

FOREWORD by the Director of Music

At Sutton High School, we greatly value the enrichment that participating in musical activities can bring. The potential benefits of learning a musical instrument have been well-researched and documented; besides the obvious musical benefits and the opportunities for getting involved in bands, orchestras, choirs and various other ensembles, research suggests that there are many non-musical benefits too, such as developing motor skills, self-confidence, concentration and lowering stress levels. In addition, learning an instrument can help an individual to develop a life-long love of music with all its associated pleasure and fulfilment.

Sutton High School has a strong team of enthusiastic and dedicated peripatetic music teachers who provide lessons on a wide variety of musical instruments and voice. Weekly lessons are typically 30 minutes long and, for 2024-25, cost £240 per term for 10 individual lessons. Our teachers are all highly talented, practising musicians with many

years of training and experience at the very top of the music profession. Lessons are currently offered to girls in Years 3-13 (with a limited number of violin and piano lessons offered to girls in Years 1 & 2).

This booklet has been compiled to enable you to see, and appreciate, the very high calibre of music teaching staff that we have at the school, each teacher bringing with them a wealth of experience to the individual lessons with their pupils. In addition to a short biography, you will find a link to a video clip in which the teacher introduces themselves and talks a little about their instrument.

If you wish to apply for lessons, please complete the form found on this link: https://forms.office.com/r/Vz2uC6yzpR. If you have any additional queries about Music at Sutton High School, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Yours sincerely,

Jer H

Mr James Hargraves
Director of Music

j.hargraves@sut.gdst.net

Mr Ben Allison

Higher Diploma, The Academy of Contemporary Music

ACOUSTIC / BASS / ELECTRIC GUITAR



A graduate of the prestigious Academy of Contemporary Music, Ben has been playing the guitar for many years and in that time has built up a vast experience of performing the guitar within the music industry, supporting or playing for bands such as the Kaiser Chiefs, Maximo Park and The Kooks.

He has played in gigs at Brixton Academy, Birmingham NEC, the Reading Festival, the Download Festival, Aberdeen SEC, Edinburgh SECC and Glasgow SECC. Frequent TV appearances have included *Blue Peter*, *CBBC Xchange* and *London Tonight*.

Ben has written and recorded with some of the UK's top producers and songwriters including multi-platinum selling producer/songwriter Jake Gosling. In addition, Ben has several years' experience of teaching the guitar and taught for several years at the Realistic Rock Academy in Epsom. He also plays guitar for 'The One and Only' Chesney Hawkes!

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/7CxnJuLsXzk

Ms Lisa Byrnes

MPerf, Sydney; BA (Music) & BMusEd, QCM Brisbane

VOICE



Lisa Byrnes studied voice in Australia, Italy and the United Kingdom. After graduating with a Bachelor of Music Education and a Bachelor of Arts (Music) from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in Australia, she completed a Masters of Performance (Opera) at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Lisa has worked as a professional singer for many years in Australia and as a soloist has performed at venues throughout Australia, Europe and the UK including the Sydney Opera House and Birmingham Symphony Hall. Lisa has performed in opera productions for Opera Australia and Opera Queensland and has been the Australian national anthem singer at Angel Place Recital Hall in Sydney. Lisa is also a songwriter and was a finalist in the UK Songwriting Contest in 2007, 2008 and 2010.

Lisa has a wide range of experience as a singing teacher, both privately and in schools. She enjoys teaching pupils of all ages and abilities and is comfortable teaching a wide range of musical styles, from classical and music theatre through to pop and jazz.

Link: www.lisabyrnes.co.uk

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/P64MhOPFT78



Mr Elliott DeVivo

MMUS, Trinity Laban; LRSM; DipABRSM; BA

CLARINET / SAXOPHONE



After originally starting a career in architecture, Elliott's passion for music soon took over and developed into a busy freelancing career. In 2014 he became an Ann Driver Trust Scholar and he also received the Trinity Laban Award to study for a Masters degree in performance at Trinity Laban Conservatoire.

