

# HOUSE MUSIC GRAND FINALE 2023

Britton Recital Hall, Wilson's School, 2<sup>nd</sup> May



## PROGRAMME

**Guest Adjudicator — Sam Jackson**

### INTRODUCTION

This evening we welcome you to hear some of the most talented musicians Wilson's School has to offer. The participants in tonight's Grand Finale have already won the individual heats held earlier this year (Voice, Strings, Woodwind, Brass, Guitar, Percussion, and Piano), alongside a few 'highly commended' performers where they were of such a high standard that they, too, were invited to perform. The programme notes have been written by the students themselves.

The high standard and variety of musical talent this year has been remarkable. Once again there were over 200 entries, and the students once more enjoyed the chance to perform in front of an audience! As well as publicly thanking the students for their hard work and talent, we should also thank their instrumental teachers and those of you at home who encourage them behind the scenes.

At the end of this evening we are very pleased to invite our special guest adjudicator, **Sam Jackson**, to announce the winners! Sam Jackson is Controller of BBC Radio 3. He leads the BBC's overall classical music strategy, setting the vision for Radio 3 and the annual BBC Proms: the world's biggest classical music festival. Part of his role is to deliver on the needs and expectations of audiences, making sure the network and the Proms remain at the forefront of cultural life in the UK and across the world. He was previously Executive Vice President at *Universal Music Group* and Senior Managing Editor at *Global for Classic FM, Smooth and Gold*.

Sam is also a Trustee of both *Help Musicians* and the *Young Classical Artists Trust*, a Member of the Board and Company of *Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance*, and a Member of the *Royal Philharmonic Society Council*.

We are delighted to have him here with us tonight.

### PRIZES

Junior Category (7-9): Wilson's Junior Young Musician of the Year & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

Senior Category (10-13): Wilson's Young Musician of the Year & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize

We very much hope you enjoy what promises to be an evening of very fine music-making!

**Wilson's School Music Department**

# JUNIOR CATEGORY (7-9)

Jacob	7B	<i>Allegro con brio, from Sonata in D, Hob. XVI: 37 (1<sup>st</sup> Movement)</i>	J. Haydn
PIANO	<p>One of the most famous of Haydn's 63 piano sonatas is the 37<sup>th</sup> in D major. The second movement of this piece is a slow movement normally only taking up to four lines. The other movements are also quite short, leaving the first movement to be the most important.</p> <p>The first movement consists of three sections: the exposition, development and recapitulation, all being quite lively and fast. The development is in the dominant key and the exposition and recapitulation is in the tonic key. This movement is lively and extravagant; perfect for competitive and concert pianists. Haydn was one of the longer-living composers and had a humorous personality!</p>		

Isaac	7H	<i>Allegro, from Concerto in Dm, MVV O 3 (3<sup>rd</sup> Movement)</i>	F. Mendelssohn
VIOLIN	<p>This final movement begins with a lively orchestral introduction and then the violin enters with the main theme, which is a fast-paced melody in the key of D minor. The violin then plays a series of variations on the main theme, each one more challenging than the last. The orchestra provides accompaniment throughout the movement, adding to the excitement and drama.</p> <p>This piece is really lively, and it will give a sense of excitement to the audience. The movement was composed by Felix Mendelssohn in 1829.</p>		

Terry	8D	<i>Allegro, from Sonata in F, K. 332 9 (1<sup>st</sup> Movement)</i>	W. A. Mozart
PIANO	<p>Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791) was a prolific and influential composer of the Classical period. Despite his short life, his rapid pace of composition resulted in more than 800 works in virtually every genre of his time. Many of these compositions are acknowledged as pinnacles of the symphonic, concertante, chamber, operatic, and choral repertoire. Mozart is widely regarded as among the greatest composers in the history of Western music, with his music admired for its “melodic beauty, its formal elegance and its richness of harmony and texture”.</p> <p>The piece was composed in 1783 and was published in 1784. This piece is the first movement of a full sonata, marked <i>Allegro</i>, and is in the Classical style.</p>		

Arlo	8D	<i>Cavatine, Op. 144</i>	C. Saint-Saëns
TROMBONE	<p>Camille Saint-Saëns was a French prodigy during the Romantic Era, who made his concert debut aged 10 years old. His best-known works include <i>Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso</i> (1863) and <i>Carnival of the Animals</i> (1886). He went on to teach students such as Gabriel Fauré, who went on to teach Maurice Ravel.</p> <p>I particularly enjoy this piece due to its fast runs and speed, in the first section, the rich emotion in the second and a powerful ending in the third, bringing together a strong piece which is lots of fun to listen to and play.</p>		

