

House Music 2018

The prospect of listening to 170 performances over two days initially felt a little daunting, however it needn't have been, as on 21st and 22nd March we enjoyed two days of wonderful music making.

The confidence and assurance from our pupils continued to stand out in the initial classes (beginner to Grade 1) on Wednesday. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to such a broad range of performances and it is credit to the instrumental teachers, to see and hear the progress children are making on all instruments.

For our more advanced musicians, performing music from Grades 2 to 6, the adjudication was left in the very capable hands of Philip Dukes, Artistic Director at Marlborough College. There were some particularly outstanding performances, and throughout the day Philip continually commented upon the potential of our musicians. I urge every one of you to carefully take note of his feedback!

Winners for each of the solo classes were:

Guitar

Ted Greig
Jonny McLaughlin
Ella Thompson

Brass

Archie Baker
Orlo Clark
George Beattie

Voice

Eleanor Williams
Lois Armshaw
Oliver Ridgwell
Jemima McShane
Bel McLaughlin
Clemmie Birts

Piano

Max Worsley
Aggie Pearman
Ellis Robinson
Eva Chadwick
Emily Watkins
Evie Jones

Drums

Otto Sanchez-Farmar
Rosie Roche
Luca Webb
Lili Evans
Toby Wickett

Woodwind

Libby Fleming
Felix Haynes
Saskia Rowlands
Rose Evans-Gough
Monty d'Arcy-Rice
Hermione Brewster

Strings

Red Gifford
Lexy Miller
Hugo Kay
Evie Jones

After a relentless programme of solo performances, the day culminated with the 'House Shout'. Throughout the day, we could sense the excitement and the friendly, yet competitive atmosphere bubbling up amongst the pupils (and staff)!

'C House' gave a characterful performance of 'Somewhere only we know' displaying clear diction and an imaginative ending, with a solo from Ella. 'D House' performed with spirit and energy, singing 'Don't Stop' by Fleetwood Mac; there was a real sense of enjoyment from this performance. 'B House' gave a very colourful presentation of 'Shut up and Dance' full of sparkle and with some imaginative movement to enhance their performance. Finally, 'A House' sang with terrific energy, displaying a real sense of joy for their chosen song 'Man in the Mirror'; well done to the soloists in this song and to our very own 'Michael Jackson' for the additional dance moves. Each of the houses were accompanied by a live band, formed of both staff and pupils.

'C House' were awarded the cup for the House Shout; much to the delight of Mr Burns.

In the words of Arthur O' Shaughnessy, *'we are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams'*...this year 'A House's' dream came true as they were crowned the winners of House Music 2018.

Mrs Saunders
Head of Music