Since graduating, Elliott has been freelancing with orchestras around London and the UK. He is a regular clarinettist with the London Firebird Orchestra and Notting Hill Orchestra and he has performed with the City of London Sinfonia. As a soloist, recent performances have included the *Clarinet Concerto* by Copland with the Amici Orchestra.

Elliott is a keen chamber musician and founded the Waldegrave Ensemble in 2009. After premiering the *Wind Quintet* by British composer Matthew Taylor, the ensemble recorded their debut album of Taylor's chamber works for wind ensemble for the record label Toccata Classics.

Elliott also sets out to inspire younger generations with his teaching and has worked with Sutton Music Service for over 9 years. He has worked on outreach projects with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the City of London Sinfonia, as well as educational workshops with the Waldegrave Ensemble.

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/HD5LYSTjCzY

Mrs Niromi Fernando

BSc (Hons); MSc

PIANO



Niromi started her piano journey at the age of 4 - and that has been her passion ever since. Niromi worked as a banker after completing her Masters' degree at the London School of Economics. After the birth of her son, Niromi changed her career and pursued her passion of playing the piano and teaching, full time.

Along with teaching at Sutton High, Niromi has a private practice and coaches a diverse range of students - from children to adults. She has successfully prepared pupils to sit for ABRSM piano exams, secure school music scholarships, get placements at junior music conservatoires, win piano competitions and take part in various performances.

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/sh0YerW56LA

Miss Eliette

Harris

BMus (Hons); MMus; MPerf

VIOLIN



Eliette grew up in Brighton, studying at Brighton Girls' GDST. After leaving school, she attended the RNCM, followed by the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where she held a scholarship. She studied with Helen Browne until the age of 18, and then Yossi Zivoni and Krzysztof Smietana during her years at conservatoire.

Eliette works with a number of chamber ensembles and orchestras, including the Larisa Trio, BBC Philharmonic and Hallé. Most recently she has performed in Holland with the Larisa Trio as part of the Orlando Festival, with the Hallé for a performance of Sibelius Symphony No.2, and in partnership with contemporary dance group Excessive Human Collective as part of a new piece, 'Discopia'.

Eliette is honoured to have received scholarships from the RMNEF, Zetland Foundation, and Westdene Trust, and to play on a wonderful Calcanius violin, kindly awarded to her by the Harrison Frank Family Foundation.

Eliette understands the importance and privilege of good teaching and feels passionately that educating others should play a central role in her career as a violinist.

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/l_ReG8Dpr9A

Ms Liz Horseman

BMus (Hons)

OBOE



Liz graduated from the Royal College of Music in 2005 where she studied with Christopher Cowie, David Theodore, Gareth Hulse and Sarah Francis. She was also invited to perform in masterclasses in Switzerland with Albrecht Mayer, Jean-Louis Capezzali and Emanuel Abbuhl.

Liz has since freelanced as an oboist and cor anglais player with orchestras and ensembles around the world, including the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, National Symphony Orchestra, British Philharmonic and National Chamber Orchestra of Wales. Her commercial experience includes album recordings for Katie Melua and Russell Watson.

Liz is passionate about music education and is ambitious for her students, adapting her teaching approach to suit the individual to help them reach their goals. In addition to teaching oboe and piano at Sutton High, Liz also teaches oboe and piano at Prospect House School. She has previously taught for Junior Trinity, RCM Junior Department and Sutton, Merton and Richmond Music Services.

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/ZW0bP5vdKXw

Miss Abi Hyde-Smith

MA (Dist), RAM; DipRAM; GRNCM/MusB (Hons)

CELLO



Link: http://youtu.be/_YIARtMviXs

Abi enjoys a versatile career as a cellist. She performs regularly with chamber orchestras, including the Academy of St-Martin-in-the Fields, City of London Sinfonia and the London Mozart Players, and with some of the UK's most prestigious symphony orchestras, including the Philharmonia, BBC Symphony Orchestra, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the BBC Philharmonic, with whom she has performed at the BBC Proms and toured internationally. Abi also plays regularly in West End shows and has worked on many TV and film soundtracks.

