



ABINGDON

# Abingdon School Music Tour

Japan and Hong Kong  
July 2019

## Introduction

I struggle to match the lyricism of Plato who wrote 'Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything'. Certainly music is central to life at Abingdon where there are many opportunities to be involved in music-making, either by learning an instrument or by participating in one of the many school ensembles.

Although we value music for the beauty and truth that it conveys, we also believe involvement in music can be a crucial factor for personal development, as it demands discipline, concentration and, in ensemble work, empathy and a powerful sense of teamwork. I am sure audiences will appreciate these virtues while enjoying performances from the Abingdon ensembles.

This tour is a hugely ambitious undertaking and I am very grateful to everyone who has worked so hard to make it a reality, especially of course, our Director of Music, Michael Stinton. I am grateful too to our pupils who I am sure will be fantastic ambassadors for the School. They will come away with very special memories of their time in Japan and Hong Kong, united by the joy of music.

### Michael Windsor

Headmaster  
Abingdon School



## Welcome



Over the last 25 years, the Music department at Abingdon School has embarked on many international tours with their orchestras, choirs and bands as far afield as Hungary, France, Italy, Austria, Czech Republic, USA, Hong Kong, China and Japan. In addition, the School has hosted visits by orchestras from Australia, India and Japan.

These tours provide a unique opportunity to excite and inspire our young musicians who work so hard to develop their musicianship and to attain the highest standards possible. The preparation for the tours creates a palpable goal and an added incentive for achievement in our orchestras, choirs and bands.

We are delighted to be visiting the Far East. Our tour sees us giving two concerts in Japan and one in Hong Kong, where we are looking forward to linking up with many Abingdon families, both current and past. The opportunity to perform alongside musicians of other nationalities, whilst sharing a common musical language, is a very special one indeed - and it opens up the minds of our pupils to the possibilities of productive friendships and partnerships with other musicians from overseas.

The School's orchestra is reaching something of a peak in standard at the present time and, in addition, there are some sparkling soloists who have some exciting repertoire to play. We hear Didier Delgorge playing the first movement of Rachmaninov's 2nd Piano Concerto and a group of three pupils, Alvin Tam, David Bicarregui and Ashwin Tennant, who will each take a movement of Beethoven's great Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor.

We are planning to bring no less than 70 young musicians and seven teachers. The students will form a symphony orchestra and a Big Band, who will present concerts in Tokyo (with BST, the British School Tokyo), Nagoya (with Toho School) and in St John's Cathedral, Hong Kong.

We are immensely grateful for all the support that we have gained from individuals, companies and organisations that will help make this tour a reality. We are particularly grateful to musicians and staff at the British School Tokyo and at Toho High School in Nagoya with whom we are giving joint concerts on 2nd and 4th July respectively - and with whom we are looking forward to making lifelong friendships.

### Michael Stinton

Director of Music  
Abingdon School

## Orchestra and Big Band Tour Party List

<b>Flute</b>	Raffy Armon-Jones, David Bicarregui, Ollie Martin, Rory Mitchell
<b>Oboe</b>	Felix Breach, Oliver Glover, Tom Graham, Scott Yap
<b>Clarinet</b>	Robin Collins, Olly Elly, Alexander Glover, Matthew Hoult, Ollie Northwood, Owen Ravden
<b>Bassoon</b>	Noah Chakravarti, Danyaal Cooper, Josef O'Connor, Luc Tucker, Can Tugcetin
<b>Horn</b>	Daniel Barratt
<b>Saxophone</b>	James Chung, Sam Daly, Tom Harding, Henry Lu
<b>Trumpet</b>	Jake de Jongh, Cameron Gouldstone, Ilya Korzinkin, Max Weaver, Ludo Wilson, Archie Wood
<b>Trombone</b>	Bentley Cook, Alasdair Emmett, Felix Kind, Jack Lester
<b>Tuba</b>	Arthur Boulton, James Daly
<b>Timpani and Percussion</b>	Ernest Chu, Toby Hammond, Alfred Morley, Graham Suttie
<b>Piano</b>	Didier Delgorge
<b>Violin</b>	Oscar Bennett, Max Hems, Elvis Hung, Cameron Khoo, Rory Kind, Andreas Lo, Arlie Macpherson, Nicholas Ng, Naoki Parker, Jonathan Pannett-Smith, Chanka Pathinayake, Lawrence Putt, Jamie Robson, Ben Shaw, Alvin Tam, Ashwin Tennant
<b>Viola</b>	David Grozin, Ralph Hargreaves, Shreyanshu Mohanty, Nicholas Raptakis
<b>Cello</b>	Joseph Bradley, Aidan Chan, Nathan Hudson, Alfie Marshall, Hugo Payton, Thomas Rolfe
<b>Double Bass</b>	James Magé, Tristan Mann Powter, Daniel Woodrow
<b>Staff</b>	Michael Stinton, Simon Currie, David Dawswell, Jason Preece, Adam Treadaway, Clova Stinton, Andy Townsend
<b>Guides</b>	Patrick Jackson, Simon Doherty



