



Re: Music Department Virtual Concerts & other musical achievements

31 March 2021

Dear members of the St Olave's community

Earlier in the year, the Music Department invited students to create videos of themselves giving a musical performance and submit these for inclusion in a programme of "Virtual Concerts". The hope was to continue to share with parents, students and visitors to our school website the rich array of musical talents that exists among our students of all ages, while live performances in front of audiences have not been possible. The response has been very positive, with more than fifty students taking part in solo performances and even some socially-distanced ensembles!

Thanks to the efforts of so many superb musicians, the project has been a tremendous success. The most recent Virtual Concert no.6 features a Year 12 Band SINAD, comprising Caleb, Daksh, Griffin and Yash. Also, we hear from Sharath in Year 12, Alfie in Year 9, Oliver in Year 8 and four Year 7 students Arvin, Gabriel, Aaron and Ishan. The full playlist can be found [here](#), while this and links to all the previous ones can be found on our school website at <https://www.saintolaves.net/48/music>.

Following the success of the first season of Virtual Concerts, I would like to invite another round of video submissions from our students. Perhaps over the Easter break, musicians will use some of their free time to practise and polish up their best work! Priority in the next season will be given to students who have not already featured in the first, but we will of course include all submissions eventually. We are able to offer piano accompaniment in school at a safe distance, for those who need it to support their performance. Please would all students who would like to offer a musical contribution in this next round send a message to Mrs Attwood or me via Teams, stating the instrument/voice, title and approximate length of their chosen piece? Instructions will then be given explaining how to upload the video once prepared.

I thought you would also like to be aware that a student choral group, established first I believe in around 2014, has recently reconvened remotely. Comprising new Olavian members and alumni, *Cantores* has compiled some stunning performances of beautiful, remotely-recorded choir pieces, which I wish to share with everyone. Their YouTube channel can be found [here](#).

Finally, we know that many students have continued to make impressive progress as singers and instrumentalists through one-to-one tuition, having lessons both online and now in person once again. We like to congratulate those who have had music exam successes and celebrate with them, so please do contact the Music Department with your news. If any student wishes to take up tuition on an instrument or voice, information and an application form is on the Music page of our website, at <https://www.saintolaves.net/133/instrumental-vocal-tuition>. There are spaces for lessons on most instruments. The benefits of learning an instrument go even further than the experience itself. With the hope of returning to ensemble music-making once again in the Autumn, now is a great time to be consider this excellent opportunity.

With best wishes to all readers for a restful Easter break,

Mr M Price
Director of Music