



# **A LEVEL PERFORMANCES AND LEAVERS' RECITALS**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2024  
6.30pm**

**Auditorium, Anniversary Halls**



*The audience is kindly reminded that we request that no photography or video footage is taken during the concert. Should you wish to take photographs during the interval or after the concert, we ask that everyone be mindful that images may include other girls. If other girls feature, the footage should not be shared on the internet or on social media, but should be reserved for family albums or electronic folders at home.*





## Evie (violin)

Music is a major part of my life here at St Catherine's and I am very grateful for the incredible Music Department which makes this all possible. I have absolutely loved the multitude of concerts I have been involved in across the years, with my particular favourites being the Gala Concerts, where I sang the iconic *Concrete* in U3 Choir and then played one of my favourites from Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty* in L6. Music has connected me with so many friends lower down in the School and many of my close friends, who I met via ensembles years ago. My favourite memories of Music here are definitely the two Music Tours I went on to Ireland (2022) and Malta (2023). The Music Tours were so much fun; we played many genres of music ranging from Mass in the local services to jazzy outside evening concerts and went on trips such as the hilarious Viking Bus Tours in Ireland. I would like to thank the other Music Prefects, Saskia, India and Bella who have made the best team I could ever be a part of, whether we are helping at an Informal Concert or being given the massive Gala Concert management plans. I would like especially to thank Mrs Loya and Mrs Burt for continuing to teach me violin and flute respectively, throughout the time I have been at St Catherine's Prep and Senior School. I have worked through many grades, repertoire and concerts with them both and I have loved my time working with them. I am continuing both instruments throughout university where I am going to read Music, so all their valuable teaching will be put to good use! I would like to thank all my academic music teachers across my years here who have inspired me and ignited my love for the subject, specifically my A Level teachers Mr Farquharson, Mr Lloyd and Miss Bathurst. And of course, I would like to thank the brilliant Director of Music, Mr Greenfield, who is the driving force behind all the Music here and will always be an inspiration!

### **Allegro: 1st Movement from Concerto in F (Autumn) – Vivaldi**

Vivaldi's *Allegro*, the first movement of his *Autumn* concerto from his famous work *The Four Seasons*, was composed between 1718 and 1720. Unusually for this period, Vivaldi's concerti were published with accompanying sonnets that describe the elements that made up the season's spirit; he then evoked these elements in his music. Therefore, the concerti stand as one of the earliest and





most detailed examples of what would later be known as programme music, i.e. music with a narrative element. His sonnet for this movement depicts peasants celebrating the bountiful harvest with songs and dances, fired up by Bacchus' liquor and ending their revelry in sleep.

### **Canzonetta (Andante): 2nd Movement from Concerto in D – Tchaikovsky**

Tchaikovsky's *Canzonetta* is part of his *Violin Concerto in D Major*, composed in March 1878 in the mountains of Clarens, Switzerland, and is the only concerto he composed for the instrument. He wanted to dedicate it to his pupil and partner, Iosif Kotek, who had helped him compose the concerto, having asked him to compose one for some time. However, due to societal constraints and the undoubtable gossip which would be formed about his relationship, he dedicated it to Leopold Auer, a Hungarian violinist. *Canzonetta* captures a sweet yet melancholy sonority, which could reflect Tchaikovsky's love life while writing, with Kotek leaving him, and his psychologically-damaging marriage with Antonina Ivanova Milyukova breaking down.

## **Annabel ('cello)**

I have always loved playing the cello throughout my time at St Catherine's since I joined in 2017. Cello has always been a big part of my life and, since joining St Catherine's, I have loved my lessons with Miss Spencer, who has helped me achieve my goals and has supported me throughout, as I aim to complete my Grade 8 next term. My favourite memories from St Catherine's will always be the annual Gala Concerts, and the music tour to Malta last year, where I had the unforgettable opportunity to play and sing in such beautiful places with some of my favourite people. I have loved getting to know others through Symphony Orchestra and various chamber groups over the years and I hope to continue playing the cello for as long as possible. I would like to thank the Music Department for always encouraging me to take part in various groups and events as well as supporting me individually for the last seven years.





