



Welcome!

Read on to see what Friends of Music have been contributing towards in the Music Department this year, our upcoming dates for your diary, and how you can get involved!

A Message from the Chairman

We're getting towards the end of another inspiring year of outstanding musical events and experiences for our children. We're so lucky to have a supportive Headmaster backing such a dedicated Music Department who put in an extraordinary amount of time and effort. Don't miss out on the last few events of the year – Jazz in the Quad and Evensong services.

~ Melissa Burhop

What has Friends of Music funded this year?

Shrek the Musical: Costumes

This year's production was a huge feat in terms of the set and costume requirements, both essential parts to produce a high-quality show. At RGS, we aspire to replicate the experience of taking part in a professional show as much as possible for our students.

Friends of Music gave us a significant amount of funding to help with the hire and purchase of costumes, and we were thrilled with how they looked on stage!

Instrument Updating

Friends of Music have helped us to update our Department instruments and equipment, to support classroom learning and peripatetic lesson teaching.

We have recently updated:

- A set of classroom keyboards
- Piano stools
- Piano amplifier for the Nord piano
- Drum kit repair

Dates for your diary

Jazz in the Quad

**~ Sunday 30th June,
1pm – 4pm**

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A relaxed afternoon on the Quad with an eclectic range of entertainment from performers from all year groups.

Groups participating include: Trad Jazz band, Close Harmony, Mini Close Harmony, 1st Wind Band, Big Band, Swing Band, Junior Orchestra, plus other choir and band items.

All Choirs Evensong

~ Thursday 11th

July, 3pm - 4pm,

All Saints High

Wycombe

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The combined Junior and Senior choirs sing an evensong service.

Chamber Choir

Evensong ~

Wednesday 5th July,

5:45pm – 6:45pm,

Birmingham

Cathedral

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Chamber Choir takes an exciting trip to sing an evensong service.

Brass Project

The Music Department has been thrilled to bring back an Instrument Project for Year 7s, where all Year 7 classes experience a 10-week programme learning a new instrument. We have professional brass teachers coming in to teach trumpet, trombone, and baritone. It has been so wonderful for the students to have this opportunity, to take away any barriers to them learning a new instrument.

Friends of Music has supported the Department with this new venture, providing funds for us to repair the school-owned brass instruments, and purchasing mouthpieces for all children to play the instruments.



A note from the Director of Music:

Writing my first Newsletter as Director of Music, I can't believe how many events the Music Department has already undertaken. In the Autumn, we were treated to a rare collaboration between 1st Wind Band and the Band of the Household Cavalry, the Autumn Soirée, the November Showcase, an Oxford Evensong with Chamber Choir, and at the end of term the hugely popular Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols in All Saints Church High Wycombe with a choir of 200 singers.

Last term Windsor fiercely fought off their competitors in House Music, and the school production, Shrek, was a huge success. In the classroom, Friends of Music funded the repairs of our brass instruments so that all Year 7s have had access to learning the trumpet, trombone or baritone. This has been hugely enjoyable and it's lovely to see the boys exploring something new.

In the near future we will be looking to expand more opportunities for solo performers of all ages and abilities to include an inaugural RGS Young Musician of the Year, various instrumental masterclasses and informal tea time concerts. Keep your eyes and ears peeled!

Natasha Jashari

Why join FOM?

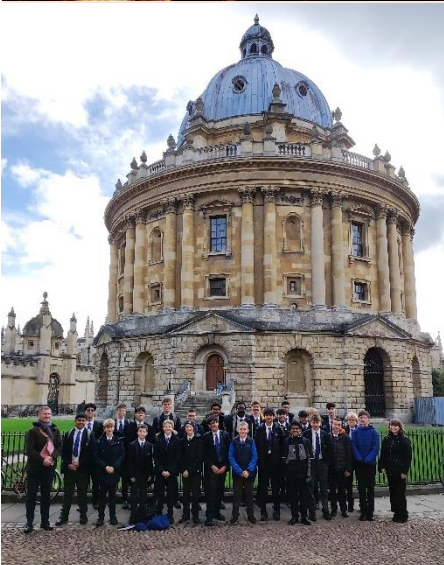
If you would like to support the vibrant range of events run by the Music Department, and continue the extensive musical opportunities offered to RGS students, please join the Friends of Music.

Subscriptions are only £5 per month and can be paid by direct debit. Payment details can be found [here](#).

As a Friend of Music at the RGS, you get priority seating at all events. All funds are invested back into the school Music Department.

Contact Us

To get in touch with FOM, please email the RGS at admin@rgshw.com and ask them to forward on to the FOM.



How you can help Friends of Music

There are a number of ways that you could help us and it really is very rewarding. I fervently believe that being involved in Music at the RGS develops skills that will stay with our children throughout their lives. I am very proud to be involved with the Friends of Music and would ask you to please continue your membership or join up.

This year we say goodbye to a couple of committee members, Lisa McGrath (Secretary) and Amy Lim (Treasurer). Lisa has been such a valuable and dependable member of the team for several years. Her calm wisdom will be missed and as well as her ability to handle brimming trollies of snacks and drinks in order to fuel the students at school events. Amy has worked with RGS Finance to impressively simplify our bank accounts and payments. Thank you both so much!

Are you a budding cocktail shaker or outstanding shopkeeper? We always need help behind the bar or with snacks and the associated logistics at concerts.

We really do need your help. Each year we lose key members of the team so we are constantly looking for new members. It's really not that demanding. We meet once per half term mainly to plan the next term and have a chat about how brilliant Music at the RGS is!

~ Melissa Burhop

Student Voice!

Hear from Josh (Year 8) about his experience of the Music Department. (You might also know him as Pinocchio!)

I was never into music in primary school as much as I am now. In primary school, I was in a choir with very few people, and we would tap a drum every term or so. However, when I joined the RGS, the Music Department inspired me to become a musician. Not only did I continue choir, but many other things changed. The number of people in Junior (mostly Year 7s trying out new experiences) and Senior Choir startled me at first. But then over the nearly 2 years I've been involved around the music block, there is a sense of casualness and laughter among the seriousness of learning new songs and pieces. As well as standard choir, I was lucky enough to be asked to join Chamber Choir where we sing choral music and go on trips (not just to eat McDonalds but of course to sing as well)! Another choir I am part of is Mini Close Harmony where we sing jolly jazz songs in more casual concerts such as Jazz in the Quad. Finally, I got a lot more serious with music lessons as there are a range of instruments available that you can learn in school in the music practice rooms. Overall, Music in the RGS has changed my possible ideas for future careers and my wellbeing as I have been able to make many friends and most important of all, have fun and enjoy myself.