Abi's competition successes include 1st prize in the May Mukle Prize for Virtuosic Cello Playing and 1st prize in the Royal Greenwich International String Quartet Competition. After achieving a distinction for her postgraduate studies at the Royal Academy of Music, Abi was awarded the Meaker Fellowship. She completed her undergraduate studies at the Royal Northern College of Music and the University of Manchester, where she graduated from the prestigious joint course with first class honours.

Abi is a passionate music teacher and regularly participates in music outreach projects. She leads a wide range of workshops run by the City of London Sinfonia, creating music in dementia care homes and nurseries. As an ex-SHS student she is thrilled to be part of the Music Department at Sutton High School!

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/ICDOw9RkVzk

Mr Peter Jaekel

GRSM (Hons), LRAM, ARCO

PIANO





Peter Jaekel studied piano and organ at the Royal Academy of Music. As well as Sutton High, he also teaches at Mill Hill School, Tiffin School and St Benedict's School, Ealing. He also has a busy performing career. Peter has held appointments as organist at St Paul's Knightsbridge and for Tiffin Boys' Choir. He has worked at many of Britain's leading festivals, including Ryedale, Swaledale and English Song, and has accompanied many instrumentalists and singers, including John Harle and Julian Lloyd Webber.

Peter is accompanist to Crouch End Festival Chorus and regularly deputises for the London Symphony Chorus and London Philharmonic Choir. He has worked with some of the world's finest conductors including Sir Colin Davis, Valery Gergiev, Vladimir Jurowski, Michael Tilson Thomas and Edward Gardner. Away from classical music, Peter has performed as pianist with the Ben Sanders Scottish Country Dance Band throughout Britain and abroad.

Peter is much sought after as a vocal coach for contemporary music. He has been principal repetiteur for Eastern Opera and has also worked for European Chamber Opera. His work has taken him to France, Belgium, Holland, Spain, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Norway, the Baltic States, Hong Kong and New York.

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/afmG6JBWxy0? si=1Xxdi1RoUoUi3A7T

Miss Anna

Jeffers

BMus (Hons)

VOICE



Welsh born mezzo-soprano Anna Jeffers studied at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire where she played many operatic roles and was a major prize winner. Upon graduating, Anna was accepted onto the prestigious English National Opera *Opera Works* course and won an International Opera Awards bursary which supported her studies.

Since graduating, Anna has had a busy freelance career working for companies such as Welsh National Opera, Opera North, Scottish Opera, Wexford Festival Opera, Buxton Festival Opera, Opera Holland Park, Irish National Opera and Longborough Festival Opera.

Anna is an experienced, passionate and enthusiastic singing teacher who enjoys teaching a wide range of musical genres, from Ed Sheeran to Schubert. Anna aims to develop in her students a healthy vocal technique whilst building their confidence within a fun and relaxed learning environment.

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/WQ09DK3fXuA

Miss Susan Jiwey

MMus (GSMD); MMus (KCL); BA (Hons)

VOICE



Susan Jiwey enjoys a varied career on stage as an operatic soprano, singing with companies such as the Royal Opera House and Scottish Opera. Principal role highlights include Mimi in La Bohème for OperaUpClose which won an Olivier Award for Best Opera Production. Susan is also a stage director, working with W11 Children's Opera.

She is passionate about Musical Theatre, Soul, Jazz, Folk, Music Hall and Commercial Pop styles of singing and enjoys preparing her students for all manner of performances and exams in all styles.

Susan also works for Crisis UK, Parkinson's UK and for numerous other charities, schools, care homes and singing groups delivering fun, engaging and accessible singing workshops for all.