## Outline Itinerary

### Day 1 – Sunday 30 June

Depart Abingdon School  
London to Tokyo via Hong Kong

### Day 2 – Monday 1 July

Arrive Hong Kong, transfer to Tokyo

### Day 3 – Tuesday 2 July

Tokyo walking tour of Meiji Jingo  
Afternoon rehearsal and joint concert with BST (18.00)

### Day 4 – Wednesday 3 July

Visit Tokyo Sky Tree  
River boat trip  
Shinkansen Bullet Train to Nagoya

### Day 5 – Thursday 4 July

Nagoya – joint concert with Toho High School  
Rehearsal and concert with Toho (18.30)

### Day 6 – Friday 5 July

Depart Nagoya  
Visit Toyota Motor Museum  
Arrive Kyoto

### Day 7 – Saturday 6 July

Kyoto – cultural visit

### Day 8 – Sunday 7 July

Depart Osaka Airport  
Arrive Hong Kong

### Day 9 – Monday 8 July

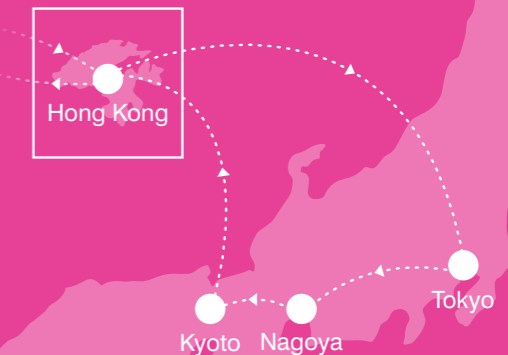
Sight-seeing tour of Hong Kong  
Rehearsal and concert at St John's Cathedral (19.30)

### Day 10 – Tuesday 9 July

Trip to Ocean Park  
Arrive Hong Kong Airport

### Day 11 – Wednesday 10 July

Depart Hong Kong for London  
Arrive Abingdon



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## Tour Repertoire

### Orchestra

Medley for Orchestra *Burt Bacharach (b. 1928)*

Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor, Op 37:  
1. Allegro con Brio, 2. Largo, 3. Rondo Allegro  
*Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)*  
Soloists: *Alvin Tam, David Bicarregui, Ashwin Tennant*

Pomp and Circumstance March, Op 39 No 1 in D  
*Edward Elgar (1857-1934)*

Nimrod from The Enigma Variations Op 36  
*Edward Elgar (1857-1934)*

Main Title *Thunderbirds*  
*Barry Gray (1908-1984) – arr Richard Ling*

London Salute *Philip Lane (b 1950)*

Main Title *The Big Country (1958)*  
*Jerome Moross (1913-1983)*

Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor, Op 18 (first movement)  
*Serge Rachmaninov (1873-1943)*  
Soloists: *Didier Delgorge*

English Folksong Suite:  
1, March – Seventeen Come Sunday, 2. My Bonny Boy,  
3. March – Folksongs from Somerset  
*Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

### Big Band

The Chicken *Alfred Ellis, arr Andy Robinson*

Oye Como Var *Tito Puente, arr Paul Murtha*

Tank *Yoko Kanno, arr Eric Dannewitz*

Tequila *Chuck Rio*

Watermelon Man *Herbie Hancock, arr Mike Kamuf*

Backlash *Donal Pickett, arr Mike Kamuf*

Splanky *Neal Hefti*

Cold Duck Time *Eddie Harris, arr Eric Morales*

Train Shuffle *Simon Currie*

## Our Piano Soloists

**David Bicarregui** came to the piano, aged 11. Since gaining his Grade 8 piano with distinction, David has been studying with Abingdon's Head of Piano, Lynette Stulting, and is currently working on Chopin's Piano Concerto No 2. David has also achieved Grade 8 distinctions in both flute and singing. As a performer and composer, David takes a keen interest in opera – he is currently engaged in composing his first. As a member of the School's Film Unit, David has directed a number of films, winning several awards along the way. David plans to read music at university in 2020 and hopes to forge a career as a musician.

