



Teacher of Piano

The Appointment

Cheltenham College are looking to appoint a highly motivated and inspirational Piano Teacher to work within our thriving Music Department. The teacher will report to the Director of Music and work closely with other staff. They will be part of a team of vocal and instrumental visiting music teachers and will be responsible for the further development of College's piano players. The successful candidate must be prepared to teach the full range of ability up to and including Grade 8 and diploma level. In recent years, pupils have performed piano concertos by Liszt, Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky, so we would be particularly keen to invite applications from candidates who are able to bring professional expertise in this area.

Opportunities may exist for accompanying as well as the direction of ensembles and sectional rehearsals.

The Music Department

There are three full-time academic music staff at College, including the Director of Music, Assistant Director of Music and College Organist. The rest of the department comprises the Music Department Administrator, and Heads of Faculty for Strings, Woodwind, Brass & Percussion, Popular Music, Vocal Studies, and Exams. There are around 30 visiting instrumental and vocal teachers, all with a wealth of teaching and performing experience. Cheltenham College is an All-Steinway School and boasts two Model D Concert Grand pianos. Piano lessons are given on Steinway Model A pianos, and all practice rooms are equipped with Steinway-designed Essex uprights. The department is situated in Thirlestaine House, a beautiful former stately home with fully-equipped classrooms and rehearsal/performance spaces. Our composition suite houses 15 M1 iMacs running Sibelius, Logic Pro, and Spitfire Audio's BBC Symphony Orchestra sample library. Outside the Music Department there is a magnificent 800-seat chapel with generous acoustics and a celebrated three-manual Harrison & Harrison organ, fully refurbished in 2016. The chapel is also equipped with professional streaming cameras and microphones, and our online following is continuing to grow. The majority of performances are held in our main performance space, Big Classical, which has a staged area and raked seating for a capacity audience of 300; it houses one of the Model Ds. Large ensemble rehearsals take place in Thirlestaine Long Gallery, where the second Model D is located. The department's YouTube channel can be viewed [here](#), and the chapel's channel [here](#); the day-to-day life of the department is shared on our highly successful Instagram [@cheltcolmusic](#).

Music is central to life at College, and all members of the community are involved in some way. This ranges from enthusiastic singing of hymns in Chapel to large-scale choral/orchestral concerts and outdoor pop/jazz gigs (and everything in between!). Musical life is rich and varied, and all genres and styles are celebrated. Pupils regularly continue their musical studies after College, and in the last 24 months pupils have been offered scholarships at Juilliard, Truro Cathedral, Exeter Cathedral, the Royal Academy of Music, Royal Northern College of Music, Downing College Cambridge and Merton College Oxford. Two pupils have won the Gloucestershire Young Musician of the Year competition in recent years, and this resulted in them performing full concertos with local semi-professional orchestras. There are weekly lunchtime recitals for all manner of musical offerings (including DJing and the sharing of music technology-based composition work) as well as frequent opportunities for both formal and informal

performances. Several Choral Evensong services are sung during each term, and there is a sung chapel service on a selection of Sunday evenings.

All members of Year 9 study Music, and they have the option to continue at GCSE and A Level; the AQA specification is followed for both. Excellent teaching and learning have led to outstanding outcomes, with GCSE cohorts achieving 70% 9-7 and A Level cohorts achieving 100% A*-B in recent years. There is a flourishing Academic Music Society in which pupils give presentations on a broad range of topics, and concert/musical theatre trips are run routinely to Symphony Hall, Birmingham and theatres in Cheltenham, Bristol, and Oxford.

Piano Teaching Responsibilities

- Provide high-quality individual teaching to College pupils of various skill levels, from beginners to advanced players, ensuring a bespoke programme for each pupil pushes them to develop their skills;
- Provide constructive feedback on pupils' progress and performance;
- Prepare pupils for GCSE and A Level performance examinations;
- Prepare pupils for auditions including music scholarships, regional and national-level ensembles, and entry to music colleges;
- Assist other members of staff, within the Department and across College, with matters related to piano teaching and playing;
- Encourage pupils to make music together, collaborating with the leaders of musical groups in College and liaising with the Director of Music to ensure all pupils are catered for;
- Occasional travel away may be required to support pupils at concerts or on trips;
- Maintain open and effective communication with pupils, parents, and colleagues;
- Engage in the Department's appraisal process and participate in professional development opportunities to enhance teaching skills and knowledge.

Person Specification

- Professional classical piano teacher with considerable skill and experience of teaching in the 13-18 age range;
- Ability to use SOCS Music to schedule music lessons according to departmental policy and Teams for internal department communications (training will be provided);
- Team player, with the ability to create a happy and constructive atmosphere in which pupils can thrive;
- Up-to-date knowledge of classical piano technique, including insight into stylistic approaches to Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern piano/keyboard music;
- Knowledge of a wide range of repertoire which features the piano in a broad range of western art music;
- Ability to advise and train pupils in accompanying techniques.

Terms and Conditions

- Visiting music teachers are paid for face-to-face time with pupils at the current Professional Rate of £34.10 per hour, plus an additional £4.12 per hour in accrued holiday pay. Other professional musician work such as coaching and performance is paid at the same rate;
- Full details are contained within the Visiting Music Teacher contract;
- Pupils are expected to receive 24 lessons of 40 minutes during an academic year;
- Sheet music is to be ordered through the Music Department's suppliers and recharged to pupils;
- Lunch is provided when working in College;
- College offers a defined contribution Workplace Pension Plan plus a Flexible Benefits Pot. The scheme offered is through APTIS: Aviva Pensions Trust for Independent Schools and includes a generous College contribution;
- Members of staff may use the College sports facilities (at staff allocated times).