

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021

BST Community Music Newsletter

Using music to keep us connected. 🎵



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MESSAGE FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Welcome to the November Music Newsletter. This is the first time I have had the pleasure of writing our newsletter message, as we give Ms Danmeri our best wishes for her maternity leave. I am very excited to return to BST, just as we are able to re-start our performance schedule, which has been on hold for the last 18 months.

Our first in-person performance rather appropriately took place on Culture Day with the Advanced Musicians' Recital. This was a chance for the Concerto Competition entrants to perform to an audience, rather than just one judge! The standard was exceptionally high, and we are very thankful to our accompanists, Ms Saka, Mr Ilin and Mr Musson for helping the students to realise their performances. Our recent Cabaret evening made a welcome return, and the Cosmos Festival gave some of our Year 9 composers to shine.

The rest of the term is set to be busy, with the flurry of Christmas events in late November and early December. We are still mindful of the safety of our community, so our Christmas events will not be in exactly the format of previous years, and the current renovation of Hitomi Hall means that our whole school large-scale events will be split into separate Primary and Secondary celebrations. More details on the dates of the events can be found below.

I look forward to seeing you at some of our events in the coming months.

Simon Beston



OCTOBER AMBASSADOR FOCUS

- ISABEL LAI

My name is Izzy and I'm in Year 10. My main instrument is the piano, which I have been playing for about 10 years, and I started learning to play the oboe 4 years ago. I have been involved with music at BST for quite a long time - the first event I remember taking part in was the Christmas Concert when I was in Year 2, as part of the Shibuya Choir - and over the years I have developed a passion for playing and listening to music. Despite mainly being a pianist, I do enjoy playing music as part of an ensemble, and I have been part of the wind ensemble, jazz band and orchestra over the last few years. As part of the music ambassador team I hope that I can contribute as much as I can to the Music Department throughout this year.



Isabel Lai (Y10)

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NOTICES

Viola Scholarship

This year we are offering two violinists from Year 6 to Year 11 the opportunity to apply for a BST viola scholarship. Successful students will receive five free lessons per term and free hire of a school viola for a year.

Please contact Mr Beston for further details
(sbeston@bst.ac.jp)



Secondary Wind Ensemble

Our BST oboe/bassoon teacher, Mr Ilin, is starting a wind ensemble this term which is open to secondary students who play the flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet or french horn. The club will run on Wednesday at 1pm in Rm 311.

Please contact Mr Beston if you would like to join
(sbeston@bst.ac.jp)

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NOTICES

BST Concerto Competition 2021 - Results

On 15th October, 20 students from across the primary and secondary school took part in the annual Concerto Competition. The winner of this competition plays a concerto movement accompanied by the orchestra in the Summer Concert. The standard was extremely high, making for a tough decision for the visiting guest judge, Marco Fatichenti. The results of the competition are below:

Competition Winner

Shannon Groth

Highly Commended

Kokono Satoh

Aadi Duarah

Honourable Mentions

Ann Takashina

Runa Ueda

Shakira Zheng

Advanced Musicians' Recital

On 3rd November, some of the entrants to the Concerto Competition were able to perform their audition pieces in front of an audience at Green Hall. This is the first live performance we have been able to hold since the start of the pandemic, so we are very grateful to the senior leadership team for allowing this event to take place, with measures in place to keep everyone safe. Some of the performances from the concert can be seen later on in the newsletter.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT NOTICES

Cosmos Festival

On 13th & 14th November the Cosmos Festival took place on the Showa campus. The Music Department has in previous years presented a short performance with Ms Takemura's students, however, this year our contribution was a little different.

Students from 9A have been busy composing short pieces using our new Garageband software to provide an underscore for the Drama Department's short film on the theme of Breaking Through. The film explores conflict and resolution between family members with a focus on Japanese and non-Japanese elements of their upbringing. The music sought to represent this by either fusing elements of two different cultures, or by bringing them into conflict with each other. The composers whose work was chosen for the final film were:

Cordelia Rogove

Riki Ferguson

Elijah Roelandts

Luna Miyajima

Ewan Madenokoji



[Click here to watch the Drama Department's short film on the theme of Breaking Through.](#)

WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?