## Élégie – Fauré

*Élégie* is a piece written by Gabriel Fauré, a world-renowned Romantic composer from Paris, in 1880. It was first publicly premiered in 1883 at the *Société Nationale*, performed by Jules Loeb, a French cellist and the person to whom the work is dedicated. It was originally composed as part of a larger work for cello and piano entitled *Pièces brèves*. However, it eventually became a standalone piece and one of Fauré's most beloved compositions. *Élégie* reflects Fauré's deep emotional and artistic sensitivity. It exudes a sense of melancholy, introspection, and longing, characteristic of the elegiac genre. It is said that the piece was inspired by the composer's unrequited love for Marianne Viardot, daughter of the famous mezzo-soprano Pauline Viardot, yet this is not confirmed.

## Cello Sonata in G Minor, Op. 65: III. Largo – Chopin

Chopin's one and only cello sonata, was composed in 1846-47, his last work to be published before his death in 1949. Chopin wrote the sonata during the last few years of his life, while he was living in Paris. Chopin's health was declining during this period, and it is speculated that his experiences and emotions during this time may have influenced the composition of the *Cello Sonata*. The movement *Largo* is marked by its lyrical melodies, expressive harmonies, and intimate dialogue between the cello and piano. It provides a moment of respite and reflection within the larger context of the sonata, and is certainly reflective of Chopin's later style.

## Katie (flute)

I have enjoyed playing and studying Music during my time at St Catherine's since I joined in 2009. Playing the flute has been a big part of my school career and I have loved my lessons with Mrs Burt who has been teaching me since I was nine! My favourite music memories from St Catherine's will always be Symphony Orchestra and Concert Band rehearsals, especially getting to go on tour to Ireland with the Music Department. I have loved getting to know people through chamber groups and mixing with other year groups in Symphony Orchestra, and I plan on continuing my music at university. I would like to thank my teachers for





encouraging me to keep playing music and for supporting me during my time at St Catherine's.

### **Fantaisie Pastorale Hongroise – Doppler**

Franz Doppler was a flautist, composer, and conductor, who made his debut in Vienna at the age of thirteen. His first teacher was his father, the composer and oboist Joseph Doppler. From a young age, Franz made successful concert tours with his brother, Karl (a flautist, composer, and conductor). Doppler's compositions reflect Hungarian, Russian, and Polish folk music with Italian opera influences. Many, if not all, of these influences can be heard in the *Fantaisie Pastorale Hongroise* with its Eastern European folk dance tunes and operatic cadenzas. It features a hauntingly nostalgic opening fantasy reminiscent of gypsy and Eastern European folk music and a dance-driven second half.

## **Emma (violin)**

I have enjoyed playing the violin at St Catherine's since the PP3 String Scheme, all the way back in 2012. I have loved lessons with Mrs Loya over the years and am very grateful for having had so many opportunities to play in various ensembles, particularly in Symphony Orchestra. I especially enjoyed playing in the *Shrek* Pit Band, which was a challenge, but one I am very thankful to have been able to take on. I hope to continue playing the violin at university and would like to thank my family and my teachers for all their support during my time here.

### **Hungarian Dance – Nölck**

August Nölck (1862 – 1928) was a German professor of cello and piano, as well as being a Romantic composer whose work reflects the style of composers such as Brahms and Schumann. He produced over 250 pieces of music in his lifetime, although many of his works were lost during the Second World War. Hungarian-style music was very popular with Romantic composers of Nölck's era, due to its vivid contrasts, and Nölck's *Hungarian Dance* contains a variety of different moods and speeds, which I have greatly enjoyed practising.





