

A complete musical education

The Music School at Millfield is one of the largest in the UK and enjoys world-class facilities in a state-of-the-art building. This, combined with comprehensive and outstanding teaching staff and transformative opportunities, provides exceptional provision for our young musicians both in the classroom and in practical music making.



Our thriving concert calendar features over 70 events, with performances ranging from solo recitals to large-scale ensemble concerts, and chamber music concerts to contemporary evenings, festivals, musicals and a whole-school House Song. Our calendar also includes regular concert trips in the South West and beyond, and a wide range of workshops with professional musicians for all ensembles. The Music School benefits from a high-profile external performance calendar, participation in renowned music festivals and competitions, regular services and concerts at Wells Cathedral and tours across the globe. We also host an International Concert Series, with recent artists including BBC Big Band, The King's Singers and Tenebrae, a programme of masterclasses and a biennial Concerto Concert in which students perform a concerto movement with a professional conductor and orchestra.



Ensemble excellence

School Choir, Junior Choir, Symphony Orchestra, String Orchestra, Symphonic Winds, Jazz Band, a close harmony Vocal Group, Percussion Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, several vibrant Rock, Pop and Jazz groups and an award-winning Chamber Choir. Additionally, there are over 20 chamber music ensembles rehearsing every week across a wide range of styles and genres.

Our facilities include

- A 350-seat concert venue
- Recital foyer
- Professional standard recording studios
- Four teaching suites fully equipped with Apple Macs
- 30 teaching/practice rooms
- A specialist percussion room
- An outstanding collection of instruments, including a Steinway Model D Concert Grand Piano

Millfield is proud to celebrate its exceptional provision for contemporary and classical music, working in collaboration with the dance and drama department on several occasions during the year. Our programme enjoys a strong national and international reputation for its music-making. Many of our musicians continue to study music at university or at major conservatories, regularly with scholarships, and during their time at Millfield perform with National Youth Orchestras and Choirs. We are exceptionally proud that many of our leavers continue with their music studies. Recently we have seen students continue at: Berklee College of Music, BIMM, Royal Academy of Music, Royal Northern College of Music, Birmingham Conservatoire, Leeds College of Music, as well as at Russell Group universities on music degree courses. Recent leavers also regularly take up choral scholarships at universities including University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, University of Durham, and Royal Holloway University of London.

There are incredible opportunities for musicians of all ages, standards and styles at Millfield. Whatever your musical talent or interest, we will meet your needs and help you to achieve your goals with our bespoke musical pathways. We aim to inspire, enthuse and motivate through enjoyment, challenge and opportunity.



Highlights from 2021-22

- Performance of Faure's Requiem, Zadok the Priest and choral evensong services in Wells Cathedral
- Musical collaboration with Drama and Dance of Menken's Little Shop of Horrors
- Large-scale Community Choral Project Freedom! The Power of Song by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange and Alexander L'Estrange
- Concerto Concert featuring an incredible 11 performances
- Regional and national competition success at both the Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival and Millfield Musician of the Year
- A show to celebrate Billy Joel's Greatest Hits Volumes I and II with soloists, ensembles and staff band
- Visiting lecturers: the oboe and authenticity; the trumpet from Baroque to jazz
- Transformative concert trips to hear the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra resulting in students making decisions about future study, career and A level coursework options

Looking forward to 2022-23

- Tour to Barcelona in July 2023, featuring performances at Barcelona Cathedral, Sagrada Familia and multiple concerts in the Costa del Maresme region
- Millfield Festival Chorus performing Rutter's Requiem in Wells Cathedral
- The International Concert Series featuring the Budapest Café Orchestra, London Mozart Players and Oculi Ensemble
- Further opportunities including more frequent concert trips, vocal mic workshop for contemporary vocalists and a Groove Day with composer Alexander L'Estrange and Mark Armstrong, Musical Director of National Youth Jazz Orchestra
- New partnership with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment: OAE Musical Connections, working creatively and within the local community, leading workshops and playing with OAE musicians
- Millfield Musician of the Year increasing in popularity, with an entire half-term dedicated to the competition
- A Night at the Opera in which our most accomplished singers perform operatic highlights with a professional orchestra
- A 1970s show in collaboration with the dance department for all ensembles, student soloists and staff band
- House Song returns again as a whole-school event

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