MUSIC TEACHING STAFF BIOGRAPHIES 2024/25

# **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC (Upper School)**

# James Drinkwater



Since September 2023 James Drinkwater has served as Director of Music at Clifton College, teaching academic music, conducting the orchestra, coaching chamber music and musically directing the autumn show (*Oklahoma!* and *Made in Dagenham* most recently). Until July 2023 he was Assistant Director of Music and College Organist, several of his pupils proceeding to Oxbridge organ scholarships and winning RCO diplomas and awards. As piano accompanist, he has appeared several times on television and radio (including the BBC Young Musician competition) as well as at an evening recital at London's Wigmore Hall with Clifton College alumna, now Fulbright Scholar, violinist Julia Hwang. He has played

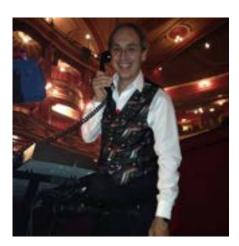
concertos both on piano and organ. In arranging and composing, recent creations include a new setting of 'I vow to thee' for the 2024 Holst anniversary year, and an orchestration of Cécile Chaminade for International Women's Day.

He is an English graduate of Pembroke College Cambridge (where he was organ scholar and academic scholar), a prize-winning Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, and past president of the Bristol and District Organists' Association.

He is delighted to continue working in such a well-supported department at Clifton, with a highly motivated and talented staff, with music very much at the heart of College life.

# **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC (Prep School)**

# Julian Edgell



As a young child growing up in Bristol, Julian learnt piano, recorder, clarinet and organ; a highlight was reaching the televised stages of the BBC piano competition 'Major Minor' (a forerunner of the BBC's 'Young Musician'). After gaining his degree at Southampton University (and PGCE at Bristol) he has since worked at Clifton College Pre, teaching Science, Maths, Music and a variety of sports. He has been the Director of Music of the Pre for the last eight years, following a long stint as Head of Science!

His big love is musical theatre and he has been involved in the local amateur theatre scene for over 40 years, working his way up from rehearsal pianist to Musical Director for Bristol Theatrical groups including BLOC, BMYP and Backstage Productions, working on many award winning musicals including productions at the Bristol Hippodrome, Colston Hall (now The Beacon) and for BBC radio. He has also written music for one musical & four

pantomimes, as well as producing numerous arrangements/orchestrations and has been involved with countless school musicals at Clifton. In his spare time he plays in the Lochrian Ceilidh Band as well as keeping active playing football and being a long suffering Bristol City supporter.

# **HEAD OF MUSIC and ASSISTANT HEAD (Pre-Prep School)**

## Pip Gillam

Pip's motto is 'Music is magic', and her own ability to divine a deep love of learning through melody is understood by all in the Pre-Prep to be absolutely spellbinding. She is a passionate advocate for music, teaching and learning in the Primary age range, and that perfect combination has afforded her a special place in the hearts of Pre-Prep children and families for over 25 years. That dedication to teaching and learning in both the state and independent primary sector, has seen her become a senior leader, as well as Head of Music. Interested in music from an early age herself, Pip began by learning the piano and violin. Continuing to learn and perform music throughout her education, she went on to undertake a Bachelors in Education Hons at St Pauls and St Marys Cheltenham with a focus on Music Education.

Pip served as rehearsal pianist for the Bristol Scout Gang Show and played piano in the orchestra at The Bristol Hippodrome before going on to become Musical Director for many years. Taking responsibility for a cast of over 120 with ages ranging from 10 to 60, Pip used all of her considerable skill to create a positive environment where everyone thrived and excelled. Pip has also run a number of community choirs, taking large numbers of adults with no experience and turning them into a strong musical unit.

With her own love of education, music and the performing arts, it is unsurprising to know that her family are also deeply passionate about those fields too. With a daughter who is studying Theatre at the highly acclaimed BRIT school, another daughter who studied costume at Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and worked on many West End productions, a son teaching in a top primary school, and a husband who writes theatrical reviews, it is clear that spending time in Mrs Gillam's company leaves you desperate to share in her passions too.

# ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC (Upper School); HEAD OF CHORAL (Upper and Prep)

#### Will Fairbairn

William Fairbairn is Assistant Director of Music and Head of Choral at Clifton College, a role he took up in September 2024. Prior to this, he worked at St Paul's School for 6 years, and was Assistant Director of Music at St Marylebone Parish Church. These two roles incorporated classroom teaching, organ playing and choral direction: areas which form the cornerstones of his role at Clifton.