## Annabelle (flute)

Playing the flute, as well as singing and playing the piano, has been a core part of shaping such a positive experience at St Catherine's for me since joining in 2017. After achieving my Grade 8 last year with the amazing support and expertise of my teacher, Mrs Howe, playing flute has become more than just ticking off checkboxes for an exam. Having the incredible privilege of opportunities to perform with like-minded people here has transformed the way I feel about and perform music. My favourite memories have to be last-minute Cantores Gala Concert interval rehearsals with us frantically memorising choreography and all of the Jazz and Rock concerts (I like jazz now). The support and effort that always goes into these events, as well as the people behind them, will always be an inspiration to me. Thank you for helping make music such an important part of who I am.

### Syrinx – Debussy

*Syrinx* was composed by Claude Debussy in 1913 to accompany a scene in Gabriel Mourey's play *Psyché*, in which Pan, a mythological Greek satyr, dies. The piece tells the story of Pan's amorous pursuit of the forest nymph, Syrinx. Syrinx does not return Pan's love and turns herself into a water reed to hide in the marshes. Pan cuts these reeds to make into pipes, in turn killing his love.

## Emily ('cello) and Zara (harp)

**Emily:** Having started the cello before I joined St Catherine's, I enjoyed lessons with Mr Calvo for a number of years before moving to a teacher outside School. I am working towards Grade 8, hoping to take the exam over the summer. Over the years, I have loved being a part of numerous different orchestras and groups, from choirs in U3 to L5, cello ensembles, string quartets, duos, String Orchestra and finally Symphony Orchestra. Out of School, I play the cello in church, which is a really fun way to meet people through music. I fully intend to join the orchestra when I reach University in September, and hope to continue my cello playing throughout my life.





**Zara:** I have really enjoyed having harp lessons with Mrs Cordell at St Catherine's since joining in U3 as well as being a part of Harp Ensemble since then. I feel really lucky to have had the opportunity to be a part of this group and to have been able to play with different people throughout my time from U3-U6 and the friends which I have made through it. I have also loved being a part of other groups such as Senior Choir and being able to sing with my friends and take part in concerts. I am really thankful that I have had the opportunity to be a part of so many different groups and musical experiences throughout my time at St Catherine's.

### **The Swan – Saint-Saëns**

This piece is part of a 14-movement humorous suite called the Carnival of the Animals, composed by Camille Saint-Saëns. The other pieces include *Hens and Roosters*, *Wild Donkeys and Swift Animals*, and *Aquarium*. *The Swan*, the most famous of all the pieces, is a classic harp and cello duet, beautiful in its musicality and simple, memorable tunes.

## **Sophie (oboe)**

Throughout my time at St Catherine's I have loved playing the oboe as part of Symphony Orchestra and our Wind Quartet. Specifically playing in Symphony Orchestra in the Gala Concerts is a definite highlight as well as *Carmina Burana* last year in the Association Concert. Playing in the Wind Quartet for the last seven years has been amazing and despite having one or two questionable performances, I will miss our Wednesday morning rehearsals with Mrs Burt and our performances. I am very grateful to Miss Hayter for teaching me for the last ten years, and achieving my Grade 8 last year is something I will always be very proud of. I have met really good friends through music at St Catherine's and made many happy memories which I will cherish.

### **Italian Dance – Dring**

*Italian Dance* was written by Madeleine Dring in 1960 and is based on a dance from Taranto in southern Italy.







## Kate (flute)

Having started the flute at prep school I was so pleased to be able to continue playing in my free time at St Catherine's with my lessons with Mrs Burt who helped me achieve my Grade 8 last year. Having played in various groups during my time at St Catherine's, I was so pleased to join Symphony Orchestra in the Sixth Form. I have found playing in the Orchestra so much fun and have particularly enjoyed playing in the twins' concertos this term. My favourite musical memory at St Catherine's has to be watching my friends perform in the Gala Concerts over the years.

### En bateau – Debussy

*En bateau* is an expressive piece from Debussy's *Petite Suite*, originally composed as a four-hand piano duet. Translating to 'in a boat', the piece evokes the serenity of an afternoon boat ride; the combination of melodies and harmonies in the piece transporting listeners on this journey.

