



THE PERSE SCHOOL CAMBRIDGE



Visiting Music Teacher - Jazz Piano

From November 2026

At the Perse Upper School



Salary: £54.00 p/h (2026/2027 rate)

Working hours: approx 1 working day per week

The Perse Upper School is seeking an inspirational, experienced jazz piano teacher to join our vibrant Music Department, teaching pupils across the 11-18 age range from November 2026.

The Department

Music is a dynamic, ever-growing department with a rich and varied programme of high-quality events throughout the School year. Our overriding aim is to foster a culture of inclusivity and music for all but with a mindfulness for realising the potential of our most gifted pupil musicians. More information about recent events and activities can be viewed via the [music section](#) of The Perse School website and via the Department's [Instagram page](#).

The Department consists of the Director of Music, Assistant Director of Music, Head of Curricular Music, three Music Teachers and a term-time Music Administrator. There are 33 self-employed peripatetic teachers who collectively teach around 600 instrumental lessons each week, with the whole range of orchestral, band and keyboard instruments and singing taught. Five of the peripatetic teachers assume additional roles as Head of Strings, Keyboard, Woodwind, Brass and Vocal Studies respectively.

A wide-ranging programme of around 65 ensembles takes place on a weekly basis. Our groups include six choirs, two full symphony orchestras, three string orchestras, three wind bands, three jazz bands, five percussion ensembles and a big band. There is also a comprehensive chamber group provision; many of these smaller groups take part, often with great success, in the yearly Pro Corda inter-school chamber music competition. We act as a major ABRSM and Trinity private examination centre, holding around 80-100 exams each term for pupils across the 3-18 foundation. There is a wide-ranging programme of aural and theory tuition to support work towards ABRSM and Trinity qualifications.

Around 70 events take place in a typical Perse year, ranging from informal sign-up concerts to high-profile and large-scale instrumental and choral events. Highlights include the annual Perse Musician of the Year competition; termly orchestral and band concerts featuring solo concerto performances; a Charity Cabaret featuring jazz/pop repertoire; and the always hotly-contested House Song competition. While most concerts take place within the school, we have also forged strong links with external venues and annual performances have taken place in venues such as King's and St. John's College Chapels, Saffron Hall, Westminster Abbey and Ely Cathedral.

We regularly invite a number of internationally renowned professional musicians each year to give masterclasses and performances to our pupils. In recent years, the Department has been pleased to invite names including Peter Donohoe CBE, Joanna MacGregor CBE, Roderick Williams OBE, Nicholas Daniel OBE, Joseph Middleton, Nicky Spence, The Doric String Quartet, members of the Academy of Ancient Music, and The Swingles.



The Department's facilities are as follows: a large rehearsal hall/performing space, 18 acoustically treated teaching/rehearsal rooms all equipped with an upright or baby grand piano, and a recording studio. There are also three academic classrooms equipped with PCs and Macbooks running Sibelius, Logic Pro X, Cubase and Soundtrap. The Department benefits from the state-of-the-art facilities of the Peter Hall Performing Arts Centre, which includes a 300-seater auditorium and smaller adjoining rehearsal space. The School invests heavily in the Department's instruments and resources. There is a large collection of nearly every orchestral/band instrument, a fully equipped percussion suite, a 3-manual organ and three Steinway grand pianos.

The Department has an exceptional track record in academic music. It is taught to all in Years 7 and 8 and is a popular option in Year 9 and at GCSE. Several pupils take the Edexcel A-Level course in the Sixth Form. In recent years, all examined pupils at GCSE and A-Level have scored top grades.

There is a separate Music Department at the Prep School (ages 7-11) with its own Director of Music and a thriving music tuition programme at the Pelican Pre-Prep School (around 5 minutes' walk from the Upper School) overseen by a Music Coordinator.



Job Purpose

The successful applicant, as a self-employed Visiting Music Teacher, will be offered the opportunity to teach our current cohort of approximately 8 pupils for half hour lessons in jazz piano each week.

In addition, the successful applicant will be expected to take the following, contracted by the school (on a self-employed basis):

- Jazz ensembles that cater for a range of standards and experience.
- Supporting the above groups in performances as appropriate.

There is opportunity to grow individual pupil numbers both in jazz and improvisation, and as a teacher of non-specialist piano, subject to demand.

Individual instrumental lessons are invoiced directly to parents/carers of pupils in a private agreement detailed in the School's Self-Employed Visiting Music Staff Service Agreement.

Individual lessons operate on a rotational basis for pupils in Years 7 to 11; Sixth Form pupils normally have their instrumental lesson fixed into a free academic period.



Person Specification

Essential

- Highly qualified, skilled and experienced jazz practitioner and accompanist.
- Enthusiastic, confident, and able to inspire pupils of all abilities.
- Engaging, warm and friendly manner.
- Excellent interpersonal communication skills with pupils, parents and staff.
- Flexibility to be able to run rehearsals and be available on concert days.
- Thorough and up-to-date knowledge of ABRSM and Trinity examination requirements.

Desirable

- Confidence arranging or composing music for jazz ensembles.

Job Specific Terms and Conditions

Salary and Working Hours

The hourly rate is agreed by all self-employed peripatetic teachers in advance of the academic year. The agreed rate for the 2026-27 academic year is £54.00 per hour. Lessons are usually 30 minutes in length and teachers usually aim to provide 30 music lessons in any one academic year.

Application process

Applications are to be made by sending a CV with covering letter outlining why you would be suitable for the position to music@perse.co.uk.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to visit the School and to meet the Director of Music and colleagues within the Music Department. Candidates will be asked to take a short individual lesson with a pupil pianist and a short rehearsal with a student jazz group. Further details will be provided by the Director of Music for those candidates who are shortlisted. Part of the interview process will cover candidates' suitability to work with children.



Closing Date

The closing date for applications is **Thursday 1st October at midday**. Early application is encouraged as we will review applications throughout the advertising period and reserve the right to close the advert early.

Interviews will take place during w/c Monday 12th October.

The Director of Music, Ms Myra Brunton, will be very happy to discuss any aspects of the role with applicants via email (music@perse.co.uk) or phone (01223 403831).

Safer Recruitment

The Perse School recognises that an important element in safeguarding our pupils is a robust recruitment process that incorporates measures to deter, reject or identify people who might abuse children, or who are otherwise unsuited to work with them. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post including: references from previous employers, a Disclosure and Barring Service check at the enhanced level, as well as eligibility to work in the UK (in compliance with UK immigration regulations). All work carried out at the School on a regular basis amounts to regulated activity. This role is also exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. The School is committed to acting in the best interests of the child so as to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. The School requires everyone who comes into contact with children and their families to share this commitment. Interviews will be conducted in person, and they will explore candidates' suitability to work with children.

Recruitment Policy

The School's Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure Policy and Procedure is available for your information on the School website.

The Perse School actively supports equality, diversity and inclusion and encourages applications from all sections of society.