He held Organ Scholarships at Truro Cathedral, All Saints' Fulham, and St Catharine's College Cambridge, where he also studied Music. Whilst there, he was organist for the College Choir and the Girls' Choir — the first choir to offer girl choristerships in Oxbridge — accompanying them in their weekly round of services. He accompanied both choirs on tours in Europe and the Far East, and for various recordings and broadcasts. He has been the organist for several Rodolfus Choral Courses, and accompanied their BBC Radio 3 Choral Evensong broadcast in Summer 2022.

At Truro Cathedral, William gained his FRCO, winning the Harding/Durant and Turpin/Durrant prizes, and the Samuel Baker prize for the highest aggregate mark. William is also artistic director of Coro Spezzato, a vocal group formed in the lockdowns to provide a professional platform for the country's brightest young singers and composers.

# **PIANO and ORGAN**



James Willshire Head of Keyboard; Piano (Upper, Prep, Pre-Prep)

Heralded for performances of "spectacular musicianship and technical brilliance" (The Scotsman), "evangelizing urgency" (International Record Review) and "freshness and lucidity" (The Herald Scotland), James Willshire has performed at the BBC Proms, live on BBC Radio 3, and at the Royal Festival Hall, Barbican, Bridgewater Hall, St John's Smith Square, Purcell Room, Glasgow City Halls, and Queens Hall Edinburgh. James is a committed advocate of contemporary music, giving over 25 world premiere performances of works by Ronald Stevenson, Nicola LeFanu, Robin Holloway, Errollyn Wallen, and many others. His performance of 'Endlings' by Jay Capperauld with the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland received a five-star review from The Herald and was broadcast on BBC Radio

Scotland. As pianist of the Hebrides Ensemble James has collaborated with singers Ailish Tynan, Joshua Ellicott, Roderick Williams and Marcus Farnsworth. Further collaborations include performances with James Gilchrist and the Carducci Quartet. As a recording artist James has been highly acclaimed, with his most recent disc a 2021 recording of the chamber music by Stuart MacRae with the Hebrides Ensemble. His double-disc recording of Ronald Stevenson was described as "a major achievement" and awarded an IRR Outstanding by International Record Review, and was reviewed by BBC Music Magazine, Gramophone, and Classical Music magazine.

James studied at Chetham's School and Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Joining Clifton College in 2023, James has also been a member of the Keyboard Department faculty at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.



Jim Blomfield Jazz piano (Upper)

Jim obtained a BA Honours degree at Dartington College of Arts specialising in jazz performance and composition. A much in demand player both in the jazz and Latin genres, Jim has performed at numerous venues and festivals throughout the UK. He has backed countless big name guest soloists and appeared on many recordings. As a composer and arranger, Jim has written for a variety of ensembles - from trio, quartet and septet to contemporary big band and has released several albums of his own music which blend jazz with latin, rock, electronica and contemporary music influences. An experienced educator, Jim also teaches at Bristol University as well as being a regular tutor for jazz workshop groups and residential courses.



Philip Gittings Piano (Prep)

Philip was born into a family of musicians and was taught the piano by his mother from the age of 7. At age 10 he began learning the oboe at Exeter School and then with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra oboist John Williams. Philip became a member of the National Youth Orchestra at the age of 13. He went on to study with Lady Barbirolli before gaining a place at the Royal College of Music, following in the footsteps of his parents and sister. He was awarded the Oliver Dawson Prize in his final year and graduated with an ARCM in oboe teaching, a DipRCM diploma in performance and an LTCL in piano teaching.

Philip has taught piano and oboe at Clifton since 1992. He has also taught at several schools in the Bristol area and has regularly performed with local orchestras including a performance of Marcello's oboe concerto with the Bristol Concert Orchestra. Philip is married to Natalia, a violinist whom he met at

the RCM and they have 3 children, all of whom were taught violin and piano by their parents and won music scholarships to Clifton. Philip also has a range of interests outside of music. He particularly enjoys keeping fit by cycling, skiing, playing squash, running and swimming.