## Charlotte (violin)

Looking back on my time at St. Catherine's, I cannot help but feel incredibly grateful for the amazing musical opportunities that have shaped my journey here. Ever since joining in U4 after achieving my violin diploma, I have dived headfirst into everything this School has offered, being a part of various chamber groups to solo performances on stage. Music has truly become a part of my everyday life, and I owe a big shoutout to Mr Sutton for his exceptional guidance as my violin teacher. His constant support and knack for pushing me out of my comfort zone have been key in my musical growth. And let us not forget the awesome Music Department: their unwavering encouragement and warmth have made every performance, from Gala Concerts to singing with *VOCES8*, an unforgettable experience. It has been an incredible journey, and I could not be more thankful for every moment.





## **Violin Sonata No. 1 in A minor – Schumann**

Written with typical haste in just five days (12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September 1851) and burning with the fire of inspiration, Schumann's First Violin Sonata Op.105 expresses the composer's internal tension with particular clarity. Schumann, in spite of his fragile psychological condition, found creative energy to complete such impassioned sonata work in a very short time. In this work the expressive and introverted language seems to escape from the typical style of the salons to a restless expression even in the slow movement, where the violin and piano converse in a ceaseless and obsessive way.

## **Siqi (bamboo flute)**

Playing the bamboo flute has been one of my favourite pastimes since childhood, and I am glad for the opportunity to continue pursuing this passion at St Catherine's after I joined in 2022. As I reflect on my time here, it is remarkable how swiftly the Sixth Form years have passed, yet they have been filled with countless moments of joy and fulfilment that I will carry forward into the future. I am especially grateful to Mrs Burt for inviting me to perform in the Woodwind and Brass Concerts. These concerts not only provide a platform to showcase our musical talents but also serve as invaluable opportunities to refine our performance skills before formal audiences. Looking ahead, I am excited to continue playing the bamboo flute and hope to connect with others through the beauty of music.

## **Boat Song in Water Village – Guoji Jiang**

This song was composed by Guoji Jiang in 1975, inspired by the Zhejiang folk song *Liu Yuan Lang*. It depicts the beautiful scenery of the sparkling blue waves of the Jiangnan water villages and the joyful scenes of people celebrating the harvest, presenting a picture full of vitality.

The entire song consists of three parts. The introduction at the beginning features a loose, slow and lyrical melody, reflecting the uniqueness of Zhudi music. In the first part, the melody is gentle and pleasant, with ups and downs that make listeners feel as if they are on a boat, wandering through the Jiangnan water





town, feeling relaxed and cheerful. In the second part, the music transitions into a cheerful allegro section. The lively melody brims with passion, infusing the music with vitality. In the third part, the melody returns to the lyrical adagio, evoking imagery of a boat gently drifting off into the sunset, concluding the song with a slowed-down final phrase.

## India and Saskia (voice)

**India:** Music paved the way for my journey through St Catherine's. From Intermediate Orchestra and Major Choir in the Prep School to Camerata and Symphony Orchestra, the unique musical opportunities offered at St Catherine's have helped me to complete my Grade 8 in the cello, voice and piano. Some of my highlights of music at St Catherine's have been the Music Tour to Ireland, the Association Concerts and the Scholars and Award Holders Concerts. I have gained so many valuable skills through music, for example through coaching a Prep School Trio and taking U3 Choir each week. I would like to thank the whole Music Department for making it possible to have spent a grand total of 55,260 minutes of rehearsing in various different groups from U3 onwards and making Music at St Catherine's an experience I will never forget.

**Saskia:** Music at St Catherine's has kept me on my toes since the minute I joined the Prep School eight years ago! Orchestras, choirs and chamber music groups have without a doubt been a huge part of my school life, and I have made so many amazing memories: there is nothing quite like the wine served at Informal Concerts. Some highlights of Music at School include playing *Sleigh Ride* with Symphony Orchestra at the end of last term, taking part in the *Oliver!* Pit Orchestra, eating a fast-paced dinner at Zizzi's with Camerata, performing in the Carol Service and taking U3 Choir.