**Didier Delgorge** was educated first in Tokyo, starting piano lessons with his mother at age seven, before moving to Sydney and then to Abingdon School in 2013. As a pianist, 17-year-old Didier has won several competitions in Tokyo, Sydney, Oxford, and Abingdon. In early 2018, he performed Mendelssohn's 1st Piano Concerto with the Wantage Orchestra. He has studied the piano with Elizabeth Jacobs, Lynette Stulting, Hiroko Tsukagoshi and is currently studying with Stephen Savage. Didier plans to read Chemistry at university.

**Alvin Tam** was born in Hong Kong, and was educated at La Salle College before joining Abingdon. He started piano lessons at the age of six, and he achieved a distinction in his ATCL diploma at the age of 14. Alvin has recently passed his violin diploma with distinction. Alvin is currently studying the piano with Magdalena Nasidlak. Next year he plans to study Medicine either back in Hong Kong or in the UK.

**Ashwin Tennant** started studying the piano at age six and from the age of nine with his teacher, Nigel Wilkinson. Achieving his DipABRSM in 2016 aged 13, he recently obtained his LRSM with distinction. Ashwin has achieved successes at music festivals in Maidenhead, Abingdon and Oxford, twice being awarded the Maurice Jacobson cup for general musicianship. Recently, Ashwin has performed Mozart's Concerto No. 19 with Oxford Concerto Orchestra and Grieg's Piano Concerto with The Oxford Studio Orchestra. Ashwin is also an accomplished violinist – he is the current Leader of TVYO, the Thames Vale Youth Orchestra.



## Abingdon School and the Music Department

Abingdon School is an independent day and boarding school for boys. The School is recognised as a place of academic excellence with a strong ethos and sense of community, and with a wide range of extra-curricular activities, known as the 'Other Half'. The School's origins lie with those of the Benedictine Abbey of St Mary, originally founded in Abingdon in 675 and re-founded in 950. The first written evidence of the School's existence dates from 1256 when the Abbot of Abingdon, John de Blosneville, left money in his will for the support of 13 poor scholars. However, the School could already have been 300 years old by this time. By 1372 Abingdon School was a flourishing institution with two boarding houses. Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538, the School was re-founded as a grammar school. Since the beginning of the 20th century it has grown steadily in size – from fewer than 100 pupils in 1900 to over 1,000 in 2019.

The Music department hosts a distinguished team of professional music teachers and there is a wide range and quality of music making. Around half of the School's students are involved in music lessons and ensembles. The music staff encourage a wide variety of music making with weekly concerts of all kinds giving the boys regular opportunities to perform. The department places particular emphasis on chamber music, with ensembles appearing in the finals of the National Chamber Music Competition in recent years. Each year several boys go on to study music, winning places at top universities such as Oxford and Cambridge, often with organ or choral scholarships.

### CHOIRS

Joint Choral Society, Lower School Choir, Chapel Choir, Theatre Productions, Abingdon Academicals (close harmony singing), Joint Schools Chamber Choir, Gospel Choir

### ORCHESTRAS

First Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Second Orchestra, Junior Strings

### BANDS

Symphonic Wind Band, Brass Band, Lower School Band, Big Band

### CHAMBER MUSIC

Trumpet Quartets, Double Reeds, Clarinet Choir, Saxophone Quartet, Horn Quartet, Brass Quartets, Trombone Ensemble, Jazz Ensembles, String Quartets, Duos, Cello Ensembles