**Steven Kings** Piano (Upper)

Steve Kings studied music at St John's College Cambridge and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. He has performed around the country as soloist, accompanist and chamber musician, appearing regularly at such venues as Bristol Cathedral, St George's, and the Colston Hall. His solo repertoire ranges from Scarlatti to Ligeti and beyond, including many performances and recordings of contemporary music. He is also in demand as an accompanist to choirs, vocal soloists, and instrumentalists, and has worked regularly as an official accompanist at Bristol University and the Bristol Music Festival. As a composer he has written several works for piano; a set of quirky miniatures entitled Fractions & Muscles is the latest ongoing project.

Steve is an experienced and successful teacher of piano to students of all ages (from young children to retired adults) and all abilities (from absolute beginner to diploma level). He also offers lessons in music theory and composition. He has been teaching at Clifton College since 1996, and enjoys the buzz of the Music Department here. Steve encourages students to learn classical repertoire, techniques and notation, but also to explore other musical styles such as jazz. He aims for an integrated approach to learning where the technical, theoretical, aural and expressive aspects of playing can interact with each other in creative and fruitful ways.



**Sophia McKett** Piano (Upper, Prep, Pre-Prep)

Sophia is of mixed parentage and, being half Russian, quarter Sri Lankan, quarter English, has had exposure to the music and cultures of both East and West. She began music studies at the age of 6 and gave her first piano recital at the age of 11 at the Russian Cultural Centre in Colombo. Further studies continued at the Gnessin Academy of Music, Moscow, where she was trained by professors Margarita Volkova, Leonid Block and Victor Vlasov. In 1998 she gained a Master's in Music and went on to perform in numerous concerts both in Russia and in Sri Lanka, where she appeared

as soloist with the Sri Lanka Symphony Orchestra playing Mozart's concerto No.23 in A major. In 1999 Sophia completed the master classes of renowned pianist Vitaly Margulis in Freiburg, Germany.

Sophia has been living in Bristol since 1999 and has given many recitals and masterclasses locally. She has regularly accompanied mezzo-soprano Caroline MacPhie (Countess of Munster Trust scholarship winner) and has an ongoing piano duo partnership with pianist Giuseppe Bavetta. More recently Sophia has worked as an accompanist at the Aberystwyth Music Festival and is also a founding member of the Sonacri Piano Trio with violinist Naomi Rump and cellist Chris Greenhalgh, with whom she has performed widely. Sophia currently teaches at Wells Cathedral School and Clifton College. Sophia also has a successful private teaching studio with many prize-winning pupils.



Yumi Moeller Piano (Upper, Prep, Pre-Prep)

Yumi Moeller has been a music teacher, accompanist, performer and a chamber musician for over 40 years in Japan, the USA and the UK.

She started her music studies at a Yamaha Music School (toddlers group) at age 3 in Japan, with her her first formal concert at age 6, Mozart's 12 Variations on "Twinkle twinkle, little star", K.265 a performance memorized from a score she is still proud to own. She continued her classical piano studies under Tsuyako Ishiguro, continuing to the Diploma course at Nagoya Music School and Ferris College of Music in Yokohama. Upon moving to the UK for her studies, she obtained the BMus (Hons) for Composition and Music Therapy Studies from Bath Spa University. Yumi

was qualified as a Suzuki method Trainee in London 1997 under the European Suzuki Association (ESA), and she is a teaching member of the British Suzuki Institute (BSI).

Yumi established her teaching and performing career in the UK in 1992, teaching the Junior students of the Derbyshire Japanese School in Derby for three years. Since moving to Bristol, and also having taught at Colston's School and St Ursula's Academy (2002-8), Yumi has taught at Clifton College since 2002, with many of her students awarded music scholarships in the three schools. Benefiting from perfect pitch whilst also utilizing her skills teaching solfege as part of aural training, she has taught all ages from nursery to sixth-form, encourages learning from an early age, and passionately believes in the power of music as a universal language.



**Emily Mullins**Piano & Harp (Upper, Prep, Pre-Prep)

Emily's musical education began at school where she gained distinctions in grade 8 harp, oboe and piano. She gained BMus (Hons) from the University of Birmingham whilst continuing her harp studies with Robert Johnston (principal harpist City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra).

Emily has performed concertos with regional orchestras and given recitals as part of Celeste flute and harp duo. She has played for the CBSO, the Royal Shakespeare Company, Orchestra of the Swan and many regional orchestras. Emily plays at numerous weddings and functions each year at venues from Highgrove's Orchard Room to Wookey Hole Caves.

