

STAFFING

Classroom Teaching Staff

John Barker, BMus MMus (RCM) PGCE MTeach MISM

(barkerj@leicestergrammar.org.uk)

Director of Music

Saxophone and Piano

- Studied as a Foundation Scholar at the Royal College of Music, completing a Masters with Distinction.
- Was a Woodwind Finalist in *BBC Young Musicians* 1998 and promoted by *Live Music Now!*, *Making Music*, the *Park Lane Group* and the *Kirckman Concert Society*, making his Wigmore Hall Debut in 2011.
- Recently completed his Masters of Teaching at the Institute of Education which focused on student engagement in composition work.
- Has previously taught at Bedales, Headington School and at Mill Hill County High School.
- As a Mountain Leader, enjoys being involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at LGS.

Amy McPherson, MA (Oxon) LRSM PGCE (mcphersona@leicestergrammar.org.uk)

Deputy Director of Music

Flute and Piano

- Graduated from Oxford University with a first class degree in Music in 2010.
- Studied flute with Kate Hill (Royal Academy of Music) and performed regularly as soloist and orchestral player, holding the principal flute role with *the Oxford Philharmonia Orchestra* and *Ensemble Isis*.
- Awarded a concerto with the *Oxford String Ensemble*.
- Has previously taught at Felsted School and at Downe House School.

Eleanor Graff-Baker, MA (Oxon) ARCM PGCE (graffbakere@leicestergrammar.org.uk)

Class teacher and violin

Violin, Piano, Composition

- Read music at The Queen's College, Oxford, where she was a Choral Bursar.
- Career has combined performance (as a violinist and singer) with composition and musical direction.
- Has worked in music education at both primary and secondary levels and has been on the staff of the University of Leicester and Director of Music at St Margaret's, Leicester.
- Has previously taught at Leicester High School, Stoneygate, Dixie Grammar and Beauchamp College.

Mary Bloomfield (bloomfieldm@leicestergrammar.org.uk)

Music Department Administrator

- Having worked for 18 years as a secretary at an insurance firm, followed by a 7-year stint at a sports travel company, Mary is now enjoying her time surrounded by the musicians at LGS.
- Coordinates ABRSM and Trinity instrumental exams each term, and manages ticket sales for the Concert Series along with other tasks that enable the music department to run smoothly.

Instrumental Teaching Staff

Andrew Ashwin, FRSM PGDip (RCM) BMus (Hons)

(ashwina@leicestergrammar.org.uk)

Singing

- Studied postgraduate singing at the Royal College of Music (awarded Distinction), then at the Gent Opera Studio (Belgium) and Zurich International Opera Studio (Switzerland).
- Worked as a principal singer at the Deutsche Oper (Berlin), then freelance across Europe and the Far East, singing many principal opera roles, gala concerts and recitals.
- Also teaches singing at the Royal Academy of Music Junior Department and Stoneygate School, and was formerly at Repton School (Head of Singing) and Uppingham School.
- Was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal Schools of Music in 2018, in Music Education.
- Works as an examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music

Lizzie Barker, BMus MMus

Violin/Piano

- Studied at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and has since worked with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic and BBC Symphony Orchestras and for English National Ballet.
- Has played for West End shows including *Wicked* as well as for stars such as Barbra Streisand and Vanessa Mae.
- Now plays freelance at weddings and Bollywood functions throughout the Midlands.

Darron Cleary-McHarg MISM (mchargd@leicestergrammar.org.uk)

Percussion

- Studied with Trevor Tomkins (Royal Academy of Music) Mal Garrett (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire) and Jim Chapin, one of America's top percussion educationalists.
- Freelance experience includes: three years working on cruise ships such as the QE2; 'Memphis Belle Big Band' tribute to Glenn Miller; session work at the N.E.C Birmingham and the British Grand Prix, Silverstone; congas and timbales in the latin band *Alka Salsa*.
- Previous students include: Josh Devine, Young Drummer of the Year and drummer with 'One Direction'; Ben Cullingworth who was playing the part of Ringo in the West End Musical 'Let it Be' and Lyle Burton, runner up on two consecutive years for 'UK Young Drummer of the Year' 2018

Hannah Cresswell, BA PGDip

Flute

- Gained a first class music degree from the University of Nottingham and then studied as a postgraduate at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, achieving a PGDip in Music Performance.
- Principal flute for the Amadeus Academy Orchestra (one of the UK's foremost training orchestras for students and young professionals).
- Hannah performs as a flute and piano duo (Mandorla Duo) with pianist Constance Chow; highlights have included a concert at Southwell Music Festival. Mandorla Duo also works with the charity *Music in Hospitals and Care*.
- Hannah teaches the flute at Leicester Grammar School and Wellingborough School. Previous teaching work has also included classroom instrumental teaching for Every Child a Musician in East London and mentoring for *In Harmony*, Nottingham.

Emma Else, BMus (hons); PGCE (elsee@leicestergrammar.org.uk)

Piano

- Studied for a performance degree at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and gained a PGCE in Secondary Music at Homerton College, Cambridge.
- Has worked in primary and secondary schools as a visiting music teacher, class teacher, Head of Music and in leading co-curricular groups.
- Has extensive experience as an accompanist, coach, repetiteur for musicals, piano and violin/viola teaching.