Suggestions from our Year 8s

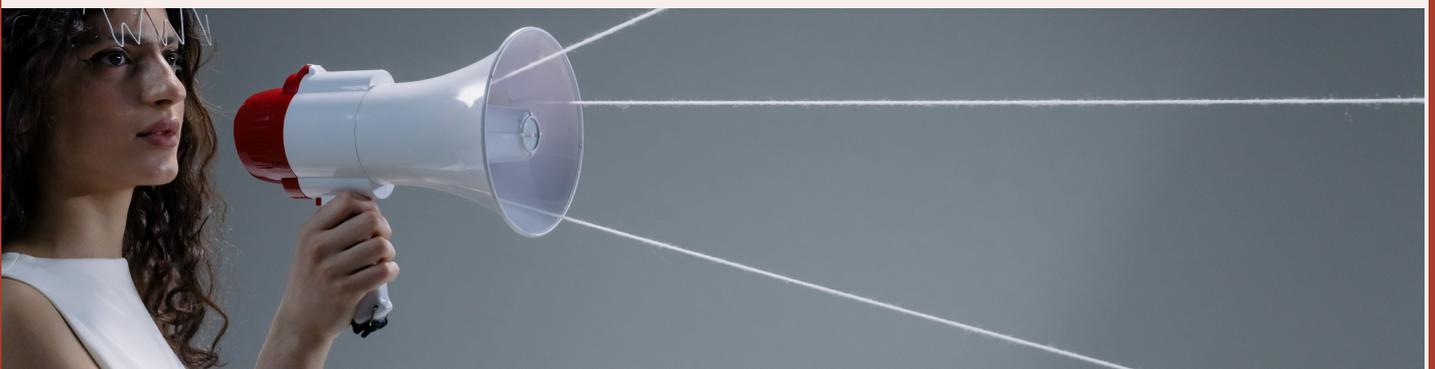
Taylor Swift	Cardigan	https://youtu.be/K-a8s8OLBSE
Dire Straits	Walk of Life	https://youtu.be/kd9TIGDZGkl
Rick Astley	Never gonna give you up	https://youtu.be/dQw4w9WgXcQ
Ava Max	So am I	https://youtu.be/H06GaGISVCo
STAYC	ASAP	https://youtu.be/XKH20-WCHpY
Beach Bunny	Cloud 9	https://youtu.be/_3vTWUeS80Y
The Foundations	Build Me Up Buttercup	https://youtu.be/hSofzOURQDk

MUSIC TED TALK

Mark Applebaum - The mad scientist of music

LINK

Mark Applebaum writes music that breaks the rules in fantastic ways, composing a concerto for a florist and crafting a musical instrument from junk and found objects. This quirky talk might just inspire you to shake up the "rules" of your own creative work. (Filmed at TEDxStanford.)



BST MUSIC INTERVIEW

BST MUSIC INTERVIEW - MR PATERSON



Angel of Harlem - U2

If You Want to Sing Out- Cat Stevens

Elgar: Cello Concerto - Jacqueline du Pre

Aiko - Thank you for agreeing to do the interview today. We have some questions about the three songs you have chosen and also just about music in general. The first question is, what is the importance of music in your life?

Mr Paterson - Oh crikey! The importance of music in my life? I'm not quite sure if this is an answer, but I generally listen to music every day, and with the current setup in my house I've got a stereo for CDs and I've got a speaker that my phone goes through so whenever I'm cooking or in the living room/kitchen area I'll always have music on, and I just thoroughly enjoy it really.

Aiko - The first song you have chosen is Angel of Harlem by U2. Can you tell us a little about why you have chosen this song?

Mr Paterson - I chose that song because when I was at school, probably about your age, we had singing competitions between the different houses at school, so I did it every year when I was in secondary school, and this song I really, really enjoyed. It was fun because the whole house would sing it together, so you'd sing it lots of times and really got to know it well and I still find it very fun to sing along to when I'm at home or if we go out to karaoke. So, I really enjoy that song.



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE FULL INTERVIEW!](#)



CONGRATULATIONS

Evander Swanger (Year 9) Grade 6 Piano Distinction

Aiko Goff (Year 9) Grade 6 Piano Pass

Yutaka Takaku took part in the Fukui Harp Competition as a finalist, and was able to achieve the Management Committee Prize!



CABARET EVENING

The Cabaret made a welcome return on Monday 15th November. Instead of the usual cosy 'club' environment of the Music Room, we performed on the Green Hall stage. We were treated to excellent renditions of popular items by singers and bands from Year 7 to Year 13. The next Cabaret will be in February.'



PERFORMANCES OF THE MONTH



Kanami Hattori (Year 1). She passed the Beten Music Competition on Oct 3rd with top award in the Kindergarten Group. She is working hard towards 12/26 Japan National Competition.

[Click here to watch!](#)



Yutaka Takaku - Naderman Prelude & Sonatina for harp

[Click here to watch!](#)



From the Advanced Musicians' Recital
Yui Atsumi (Year 10)

[Click here to watch!](#)



From the Advanced Musicians' Recital
Kai Fujimoto (Year 7)

[Click here to watch!](#)

MUSIC EVENTS IN TERM 1B

Year 4 & 5 Carol Services
December 7th
Time tbc
Green Hall

Year 6 Winter Show
November 30th
Time tbc
Green Hall

Christmas Concert
December 13th
6pm
National Olympic Memorial Youth
Center

MUSIC STYLE FOCUS

ROMANTIC MUSIC

[BY KOKONO & MADDY - MUSIC AMBASSADORS]

Pieces composed in between the years 1820 and 1900 are known as romantic music.

In this era, composers explored expression of emotion, and many famous pieces, including 'Nocturne in E flat Major', 'The Nutcracker' and 'La Traviata'.

Three famous composers from the romantic period are Tchaikovsky (1840-1893), Chopin (1810-1849) and Brahms (1833-1897). Many famous composers and pieces are from this period, and most people will have heard of at least a few of them, even without knowing that they are Romantic. Even though they are from the Romantic period, many composers who lived during this time also lived during other periods.



Kokono's recommendation from the romantic period: Dvorak Cello Concerto in B minor, op.104

[Click here to watch!](#)

Do you have any musical news to share?

Please send information to

Mr Beston (sbeston@bst.ac.jp).

Please also forward on any musical performances of any level to share with the BST community.

THANKYOU

