the warm sunshine and the Pimm's!



Sir Richard Rodney Bennett

I am deeply grateful to all those who have assisted me this season, the Everist family, Mrs Pat Webster, Mrs Elsie Smith, Miss May Johnson, Mrs Heather Howorth and the bursarial department. I am also very grateful to our chefs, who provide delicious suppers for our performers and Andy Rennie who has helped set up the Pre-Prep hall.

AGW

## BRUNDIBAR

*Brundibar was fun and I learnt a lot about Chetham's. They were very talented people and were very easy to work with. We are very privileged to work with them.*

**Matthew Pexton**

*Last week on the 19th September 2003 I performed in an Opera called 'Brundibar' with the rest of the senior choir at Vinehall and also the choir from Chetham's school of music in Manchester. Brundibar is about a boy and his sister who need to buy milk for their mother who is sick in bed but they have no money. They eventually get some money by singing in the street but when they say thank-you the Evil organ Grinder Brundibar steals it but is soon caught by the police. We were the chorus and sang in the songs and helped the children defeat Brundibar.*

**Harriet Colderick**

*We performed a Czech musical called Brundibar. It was about a boy and his sister who needed money to buy milk for their sick mother. They see Brundibar, an organ grinder earning money. So they get help from their animal friends and they sing a song and earn the money. But Brundibar tries to steal but they catch him. They buy the milk and live happily ever after. This musical was performed by captive Jews in the concentration camps as entertainment.*

**Arun Sau**

*We performed two performances, one in the afternoon and one in the evening, both being a great success. It was amazing how talented they were and also how modest. We did many practices with the staff and it was great fun. The story was also very inspiring about what children can really do when they want to do it.*

**Edward Neill**

*We loved doing Brundibar it was great. Chetham's were fab and were very talented. The sound was amazing. We thought that they were very friendly and we were very lucky to be in it. The Chetham's staff helped us with the Czech words.*

**Poppy, Felix and Georgie**



## Orchestral Concert Reports

On the 27<sup>th</sup> May the Vinehall orchestral concert was held, and was a great success. As well as the two orchestras playing we also had contributions from the two brass ensembles, the flute group, the percussion ensemble, the recorder group, the junior wind and the junior and senior strings. The first half consisted mostly of the junior ensembles. In the second half the senior orchestra played *The Blue Danube*, Prelude from the *Te Deum*, *Yesterday* and *Diamonds are Forever*. The Brass ensemble also played pieces from the *Zoo Ball*, and the percussion ensemble played some exhilarating pieces like *'Summon the Spirits.'* It was a very entertaining evening and all the groups played well.

**Sam Gilbert**

On Thursday evening I played the recorder in my first ever orchestral concert. I wasn't very nervous but I was looking forward to it. My dad came to watch and he really liked the evening. My favourite part of the concert was the percussion ensemble. I would really like to do it again!

**Antonia Bohane.**

When I found out that I was playing in the junior orchestra I just wanted to go out to play, but I found out I really liked it. On the day of the concert there were a lot of people watching in the audience and I felt really nervous. But my family cheered me on and that's how you get good music. So though I was nervous I really enjoyed myself on the day.

**Edward Rogers.**

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May, I played the violin in my first Junior concert. We wore white shirts and our ties. At supper I was nervous but excited at the same time. Once the percussion had started all my nerves went away. The percussion were so loud and jazzy, it was my favourite part of the whole concert. First we played 'Yellow Submarine', then we waited for the brass to play their pieces and at the end only the strings played 'In the wood', all open strings. The two solo players played beautifully and I hope one day I can play as well as them.

**Rebecca Ingrouille.**

## Theory of Music exam results Summer 04

Grade 5 Theory of Music

Hugh Cooper Pass  
Charles Bridge Pass

Arun Sau Passed with Merit  
Sam Gilbert Passed with Merit

# 🎵 Music at Vinehall



Vinehall Junior Brass ensemble



House Music Competition



## Music for Drama

*'The singing in the Wizard of Oz was especially impressive with some beautiful solos and some irrepressible ensemble performances, all superbly synchronised.'*



# Music 2003/4



Vinehall Wind Ensemble

## The Jazz Day at Eastbourne College

We started the day in the college theatre to have a full rehearsal and to get everyone's instruments ready. The conductor was David Force who had written two of the four pieces we were going to play. He said, 'This is the only occasion the schools come to play together, rather than against each other'.

Out came the instruments and we had a go. We didn't do too badly for a first try! When we were all ready and settled, we moved into different rooms for sectional rehearsals. Georgie Mair and I were in the woodwind section. The pieces were fairly tricky and we needed the practice. Next was break when we went into a room and we did quizzes and talked about how it was going so far, I think everyone was enjoying the day. After break we went back to sectional rehearsals - we were getting good! Some people decided to have a go at improvising, which was very interesting.

Then was the time everyone had been waiting for, lunch!! Yummy. We sat with some old Vinehall pupils who later took us on the tour of the school. I don't know how they remember their way around, it is massive. Following, came a choice of activities: cooking, football, modern dance, or swimming. The three girls from Vinehall, Katherine Rogers, Georgie Mair and I went swimming. We were the only ones! We had the whole pool to ourselves - fantastic!

The tour continued before going back to the theatre for a full rehearsal. The brass and percussion were really good, and at the end of rehearsal we were ready to play for the concert. The concert followed after tea, and we played the best we had during the day. Between pieces we heard the Chamber Choir sing, some of the members of the college orchestra played a piece and two people sang solos. One sang *Fame*; she was an old Vinehallian!

Mary Fowler



## Success means being KEANE!

Who would have thought it, that one year ago our three Saxton boys, Tom Chaplin, Richard Hughes and Tim Rice-Oxley would have made it through to the top of the charts with such spectacular success! Keane have already had a huge impact on the pop scene and were recently nominated for a Mercury Award. It has been hard to escape hearing them on the radio and television and their faces have appeared in interviews in all the newspapers. Indeed, even Mr Whitehead and Mrs Lambourne were interviewed on Radio 1 during the holidays, but remained totally discreet about any schoolboy escapades!

Their first album 'Hopes and Fears' has now gone triple platinum and the sales are heading steady towards 1.5 million. It has not left the top ten of the album charts since it was launched back in May. This year they have toured Australia, Japan, Europe and America with sell-out performances and an interview on the influential Dave Letterman Show. Back in England, they have toured extensively, firstly with Travis and now on their own. Highlights have included their first gig at Glastonbury, where the heavy rain failed to prevent many thousands gathering to watch them. If you want to see it from their point of view, then look at the photo in their third top ten single, 'Bedshaped'.

The band has also recorded a version of the Walker Brothers 'The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine (Anymore)' which has been produced to raise money for the Warchild Charity.

With their diary packed with gigs, the band still have to find time to write new material and their next album will be out later next year. They have a very entertaining website [www.keanemusic.com](http://www.keanemusic.com) and all are welcome to express themselves on the message board.

The boys have not neglected their local fan base and performed a surprise gig in Battle during the summer. We hope that one day we will tempt them to perform at Vinehall again. AGW

