



NEWSLETTER

Supporting Music at the RGS



How have FOM funds been used?

In the two years prior to the pandemic Friends of Music provided funding of £17,500 that was invested in the following;

Refurbishment of Room 12

Refurbishment of the Music Tech Room

Supporting music lessons

Purchase of:

20 clarinets,

upright piano,

double bass

bass clarinet

percussion

stage matting

portable PA system

and the repair and refurbishment of too many instruments to mention.

A Message from the Chairman

“Ah music” the headmaster said, whilst wiping his eyes “a Magic beyond all we do here!”¹

Welcome back to music at the RGS and how I for one have missed it.

Despite the pandemic two notable music events have taken place during the last 12 months and in case you missed them here are links to the recent:

House Music Competition

2020 Christmas Carol Service

As we return to some semblance of normality Mr Mullaly - Director of Music, has planned an ambitious term of music concerts and events.

In The Heights Musical - 10th to 12th September

If you haven't attended a musical at RGS, which is performed in collaboration with a whole range of schools from the local area (including Wycombe High School, Beaconsfield High School and girls attending the Trinity Theatre Arts School) please book a ticket and prepare for a fantastic evening out. I can't overstate how high the standard is, if you don't believe me check out this video on YouTube of the last musical 2 years ago - West Side Story.

Can you help with stage/music equipment?

Concerts at RGS are to a very high standard, however to do justice to them the performers need the best (expensive) equipment we can provide. If you have any connections that could help with the stage equipment please do get in touch.

¹ With my apologies to JK Rowling, a quote from Dumbledore - Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone

Dates for the Summer Term 2021

These dates are provisional and subject to change;

Saturday 10th July

Jazz in the Quad

10th - 12th September

In The Heights - The School Musical

Friday evening - 7.30pm,
Saturday matinee - 2.30pm &
Saturday evening - 7.30pm)
Sunday afternoon - 4pm

15th July

RGS Choral Evensong Trip

Jazz in the Quad - 10th July

Always a highlight of the year, and we are delighted that it is able to still go ahead. Featuring Big Band, Swing Band; Senior Strings; Close Harmony; numbers from each of the principal casts in the musical production of "In The Heights", 1st Wind Band, and the Trad Jazz Band. There will also be performances from some of our leaving Year 13 students. Timings are 1-5pm on 10th July (tickets available from Little Box Office - <https://thelittleboxoffice.com/rgshw/event/view/106796>). Unfortunately we are unable to have a barbecue this year however, refreshments will be available with table service. This is one of our more informal events staged in the Quad and always very popular. Do bring picnic blankets, outdoor chairs, plenty of sunscreen and a raincoat – best to be prepared for all eventualities!

How Can You 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 sons throughout their whole 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.

The COVID pandemic has meant that our normal fundraising events have not been able to take place and therefore we need your support more than ever. However, there are other ways that you can help as well;

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. If you are happy to help please contact us at admin@rgshw.com.

Finally we are a somewhat diminished committee. We recently welcomed Lisa McGrath as our new Secretary, however our constitution means that you can only be a member of the committee for as long as you have a son at the RGS, so we are constantly looking for new members. We really aren't that demanding we meet once per half term, normally face to face, mainly to plan the next term and have a chat about how brilliant music at the RGS is! We're all looking forward to resuming face to face meetings.

A word from Mr Mullaly - Director of Music

I hope that you and your families managed to have a peaceful and relaxing half-term break. I'm sure, like me, you are all eagerly anticipating the return of live music, and subject to government COVID restrictions easing, I will be delighted to welcome you all back to RGS before the summer break. As always, we have an ambitious set of events lined up, including our annual Jazz in the Quad/Summer Concert (Saturday 10th

Join FOM

Please join the FOM and support music at the RGS.

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

Chairman: Paul Hill

July) a Choir Evensong recording in St Giles in the Fields in the final week of term (rehearsals on Wednesday 14th and recording on Thursday 15th). Despite the significant amount of rehearsing that we have been able to do, as well as online events, there is nothing that quite beats the rush of adrenaline backstage or the excited buzz around the Queen's Hall at a live concert.

The main reason for getting in touch is to announce one of the highlights in our RGS Music calendar: the Senior Musical production of "In The Heights" (Friday 10th to Sunday 12th September). I hope that some of you have already been able to get tickets and are encouraging as many people to come as possible. It is a fantastic mixture of Latin/Jazz/Popular styles of Music, and the themes of aspiration, community and solidarity are more relevant than ever before. Despite the limiting covid regulations governing our rehearsals, we have battled through and are on the home stretch! We have a double-casted set of principal characters, featured dancers, ensemble, full live band and student tech crew that come together to produce shows of a quality rarely seen in the state sector. However, given the substantial cost and time required in putting these large projects on, as well as the school's more difficult financial position given the covid pandemic, we are hoping that some of you (or some of your contacts) might have expertise or even a simple offer of help/time in the following areas:

- Audio/Sound engineers (if you have a contact that could allow us to borrow/hire at a discounted rate, please do get in contact)
- Lighting engineers/technicians or people with experience in productions.
- Sponsorship of the show.
- Photography and/or video recording of the show.
- Chaperones/DBS-cleared volunteers to help backstage – general supervision or hair/makeup duties.
- Help behind the bar (set-up and during the interval).
- Advertising – contacts in radio/newspapers, word of mouth and online share our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/events/495104131715785/>) so that we have as large an audience as possible at all four shows!

If you can help in any of these areas, please get in touch via email (fxm@rgshw.com) or our Music Department Administrator, Mrs Tomkins (sxt@rgshw.com).

Many thanks in advance and looking forward to seeing you soon! Francis Mullaly