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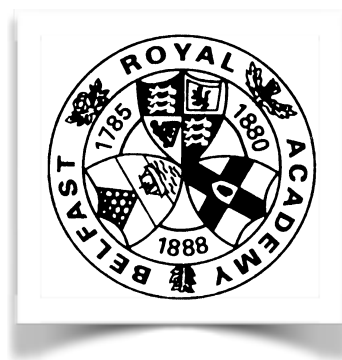
**Department**

**Belfast  
Royal  
Academy**

# Belfast Royal Academy

## Music Department

### Instrumental Lessons 2017/18



The Music Department is a bustling and exciting place at BRA where students of all ages and abilities are encouraged to strive for musical excellence.

Our Music Department is housed within a modern, bespoke building comprising of large classroom spaces, recording studios, an apple-mac computer suite and a range of practice rooms. Around 150 pupils receive instrumental and vocal musical tuition each week delivered by a talented team of peripatetic music teachers. We also hold a long-established association with the City of Belfast School of Music where a large number of our pupils are current members. We are proud of the many BRA musicians who have gone on to study Music at universities and conservatoires throughout Ireland and the UK.

Lessons take place throughout the day and after school, and operate on a rotating timetable; although the teaching day remains the same each week, your lesson will be at a different time. Most pupils aim to take a practical exam each year. We currently enter pupils for ABRSM, Trinity Classical and Pop, Rock School and London College of Music exams.

Our team of 12 peripatetic teachers offer lessons on the full range of orchestral instruments singing and piano.

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Tutor</b>	<b>Teaching days in BRA</b>
Piano & 'Cello	Ms Rachel McGinley	Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
Flute & Oboe	Mrs Georgina McChesney	Tuesday & Wednesday
Clarinet & Saxophone	Dr Gerard McAtasney	Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
Brass	Mr Les Neish*	Monday
Violin/viola	Mrs Tammy Surginor	Monday & Tuesday
	Miss Niamh McGowan	Thursday/Friday
Double Bass/Bass Guitar	Mr Thomas Alford	Monday
Guitar (electric/spanish/classical)	Mr Colin Boyd	Monday, Wednesday - Friday
Drums	Mr Pete Comfort	Tuesday & Wednesday
Organ	Mr Stephen Hamill	tbc
Voice (classical & Music Theatre)	Mrs Amy Fitzsimmons	Wednesday
	Mrs Susan Adgey	Tuesday

\* Mr Neish is currently on trial with the London Symphony Orchestra. Mr Nathan Moore will be taking his lessons on the weeks that he is unavailable.

## **PRICING**

Lessons cost £14 for a 30 minute lessons. The tutor will bill you directly and you can pay them with cash/ cheques or via bank transfer. Bills are issued at the start of every term and should be paid as soon as possible.

If your child is ill and will therefore miss their instrumental lesson you should contact the instrumental tutor or the Music Department to let them know - otherwise you will still be charged for the lesson. If you child simply forgets to turn up to their lesson (occasionally this happens!), they will be given a warning to ensure that they check the noticeboard where the instrumental timetable is posted. If they continue to forget, the instrumental teacher may allocate their place to another pupil and you may still be charged for lessons. We usually find that Form I pupils take a couple of months to get themselves into a routine and we adjust our expectations accordingly!

## **The Thomas Devlin Fund**

Money has been made available to the Music Department from the Thomas Devlin Fund. We have decided to use the money towards encouraging pupils to take lessons on less commonly played instruments. Lessons on the following instruments will receive a 25% deduction on their termly bill:

Viola
Double Bass
Bass Guitar
Oboe
Bassoon
French Horn
Trombone
Tuba
Organ (50% deduction)**

\*\* Before commencing organ lessons pupils should have attained their Grade III on piano

## **Buying/Hiring an Instrument**

The School has a small stock of double basses, oboes, one bassoon, one tuba, one trombone and one 1/2 size cello. There are a couple of options if you wish to rent or purchase an instrument for your child.



The Arts Council NI can provide an interest-free loan. They can help you get your hands on the musical instrument of your dreams from as little as £10 per month. Take it away (Northern Ireland) works by letting you spread the cost of your new musical instrument over 10 months, making it more affordable to get playing. You'll need to pay a deposit and then pay the rest back in 9 monthly instalments – completely interest free.

Matchetts Music, Belfast will hire saxophones, cellos, flutes, trombones, clarinets, trumpets and violins for £50 per term.

## What do I do now?

To start instrumental lessons at BRA simply fill in the personal details sheet and sign the instrumental contract and return to the Music Department at any point between now and the end of September. I will pass your details onto the relevant instrumental tutor and they will be in touch with you soon after. You can contact me via my school email: [mmcmullan298@c2kni.net](mailto:mmcmullan298@c2kni.net) or phone the Music Department on 90 740423 if needed.

## Extra-Curricular Music

All pupils are welcome to join any of the extra-curricular music group regardless of whether they take music lessons inside or outside of school. The groups are relaxed and informal and are a sure fire way of meeting new friends and having a bit of banter! Pupils can eat their lunch before the rehearsal starts in the music classroom. Groups perform at the School Prize Day, Carol Services, Open Nights, Ballymena Festival, Derry Choral Festival, Radio Ulster School Choir of the Year, Spring Concert in Ulster Hall and Summer Serenade. To start any group simply turn up to the first rehearsal in September.

Day	Time	Group	Forms available
Monday	8:30 - 8:55am	Chamber Choir	V-M6(auditioned)
	12:30 - 1pm	Senior Choir (Tenors & Basses)	III - M6
		Junior Strings	I - II
		Brass Group	By invitation
Tuesday	8:30 - 8:55am	Chamber Choir	
		Clarinet/Saxophone Quartet	By invitation
	1:25 - 2pm	Senior Choir (Sopranos)	
Wed	8:30 - 8:55am	Chamber Choir	
		Clarinet/Saxophone Quartet	By invitation
	12:30 - 1pm	Senior Choir (Altos)	
	3:15 - 3:50pm	Junior Choir	I-II
		Senior Traditional Group	By invitation
Thursday	8:30 - 8:55am	Chamber Choir	
	12:30 - 1:05pm	Wind Band	I-M6
	3:15 - 4pm	Big Band	By invitation
Friday	8:30 - 8:55am	Chamber Choir	
	12:30 - 1:05pm	Senior Strings	III-M6 Grade V upwards
		Junior Traditional Group	I-IV
	3:15 - 4pm	Senior Orchestra	III - M6 Grade V upwards (Woodwind & Brass auditioned)