Emily enjoys teaching both the harp and piano at Clifton College, Kingswood School, Royal High School Bath, King's School Bruton and Downside School and is much in demand as a freelance player in the southwest.

Amy Reynolds
Piano (Prep)
Biography forthcoming

## SINGING



**Tim Angel**Singing (Upper and Prep)

Tim Angel has sung as a Professional Singer since the age of ten. He recorded as a treble soloist for Abbey Records and performs live on television and radio. He has sung as a soloist for royalty in the UK and abroad. Tim graduated from Leeds University and later graduating from Reading with a Masters in Music Education. He enjoys a varied career covering solo and ensemble teaching, adjudicating, invigilating, examining, choir directing and composition. He signed as a published composer in the USA with Morningstar Publications in 2019 and later in 2024 is published in Germany and in the UK in 2025. He sang as a Vicar Choral at Wells Cathedral for 15 years, a Lay Clerk at Bristol Cathedral for 7 years, singing for various cathedral choirs in London. Currently Tim is

singing at Portsmouth Cathedral. Opera engagements include Handel's Baroque Passion; musical theatre credits include *Grease* and *Hairspray*. Popular Music has included Glastonbury Festival (2012/13/19/22/23/24) and session composing at Abbey Road London. His former pupils have signed for Virgin, Polydor and two of his former pupils are currently in *Les Miserables* and *Six!* in the West End. He has made over 20 recordings with various choirs and has appeared on film soundtracks of "To Kill a King" and "Elizabeth". His TV appearances include "The Lost Buildings of Britain". He has directed chapel and school choirs for over 12 years and has won competitions in Devon and Somerset. Within the last 6 months he has been accepted as a London College of Music Examiner for the University of West London.

#### **Ethel-Jane Cormack**

Singing (Upper)

Ethel-Jane graduated from Dartington College of Arts with a joint Honours Degree in Music and Arts Management, where she studied voice with the late Mollie Petrie and operatic baritone Ian Comboy. She has many years experience of performing principal roles in fully staged and touring Opera productions, as well as Oratorio in venues throughout the UK. Before having the first of her family in 2009, she also directed Opera and Musical productions, taking shows on tour to a variety of venues from theatres and festivals, to open-air parties.

Ethel-Jane specialises in teaching both Classical and Musical Theatre, from beginners to Diploma levels. She uses her extensive performance and directing experience to encourage her students to reach their full potential as confident performers themselves. As well as teaching and performing, Ethel-Jane has also sat on a number of committees from the ISM (Incorporated Society of Musicians), to the Bristol Festival of Music, Speech and Drama. She is a firm believer in giving her students as many opportunities to perform outside the school environment as possible. In addition to teaching at Clifton College, Ethel-Jane also teaches at Clifton High School. Before having her family, she also taught at QEH, Badminton School, Colston's School and Bath Royal High.



Katya Gorrie Singing (Upper)

Katya has been a Private Vocal Coach for 15 years. Her private students range from 12 to 65 years old and are interested in everything from Classical, Gospel & Jazz, to Pop, Folk and Country. Katya has expertise in helping students to prepare for X factor & BGT auditions, and has led vocal workshops in schools and communities, working with people who have an interest in singing and want to learn more about different styles of music and harmony in a group. She also runs a gospel workshop every summer in Oxford with Lillian Boutte.

Katya has toured in Canada, the US and Europe in a number of different bands. She grew up in North America and moved to the UK 16 years ago. In that time she has toured extensively, and recorded six albums which have been featured on various BBC Radio programs across the country. Katya was the founder and composer for an All Girl Rock band and is currently touring with her Gypsy Swing band. She received Classical voice training at the Royal Conservatoire of Music in Victoria, Canada and studied for the Commercial Jazz Diploma Program at Capilano University.

As well as being a professional singer, Katya is also an experienced stage actor and dancer, with several years of training in modern dance, ballet, and stage acting. She is also the Music Leader and Facilitator for the North & South Bristol Wellbeing choirs.



Angela Kewley
Singing (Upper, Prep, Pre-Prep)

Angela Kewley has been teaching singing at Clifton College since 1995, after graduating from the Birmingham Conservatoire studying under Margaret Thomas and Janet Thomas and then studying for a PGCE in Primary Education at Bristol University. Whilst at Birmingam she won the Vincent Lieder Prize for arts songs in multiple foreign languages. Originally from the Isle of Mann, Angela won her first competition at the age of four, Angela also studied violin and piano as well as classical singing.

