



No. 49

Haydn

Symphonie No 10

86

Violine I.



Music



A Year in the Musical Life of Loreto Dalkey

2023-2024 has been another very musical year at Loreto Dalkey. Led by our Music Department, students have enjoyed a very busy year of musical events since September.

Loreto School Choir

There are 35 active members in the choir, ranging from First to Sixth Year. The choir rehearses and performs an eclectic mix of repertoire throughout the year in preparation for both religious and secular performances. This year, we looked into forming a collaboration with CBC Monkstown, with the hope of establishing an SATB ensemble. Eight CBC students enrolled initially, with these students, alongside some of our Loreto girls, rehearsing each Monday after school. They collaborated twice, for both schools' Christmas Carol Services, in CBC and Dalkey Parish Church, performing a programme including *Africa* (Toto), *Because* (the Beatles) and *Carol Of The Bells*.

The Loreto Abbey School Choir continues to grow in commitment, musicality, technical ability and confidence, performing a varied repertoire this year at many events, beginning with the school Open Day. They were honoured to be asked to perform at the National Missing Persons Day in Croke Park, where they performed a deeply moving programme,

including *The Prayer* (Quest For Camelot), *A Gaelic Blessing* (John Rutter), *May The Road Rise To Meet You*, and *Now We Are Free* (Gladiator). They went on to enjoy performances in CBC, Monkstown and Loreto Abbey Carol Services, Feis Ceoil, Novena Mass in Coolock, the Loreto Dalkey Ladies' Lunch, and finally, our end of year School Concert.

The choir is a very dedicated group of students, rehearsing each Thursday morning from 7.45-8.45. We encourage any student who loves to sing to consider joining the choir, as choral singing provides a wonderful outlet for creativity, making memories, bonding and friendships, and unparalleled performance opportunities to remember forever. Ms. Penston hopes that next year we will have sufficient enrolment to form both a Junior (First to Third Year) and a Senior (Fourth to Sixth Year) choir, who will work separately for age-appropriate musical and vocal development, and perform together for major school events.





Loreto School Orchestral Ensemble

The school orchestral ensemble is a hard-working and dedicated group of students from First to Sixth Year. They have worked both separately towards their own instrumental performances throughout the year, including Parents' Coffee Mornings, Open Day, Dalkey's Got Talent, the Flag Raising Ceremony and the Summer Concert. They have also collaborated extensively with the choir, to create some spectacular musical moments this year at the school, playing a varied repertoire as varied as *'War Of The Worlds'* (Jeff Wayne) to *'Rule The World'* (Take That), and *'Air On G String'* (Bach) to *'Music'* (John Miles). The students make music in many ways; sometimes they play

what they see, working from set arrangements, other times they arrange a part for their own instrument following piano sheet music alone, and sometimes they compose by ear only. Working in this way develops musical skills that they would never develop sitting practising alone at home. Collaboration is key to creation, development of these important skills, and all leading to enjoyment and satisfaction of a job well done. The students themselves, when asked, are keen to stress how the musical programme we put together this year has really brought them together as friends, and made them so much more musically confident than training solo ever can.



Loreto Abbey Trad Group

The trad group met up on Monday lunchtimes throughout the year, learning about Traditional Irish Music styles and forms. They played frequently throughout the year at parents' coffee mornings and other school events, showing off their varied

repertoire of reels, mazurkas, polkas and jigs. Instruments included were fiddle, bodhrán, guitar, cajon and piano, and we even managed to slip in some cello from time to time!





Footloose

In March, 70 talented TY students lit up the stage at The Mermaid in the popular and energetic school musical production of **Footloose**. Featuring timeless classics such as '*Let's Hear It For The Boy*', '*I Need A Hero*', and '*Almost Paradise*', there was something for everyone to sing, clap or cry along to. The biggest cheer of each show went to Willard and his gang for

their hilarious rendition of '*Mama Says*', which brought the house down every time! Those TY students not on stage ensured that all the behind the scenes work, everything from admin to design, was taken care of, ensuring a highly successful show, the epitome of teamwork making a dream work!



Feis Ceoil

This year's Feis Ceoil participation included entries in three choral competitions (U15 and U19 & Sacred Music), and eleven entries in Solo, Duet and Trio competitions. The choir were Commended in the Sacred music competition for their performances of *Ave Verum* (Sr. M. Agnes Nolan) and *This Little Babe* (Britten).

The opportunity to participate at Feis Ceoil is available to all at Loreto. Solo and ensemble participants were enlisted from the First Year Choir taster modules

over the start of the year, as well as from private and choral students throughout the school. Students not scheduled privately rehearsed at break and lunch time, with some class withdrawal closer to the date.

