



Christmas Harmonies

By Mr Page (Director of Music)

Christmas at Bedford Girls' School is celebrated with not one, but two concerts.

The festivities began on Monday 8th December when our senior musicians took to the stage. The evening opened with a series of well-executed performances from the Bel Canto Choir, directed by Mrs Jones (Music Teacher). Their atmospheric rendition of *Carol of the Bells*, sung from all corners of the Assembly Hall, set the tone for the evening, followed by performances of *So Fair and Bright* and *Lullaby*.

Several other vocal groups joined them throughout the night. The newly formed Six 7s added a festive touch with *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*, while the Genesis Choir, despite being eight members down through illness, brought energy to a medley of hits from *Hamilton*. The Consort Choir, featuring tenors, basses and some upper voices from Bedford School, also took part, performing concert items and singing carols during the interval.

A wide range of bands added further variety. Year 8 students presented Christmas cover songs they have been working on in class, offering polished performances. Year 10 contributed two band items: *Living' on a Prayer* and *All I Want for Christmas* from the Year 10 Quartet, which began with only three players, as well as *Everybody Talks* from Earths Collide, performed despite the absence of their lead singer.

Instrumental ensembles continued to bring festive music to the audience. The Clarinet Trio performed *Allegro Vivace* by Mozart, the Flute Choir played *Sleigh Ride*, and the Senior Strings performed *The Skaters*, *Scarborough Fair* and a Christmas medley. The Senior Orchestra closed the evening with *Hooked on Classics*, presenting 27 well-known classical melodies, from Bach's *Toccat*a to Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, in just seven minutes.

Solos and duets from senior students were featured throughout the evening.

Just two days later, the Junior School presented its own celebration of music. The concert featured many confident soloists performing with enthusiasm and care.

The Baby Bels opened the evening with performances of *The Lily & the Rose* and *Fly!*. Instrumental groups, including the Toot Group, Junior Recorders, Fab Flutes, Junior Strings, and the Junior Rock Band, also performed. A particular highlight was hearing compositions from selected Year 6 pupils, who had created original music to accompany a short film about the Earth.

The Junior Choir performed *What a Wonderful World* and two numbers from a musical adaptation of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, *Christmas Past* and *God Bless Us All*. The Year 4 orchestra performed Vivaldi's *Winter* and Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, rising to the challenge of Baroque favourites on flute and violin.

The evening concluded with three performances from the Junior Orchestra under Helen Parsons' direction, including *Hall of the Mountain King*, which will feature in the Beds Festival.

Across both concerts, it was inspiring to see pupils from every year group sharing their skill and enjoyment of music. They have earned a well-deserved rest over the Christmas break, though we hope the week's performances may inspire a little holiday practice.

Merry Christmas from the Music Department.