### Belle nuit – Offenbach

The duet *Belle nuit, ô nuit d'amour* (Beautiful night, O night of love) is one of the most famous ever written. It appears in the opera *Les Contes d'Hoffman* (The Tales of Hoffman) by Jacques Offenbach, in which the poet Hoffman recounts his





three past lovers. Taking place as the third act opens, the duet is sung at a party in Venice by the courtesan Guilietta, with whom Hoffman will soon fall in love, and Nicklausse, who is the poet's muse disguised as his faithful male companion. *Belle nuit, ô nuit d'amour* is a bacarolle, which is a traditional folk song sung by Venetian gondoliers, as the lilting 6/8 metre and moderate tempo are reminiscent of the gentle stroke of the oar as the gondola glides gracefully through the waterways of Venice.

## INTERVAL

(20 minutes)

### **Katie (flute), Sophie (oboe), Holly (clarinet) and Sophie (bassoon)**

**Holly:** I have been playing the clarinet since Year 3 and achieved my Grade 7 last year. When I started St Catherine's, I joined Wind Band, progressing into Concert Band and Symphony Orchestra. I have really enjoyed the opportunities these ensembles have provided, particularly getting to play with the Welsh Guards and being involved in the Gala Concerts. I would like to give Mrs Burt a special thank you for putting our Wind Quartet together in U3. Our rehearsals every Wednesday morning, for the last seven years, have been a highlight and our performances have always kept the audience on their toes. One of my funniest musical memories was during a summer concert when we all stopped playing mid piece. Music has been a massive part of my St Catherine's experience.

**Sophie:** I started playing the bassoon in Year 3 and I have enjoyed being a part of music at St Catherine's since I joined the School in U3. I have enjoyed being a part of many groups throughout my time at the School, such as Symphony Orchestra, Concert Band and Wind Quartet, and I have had the opportunity to perform a





couple of solos as well. All these experiences have helped me achieve my Grade 8 as well as improving my overall playing, sight reading and ability to play with others, but more importantly I have loved every rehearsal and performance. Thank you to the whole Music Department, I will miss the fun of playing alongside all the amazing musicians and teachers!

### **Africa – Paich & Porcaro arr. Agioritis**

*Africa* was written by American rockband Toto in 1982. The inspiration came from Paich's love of the continent Africa. The song was highly successful in the 1980's and 1990's and saw a resurgence in popularity from 2010.

## **Shua (piano)**

I have loved being a musician throughout my time at St Catherine's since I joined in U3. Throughout the years, I have taken part in several ensembles from small chamber groups to Symphony Orchestra playing the viola. I have made so many memories which would not have been possible without the Music Department at St Catherine's. I would definitely say one of my favourites is being part of the Pit Orchestra in the whole school musical *Oliver!* I have become a lot more confident as a player and I have learnt many valuable lessons which I will use in the future as I am hoping to carry on with my music at university. I would like to thank all my teachers to whom I am extremely grateful for encouraging me through my musical journey at St Catherine's.

### **Pirates of the Caribbean – Badelt arr. Radnich**

The famous tune *He's a Pirate* is from the movie *Pirates of the Caribbean. The Curse of the Black Pearl* was originally composed by Klaus Badelt. Many variations of this theme are played throughout other *Pirate of the Caribbean* movies and it is heard in the end credits roll of every movie. It takes its name from a repeated line in the film referring to the character Captain Jack Sparrow: "He's a pirate!" is exclaimed by Weatherby Swann.





## Danai (alto saxophone)

I started playing saxophone in 2015 and have played all through St Catherine's. Music has been a huge part of my time at St Catherine's and I am so thankful for all my lessons with Mrs Nash, who has helped me to love playing my saxophone. I have had the privilege of playing all four saxophones: soprano, alto, tenor and baritone which has broadened my repertoire and opportunities. My favourite musical memories have been performing at the Jazz Café and the Gala Concerts which are always jam packed. Ensemble playing has been an amazing opportunity to make friends with people in other years. I hope to continue playing in a variety of settings such as concerts and plays. Thank you to all the teachers who have invited me to ensembles and given me so many opportunities to perform.