Participation at Feis Ceoil is very important for the choir, as it gives them a good idea where they stand in terms of comparison to the very well established choirs who excel each year at the feis. It makes them strive. It's also a very enjoyable day out, resulting in bonding and memory-making for the students.





Emmanuel

Ten students from Fifth Year rehearsed weekly and participated in this event at The Helix on March 11th. Faith Robinson, our pied Piper, is singularly responsible for this, due to her personal recruitment of the other 9 students. Faith herself was chosen to sing a duet

arrangement of Leonard Cohen's '*Hallelujah*', which she did with her usual aplomb, while Eva Dunne and Brona O'Neill were chosen to deliver reflections. All ten girls represented their school beautifully.





Loreto Dalkey Ladies' Lunch

The Senior School Choir, joined this year by the First Year Choir, entertained the past pupils of Loreto Dalkey once again at this lovely event, with a gorgeous repertoire, consisting of;

School Choir	<i>Festival Sanctus</i>
Junior Choir	<i>Princess Power Medley</i>
Senior Choir	<i>The Prayer</i>
Solo	<i>Gabriel's Oboe (Susannah Moir)</i>
Ensemble	<i>Rule The World</i> <i>Goodnight Sweetheart</i>

'Rule the World' brought the house down, with past pupils singing along, and this was followed by the finale, an arrangement of 'Goodnight Sweetheart', a standard of the choir from previous years.





AN EVENING
OF
*Summer
Music*
MAY 2024





From preludes to *'Three Little Maids'* from the Mikado, to *'Nothing Compares to You'*, every taste was catered for at our summer concert in May 2024. Our audience were swept away by our First Year Choir who performed a Disney *Girl Power Medley*, our orchestra who played *'War of the Worlds'* and our Parents' Choir who sang soulfully. We would like to commend all of our performers who demonstrated that music is thriving in Loreto Abbey Secondary School.

Thank you to Ms. Penston, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Lonergan and Ms. Green for a scintillating evening.





Students are Like Plants

We started in First Year as little seedlings, carefully peaking our heads through the soil, through the years growing stronger and taller as we moved through the different seasons of our lives.

With the help of our families, friends and our guides in Loreto Abbey Dalkey, we were kept alive by sun, food and energy drinks. However, even the most highly accomplished botanists know that what really helps a plant to thrive, is music. Music is the universal language that has nurtured us here in Loreto, found in every aspect of our community. From hockey chants to Christmas Carols, French verbs to danceathons, music echoes from every corner of Loreto Abbey Dalkey.

We Sixth Years leave Loreto with wonderful memories from our time in Loreto Dalkey. Some of our favourite memories are:

- The 175th Anniversary Concert which cannot be rivalled. We will never forget the feeling of performing *'One Day More'* in the National Concert Hall, with our fellow students, teachers, alumni and the parents' choir.
- In Second Year we said farewell to Ms. O'Brien. This was bittersweet, as we were sad to no longer have morning choir with her, but for the first time, we had the pleasure to sing for her as our guest! Third Year was a funny one, Covid played havoc with many of our musical celebrations. But fun was found with Ms. Shields when we explored the world of pop music, debuting *Viva La Vida*.

- Fourth Year was packed with musical fun, with many of us coming out of our shells to perform *'Let's Hear It For The Girls'* on the Mermaid Stage under Ms. Green's direction. Ms. Penston arrived in Fifth Year bringing a whole new way to look at music, and even taught us how to sing songs that don't have words!

We are delighted that in this past year, Loreto's music has returned to full steam ahead with our choirs, trad groups, orchestra, and musical celebrations of every kind. From competing at Feis Ceoil to performing on National TV, it has been a wonderful year.

To Ms. Green, Ms. Penston, Ms. Lonergan, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Flanagan, Ms. Byrne and Mr. Dunne. Thank you for your kindness, creativity, and dedication to the music programme in Loreto, and for encouraging music in every aspect of our learning. The advice I would leave students of Loreto is, if you want to make friends, if you want to belly laugh, if you want to wear wigs and sparkle, if you want to wear crazy costumes or even dress as an octopus, if you want to feel like you belong and have the best fun, seek out the music.

Once seedlings, all huddled together, we have grown too big for our pots, and the time has come for us to be replanted. But no matter how far and wide our branches may reach, our roots will always be in Loreto Abbey Dalkey.

GABRIELLE FURLONG
SIXTH YEAR



‘Oscailt’ Performance

‘Oscailt’ is a new composition by Irish composer Jennifer Walshe that draws on the student experience of growing up in a world mediated by technology. A group of our Second, Third and Fourth, Year Music students participated in a series of workshops with Music Network in September where the instrumental,

vocal and computer improvisation techniques the students explored were incorporated into the final performance. Our Music students joined Walshe and her ensemble on stage to perform some of their co-created material in The Samuel Beckett Theatre in Dublin City Centre.

