



Langley Hall Primary Academy

Ad Vitam Paramus

LHPA String Orchestra

Violin 1

Dorina Nentcheva
(co-leader)
Julia Baldyga
(co-leader)
Abel James
Anuoluwa Ibinayo
Megan Longman
Sultan Fawad

Violin 2

Ashvin Siventhiran
Harry Gower
Jasleen Kalsi
Ruby Wilcox
Paris Owusu-Beckford
Tiffany Dewa

Violin 3

Grace Hopkins
Kurtis Wall
Lily Alexander
Shrimayi Vujjini
Srinija Barri

Cello

Grace Pierpoint
Lakhan Sembhi
Lucy Tsang

Violin 3

Dhruv Sharma

As part of our 'Music for All' approach, all children at Langley Hall learn the violin from the 3rd term of Year 1 to the end of Year 3. Sixty-four children continue violin during Year 4 and thirty-two in each of Years 5 and 6. With 104 children in each year-group, that is 440 children playing the violin during the summer term (336 during the other two terms). In addition, the school has 16 children learning the cello, spread between Years 4, 5 and 6. Fewer than 10 of these children had started violin or cello before coming to the school. Indeed, virtually all of the skills and progress in string playing that we observe in these 456 Langley Hall children can be attributed to the founding vision of the school's Director of Education, Mrs Eaton, and to our music department led by Mr Halsey with our exceptional team of 11 violin teachers and 1 cello teacher. It is also important to acknowledge the contribution of parents who have bought their child's violin and who help remind the children to practise at home, together with the contribution of the school's governors who have raised and allocated funds to buy violins for loan to some lower-income families.

Most violin and cello learning is in Music Workshop group lessons during standard curriculum time, although some children additionally do violin clubs as part of the school's extended day programme and some also take private lessons with our visiting specialist teachers. The very first violin lesson given to our Year 1 children is "How to open and close the case safely"; next, Year 1 children learn to hold and carry the instrument; then to pluck open strings; then to hold the violin in playing position between neck and shoulder. From these small beginnings, the children progress to using the bow and to playing tunes in school concerts.

In the academic year 2014-2015, our string playing programme took two notable strides ahead:

- our free Music Workshop group violin lessons generated our first candidates for Grade 1 violin of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in the summer term of 2015 – we entered 8 candidates, all of whom passed, with two distinctions; by the summer of 2018 we aim some of our current Year 4 children to be reaching Grade 3
- we set up the LHPA String Orchestra for our top 25 violinists and top 5 cellists; this orchestra meets at midday for 45 minutes on Tuesdays and is directed by two of our violin teachers, Miss Cooper and Miss Heggart; during the year, the orchestra performed in a Slough Schools' Festival and in our own end-of-year concert at School Hall, Eton College

We are proud that on Saturday, 12 December 2015, our string programme and the LHPA String Orchestra in particular take a very special next step. From the small beginnings of "open the case safely", LHPA String Orchestra takes to the stage in The Centre, Farnham Road, Slough with Slough Philharmonic Chorus & Orchestra to perform Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, a work which has been sung at the coronation of every British monarch since 1727, and will also perform their own arrangement of Pachelbel's ever-popular Canon in the same concert. It has been arranged by R Cooper, J Halsey and others and the Orchestra will be directed by Rachel Cooper, Amy Heggart and John Halsey.

