



James Allen's Girls' School Senior 11-18
James Allen's Preparatory School 7-11
James Allen's Pre-Preparatory School 4-7

Jags

Music



Your musical journey

Your first day in Reception marks the start of your musical journey. En route you'll discover the wonders of singing in class, performing in musicals and playing instruments. In JAPS Middle School, you can take one-on-one instrumental or vocal lessons, join the choir or orchestra and enjoy weekly music-making.

At the Senior School, musical opportunities abound: we have five choirs, including our pupil-led Gospel Choir, three main orchestras and countless brass, wind and string ensembles, chamber music groups, rock, pop and jazz bands. No surprise then, that there are over 30 concerts and recitals each year! Even when not performing yourself, you're sure to join the audience at lunchtimes for mellow jazz concerts, or lively House competitions, drawn in to support your friends and your House. You could be listening to original compositions or covers, Poulenc, Popper or Puccini, solo or ensemble work. Girls sing and play at community events, in residential homes, clubs and hospitals. There are formal and informal concerts,

PopFest, Jazz Night and Festivals to celebrate Strings, Piano, Percussion, Wind and Brass.

Whatever instrument you'd like to play, someone probably teaches it here. Adjudicators come and go, united in praise for what they hear. Concerts in the Holst Hall and beyond in venues such as Blackheath Halls, St Martin-in-the-Fields and St John's, Smith Square showcase the terrific range of talent from music scholars and from those who simply get involved to embrace a new challenge and make friends along the way. If you're keen to develop new skills, you can try Taiko drumming or GuZheng playing. Why not stop by for one of our multicultural evenings and see more?

We've come a long way since 1882 when our curriculum included only vocal music, and a visiting singing mistress was employed for the 8-17 year old girls. In the autumn of 1903, one Ralph Vaughan Williams, 'a shy young man', temporarily replaced the singing mistress. Vaughan

Williams then encouraged his friend, Gustav von Holst, at the time, a struggling, unknown composer, to apply for the post of singing master, and he was appointed to teach at JAGS from February 1904.

Soon engaged in school drama, Holst collaborated with the Headmistress Miss Coulter in a production of Tennyson's 'Princess' and composed his 'Songs from the Princess'. These were sung by the girls from his manuscript and were published in 1907. To this day we still have Holst scores dedicated to JAGS. "I remember the choir singing and walking off along a corridor and shutting themselves in a far-off room getting softer and softer - and leaving the audience straining their ears for the last note." (An alumna).

Since 1993, at the weekends and in school holidays, 500 local children attend JASSPA (James Allen's Saturday School for the Performing Arts), filling our buildings with the energy and creative buzz of music, dance and drama classes. Our latest

musical venture, SLYO (South London Youth Orchestra) swings into action in the holidays with courses for boys and girls of all abilities.

Local amateur and professional musicians come together as JACO, our community orchestra, under the baton of our Director of Music, giving concerts in support of Dulwich Helpline. Open to local enthusiastic adult singers, JAGS Choral Society augments our pupil choirs and gives concerts of its own. Our annual Primary Schools' Singing Festival unleashes 200 younger voices from local primary schools in a soaring, massed choir. When we open our beautiful new Community Music Centre, a landmark building for local people, voices from people young and old will be heard all over South London.

Come to JAGS and you embark on a voyage of rich discovery, exploring music with friends at school and in the wider community.

Symphony Orchestra at St John's, Smith Square



Concert for the elderly, Dulwich Picture Gallery and Christ's Chapel



Gospel Choir



Prep Schools' Charity Concert at St John's, Smith Square



PopFest



Form Song Competition