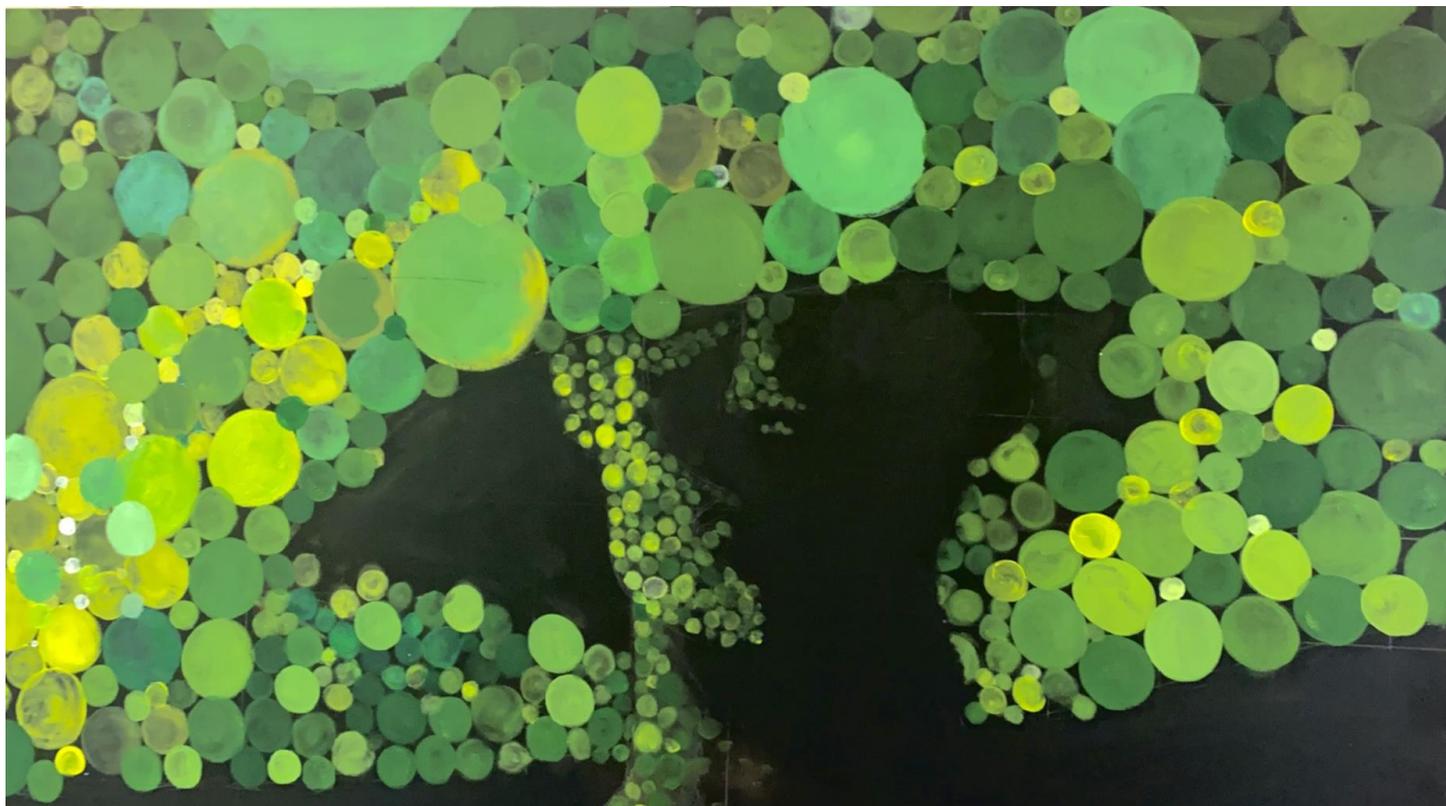


Westcliff High School for Boys



By Casey Children-Smith, Upper Sixth

Autumn Chamber Recital

Performed by Musicians of the School

Accompanists:

Mr A Wood

Mr T Derrick

Thursday 10 December 2020

Tonight's Programme

Finnian Smith	French Horn	<i>Hunter's Moon</i>	G. Vinter
Hector Bailey	Piano	<i>A Kwela for Caitlin</i>	R. Michael
Jahnuzan Vakeesan	Mridangam	<i>Improvisation</i>	J. Vakeesan
Rafael Gamma	Piano	<i>Larrikin</i>	E. Milne
Christopher Newby	Piano	<i>Maple Leaf Rag</i>	S. Joplin
Josef Machacek	Violin	<i>Hungarian Dance</i>	J. Brahms
Ethan Okai	Piano	<i>Sonatina in A Minor</i>	G. Benda
Quinn Williams	Cello	<i>Bourée 1 & 2</i>	J. S. Bach

Interval

String Ensemble		<i>Eleanor Rigby</i>	Lennon/McCartney arr. H. Smith
Benjamin Chow	Piano	<i>Sonata in G, Mvmt. 1</i>	L. Beethoven
Dexter Legon	Tenor	<i>Empty Charis at Empty Tables</i>	C. Schonberg
Christopher Parkinson	Piano	<i>Tarantella</i>	F. Burgmuller
Aran Tanseli	Piano	<i>Andante in A</i>	J. Haydn
Christopher Butler-Cole	Piano	<i>Liebesträum No. 3</i>	F. Lizst
Alexander Marshak	Piano	<i>New York in Autumn</i>	A. Marshak
George Jefferson	Clarinet	<i>Sonata in Eb, Mvmt 1</i>	J. Brahms

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Tonight's Performers

Finnian Smith is currently in Year 11 and has achieved Grade 8 in French horn and cello, all while studying for his GCSE Music. Finnian plans to take Music at A Level and explore it as a potential career. He enjoys a wide range of music, especially Jazz and experimental music; he particularly likes the composition of young composer Jacob Collier. As well as horn and cello, he is also studying piano and guitar for diversity and enjoyment. Finnian is part of numerous ensembles inside and outside of WHSB, including Sinfonia, String Group, Quartet and Junior Wind Band, whereas outside he is part of Essex Youth Orchestra, Essex Young People's Orchestra, Essex Youth Symphonic Wind Orchestra as well as many more local groups. It is safe to say that Finnian enjoys playing in chamber groups and orchestras.

Hector Bailey is one of the School's trombonists, an instrument he took with him on last year's Westcliff Music tour to New York. He has achieved Grade 6 and is a regular member of the Brass Ensemble and Sinfonia. Tonight, however, he will be playing piano, an instrument in which he has achieved Grade 5. Hector is currently in Year 10 and is greatly enjoying his GCSE studies, particularly learning how to compose a pop song. His favourite genres of music are jazz or electronic music due to the interesting rhythms and different instruments used.

Jahnuzan Vakeesan is playing an instrument tonight that most people will not have heard of the mridangam, a traditional Indian/Sri-Lankan drum. Jahnuzan has been brought up listening to Tamil or Carnatic music and enjoys playing traditional instruments with his siblings, sometimes performing modern pop music. He has already taken his Grade 7 examination and hopes to eventually take his

Grade 8 and then his diploma. At WHSB, Jahnuzan was a member of the Treble Choir, performing in venues such as the Royal Albert Hall. Apart from Music, he is a member of the Mathematics Society, having excelled in both Mathematics and English. He has also participated in language and writing competitions.

Rafael Gamma is in Year 9 and has already contributed a lot to the extra-curricular life at WHSB over the last two years. His musical interests vary from classical all the way to 1970s and 1980s music, as the former uses complex melodies and harmony, whereas the latter features artists with charisma and terrific song writing skills. Rafael has been working on Grade 5 piano with his teacher with plans to take the examination early next year. In addition to playing piano, Rafael is an excellent vocalist and is a valuable member of the School Choir. Tonight, he showcases his ability on the piano but he is also a keen member of the School's Drama Department, performing in numerous performances including the forthcoming *Centenary Music Hall*. This acting experience has made Rafi a wonderful debater and public speaker. He is also part of the Latin Club.

Christopher Newby is currently in the Lower Sixth and has started his studies in A Level Music. Christopher has achieved Grade 4 on the piano and he also studies singing and drumming. He plays an active role in the musical life at WHSB, being a regular member of the Choir and also the Westcliff Sinfonia. Christopher is a little bit of a chameleon when it comes to music. He enjoys all genres of music as he can find aspects in each type of music that he can enjoy. He is particularly interested in learning how pop music developed from Jazz after World War II.