Susan has over twenty years of teaching experience under her belt and also teaches at Wimbledon High School GDST and Latymer Upper.

Meet the teacher:

Mrs Karina Karelis (née Lucas)

PG Dip (Dist); BMus (RNCM)

VOICE



Karina began her musical career as an Opera Singer after completing her studies at the RNCM and the National Opera studio. She performed as a soloist for many opera companies at home and abroad including lead roles in three of Jonathan Dove's Operas: Flora (The Enchanted Pig) at the Linbury Theatre (ROH) and at the New Victory Theatre, New York; the title role (The Adventures of Pinocchio) for Opera North and the role of Sara (Tobias and the Angel) for the Young Vic/Opera Group (which was recorded and released on the Chandos label).

Karina and her duo partner Simon Lane performed regularly in recitals around England including the Purcell room and Wigmore Hall as Park Lane Group Young Artists and at other venues including St. John's Smith Square, Leeds Lieder Festival and the Brighton Festival. They released their disc 'From the Old World to the New' at the end of 2011.

Karina currently teaches singing at Sutton High School, Norland Place School, Croydon High School and at Old Palace Senior School. She has three children who keep her busy and she loves to read and travel in her spare time.

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/1NV3WkdkQRs? si=ASjYT3qNPXmW_FK7

Mr Chris Kimber

GGSM

PERCUSSION





Chris Kimber is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music in London, where he studied orchestral percussion alongside composition and electronic music.

As a freelance percussionist, Chris has performed in most of the major UK concert halls and has made many recordings for TV and radio. He has appeared alongside several major artists including Sir Cliff Richard, Lesley Garrett and Gloria Gaynor. Chris was appointed an Examiner for the London College of Music in 2010, examining in all styles of music.

As a musician and composer working largely in the field of Contemporary Instrumental music, Chris composed, in 2002, the music for the widely distributed "Enhancing your Mind, Body and Spirit" Partwork series, the first album of which sold over 600,000 copies worldwide. Currently, due to online streaming, his music is being listened to 24/7 somewhere in the world! He has also written numerous radio jingles and provided music for several plays. Current composing projects include short musicals for young children.

Chris currently enjoys a career with a mix of writing music, performing, teaching and examining.

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/emH_ZjoV2VI

Mr Philip Legg

ALCM

CLASSICAL GUITAR



Philip started playing the guitar at the age of 6. Although the classical guitar was his favourite instrument, he also went on to study rock and jazz guitar.

He studied at the London College of Music for 3 years and was awarded ALCM in classical guitar. He studied with Robert Brightmore and Oliver Hunt and composition with Giles Swayne. He later went on to study classical guitar with Douglas Rogers.

After leaving college, Philip lived in the French Alps and gave many recitals. He also toured Germany and played at the international Music Festival in Hamburg.

When he moved back to England in 1992, he started working for Croydon Music and Arts and SCOLA in Sutton. He then went on to teach at a number of independent schools including Reigate Grammar School and Homefield Prep School.

Philip has composed many solo and ensemble pieces for guitar and also arranges all different styles of music for guitar ensemble. He has 30 years of experience teaching young and mature students from beginners through to Diploma level.

Philip has an enthusiastic and a passionate approach to his teaching. He encourages development of an excellent technique and musical interpretation.

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/mXM-_Oc1ffg

Mrs Emily Meredith

BMus (Hons); PG Dip

CLARINET



Mrs Meredith graduated from the Royal College of Music with First Class Honours and has since enjoyed a busy career teaching clarinet and performing concerts with London's finest orchestras at home and around the world. She has worked with some of the most distinguished conductors, including Bernard Haitink, Kurt Masur and Vladimir Jurowski, as well as performing at the BBC Proms, Glyndebourne Festival, Wigmore Hall, The Royal Opera House, Royal Albert Hall and Carnegie Hall.

Mrs Meredith has worked extensively as a studio musician, recording soundtracks at Abbey Road including 'The Hobbit' as well as in the West End for *Wicked* and *Les Misérables*.

