

# HSMC

# HAMPSHIRE SPECIALIST MUSIC COURSE



PETER  
SYMONDS  
COLLEGE

# COURSE INFORMATION

## HSMC

The Hampshire Specialist Music Course (HSMC) is for musically-gifted students who are aiming towards a future in which music plays a significant part. It draws students from all over Hampshire and beyond, bringing together a variety of instrumental and vocal talents. The course enables young musicians to take part in a wide variety of performing opportunities, with regular chamber music sessions as part of their timetable and a range of performances both inside and outside College. Students work with a staff team of high calibre, several of whom perform regularly at international level. There is outstanding progression from the HSMC course to places at competitive universities and the country's leading music conservatoires.

## THE COURSE

### MUSIC A LEVEL (Edexcel)

The academic course includes:

- Performance
- Free composition
- Compositional Techniques in a range of prescribed styles
- Analysis of set works
- Listening skills

Performance and composition are non-examined assessments, recorded and sent to the board for marking. The written paper covers analysis of set works and listening skills.

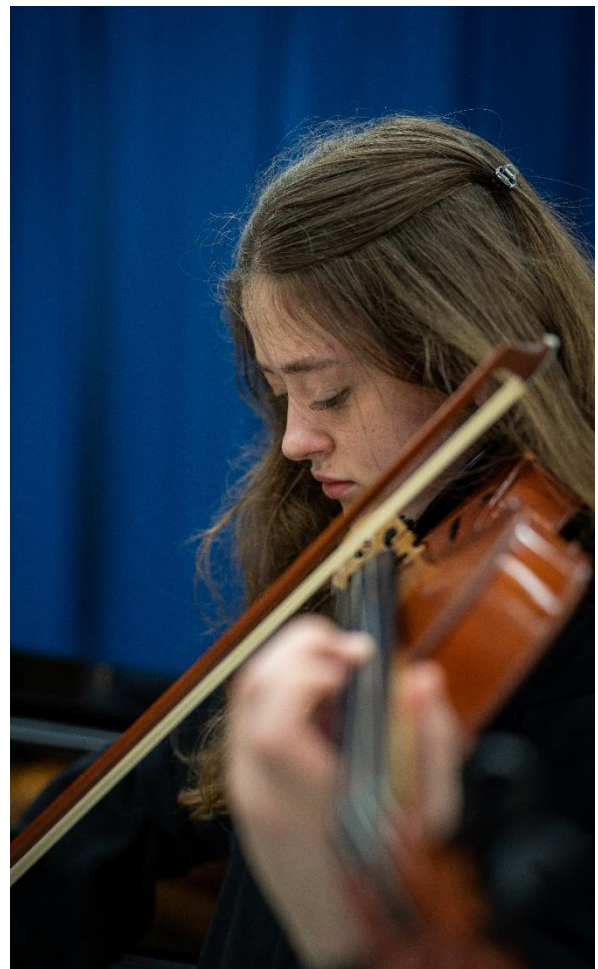
### ABRSM EXAMS

Students can opt to take ABRSM exams and the ARSM diploma in college.

## TIMETABLE

During the two years of the course, each student receives coaching in timetabled sessions of HSMC chamber music in a variety of ensembles, and membership of the chamber choir. This is in addition to a full academic timetable of three A Level subjects, one of which is Music A Level.

HSMC Music students also participate in College musical activities such as Symonds Orchestra, College Choir, Big Band and College Brass, and attend the weekly lunchtime concerts. There are regular trips to live music events.



## **INSTRUMENTAL / VOCAL TUITION**

Every student on the course receives lessons on their first and second study instrument or voice every week, one of which should be piano, paid for by the college. If students wish to pay for an additional half an hour on their first study or a third study lesson, they may apply to do so. If students require any financial assistance, they should speak to Rachel Platt about available options.

The integration between instrumental lessons, chamber music and concerts serves as a secure base from which the students can develop. Students are therefore expected to receive their practical lessons from members of our established instrumental and vocal teaching team (see our Instrumental and Vocal Tuition Leaflet for details). We can discuss this with you at the auditions.

The Head of Keyboard, Samantha Carrasco, works with all students, providing expert accompaniment for college recitals and examinations.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERFORMANCE**

### **Concerts**

- Weekly lunchtime concerts held in the College Recital Room give students the opportunity to bring their solo and ensemble work to a high performance standard in front of an audience
- Chamber music concerts are regularly given in:
  - Winchester Cathedral
  - Romsey Abbey
  - St Cross Chapel

### **Master Classes**

Students are encouraged to attend master classes with distinguished musicians, where they have a chance to perform and benefit from constructive criticism. Recent master classes have been given by Mark Tanner (piano), Marie Lloyd (wind) and Kevin Price (brass).

## **College Concerts**

The Symonds Orchestra, Big Band, College Brass and College Choir give two major concerts a year, and take part in a Carol Service and Evensong in Winchester Cathedral.

The course involves a high level of music-making with fellow students, and a considerable degree of commitment over and above the core A Level work.