I joined Middle Chamber Choir when I joined in U3 and have become more confident in performing over the past few years. I have even been lucky enough to teach people songs in our L6 Musical, *Annie*, an eye-opening experience. I am so grateful that I had many opportunities throughout my seven years at St Catherine's to sing both informally and formally.

### Respectfully Yours – Scott

Respectfully Yours was originally commissioned for euphonium and piano by Fabian Bloch. Scott describes it as a melodic piece with jazz-influenced harmony, which lends itself nicely to saxophonists. It was inspired by Sir Richard Rodney Bennett, a composer of film, TV and concert music with an eclectic style. Scott dedicated the piece to Bennett after his passing.

## Amy (voice)

Throughout my time at St Catherine's, I have loved taking part in the school musicals, as well as theatre out of School. I have found performing at Vocal Sectional Concerts and graded examinations to be rewarding as well as enjoyable. I would like to thank my music teachers for all their support and encouragement for the past seven years.





## **Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again – Lloyd Webber**

*Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again* is a song from *The Phantom of the Opera* by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Charles Hart, and is sung by Christine as she mourns her father's death whilst visiting her father's grave. In this song Christine asks her father for guidance regarding her relationship with the Phantom of the Opera.

## **Sienna, Sophie, Olivia, Aishwari (voice) and Hayley (piano)**

We have all enjoyed singing as a group in our free time and are excited to perform a song together. Some of us have taken part in various choirs at School whilst others simply like singing for fun. We have put a lot of work into this and so we hope you enjoy it!

**Sienna:** I have always enjoyed singing and performing since I was young and, while I never pursued this interest in the route of music lessons, I did continue to sing where I could. This included joining all the school musicals, performing with some friends in the Talent Show and joining 'group' for House Singing every year. Despite doing all of this, my favourite time to sing has always been when I am with my friends, belting our hearts out to whatever song came on over the speakers next, so I thought it was fitting that the last time I would sing for the School would be with my friends.

**Sophie:** Since joining St Catherine's in U4, I have thoroughly enjoyed immersing myself in many different musical aspects of school life. Being a member of Cantores has been an amazing experience, which has included many events such as singing at Winchester Cathedral, a particular highlight of mine. Even during lockdown, I remember recording myself singing *I vow to thee my country*, and Mr Greenfield putting everyone's recordings together for Long Parli, putting a spin on the usual singing from the Gantry. I cannot believe that my musical journey has come to an end at School, but I hope to continue singing in various choirs at university.





**Olivia:** Although I do not participate in choirs as an extracurricular, I have always enjoyed singing in my free time. I have performed in front of a large audience a few times including in our L6 Musical *Annie*, where I played the role of Bert Healey and sang a solo in the song *You're Never Fully Dressed*. I am excited to perform this song with the others and hope you enjoy it!

**Aishwari:** I have always had a profound love for singing and found it to be a wonderful outlet for me. I am incredibly thankful to my singing teachers for supporting me throughout my musical journey at St Catherine's, including achieving my Grade 8 last year and studying for my diploma. I have enjoyed being a part of the choirs, especially Cantores, and performing new songs in the various concerts at St Catherine's. Singing has been a valuable part of my school life, which I hope to continue at university.

**Hayley:** I have enjoyed playing the piano and violin since I was six years old and in my previous school I was a member of the orchestra performing in many concerts for both violin and piano. I have continued to take piano lessons since joining St Catherine's; however, at the moment I just play piano for fun, using lessons as an opportunity to improve my technique. My favourite music to learn is pop songs so I am excited to perform one of my favourite songs with the group.

### **Stay – Sudduth, Parker & Ekko**

*Stay* is a song released by Rhianna in 2012. It features guest vocals by Mikky Ekko and was co-written by Ekko and Justin Parker. Following its release it became Number One in many countries and has sold ten million units worldwide.

*Stay* is a pop and R&B ballad that originally consists of piano and bass guitar instrumentation. The lyrics describe the temptation and inability to resist true love. We chose this song because we all love Rihanna and the lyrics reflect on some of our time at St Catherine's.