### FIRST ORCHESTRA

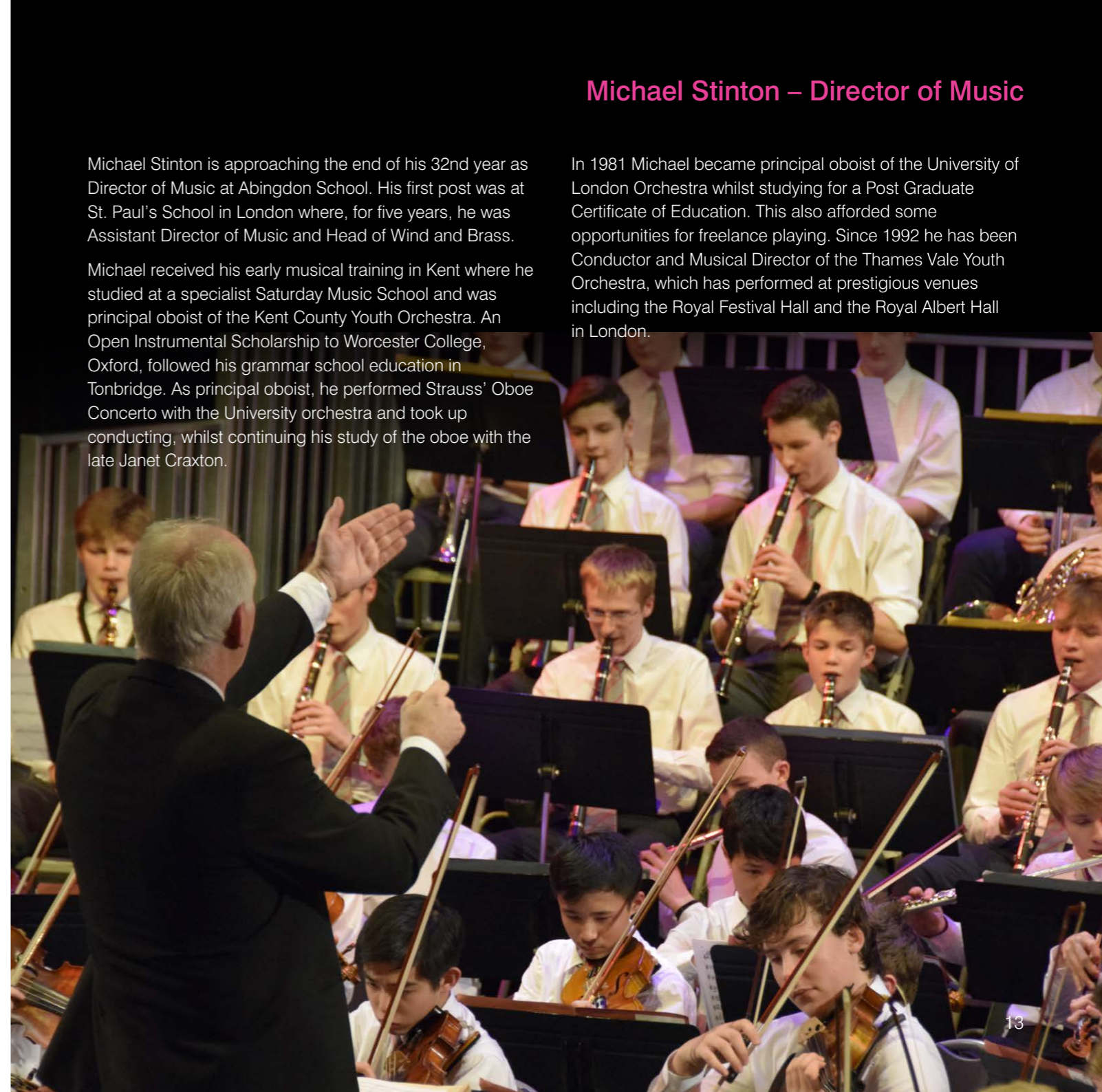
First Orchestra is one of the Music department's flagship ensembles, which has achieved a considerable reputation in recent years for producing quality performances of mainstream symphonic repertoire. Its success is secured by the well-established tradition of proactive recruitment across the full range of orchestral instruments among the younger boys (including French horn, bassoon and double bass) and offering instrumental tuition from a particularly distinguished team of some 35 instrumental teachers. The orchestra's repertoire includes works of the 19th and 20th centuries, including Tchaikovsky, Wagner, Shostakovich, Elgar, Dvorak, Vaughan Williams and Malcolm Arnold.