## **HIGHER EDUCATION**

All music students are offered a great deal of support in preparing for auditions and interviews, including expert guidance on university and conservatoire applications. In recent years, HSMC students have gone on to study at a number of competitive conservatoires and universities, including Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of Music, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Royal Welsh College of Music, Royal Holloway, Trinity College London, Oxford, Cambridge and Manchester University.

## **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Going on to study music at university or at a conservatoire can lead to a career in performing, composing, conducting or teaching. Music can also lead to careers in the recording industry, publishing, arts management and the media. Many recent HSMC graduates have flourishing performing careers, and they return to college to give talks and master classes.



## MUSIC FACILITIES

Currently, the Music Department, known as Kelso, is a Victorian house situated on the edge of the College grounds on Bereweeke Road. It offers a rehearsal/concert room, three classrooms, eight instrumental teaching/practice rooms and two recording studios. Composition is taught using Sibelius software. There is a music library, which holds an extensive range of recordings, scores, sheet music and reference books. In College Centre, there is a Recital Room plus additional practice rooms. We also have large instruments such as the double bass, baritone saxophone, marimba and other percussion instruments for students to use in lessons and ensembles.

### New Music School – Opening 2025

We are thrilled to announce that building is underway for a new music facility, which will provide high-quality, versatile learning and performance spaces, including a recital room with capacity for 130 seats, rehearsal rooms, practice rooms and classrooms.

### Steinway & Sons

In September 2021 we joined the Steinway Initiative. The department currently has three Steinway grand pianos, including the recent addition of a new Steinway Model B, and four new Steinway upright pianos, with new Music Centre facilities due to bolster links with Steinway & Sons.



**For 2025 entry, online applications should be received by the College deadline in December 2024 and auditions are 10-12 February 2025.**

## ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Grade 7/8 standard is expected on the First Study instrument. Applicants meeting this criterion will be shortlisted to attend for interview and audition.

### Audition Requirements

First Study:

- Performance of **TWO** contrasting pieces (Grade 7/8 standard)
- Applicants will be accompanied by our Head of Keyboard, and there will be a short rehearsal immediately before the audition
- Quick study piece (i.e. performance of one short piece, which is prepared during the 15 minutes before the audition)
- Sight-reading

Second Study:

- Performance of **ONE** piece

Candidates should not include unaccompanied pieces in the prepared programme, which should not exceed 12 minutes in total. If piano is not your first or second study, you will also need to prepare a short piano piece, even if very basic.

There will be a short interview about candidates' musical interests and career aspirations.

Auditions will be conducted by teachers on the course, including one representing the First Study instrument.

Applicants will additionally need to fulfil the College's entrance requirements for A Level courses. They should also have achieved Grade 5 Theory.

Selection is based on:

- Performing potential
- Commitment to the Hampshire Specialist Music Course
- Genuine interest in a career involving music

**You are warmly invited to attend our HSMC Open Evening 30 Sept 2024 starting at 6pm and finishing at 8pm. Please email [music@psc.ac.uk](mailto:music@psc.ac.uk) for further information and to register your interest.**

# INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL TEACHING STAFF

A highly-qualified team of staff visits the college each week. The teachers combine a busy performing life with teaching, and bring outstanding expertise and experience which they share with the students.



<b>BASSOON</b>	Anthea Wood BMus(Hons) PGDip RNCM
<b>CELLO</b>	Michael Mace
<b>CLARINET</b>	Janet Herson GRSM, LRAM, Prof. Cert
<b>DOUBLE BASS</b>	Norman Levy MA(Mus Ed), GGSM, Cert Ed
<b>DRUM KIT</b>	Ted Carrasco – <i>Head of Pop and Jazz Performance</i> BMus
<b>FLUTE</b>	Joanna Sabin BMus(Hons)RCM, DipRCM
<b>FRENCH HORN</b>	Peter Widgery BA(Hons) Oxon, Dip NCOS
<b>BASS GUITAR</b>	Lewis Treasure BMus(Hons)
<b>CLASSICAL GUITAR</b>	Amanda Cook
<b>ELECTRIC GUITAR</b>	Robert Johnston
<b>LOWER BRASS</b>	Thomas Barton MMus(RCM), BMus(Hons) RCM
<b>OBOE</b>	Rebecca Kozam BMus(Hons)
<b>PIANO</b>	Samantha Carrasco – <i>Head of Keyboard</i> PhD, MMus(Dist), BMus(Hons)RCM, ARCM
<b>PIANO</b>	Helen King GBSM, ABSM, PgDip MTPP, MAMT
<b>JAZZ PIANO</b>	John Dickson, BMus(Hons), LRAM(Jazz), FISM
<b>SAXOPHONE</b>	Paul Stiles ARCM, GCLCM
<b>TRUMPET</b>	Julian Poore – <i>Head of Brass</i> GGSM
<b>VIOLIN and VIOLA</b>	Anca Campanie MMus(RCM)
<b>VOICE</b>	Amanda Smallbone GGSM MA
<b>VOICE</b>	Helen King GBSM, ABSM, PgDip MTPP, MAMTPP
<b>VOICE</b>	Jules Pitcher BMus(Hons)