She has a passion for teaching and music education and has taken part in numerous outreach projects with the London Philharmonic, The Academy St Martin in the Fields and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mrs Meredith currently teaches at Sutton High School and Dulwich Prep and enjoys being a Mum as well as running and sailing in her spare time!

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/bHCAo6Ya6jE

Mr Philip Mitchell

BΑ

PIANO



Philip is a musical director, arranger, vocal coach, accompanist and rehearsal pianist based in London. His work as a conductor and pianist has taken him to many top venues across the country, including The Royal Albert Hall, St Pauls Cathedral, Wembley Arena and the Glastonbury Festival. One of his most memorable recent performances was at Windsor Castle conducting *Joy to the World* for the Queen's Christmas Broadcast in 2020.

Philip's work in the theatre has included *Strictly Ballroom* (Piccadilly Theatre, West End), *Little Miss Sunshine* (UK Tour) and *Cinderella* (Theatre Royal, Bath) and he currently works / has worked with the Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Choir, the National Children's Choir of Great Britain, Diversity Choir, Citibank Choir, Gareth Malone's Invictus Choir and the Hackney Singers.

Philip is enthusiastic about music education and as well as teaching at Sutton High School he has also worked with the Merton Music Foundation, Emil Dale School of Performing Arts, St Barnabas Primary, Mad Hatter Theatre School and Hackney Music Development Trust.

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/xuxxEuzJKk8

Mrs Parry-Dickinson

MA (Cantab), PGDip, LRAM

VIOLIN / VIOLA



I am thrilled to be part of the vibrant music department at Sutton High School. Born and bred in Lincolnshire, I was fortunate to start the violin using the Suzuki method at the age of just two. From then I continued weekly violin lessons eventually winning a place to study music at Cambridge University. Postgraduate study took place at the Royal Academy of Music where I won the John Mundy Prize for my final recital before embarking on building a freelance career in education and playing.

Now based in Croydon, for some sixteen years I have taught in King's College School, Wimbledon, teaching all ages from Year 3 through until the sixth form. Alongside I have taught reception to Year 6 age children at Old Palace School, Croydon. I have built up twenty years of experience really tailoring the tuition to the individual child and am pleased to send off engaged young adults with strong grade 8s or diplomas on their CV and looking forward to joining orchestras at university and beyond.

Over the years I have done some incredible work from playing with orchestras supporting Elton John and Arijit Singh, to working with Maxim Vengerov and Martha Argerich and I have performed in venues ranging from intimate chamber music settings to huge arenas. My last big project was playing in the string quartet for the theatrical production 'A Little Life', with James Norton and Luke Thompson, which played at the Harold Pinter Theatre before moving to the Savoy Theatre.

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/ZwRvONviu-0

Miss Alison Strange

DipRAM; LRAM

VIOLIN



Alison works as a freelance violinist with many of the London orchestras, including the London Philharmonic Orchestra and London Mozart Players.

As well as concert performances, she has given recitals throughout Great Britain as part of a Violin and Piano Duo. The Duo undertook a British Council tour of Tunisia, performing on Tunis Radio, and also gave a live relay recital on Classic FM. They were the winners of the International Piano Society of Europe's Piano and Violin Competition and were also awarded a Fresh Series Recital at the South Bank's Purcell Room.

Alison studied at the Royal Academy of Music with Trevor Williams, György Pauk and Nona Liddell, and graduated from the Advanced Postgraduate course with a First Class Dip. RAM. She won a Countess of Munster Musical Trust Award to continue her studies as a part-time student at the Paris Conservatoire with Gérard Poulet.

While studying at the Royal Academy of Music, Alison started to teach, and has coached youth orchestras for the London Boroughs of Croydon and Sutton, as well as the Summer Course at Valladolid University in Spain. She has also worked with outreach projects for the London Mozart Players, the City of London Sinfonia and the London Philharmonic Orchestra. She has also mentored undergraduate and post-graduate students in the Chipping Campden Festival Academy Orchestra.