At Cifton, Angela teaches pupils from age 6-18, in all styles, including Music Theatre, Classical, Popular, and she also coaches the Clifton Cantate group for junior voices singing in multiple parts at a variety of concerts and services. Outside of Clifton, Angela has sung solo roles in oratorios across the South West, including most recently Carmina Burana at Bristol Cathedral, and she also runs the Bradley Stoke Community Singers, which she herself set up in 2013.



**David Pafford**Singing (Upper and Prep)

David started his musical career as a Music Scholar at The Portsmouth Grammar School, during which time, he was also a chorister at the Cathedral. He then went on to gain a Choral Scholarship at Royal Holloway, University of London, where he also won the University 'Driver Prize' for outstanding vocal recital. He went on to complete the post graduate Vocal Training and Opera Course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he studied with Neolle Barker (Head of Faculty), Robin Bowman, Rudolf Piernay and Paul Hamburger. Whilst teaching at Dulwich College Prep School, he had a number of singing pupils and was also responsible for running the three choirs. During this time, he was also a Lay Clerk at Canterbury Cathedral. In 1996, he was appointed as Director of Music and the Chapel Choir at Clifton Prep, where he was also a Boarding Housemaster prior to 10 years as Deputy Head.

### **STRINGS**

### Jane George

Classical Guitar (Upper, Prep, Pre-Prep) biography forthcoming

#### Rebecca Hall

Violin/Viola (Prep and Pre-Prep)

Rebecca holds a Bachelor of Music with Honours and a Post-graduate Diploma from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, where she was awarded an entrance scholarship and the BMus prize for achieving the highest mark in her year. She was also a recipient of the Laura Ashley Scholarship for Postgraduate study and was Graduate Assistant to the head of strings. Rebecca was awarded a scholarship to participate in the Bowdoin Festival, U.S.A, as well as the Chandos Memorial Bursary as part of the Britten Pears Young Artists programme, where she played principal viola.

Rebecca's freelance work has seen her perform with the orchestra of Welsh National Opera as a trialist and extra player, Welsh Sinfonia, British Sinfonietta, the Bristol Ensemble, Orchestra de Cymru, the National Symphony Orchestra, Bath Philharmonia, Cape Town Opera and Milton Keynes City Orchestra. She is a founder member of the Allegrezza String Quartet with whom she has performed for the Queen, Prince Philip and Prince Charles, and she has recorded for the BBC and S4C.

Rebecca has taught the violin and viola at Clifton College for a number of years. She also teaches at Clifton High school and has previously held positions at a number of other schools, as well as coaching chamber music for the Bristol Pre Conservatoire.

#### Juliet McCarthy

Cello (Upper, Prep, Pre-Prep)



Originally from Bristol, Juliet studied with American 'cellist Leonard Stehn at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. After completing only two terms of a post graduate year she 'fell into a pit' and worked in musical theatre on tour and in the West End for 15 years. The highlight of this period was two years in London playing on *West Side Story*, the greatest (in her opinion) musical of all time. Since moving back to Bristol Juliet has played principal 'cello with The Bristol Ensemble, The National Symphony Orchestra, Bath Phil, Orchestra de Cymru, Swansea City Opera, The British Sinfonietta, The British Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, Quorum and Welsh Chamber Orchestra among others. She often plays in the Pump Room Trio in Bath and in many other chamber groups mostly with members of Bristol Ensemble.

She is also much in demand as a session 'cellist and works a lot with Neil Davidge who used to produce the Bristol band Massive Attack. For Neil she has played on *Britannia*, *In the Dark*, *Black Mirror* and *The Fear Index* among many others. She also recently played on two productions for Aardman animations, *Robin Robin* and *I Am Your Mother* (a Star Wars offshoot for Disney). As a soloist she can be heard on the RTE documentary *North Atlantic* and also on the film *Ben is Back*, starring Julia Roberts, soundtrack by Bristol based composer Dickon Hinchcliffe. For Dickon she also played on

(among other things) *The Third Day*, a series for HBO starring Jude Law and Naomie Harris, and most recently on a short film with Sean Penn and Dakota Johnson called *Daddio*.

She has taught at Clifton College since 2002 when she covered a maternity leave for a term but somehow never left! Working with such talented young musicians and watching them develop their musical skills is a real privilege.