Tonight, he plays in the style of ragtime, a genre which was prominent in the early 20th century.

Josef Machacek has just started at WHSB, joining Year 7 in September, but has already thrown himself in the musical life at the School. Josef is a member of the string group as well as being a member of the Year 7 Choir who recently performed in the School's Remembrance Service. He enjoys listening to a wide range of music but his favourite is the Romantic Era followed closely by the Baroque period. He enjoys his music lessons, especially studying compositional techniques. Tonight, Josef will be playing the violin, an instrument in which he has already achieved Grade 5. He has also achieved Grade 2 on piano. Apart from music, he also enjoys being a member of the Astronomy Club.

Ethan Okai is debuting his talents tonight at his first chamber concert. Ethan is in Year 9, and he is enjoying his musical studies, paying particular interest to the recent topic of Minimalism due to its hypnotic and simple sound. He achieved a well-earned merit for his Grade 3 in piano and also enjoys playing the cello for fun. Ethan is a valued member of the choir and was a member of the string ensemble. Outside of music, Ethan has a keen interest in sport and is part of the rugby team.

Quinn Williams is in Year 9 and is already looking to take his Grade 7 cello examination this academic year. He also achieved Distinction for his Grade 5 Theory and is working towards his Grade 4 Piano. Quinn has an eclectic taste in music and enjoys improvising, composing and arranging, having arranged a 4-part version of *My Heart Will Go On* in lockdown. Quinn is a member of the Sinfonia, String Group and Choir and, outside of School, he is a member of the Essex Young Persons' Orchestra. He is proud to have been awarded a Brass Scholarship by the Music

Department and, in a short space of time, has progressed on the trombone to the point where he is a member of both the Junior Jazz Band and Brass Ensemble. Quinn has also been busy in the sporting life at WHSB, representing the School in sport, such as Basketball, Cricket, Rugby and Tennis. Tonight, he will be playing an unaccompanied piece by Bach, a piece which he enjoys because it gives him the freedom of not having to coordinate with an accompanist.

The String Group is open to every string player in the School. Its purpose is to develop ensemble playing skills and to act as an introduction to sectional playing before string players are invited to join the Sinfonia when they have achieved Grade 5 standard. The group play a variety of repertoire including Irish jigs, pop music, and classical pieces. All the music is arranged to make it possible for players of all standards to perform together with more challenging parts being written for the experienced musicians. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, tonight we will hear the Sixth Form members of the ensemble play together. This evening's piece, *Eleanor Rigby*, was requested by the Sixth Form players who are studying A Level Music as it is on the syllabus.

Benjamin Chow is an accomplished pianist. He has achieved Grade 8 on piano and he looks forward to developing his performance skills even further. Benjamin's musical interests lie in modern genres including pop, hip-hop, trap and R&B as the instrumentals are enjoyable and the lyrics are well written. Benjamin is in the Lower Sixth. His tastes lean towards modern music, although he is enjoying branching out and listening to more of the classical repertoire from composers like Beethoven and Haydn as part of his studies at A Level.

Dexter Legon is currently in Year 11 and is studying for his GCSEs. Although he has not

completed any Grades, he is working on Grade 7 songs in his lessons, one of which he will sing tonight. Dexter has been a valuable member of the School choir, singing in the tenor section, helped by his experience singing in the Southend Boys' Choir for seven years and performing in prestigious venues such as The Royal Albert Hall and Royal Festival Hall. Dexter greatly enjoys the musical theatre genre as there are so many varied styles between the different shows from jazz (*West Side Story*) to pop (*Dear Evan Hansen*). This love of musical theatre manifests itself in Dexter's commitment to the dramatic life of the School, performing in many plays and shows since Year 8, including *Guys and Dolls*.

Christopher Parkinson has just begun his studies in Year 10 and is enjoying his GCSE syllabus. Recently he has studied the music of Queen and how it differs from the popular music at the time. Overall, Christopher enjoys a variety of modern music from country to rock and pop as they feature catchy melodies and interesting grooves. He is currently working towards his Grade 5 piano examination looking to complete it in the near future. Christopher also takes pride in the School's House System, being an Osprey House representative since Year 7.