Marko	9B	<i>En Los Trigales</i>	J. Rodrigo
CLASSICAL GUITAR	<p>Joaquin Rodrigo was one of the most popular composers for the classical guitar. He wrote <i>En Los Trigales</i> (meaning “in the wheat fields”) upon his return to Spain from his studies in France, delayed by the Spanish Civil War.</p> <p>The outer sections of the piece are a vigorous dance coloured by surprising, even witty, chromatic shifts. In the middle is a stately, march-like tune, interrupted by a distant echo of the original dance.</p>		

Harry	9S	<i>Stars (from Les Misérables)</i>	C-M. Schönberg
VOICE	<p><i>Stars</i> is a piece from the hit musical <i>Les Misérables</i>, where Javert sings a monologue about his desire to recapture the ex-convict Jean Valjean after he unknowingly helps him and Cosette from Thénardier and his gang.</p> <p>I enjoy performing this piece because it is full of contrast: there are times in the piece where it is very loud, and parts where it is very soft. Additionally, the piece is a very good example of successful theatre music, which provides something different to traditional Western music (e.g. Baroque music), and, it is just a very nice song which is deep in meaning. Finally, the song is very good because it was originally music written for theatre. This means that there is an element of performance to it, which can make it even more different and interesting compared to just normal singing."</p>		

Alex	9B	<i>Turkish March</i>	W. A. Mozart
PIANO	<p>The ‘Turkish March’ (<i>Marcia alla turca</i>) is a Classical march theme by Ludwig van Beethoven. It was written for the 1809 Six variations, Op. 76, and in the Turkish style. Later in 1811, Beethoven included the Turkish March in a play by August von Kotzebue called <i>The Ruins of Athens</i> (Op. 113), which premiered in Budapest, Hungary in 1812.</p> <p>Mozart didn’t often name give names to his music, but he did actually give this piece the title “Alla Turca”. While that name is still used to today, you also might have heard it called the “Turkish March”, “Turkish Rondo”, or “Rondo All Turca”.</p> <p>The word “Rondo” tells us the song is going to have multiple sections that are repeated at different times you keep hearing again and again. So, watch out for these repeating patterns or melodies in the music!</p>		

Edward	9G	<i>Where'er you walk</i>	G. F. Handel
VOICE	<p><i>Where'er you walk</i>, composed by Handel, is from the much larger, musical drama <i>Semele</i>. It is considered the most famous aria from this musical drama and is still widely sung today. Personally, I enjoy singing this song due to its wide vocal range which really challenges me as a singer and the almost magical feeling that I feel it evokes.</p>		

Adhiraj	8G	<i>Kita's Five</i>	K. Steuer
DRUMKIT	<p><i>Kita's Five</i> is written in the spirit of master jazz Dave Brubeck, who was a key figure in the ‘cool jazz’ style as well as pianist Vince Guaraldi, saxophonist Lester Young and trumpet player Chet Baker. This piece of music features odd time signatures and a swinging tune, which calls for a rather light touch and dynamic control, as well as accompanying the lead, among its various techniques.</p>		

Joshua	9S	<i>Sarabande et Allegro</i>	G. Grovlez
SAXOPHONE	<p>Gabriel Grovlez was a composer from the Romantic era, but had neo-classical influences: indeed, the style of Sarabande had entered Europe (Spain, neighbouring Grovlez's home country of France) in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. But don't presume that “Classical” means “boring”! Whilst this may often be the case(!), the stark contrast between the two movements is likely to spark some excitement in the piece.</p> <p>The first movement - the <i>Sarabande</i> - is a slow dance, originating from Latin America, with three beats to a bar and, unique to the style, emphasis on the second beat. Long passages and the ebbing and flowing of dynamics is sure to convey a tranquil air.</p> <p><i>Allegro</i> - the second movement - is Italian for cheerful and should undoubtedly convey such a message. The long staccato phrases of semiquavers, as well as the fast tempo, reflects the ‘bounciness’ of this movement. Look out for the middle section of calmer playing, similar to the eye of this ‘musical storm’, preceding the return to fast and light playing.</p> <p>Overall, a piece which has just about everything. Enjoy!</p>		