#### **Natalia Gittings**

Violin (Upper, Prep, Pre-Prep)

Natalia studied at the Royal College of Music, where she gained her ARCM and DipRCM qualifications. Previously, she was Head of Strings at the Woodside Park School in London. Natalia has played professionally in both London and Bristol, playing as a soloist with Bristol Chamber Orchestra, Taunton Sinfonietta and was a member of the Voller String Quartet.

Natalia is fully trained with the British Suzuki Institute and in addition to her role as music teacher at Clifton College, Natalia has also previously taught at Bristol Grammar School, as well as Redmaids High School. Many of her pupils have won scholarships from Junior to the Upper Pre or Senior schools and several have gone on to perform in national orchestras, including the National Children's orchestra of GB.



#### Martin Pring

Violin & Viola (Upper)

Martin Pring M.Mus is a violinist, conductor and composer/arranger and teacher.

Martin studied at the Royal Academy and Surrey University. His teaching posts include
Co-ordinator of Instrumental Studies at Shene School in London and Head of Strings at both
Royal Grammar School, Guildford, and Clifton College.

In 1985 he made his debut with Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet conducting Petrushka, and was appointed conductor of London City Ballet. In 1986 he became Music Director of Dance Advance, for which he composed several scores and toured widely throughout Europe and China. From 1995 he conducted the National Chamber Orchestra of Wales, for S4C's The

Composers, and concerts with many fine soloists including Igor Oistrakh for his 70th birthday tour. He conducted the London Schools Symphony Orchestra in 2000 at the Barbican in Vaughan Williams' A London Symphony which won a Sainsbury's Award for Youth Orchestras. He also featured in the TV programme Maestros in the Making for Artsworld, and conducted the world premiere of Sir John Taverner's Mystagogia. Martin has been a regular composer and performer for the Jardins Musicaux festival in Switzerland. His Concerto Grosso no.3 was premiered to acclaim with one critic writing: "he goes straight to the essential, obeys his own creative instincts and who, in a word, establishes himself as a master". Further commissions have included a music drama, song cycle and three film scores.

# **WOODWIND AND BRASS**



Sara Temple
Head of Woodwind and Brass; Clarinet (Upper, Prep, Pre-Prep)

Sara read music at King's College, Cambridge. She continued her studies with a Masters of Music at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and completed her training at the Hochschule für Musik, Karlsruhe with Wolfgang Meyer.

Sara has had a busy career as a clarinet soloist, chamber musician and orchestral player. UK recitals include the Wigmore Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Bridgewater Hall and the Edinburgh Festival. Sara is a member of the English Symphony Orchestra and has also played for the Verbier Festival Orchestra based in Switzerland and the Southbank Sinfonia in London. She has freelanced with many UK orchestras including the English National Opera, the LCO and London Symphony Orchestra Discovery. Highlights from Sara's orchestral playing overseas includes engagements with the Orquesta Ciudad de Granada in Spain and the Heilbronn Kammerorchester and Philharmonie Baden-Baden in Germany. She has also performed in contemporary music Festivals in Stuttgart, Germany and Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

She was winner of the Worshipful Company of Dyers Award for Woodwind and Brass in the Royal Overseas League Competition. Sara Temple has been Head of Woodwind and Brass at Clifton College since September 2008. As part of this role she teaches the clarinet, and coaches and conducts various chamber ensembles and orchestras. She also runs a clarinet and saxophone day for schools in the South West.



**Luke Gilbert**Trombone (Upper and Prep)

Luke Gilbert began playing the trombone at an early age having been inspired by his late grandfather, the renowned musician Dennis Chalk BEM. It was this inspiration that led him to achieve a place to study at the Junior Royal Academy of Music with David Whitson and then subsequently at the Royal Northern College of Music where he studied with Chris Houlding, Les Storey and Adrian Morris. Upon graduating he returned to the Royal Academy of Music as a post-graduate student to complete his studies with the eminent bass trombonist Bob Hughes. Since embarking on a varied and productive freelance career Luke has performed with orchestras including the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic and English National Ballet. He has made recordings for radio, film and television and can currently be heard on Netflix and Disney+ in a Star Wars production. Since 2007 he has been a member of Bristol's only professional chamber Orchestra, the Bristol Ensemble. He has worked with well known artists too, such as Kathryn Jenkins and Russel Watson and played for the late HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Alongside his performance qualifications - BMus (Hons) and PGDip - Luke is also a qualified trombone teacher LRAM and having achieved a PGCE subsequently spent a brief spell teaching secondary classroom music. It is with this combined pedagogy that Luke is able to draw on many skills to inspire the next generation of low brass players. Luke is trombone tutor at Millfield, Dean Close, Clifton College and Wellington School.



