

How the CHS is using P&C-purchased instruments in 2014.

Firstly, a huge thanks must go to the P&C for purchasing a series of instruments for the school. These instruments have 2 main purposes:

1. To provide students the opportunity to try out and hopefully take up less popular or more obscure instruments as a second study
2. To make available those more obscure instruments for students to play in repertoire that calls for them.

The instruments purchased for the school, recently and in the past, include:

1. Bassoon
2. Trombone
3. Carbon fibre 'Cello
4. Carbon fibre Double Bass
5. Baritone Saxophone
6. Bass Clarinet
7. Cor Anglais

The **Bassoon** is quite a rare instrument at Con High (and even rarer elsewhere) and having a Bassoon owned by the school has meant that we have been able to help out several students who came into the school playing the bassoon but did not own one (for example Sachleen Khanna) and more recently to encourage JVS students without a viable second study to take up the bassoon (for example Stella Mountain)

The bassoon has been used in almost EVERY whole school concert this year and in an array of Chamber Music concerts and (I believe) even a soloist concert.

The **Trombone**, like much of the lower brass, is less common at Con High than we would like. Having a high quality trombone available for students has meant that we can often fill "missing" brass parts in whole school orchestral concerts (which we have done a NUMBER of times this year) and weekly in Wind Sinfonia. The trombone is also useful to provide students who play upper brass a more comfortable alternative if they get braces on their teeth. At one time or another this year the trombone has been used by Rhys Little, Ethan Bergan, Ella Grier, Ryan Little and Alison Hardy.

The Luis & Clarke carbon fibre '**Cello** has been particularly handy in situations where either a student has forgotten they need a particular instrument for a specific rehearsal or where the student was looking for a robust and strongly projected image on stage. Hikaru Fuminashi tried out the 'cello a number of times both in orchestral situations and as a soloist, both times to great acclaim. A few "second study" 'cellists also rely on the school 'cello as they no longer have their own and we need the part to be played (in small ensembles in particular) or they are required to fill in for someone at the last minute.

The Luis & Clarke carbon fibre **Double Bass** has been used almost every day of every week that we have had it. Transporting a Double Bass to and from school is a major undertaking so we are incredibly grateful for this instrument. Bulky and cumbersome, a double bass can be in danger of damage as it not only takes up so much space on stage, it is also a big target and a clumsy instrument to transport. The carbon fibre instrument is so robust (and versatile) that it has been used in Chamber Music, orchestral concerts, solo performances, even in Level Exams and an audition...moved from one end of the Con to the other and withstanding all that is given it with aplomb. Not only Isaac Said and Emily Green have used this instrument but a number of others in a variety of capacities.

The **Cor Anglais** is more-or-less a lower or Tenor Oboe and is often required in orchestral scores. As the technique is almost identical to the oboe most people learning the oboe can achieve a reasonable sound on the Cor Anglais. The Cor Anglais is usually played by one of our Oboeists when a Cor Anglais is required.

The **Baritone Saxophone** is used EVERY SINGLE week in Large Ensembles: Wind Sinfonia. A particularly valuable sound in that ensemble, the Bari Sax is not an instrument most people would EVER buy for their child but is ALWAYS required in Wind ensembles. The list of students who have used the Bari over the years is endless...such that we recently bought a few extra mouthpieces and sets of reeds to ensure adequate hygiene is observed.

The **Bass Clarinet** fills a similar role to the Cor Anglais, playing a significant part in many orchestral scores but also as a regular in Wind Symphony music. This instrument is played almost every week for Large Ensembles and is a relatively regular guest in orchestral concerts where a Clarinetist, who would otherwise miss out on playing in the orchestra, plays Bass Clarinet.

Thanks again, from the Music Department and from the whole school.