Alison Gates, ALCM LTCL BSc(Hons) BMus(Hons) PGDip MMus

(gatesa@leicestergrammar.org.uk)

Violin / Piano

- Music scholar at LGS, then studied undergraduate, postgraduate, and instrumental teaching licentiate at Trinity College of Music, under Clare Thompson. Leader of the TCM Chamber Orchestra and soloist for numerous engagements.
- Orchestral work includes tours of China and Europe, film score studio recordings, artist with the London Gospel Choir, and various televised programmes.
- Teaching roles include visiting a number of schools, a thriving private practice, and leading workshops alongside other Philharmonia Orchestra members.

Sally Griffiths

Oboe

- Studied at the Welsh College of Music and Drama, graduating with BA in 2001 and PGdip in 2002.
- Worked full-time with Arts in Education between 2002-2012, and has worked with Soar Valley Music Centre and at Loughborough Schools Foundation
- Plays with various local orchestras including Wigston Civic Orchestra, Bardi Wind and Rutland Symphonia.

Christopher Jeans, LRAM Brass Coordinator (jeansc@leicestergrammar.org.uk)

Trombone, Trumpet, Horn, Tuba

- Has been Principal Trombone with Desford Colliery, Grimethorpe Colliery and Black Dyke Mills bands, with which he won all the major awards, as well as holding the title of Champion Trombone Player of Great Britain.
- Has appeared with Sir Elton John, Lesley Garrett, BBC Concert Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra and most of the top brass bands in the world.
- Director of Music *Youth Brass 2000* and the World Famous GUS Band.
- Professor of Trombone for the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain.
- President of the Jury for the French Open Brass Festival.

Amanda Mainard, ABSM (Performance) ABSM (Teaching) ARCM BA (Hons) MA (mainardm@leicestergrammar.org.uk)

Cello and Double Bass

- Studied the cello with Antonia Butler at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, graduating with distinction. Post graduate studies continued with Douglas Cummings, (Principal Cellist of the London Symphony Orchestra).
- Early career comprised freelance work with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Midland Radio Orchestra, Orchestra of the Welsh National Opera and Orchestra da Camera. Member of the touring orchestra for Cameron Mackintosh West End theatre productions.
- Chamber and orchestral work in Bristol, concerts and weddings.
- Studied for a BA and MA at the University of Leicester.
- Two former LGS cello pupils who gained diplomas whilst at school, went on to study music at university. Both have careers in music.
- Chamber performance, teaching and coaching is now the main focus.

Andrew Martin, LRSM BA(Hons) BSc(Hons) MISM

Piano

- Studied with Deidre Haywood (Royal Academy) while completing a BA(Hons) degree at Leicester University.
- Admitted to Licentiate in Piano Performance with the Royal Schools of Music.
- Over twenty years' experience as a piano teacher with many students achieving Grade 8, diplomas, awards and scholarships.
- In 2019, one student began a piano performance degree at Trinity/Laban and another at the Royal Northern College of Music.
- Formerly Director of Music at Christ the King, Leicester.
- Currently working towards the Fellowship of the Royal Schools of Music.

Chloe Percy-Smith, BMus(Hons), MMus

Saxophone

- Chloe studied the saxophone at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, graduating with both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in performance, as well as the RBC Postgraduate Pedagogy Award and the Musicians Union Bill Warman Award.
- As a freelance musician she has performed with many ensembles both within the UK and across Europe. This includes performances with the CBSO, as well as playing for various theatre productions, most recently including productions of 'Cats' in Cyprus and the UK.
- Co-founder of the Kassia Trio.
- Chloe is the saxophone teacher at the Junior Department of the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, as well as teaching at Solihull School, Leicester Grammar School, and for Wolverhampton Music Service.

Jo Preston, BMus AdvPGDipMusic (Prof Perf)

Flute

- Gained a first class honours degree and a commended Advanced PGDip Music (Professional Performance) on completion of her studies at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Received the Principal's Prize for Outstanding Contribution.
- As a soloist, has performed the Liebermann *Flute Concerto* and Mozart's *Concerto in G* with orchestra. She performs with 'The Madison Duo' and 'Trio Capriccio' with whom she has played for members of the Royal Family and broadcast on the BBC.
- Has performed with the London Concert Orchestra, New England Concert Orchestra, National Festival Orchestra and as principal flute for the Queen's Park Sinfonia.

Paul Saunders, ALCM, dipRCM (Teachers), dipRCM (Teachers)

Clarinet and Saxophone

- Studied at the Royal College of Music.
- Teaches at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire as Multi-Instrumental Consultant.
- Current performing job – *Wicked* (since 2007).
- Previous experience includes many West End Shows and Orchestras - please refer to website for more details – www.paulsaundersclarinet.co.uk
- Published composer – Spartan Press and Forton Music.
- Orchestral Fixer for London Musical Theatre Orchestra.
- Endorsed by 'Legere Reeds' and also a 'Vandoren UK' artist.

Alan Thomas, MMus

Guitar

- Was born in Atlanta, and completed his studies at Indiana University and the University of California at San Diego.
- Based in the UK since 1997, he is much in demand as a recitalist and concerto soloist in music ranging from the Renaissance to the present day, having performed extensively throughout the UK, Europe, the United States and Asia.

Rebecca Wong

Bassoon

- Trained as a classical musician and classroom music teacher in Hong Kong. As the recipient of a Hong Kong Jockey Club Scholarship, she pursued further studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, earning her postgraduate diploma in 1999. She then began working with Leicester's Art in Education.
- Rebecca is a bassoon specialist and also teaches all other woodwind instruments. In 2016, Rebecca joined LSMS' programme for the promotion of endangered instruments such as oboe and bassoon.

Rebecca also performs regularly in the orchestras around Leicester, such as with the Bardi Symphony Orchestra, Knighton Chamber Orchestra and Beauford Wind Quintet.