**Stephanie Gilbert** Flute (Upper, Prep, Pre-Prep)

Stephanie began playing the flute at 8 years old and it soon became her passion. She won many trophies at local festivals such as the mid Somerset festival, became a regional finalist in the Audi Junior Musician competition, and a woodwind semifinalist in the BBC young musician of the year.

Stephanie went on to study at the Royal Northern College of Music with Clare Southworth and Peter Lloyd, where she obtained a First Class Honours Degree and a Professional Performance Diploma. She then went on to complete a Masters course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama studying with Sam Coles, Ian Clarke and Philippa Davies.

Stephanie is based in Bristol and enjoys a very varied career as a performer and teacher. She plays regularly with the Bristol Ensemble, the English National Baroque Ensemble, Orchestra de Cymru and has worked with Swansea City Opera, Manchester Camerata and Bath Philharmonia amongst others. She has played concertos in some glorious venues, including the Tempio di san Biagio for the Cantiere Internazionale d'Arte festival, Montepulciano and in St John's, Smith Square in London.

She teaches the flute at Clifton College, Bristol University and Millfield School.

Stephanie loves the varied nature of her job, whether it is teaching, playing for an orchestral concert, recording for a film soundtrack, playing in a wind quintet or giving a solo recital, everyday is different.

When not playing her flute, or driving her three busy children to rehearsals, gymnastics or dance classes, Stephanie loves running and walking with her husband and dog in the beautiful countryside on the outskirts of Bristol.

"Stephanie Gilbert provides superb flute solos" BBC Music Magazine



#### **Andrew Huntriss**

Bassoon (Upper and Prep)

Andrew Huntriss studied music and philosophy at the University of Birmingham, before undertaking a master's degree at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. As a professional bassoonist, Andrew has appeared on television and radio, and has performed extensively across Europe including a six month spell playing with the Orquestra do Norte in Portugal. After a period freelancing in London with ensembles including English National Ballet and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, he moved to Belo Horizonte in Brazil to join the Minas Gerais Philharmonic Orchestra in 2011. He remained there for eight years, playing concerts throughout Brazil, touring Argentina and Uruguay, and featuring on Naxos recordings. At the end of 2019, Andrew returned to the UK and has since been based in Frome. In addition to his concert schedule, he teaches the bassoon at Clifton College, Prior Park College, Bath Spa University, Dauntsey's School and Clayesmore School. Playing engagements over the past year have included performances with

the Bristol Ensemble, Bath Philharmonia, the BBC Concert Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, and Welsh National Opera.



Nicholas Malcolm

Trumpet (Upper, Prep, Pre-Prep)

Nick graduated from King's College London in 2004 with a first class degree in music and then went on to take a Masters in Jazz Performance at TrinityLaban in 2009. As well as teaching at Clifton College, he teaches trumpet at QEH Bristol and jazz theory and improvisation at Wells Cathedral School and the Bristol Pre-Conservatoire. He regularly performs throughout the UK and Europe at venues such as Ronnie Scott's and the Vortex (London), and Les Duc des Lombards (Paris). He has released several albums of his own music and appeared on many others, has had a gig of his own band broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and regularly receives commissions and Arts Council England funding

for his compositions. He loves the musical community at Clifton College and the huge range of music it presents. He is involved in many school performances, often playing alongside his trumpet students.



Dave Miles

Saxophone (Upper and Prep) [NB: also plays trombone!]

Having played numerous musical instruments at school, including both saxophone and trombone, and in many different ensembles, Dave's love of the saxophone and its unique sound convinced him to focus his practice on his favourite instrument and fulfil his dream of a life in music. After leaving school he decided to enlist in H.M.Forces as an Army Musician and he joined the R.E.M.E. Staff Band. During his eleven years' service he was lucky enough to travel around the world playing at concert halls, royal palaces, sporting venues, recording sessions and making television appearances. He also attended Kneller Hall, the prestigious Army School of Music, for further development in instrumental technique, arranging, harmony and theory. On leaving the Army Dave joined the instrumental teaching staff at Clifton College in September 1992. During his time at the College he has directed Swing Bands in both the Pre and the Upper School as well as numerous saxophone ensembles and pop groups. He