## **Deborah (voice & guitar) and Charlotte (voice)**

**Deborah:** I started learning the guitar in 2021 on YouTube as well as with the great help from my teacher Mr Law. Since then, playing the guitar has been a way of spending my free time and soothing my emotions. Since joining St Catherine's in the Sixth Form, I have enjoyed singing with my friends and strumming along very much.

### **Rewrite the Stars – Pasek & Paul**

*Rewrite the Stars* is a song performed by Zac Efron and Zendaya for the 2017 American biographical musical drama film *The Greatest Showman*. The song portrays the unbreakable relationship between Phillip Carlyle, a rich white playwright, and Anne Wheeler, a poor black acrobat, despite the social norm and the adversity they face. The pair are in love, but after Phillip's parents insult Anne's lowly status, she runs away. Phillip chases after Anne, trying to convince her that they can 'rewrite the stars' and change their destiny.

## **Caitlin (drums), Emily (voice), Annabelle (voice), Evie (bass guitar), Ella (alto saxophone) and Lucy (electric guitar)**

We formed our group *Mirage* in the Sixth Form because we wanted an opportunity to play more indie/rock music on instruments we learn out of School. We are very grateful for the opportunities presented to us as a band and have enjoyed performing in the Jazz and Rock Concerts and the Fashion Shows during our time at School. We would like to thank the Music Department for all the musical opportunities here, individually and as *Mirage*, and to Mr Young for always encouraging and finding more external events for bands throughout the School. Hopefully we all continue playing our instruments throughout University and a *Mirage* reunion is awaiting us post-graduation.





**Caitlin:** After starting drums and piano lessons in primary school, I continued drum lessons at St Catherine's. I started playing in Wind Band and Concert Band in the younger years of School, where I realised how much fun it is to play with other musicians. In lockdown I started playing guitar and this grew my love of music even more. I am now fortunate enough to enjoy playing music with my friends and perform at various events at St Catherine's.

**Emily:** My musical journey at St Catherine's started in U3 when I first joined Wind Band playing the clarinet. Since then, I have thoroughly enjoyed singing lessons in the past and getting together with friends to form a band. I have been playing the piano since primary school and being able to play contemporary songs and sing with my friends is something I really appreciate. One of my favourite performances was when we performed *Dreams* by *The Cranberries* at the 2023 Fashion Show. I am looking forward to our future performances as we finish our musical journeys together. I am very grateful to all the music staff at St Catherine's who are always supporting and encouraging us.

**Ella:** I have always loved music and getting involved with it as I experimented with many instruments before; however, the sax really stuck with me. As I have not taken formal exams, it has allowed me to have freedom to play what I want and have fun with it! I started getting involved with school bands, like Concert Band and Jazz Band after covid before the start of the Sixth Form. This allowed me to have more confidence in playing at events and in front of bigger audiences with a group. My friends are all very musical and part of the band *Mirage* so I have been around while they practise, which is really inspirational – I am so happy to be able to play with them now. I would love to use this skill in bands at university after school so am so grateful to all of the teachers who have taught me and allowed me to do this.

**Lucy:** Music has always been an important part of my life, and the opportunities that have been provided here at St Catherine's have allowed me to pursue this interest. I started playing the guitar about five years ago, and since then it has been a passion of mine to form a band and play with friends, and I am grateful





that I have now been in a band for almost a year. I have also taken singing and drum lessons, both of which have significantly increased my confidence, both in performing and in general, and I am endlessly thankful for the St Catherine's Music Department in helping me achieve my goals and encouraging me to step out of my comfort zone.

### **Seventeen Going Under – Fender**

*Seventeen Going Under* is the title track from the album *Seventeen Going Under* which was released on 8th October 2021. The album explores Fender's upbringing and how this has impacted his outlook on life today, with the title track specifically depicting his experience as a seventeen year old. Fender, at this age, tried to take on the financial responsibilities within his family because his mother could no longer work after 40 years as a nurse; however, due to his young age, this was nearly impossible. This song is a letter to his seventeen-year-old self, explaining that at "seventeen is when all the challenges begin: you're not a baby, but you're definitely not an adult" and the struggles that accompany this state of limbo.

