



SHERBORNE

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Assessment dates: Monday 28 or Tuesday 29 January 2019

Sherborne's Music Department enjoys a national reputation for excellence in a diverse range of musical disciplines from choral to jazz and everything in between. In 2016, we were named by The Week magazine as the country's leading independent School for Music. Close links with Sherborne Abbey (the School Choir sings Evening Prayer twice a week, with the full school in attendance) provide unrivalled choral opportunities while relationships with neighbouring schools (particularly Sherborne Girls) enable the boys to participate in a number of major orchestral and choral concerts throughout the academic year. There is a busy calendar of recitals, concerts and tours of which music award holders are expected to take advantage, and all music award holders are members of the Choir.

The Music School, which is at the heart of Sherborne, is a purpose-built, acoustically engineered building with its own 120 seat auditorium, a large number of practice rooms, a recording studio and two composition workstation classrooms. It houses numerous high quality grand and upright pianos and an organ. Sherborne also has a hall with a capacity of 600 and a theatre which seats 220. Ensembles regularly perform in other venues both in the UK and abroad.

Music scholarships and exhibitions, available on entry into the **Third Form** offer exciting opportunities for boys to make a wide-ranging contribution to the busy musical life of the School whilst developing and cherishing their own individual musical ability.

Candidates for Music Scholarships and Exhibitions at Sherborne School will normally have passed at least Grade 5 or 6 on their principal (first study) instrument by the time of the audition, although this is not a requirement before submitting the Scholarship application form. It is also expected that they will have a reasonable general knowledge of music, showing evidence not only of a love of solo and ensemble performing but also of listening to music on a regular basis.

While the candidate's achievements to date are very much taken into consideration, it is his potential and the way in which he is likely to develop as a musician that is considered to be at least as important.

Applicants Candidates are strongly encouraged to meet and informally play and/or sing to, the Director of Music ahead of their scholarship audition and interview in January.

THE AUDITION DAY:

On the allocated day in January, candidates will be invited to be in Sherborne for approximately three hours. They will be given time in which to rehearse with an accompanist ahead of the audition and some time to practise privately. They will also be given a short lesson on their first study instrument, with one of the specialist music staff, during which they will begin learning the “prepared piece” and then perform/sing in their audition. The time set aside for rehearsal with the accompanist is considered to be an informal part of the audition process itself. There will additionally be brief, informal interviews with the Headmaster and Director of Music. The audition itself usually lasts about 45 minutes. Although auditions are by their very nature competitive, everything is done to ensure that the candidates feel as happy and relaxed as possible during their time in Sherborne.

Performances: (total duration 30 minutes)

- two contrasting pieces on the first study instrument
- one piece on the second instrument
- one piece on a third instrument if desired
- one piece of singing if desired

Scales:

- a short list of preferred scales and arpeggios, specially prepared for the audition, should be handed to the Director of Music on arrival

Sight-reading:

- on the first instrument only (approximately ABRSM/Trinity Grade 5 Standard)

Aural tests:

- approximately ABRSM Grade 5 or 6 standard

Singing:

- all candidates are encouraged to offer a piece of singing, and it is expected that choristers and members of school or chapel choirs will definitely do so

“Prepared Piece”

- a short piece, freshly composed for the candidate’s first-study instrument, is studied during a short lesson with a member of the specialist music staff, and then performed during the audition.

Composition:

- candidates who show a particular flair in this area are encouraged to bring a portfolio of their compositions