## Michael Stinton – Director of Music

Michael Stinton is approaching the end of his 32nd year as Director of Music at Abingdon School. His first post was at St. Paul's School in London where, for five years, he was Assistant Director of Music and Head of Wind and Brass.

Michael received his early musical training in Kent where he studied at a specialist Saturday Music School and was principal oboist of the Kent County Youth Orchestra. An Open Instrumental Scholarship to Worcester College, Oxford, followed his grammar school education in Tonbridge. As principal oboist, he performed Strauss' Oboe Concerto with the University orchestra and took up conducting, whilst continuing his study of the oboe with the late Janet Craxton.

In 1981 Michael became principal oboist of the University of London Orchestra whilst studying for a Post Graduate Certificate of Education. This also afforded some opportunities for freelance playing. Since 1992 he has been Conductor and Musical Director of the Thames Vale Youth Orchestra, which has performed at prestigious venues including the Royal Festival Hall and the Royal Albert Hall in London.



## Simon Currie – Leader of Abingdon’s Big Band

Simon’s formative musical training was as a member of The National Youth Jazz Orchestra (NYJO). This enabled him to share the concert platform with jazz artists such as George Shearing, Mel Tormé and Johnny Dankworth. Later he was able to work and travel extensively with the Glenn and Herb Miller Bands, to hone his craft and to broaden his musical range.

During periods of playing at The Monte Carlo Casino in the South of France from 1988-90, Simon found himself backing musical legends as diverse as Stevie Wonder,

Donna Summer, Liza Minelli, Sammy Davies Jnr, The Temptations and Jerry Lewis.

Since 1995 Simon has been Abingdon School’s saxophone teacher and Big Band Leader. He also composes, arranges, does regular session work and fronts his own jazz band. Simon has released two solo albums entitled *Monochrome to Colour* and *Time Lapse*. He has also written two albums with Mike Hugg (the founder of Manfred Mann): *Sanctuary* and *Walking Through Tomorrow*.



## Music Staff 2019

### Director of Music

Michael Stinton MA (Oxon), LRAM, ARCM, MTC (London)

### Assistant Director of Music

Jason Preece BA (Birmingham), DPhil (Oxon), PGCE (Buckingham)

### Teacher of Music

Adam Treadaway BA, MA (York)

### Organist

Christopher Fletcher-Campbell MA (Oxon), ARCO, LRAM, ARCM

### Bandmaster

Andrew Townsend LLCM

### Head of Piano

Lynette Stulting MMus (Pretoria)

### Head of Strings

Mariette Pringle MMus (Pretoria), FTCL, LRAM, LRSM

### Music Department Secretary

Caren Hardiman

### Instrumental Teaching

Flute	Emmeline Bains, Sally Ewins
Oboe	Maddy Aldis-Evans
Clarinet	Elizabeth Drew
Bassoon	Erica Tugwell
Saxophone	Simon Currie, Michael Wilkins
French Horn	Matthew Cooke
Trumpet	Andy Bush, Stephen Cutting, Andy Townsend
Lower Brass	Nigel Somerville
Percussion/Drums	Steve Fawbert, Ben Twyford, Andy Wraight
Piano	Charlotte Brennand, Andrew Hansford, Magdalena Nasidlak, Ning Pookhaothong, Lynette Stulting, Joy Walker, Martin Pickett (jazz piano)
Organ	James Brown
Violin/Viola	Phillip Augar, Tom Crehan, Nia Lewis, Mariette Pringle
Cello	Valerie Findlay
Harp	Jenny Hill
Double Bass	Elizabeth Harré
Guitar	Ray Burley (classical), Jez Cook (jazz), Paul Owen (electric)
Singing	Andrew Yeats
Music Technology	Alex Hehir



Abingdon School would like to thank all those in our community whose generosity has helped to make this tour possible. We are very grateful to the parents and OAs who made individual donations and to those who supported our fundraising activities. In addition, special thanks go to our parent-run Music Society which has been extremely supportive leading up to this tour.

Finally, thank you to those who have hosted our tour group and looked after us whilst in Hong Kong and Japan, and to Supraj Rajagopalan OA (1996), who enjoyed his Abingdon School music tour so much that he chose to match many of the donations received to enable current Abingdon students to make the special memories he so cherishes.

We are extremely grateful to you all.



ABINGDON

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