### **Ellen and Danai (voice)**

**Ellen:** I have always loved singing since a young age, and I have enjoyed the opportunities I have had to sing at St Catherine's. In particular, being a part of Musgrave has provided a great musical outlet for me to continue singing over the years, from Informal House Concerts to House Singing. I have been part of 'group' in almost every House Singing Competition since U3 and it has been so rewarding this year helping to run the rehearsals as House Captain. A key moment for me has to be the L6 Musical where I performed songs both solo and with my friends, an amazing opportunity that I am so grateful to have had and one I will never forget.

### **When I grow up – Minchin**

This song was written by Tim Minchin for the 2010 musical adaptation of the Roald Dahl bestseller *Matilda*. *When I Grow Up* details what young children imagine adulthood to be like. Matilda and her classmates sing about how they





will do whatever they want when they grow up and dream of how all their problems will be solvable once they are adults.

## **Erica (voice) and Shua (piano)**

**Erica:** I grew up in a family full of musicians where I was encouraged to pick up as many instruments as I could, resulting in me learning a total of eight instruments which I then dropped quite quickly, after five grades, for the one instrument I had never had a lesson in.

Music, specifically singing and songwriting, has been a prominent part of my life and has shaped me into the person I am today. During my time at St Catherine's I have performed in many Jazz and Rock Concerts, Musicals and Fashion Shows where I have been able to explore my style and range. I have been given so many opportunities to develop my passion for singing and build my confidence on stage. I have become much more confident in myself and my music ability all thanks to the help of the Music Department. It has been great fun these past four years being a part of this vibrant family of talented people.

### **When We Were Young – Adkins & Jesso**

*When We Were Young* by Adele is a song that speaks to the universal experiences of growing up and looking back at the past.





## U6 Choir

**Conductors:** Evie and Annabel

**Piano:** Vanessa and Danai

### **Concrete from City Songs – Chilcott**

Bob Chilcott is a British choral composer and conductor. A former chorister of King's College, Cambridge and a former member of *The King's Singers*, he left the latter in 1997 and took up composition full time. He is well known for his accessible compositions for children's choirs. *Concrete* is from *City Songs*, a collection of songs with urban themes which uses simple repetitive melodies and lyrics – with an occasional touch of humour – to bring alive various mundane features of the city landscape around us.

We sang *Concrete* in U3 Choir, as part of the whole *City Songs* suite, so thought we would revive it before leaving School for some nostalgia.

### **Vienna – Joel**

One of the most renowned solo artists worldwide, Billy Joel was born in 1949 and grew up in Long Island, New York. After dropping out of school to pursue his music career, he has become the fourth best-selling solo artist in the United States, and has sold over 160 million records across the world.

Joel first visited Vienna in 1971 as a 23 year old to visit his father, whom he had seen last when he was eight years old. The city therefore holds a special place in the artist's heart. According to him, when he visited Vienna, "suddenly things started to make sense in the world for me." The lyrics also encourage you to make the most of every moment, which we thought was a particularly important message for U6 as we begin the next chapter.

Joel explains that this "is really what the song is about: Slow down, look around you and have some gratitude for the good things in your life. That's what Vienna represented to me."





## Accompanists

Mr Sin-seock Kim, Mr Matthew Greenfield

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*As a year group, we have had such a fantastic time at School. We want to enable other girls, who would not otherwise be able to attend St Catherine's, to have the same opportunities. Tonight, we are raising money for the Leavers' Fund, and all donations will go towards our Bright Futures Bursary programme. Thank you, and we hope that you have enjoyed this evening's performances.*







**MUSIC**||  
St Catherine's

St Catherine's School, Bramley  
Guildford, Surrey GU5 0DF  
01483 899647  
music@stcatherines.info

[www.stcatherines.info](http://www.stcatherines.info)

