
SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

MUSIC ALUMNI



CLASS OF 2010

Eleanor



Teacher of Music

A Levels: Music, English Literature, History

Post-18: City University London, BMus

"My time at SHSG turned music from a casual hobby into a career. I was fascinated by the idea that this was a subject that I could never know everything about or completely master, and it became something that I wanted to work at every day. I became a music teacher so that I could keep learning about my favourite subject and share my passion for it with others. There is no better feeling than seeing that 'lightbulb moment' from a student when something that seemed totally out of reach for them suddenly makes sense or when they get to bask in the applause from an audience celebrating their performance achievements. I hope that in some way I am paying back all the hard work that my teachers at SHSG put into turning me into a musician.'

CLASS OF 2013

Eleanor



Teacher of Music

A Levels: Mathematics, Music, Religious Studies

Post-18: The University of Manchester, BMus

‘I feel incredibly lucky to be in a job where I get to do what I love, learn something new each day and help students develop a lifelong passion. Like every teacher, I live for those moments where a student pushes themselves beyond what they thought they were capable of. Watching them achieve their goals makes me feel inspired and overwhelmingly proud. ‘Don’t be afraid to do what you love. Anything is achievable if you want it badly enough, so don’t give up!’

CLASS OF 2014

Joanne



Junior Doctor, aspiring surgeon

A levels: Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Music

Post-18: University of Edinburgh, MBChB (Medicine)

‘During my time at SHSG, I developed my learning style and a preference of applying knowledge over abstract theory. The biggest lesson I learnt, however, was to invest in your hobbies: studying Music gave me a creative calm which complimented the intensive application process. Music also taught me to develop a good routine, rely on your discipline rather than motivation, and build a good support network around you.’

CLASS OF 2015

Lucy



**Industrial Relations Officer at the University of Southampton
and professional choral singer**

A levels: Geography, Government and Politics, Music, World Development

Post-18: Southampton University, BA (Music); MA (Psychology)

“When I was at school, my whole world revolved around music, and when I was 16 I thought I wanted to do it as a career, and therefore it was only natural that I did A-Level music. My fondest memories have to be the community that the music department was. Students from all year groups meeting to do the thing that they love, and making friends with the same passions. I have a lot to thank SHSG music department for. It kept me going during a very turbulent time. It also gave me opportunities for performance as a singer/instrumentalist, as well as in leadership as leader of music groups during sixth form. However, be ready for the challenge. Whatever anyone says about arts subjects, they are hard. Keep remembering why you chose the subject, your passion for it, what you want to do in the future; then every time it gets tough, you will know it is worth it.”

CLASS OF 2015

Madeline



Professional freelance soprano, Essex Young Musician of the Year 2021

A levels: English Literature, Government and Politics, Music

Post-18: Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, BMus (Voice); Guildhall School of Music and Drama, MA (Opera)

'I'm so pleased I pursued music, even though the last two years have been devastating for all of our careers. But we can rebuild slowly, foundation up - and remember you can fail at what you don't want to do. The time will pass either way so don't worry about the time it takes to get there.'

CLASS OF 2015

Rebecca



Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Concerts Coordinator

A Levels: Mathematics, Music, Psychology

Post-18: University of Nottingham, BA (Music)

'I enjoy working with professional orchestra and I have been given many opportunities to hear live music. I get so much satisfaction from planning the logistics for events with my colleagues and seeing the finished product is very rewarding, working in such a wide variety of venues across London and the UK with so many different people. For those looking for a future career in Music, I would advise listening to as much live music as possible, take all opportunities presented to gain as much experience possible, and talk to as many people as you can and build up your network.'

CLASS OF 2017

Abbie



Musician in the British Army

A Levels: Maths, Further Maths and Music

Post-18: Keele University, BA in Music with Mathematics

‘When I saw a job advert for the British Army, as a musician, I realised that I could actually have a stable career in the music industry, which is something I've always wanted to do but never thought possible. I really enjoy my job. I'm very new and there is still lots that I have to learn but to be able to play music every day (and actually get paid for it!) is something I still can't wrap my head around. The greatest lesson I have learnt since leaving school is to push yourself and pursue what you want love.’

CLASS OF 2018

Jess



Producer, Writer, Choral Scholar

A levels: English Literature, Government and Politics, Music, Theatre Studies

Post-18: King's College London, BA (Liberal Arts); Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, MA (Creative Producing)

'If it weren't for the SHSG music department, I wouldn't have become a Choral Scholar at King's College London, which has been a fundamental part of my University experience affording me the opportunity to record numerous albums, work as a freelance singer on the London Classical scene, and tour the world singing. Furthermore, my experience of Musical Theatre at SHSG has opened avenues to working in Theatre: I'm now the Production Manager of a theatre company, and plan to pursue a career as such. My fondest memories of the SHSG music department were our field trips. From performing at Disneyland to watching the London Phil playing Stravinsky's Rite of Spring, the department went above and beyond to contextualise our learning outside of the classroom. I'll be forever grateful for that foundation of musical knowledge that has spring boarded my career in the arts.'

CLASS OF 2018

Tara



3rd Year University Student

A levels: French, History, Music

Post-18: Downing College, Cambridge University, BMus

“For me, A-Level Music really confirmed that my passion lies in academic music, rather than the performance/composition route. The course gave me the confidence and requisite tools to tackle a highly academic Music degree at university. The SHSG Music Department was my home throughout the 7 years I spent at SHSG, and I can honestly say that I don’t think there was a day when I wasn’t there! For me, the Music Department is more than just a block of classrooms - it represents some of the best friendships that I made during my time at school, as well as being the place where I spent some of the most musically fulfilling days of my life. I owe a lot to the time that I spent as a member of the SHSG Music Department, it really did make me the person that I am today.’

CLASS OF 2021

Joe



Professional Puppet Maker

A levels: Media Studies, Music, Theatre Studies

Post-18: Set up his own business

'I am a full-time professional puppet builder and puppet makers. I'm working on growing my own business building bespoke puppets for clients in the theatre, TV, and film industry. Alongside this I perform my own shows all over the country at events such as Glastonbury Festival. It's definitely quite hard setting up your own business, particularly as it is such a niche industry, but this year has been my most successful year yet. I hope to be able to continue this for the foreseeable future.'