

# HEAR *the* NOISE

*Celebrating all creative forms – from classical to rock and electronic – is inspiring a school music revolution, says Emanuel's Director of Music*



CHARLES JANZ

**I**t is important to remember the vital role creative subjects play in the academic development of young people. Marvelling at the output of our finest composers, soloists and conductors, we can perhaps forget that their journey to artistic greatness will be rooted in an astonishing creative intelligence.

Many music departments offer a broad range of curriculum and co-curricular opportunities – classical, jazz, rock, music technology – but the provision is often unbalanced, with weighting tipped towards classical music. We all wish to expose our pupils to the music of the great classical composers, their compositions being some of the most significant and remarkable achievements in Western civilisation, yet an uneven approach may mean that contemporary music is diminished.

At Emanuel, we believe very strongly that if a pupil arrives playing the bass guitar they should benefit from the same opportunities as a classical violinist. We invest

**BELOW**  
*Modern music in all its forms is encouraged at Emanuel*



## Year 7s write Electronic Dance Music, Year 9s are taught how to re-mix a vocal sample, while GCSE pupils compose a rock song



as much energy in supporting our rock bands as we do with our choirs, orchestras and chamber ensembles.

The bands will have termly concerts, external gigs at notable London venues, recording opportunities, workshops with leading specialists and access to the best instruments and technology we can provide to facilitate their development.

We are actively invested in nurturing our music scholars, whose specialisms range from the violin and oboe, to the drums and DJ-ing. Only recently, we had representatives in from Fabric Nightclub, the dance music record label CR2 and global leader in DJ equipment

Pioneer DJ to discuss careers in their respective areas of the music industry.

Emanuel's music curriculum has undergone a revolution because we have faith in contemporary music delivering the same fundamentals that classical music does. Within our curriculum, Year 7s learn to write Electronic Dance Music, Year 9s are taught how to re-mix a vocal sample, while GCSE pupils compose a rock song for a professional band who will perform their work. At A level, we use every genre of contemporary music imaginable to teach the most advanced harmony.

With this approach, we find our pupils are more engaged in the subject. Increasing numbers are taking Music for GCSE and A level and several pupils have gone on to study the subject at leading universities and conservatoires. What is more, some have emerged from within the pupil body who had been silently immersed in their style of music at home but never had the chance to demonstrate and develop their skills at school.

When I see all the pupils in my Year 9 'remix class' successfully harmonise a vocal sample, analyse its harmonic rhythm, compose a syncopated, pentatonic bass line and add polyrhythmic layers of percussion, then I know we've made the right choice to broaden and enliven our music offering at Emanuel.



**CHARLES JANZ**  
*Director of Music*  
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