## SENIOR CATEGORY (10-13)

Tarun	11D	<i>Anastasia</i>	Slash
ELECTRIC GUITAR	<p>Slash is well known as being the lead guitarist for the hard rock band, <i>Guns N' Roses</i>, as well as being one of the greatest guitarists of all time. He shows off his unique phrasing by combining elements of Blues and Hard Rock in order to create memorable melodic phrases that leave you longing for more.</p> <p>Released in 2012, the blend of Slash's unforgettable intro with its tightly-picked palm-muted riff, alongside Myles Kennedy's magically skilled vocals, is what makes it so fun to play - if music could be tasted, this one would be umami!</p>		

Sean	10D	<i>Grave-Allegro, from Sonata Pathétique in Cm, Op.13 (1st Movement)</i>	L. van Beethoven
PIANO	The <i>Pathétique</i> Sonata, movement one, is part of a piano sonata composed by Ludwig van Beethoven in 1798. It is one of his most famous works and is known for its emotional intensity and expressiveness. Particularly listen to the opening, which is characterised by its dramatic opening chords and powerful themes. It is a masterful piece of music that continues to captivate audiences over 200 years later.		

Kai	11D	<i>You'll Be Back, from Hamilton</i>	L-M. Miranda
VOICE	The song is from the play Hamilton, where the singer is the mad King George. He sings it to the American colonies, who have rebelled for their freedom. It's a very interesting emotive song, and has to be sung with a slight craziness to grasp the feel of it. This is difficult, but it makes it very fun to sing!		

Adithya	10D	<i>Solo Thani Avarthanamn set to Athi Thalam</i>	Arr. by Performer
MRIDHANGAM	I am playing a Solo <i>Thani Avarthanam</i> set to <i>Athi Thalam</i> on the Mridhangam. The Mridhangam is an Indian classical instrument that is you will see is played, seated, with both hands at either end. The piece contains some two-beat strokes <i>Chatusra Nadai, Thistra Nadai, Mora</i> , and some more <i>korwais</i> which I have compiled together. I hope you enjoy!		

Philip	10H	<i>Valse Vanité</i>	R. Wiedoeft
SAXOPHONE	<p><i>Valse Vanité</i> is a fun and enjoyable piece, allowing for dramatic and charismatic changes in dynamics, with interesting octave ascents and descents. There are different moods in the piece, as if writing a story, such as the slow affectionate beginning, which then transfers and modulates to a fast, upbeat and playful second section, with a charming trio towards the end of the piece.</p> <p>The listener should look forward to this 'story telling' in the piece, contrasting different moods, as well as the virtuosity that adds to this enjoyment. Overall, this piece is very playful and enjoyable, ranging from majestic feelings to just pure fun and enjoyment.</p>		

Michael	11C	<i>Allegro maestoso, from Trombone Concertino, Op. 4 (1st Movement)</i>	F. David
TROMBONE	<p>Ferdinand David was a German composer and violin virtuoso who worked closely with Mendelssohn. His trombone concerto was dedicated to his good friend Karl Queisser and it was an immediate hit, not just in Germany, but around the world, and it has now become a staple in the trombone repertoire.</p> <p>This piece was composed in 1837 and features a lot of technical passages. However, it is worth looking forward to the gentler, more lyrical theme in the middle of the first movement and the fiery ending to the movement.</p>		

Han	11G	<i>Hungarian Rhapsody, Op. 68</i>	D. Popper
CELLO	<p>David Popper was a Bohemian cellist and composer, mostly focusing his works around the cello itself. He expressed his love of the instrument through his shorter showpieces which were written to highlight the unique sound and style that the cello could produce.</p> <p>The piece was composed in 1893 and offers a lot of idiomatic writing through the Jewish lens of Hungarian folk music. The piece has a traditional folk feel to it and reflects the traditional Hungarian dance, the <i>Csárdás</i>, characterised by a fluctuating flow from 2/4 to 4/4 throughout. Areas to look out for are the start, which creates a grand opening, and towards the conclusion where the virtuosity builds to create a flashy ending.</p>		

Monty	11D	<i>Allegro, from First Horn Concerto, Op. 11 (1st Movement)</i>	R. Strauss
FRENCH HORN	Richard Strauss' first Horn Concerto was one of his earlier works, written and premiered in 1883, when he was just 18. However, even at this age he was a talented composer, and the Concerto has become one of the most well-known and renowned pieces in Horn repertoire. Written for his father, Franz Strauss, who was himself a composer and horn player, the Concerto is a typically rousing horn work, with a bold horn call to open, beautiful lyrical melodies and quick technical passages that wouldn't sound better on any other instrument!		