Aran Tanseli is currently in Year 11 and is an enthusiastic pianist and singer. He enjoys all kinds of music from classical to modern due to the varied emotions each style can convey. Aran was recently the pianist for the WHSB New York Tour Orchestra in 2019, something he greatly enjoyed. He is currently working towards his Grade 6 examination on the piano and also plays drums and guitar for fun. He is an accomplished singer and is a member of the School Choir. Outside of music, Aran founded the Art and Prop Making Club and is a Spanish Mentor.

Christopher Butler-Cole has performed in School on many occasions. He has achieved Grade 7 on Saxophone and Trumpet, instruments which he play in numerous ensembles in the School including, the Big Band, Concert Band, Sinfonia and Sax Quartet. Christopher has just begun his Music studies at A Level and is currently learning about the development of rock and pop music, something he is interested in which is no surprise given that his favourite artists include Michael Jackson, David Bowie and Green Day among other 70/80s pop musicians. Tonight, he will be playing the piano, an instrument in which he is self-taught and one that he plays for his own enjoyment.

Alexander Marshak is in the Upper Sixth. He is an excellent composer, a talent he has demonstrated in many previous Chamber Concerts. Tonight, he debuts his own composition on the piano, an instrument for which he has achieved Grade 7. In addition, Alexander plays the violin to Grade 5 standard and is part of the Westcliff Sinfonia and String Ensemble who are also performing tonight. Alexander has an eclectic musical taste, enjoying music from Baroque to 1930s swing and 1970s rock, a varied listening experience that has inspired him to write his own compositions. He was the also a proud winner of WHSB Centenary Composition Competition and showcased his romantic era style piece, *Centenary Waltz*, at last year's Spring Chamber Concert. As well as his musical commitments, Alexander is a member of the WHSB Engineering Society and regularly presents on topics that interest him.

George Jefferson is certainly no stranger to the musical life at WHSB. He is a member of the Upper Sixth and preparing for his Music A Level, George has been involved in the musical life of the School since the beginning of his time at WHSB. He enjoys listening to the music of

Brahms all the way to French composers like Debussy and Milhaud. As such, it is no surprise that he is enjoying his studies at A Level looking at the development of the Romantic style through composers such as Berlioz and Beethoven. George has achieved high Distinction scores in Grade 8 Saxophone, both Classical and Jazz and he is currently building a repertoire around Grade 8 for clarinet, leading him to be a part of numerous ensembles including the Big Band, Concert Band and Saxophone Quartet. He is also an exceptional

pianist, already having achieved Grade 8 and he regularly accompanies the School hymns and Choir on the organ and piano respectively. He is also proud to be one of the School's Brass Scholars on the French horn and is a member of the Brass Ensemble. On top of all his academic and musical commitments, George is a keen actor and has immersed himself in the Drama at WHSB, performing in the School's shows including *Oliver*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Frankenstein* and many more

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STRING ENSEMBLE **Led by Mrs H Smith**

Violin

Cho Man
Alexander Marshak
Jonathan Cheung
James Scarsbrook

Viola

Sailesh Kandasamy
Mrs J Williams
Mrs H Smith

FORTHCOMING EVENTS TO CELEBRATE THE 100th CHRISTMAS AT WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Westcliff High School for Boys: A Centenary History

Evening streaming:
Tuesday 15 December 2020, 7.30pm

*Official Launch of the School's Centenary
History Book by Dr Alan White*

Centenary Music Hall

Evening streaming:
Wednesday 16 December 2020, 7.30pm
and Thursday 17 December 2020, 7.30pm

WHSB's troupe of players brings the late 19th century tradition of Music Hall back to life with some wonderful old songs, poems and pantomime sketches

A Centenary Christmas Celebration

Afternoon streaming for pupils to mark the end of term on Friday 18 December 2020
Evening streaming:
Friday 18 December 2020, 7.30pm

A festive celebration of the 100th Christmas at WHSB, featuring music and readings from pupils and staff

To join us for these events please visit: www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/community/westcliff-high-school-for-boys-christmas-events/westcliff-high-school-for-boys-christmas