started the Upper School Soul Band in 2007 and this has gone from strength to strength with other instrumental teachers co-directing. The soul bands (there are now two) give the pupils a wonderful opportunity to experience being part of a functioning band, similar to many bands they will hopefully be part of later in life and have fun performing with. Away from school, he played for many years in a local Soul Band that performed all over the country, including four WOMAD Festivals, the highlight being headlining the 2003 WOMAD in Las Palmas, Grande Canarias, to a crowd of over 25,000 people - an experience never to be forgotten! Music and the saxophone have been a way of life for Dave and he hopes everyone who learns an instrument will get the same enjoyment and pleasure that he has been lucky enough to experience all his life.

# **Dave Ransom** Horn (Upper, Prep, Pre-Prep) *Biography forthcoming*



**Imogen Triner**Oboe and Recorder (Upper and Prep)

Imogen Triner studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London with Neil Black and Gordon Hunt, where she won many of the major prizes, including the Paddy Purcell Prize for all wind instruments. She was awarded a Countess of Munster Scholarship and then a Winston Churchill Fellowship to continue her studies for 2 years with the Berlin Philharmonic's solo oboist, Lothar Koch.

Imogen Triner's performances have included major concertos with the Tivoli Festival Symphony Orchestra in Denmark, the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, the Turku Philharmonic and Kuopio Symphony Orchestras – both in Finland, Stavanger Symphony Orchestra in Norway, Kansas Chamber Orchestra, National Italian Symphony Orchestra, Belgian National Radio and Television Orchestra, Norkoping Chamber Orchestra in Sweden and many chamber orchestras

in the UK. Imogen has recorded many concertos with the Bristol Ensemble, film sessions, pop group recordings and television shows. As a chamber musician Imogen has performed highly acclaimed recitals in major London venues and in festivals throughout the UK. She has toured all over Scandinavia, America and Japan both as a recitalist, giving master classes and with her Oboe Quartet - oboeworks. Various composers have written quartets especially for Imogen, notably Peter McGarr, and some of these are included on the 2 CDs oboeworks has recorded.

Imogen lives in Bristol and continues to perform solo work, chamber music and orchestral work alongside teaching for the University of Bristol, Clifton College, privately and coaching chamber music.

**Ben Waghorn**Saxophone (Upper) *Biography forthcoming* 



Acoustic Guitar, Electric Guitar, Bass Guitar



Adam started playing guitar at the early age of six and has been teaching professionally for the past 18 years. He teaches Acoustic, Electric and Bass Guitar at Clifton College as well as co-running the Soul Bands, and Rock and Pop Workshops on a weekly basis. Adam has written and performed with bands and artists from XFactor, Pop Idol, The Voice, Rag n Bone Man, The National Theatre, and has performed at some of the UK's biggest venues including Stamford Bridge Stadium, the London Excel and also Latitude Festival. In 2013 Adam was hired as MD for Roland and produced one of their largest gear demonstrations using a live band. As a session musician he has written and performed on many albums and recorded in some of the UK's biggest studios, with award-winning producers, including 2 albums and various sessions recorded at the world-famous Abbey Road Studios in London.



**Andy Davis** (Upper, Prep, Pre-Prep) Drums; Percussion

Andy studied Popular Music and Sound Recording at the University College of Salford where he won the BBC Kenny Clare Drum Prize with the College Big Band. He's recorded several albums with different artists and bands, won the UCAM Album of the Year and toured with various bands throughout Europe performing at The Royal Albert Hall, the Birmingham NIA and NEC. Andy continues to drum on recording sessions and plays for many regional musical productions as well as for the school's shows. He has composed and arranged many pieces for percussion ensembles he has led, has conducted many wind ensembles and is the current conductor of the school's Swing band. Andy currently runs and co-runs all the contemporary music ensembles at Clifton College where he has been teaching since 1994 having taught extensively across Bristol and North Somerset. He is a firm believer of equipping students with the musical and technical skills they need for the varied playing opportunities they may face, through fun and engaging lessons. Previous students have gone on to enjoy a wide range of musical careers; from recording and touring musicians, drum educators through to members of the Coldstream Guards. Until recently, he was Director of Music at Christchurch, Clevedon where he was instrumental in the integration and development of its traditional and contemporary worship music.