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/zUXteGFWULU

Mrs Norma Whitson

LRAM

BRASS



Norma graduated from The Royal Academy of Music and has enjoyed a busy and varied career performing and teaching throughout the UK and Europe.

As a teacher, Norma has worked with all ages and abilities privately, in schools and at the Junior Royal College of Music. Many of her pupils have gone on to become professional musicians and teachers themselves, and can be found regularly playing in the London orchestras and in the West End. Norma has worked as Head of Brass for the Merton Music Foundation and conductor of the Merton Youth Concert Band, who have performed at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships for many years. Norma has been a trumpet tutor for the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain for over 15 years, a highlight of which was working with them as they took part in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Norma is a dedicated music educator who understands the need to inspire young people to want to achieve a high level of performance. She is enthusiastic and passionate about introducing children to all styles of brass playing.

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/GFsM60RJF3Y

Miss Charlotte Wilson

MA, RWCMD; BA (Hons); DipABRSM

FLUTE



Charlotte graduated from Durham University with a first class honours degree in Music, before winning a scholarship to study at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, from which she graduated with an MA in Orchestral Performance. During this time, she studied with distinguished players such as Sarah Newbold and Helen Keen, and has performed in a number of masterclasses with flautists such as William Bennett and Adam Walker.

Charlotte has played with a number of orchestras including the Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra, the Welsh National Opera and the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. As a soloist she often gives recitals and has won many awards including the Musicians Benevolent Fund Postgraduate Performance Award for 2013-14, and she was a finalist in the RWCMD concerto competition.

Charlotte has much experience as a flute teacher and currently teaches in a number of schools around Sutton, Cheam and Purley. She is passionate about passing on her love of the flute to future generations.

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/vL86RR7vKt4

Miss Kirsten Wilson

BA; PGDip, RCM

VIOLIN



Kirsten started playing violin at the age of 7. She was a music scholar at Headington girls' school, and attended the Royal College of Music Junior Department, before winning a scholarship to the Royal Northern College of Music, where she studied with Yossi Zivoni and Ben Holland. She then went back to the Royal College of Music for her postgraduate studies, studying with Rodney Friend.

Kirsten has played in many professional orchestras including the BBC Philharmonic and orchestras for various film soundtracks. She regularly performs with the Barber String Quartet, and has performed in a quartet on BBC Radio 2.

Kirsten has had experience of teaching a wide range of students from age 4 to 65. She has much experience as a violin teacher, having taught at The Abbey School, Hill House International School and Fulham Prep School. She has also taught at the Royal Academy of Music Junior Department.

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/DNcR7c9tpbA



Mrs Michino Woolmer

BMus (Hons); PGDip (RCM)

PIANO

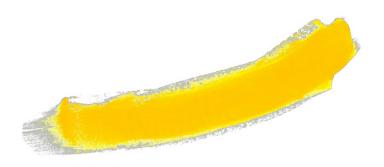


Michino began her musical education in Japan. After coming to the UK, she continued her studies on the piano and later took up the organ. She then entered the Royal College of Music as a 1st Study organist under the tutorage of Nicholas Danby, the piano with Peter Element, and the fortepiano (Early piano) with David Ward. She graduated with the Bachelor of Music and Postgraduate Diploma in Performance, as well as winning the Sir Walter Parratt Organ Prize.

As an organist she has held a number of posts and she has much experience in accompanying Anglican services including Choral Evensong, working with professional singers accompanying major Mass settings in the Catholic tradition, as well as directing amateur choirs of all ages.

Much of her time is now dedicated to teaching the piano at various schools and privately. With over 20 years of experience in working with children, she has gained a valuable insight into encouraging and guiding them to reach the best of their potential.

Meet the teacher: https://youtu.be/nL3Xbva1cNE



WITH COURAGE WITH TRUTH WITH JOY

