Town Hall Music Concert

Music has always been a vital part of Pembroke life. From the very moment we first picked up our instruments, we knew that Music would influence and ground us enormously in this institution that offers so much opportunity to its students.

Our traditional winter Town Hall Concert on 1 September marked the end of the Music season and, for most of us Year 12s, signified the end of Pembroke Music. With the reputable Chamber Music Tour to Europe only months behind us, this particular performance was one of great anticipation, motivating us to make it unforgettable.

Palaces in the Sun brought to the stage some changes in tradition. Due to this year’s particularly talented group of graduates, there were numerous solo items that showcased some of our ‘unsung heroes’. Corinne Teh performed a stunning rendition of the first movement from Bach’s Concerto for Violin BWV 1042, while Nareen Nitchingham and Emma Wu sang the well-renowned duet Sous le dôme épais from the opera Lakme by Delibes; both were accompanied by the Pembroke Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to these wonderful solo performances from our Year 12s, Palaces in the Sun also featured the wide variety of ensembles offered here at Pembroke, including the Big Band, Concert Band, Middle School Orchestra, String Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Middle School Choir and Chamber Singers. The concert also showcased some of our Year 11 talents, most notably Suhanya Seimon on voice and Aleksandra Olekalns on flute. The hard work and dedication of everyone involved in these ensembles made the standard of music of this year’s Town Hall Concert remarkably high.

The much coveted concerto item this year was the first movement from Tchaikovsky’s Piano Concerto No. 1, performed by our own modest prodigy, Frank Zhang. This virtuosic composition was executed to perfection, given away by the fanatical standing ovation he received at its conclusion. It was without a doubt the highlight of the concert, reducing many of the audience and orchestra members to tears. The emotion of this final performance continued backstage as many of the Year 12s came to the realisation that Music at Pembroke School had officially ended. Special mention must be made of Frank’s dedication in making his performance as flawless as it was, and filled with such emotion and vigour—kudos to you!

I think we speak for all the Year 12 musicians when we say that it was a great way to go out!

It has been an extreme privilege and indeed an honour for both of us to have been part of the Music program at Pembroke for the past 10 years. We would like to thank the Music Staff for their support, and we wish our fellow younger musicians well in the future and hope that their final years are as enjoyable, enriching and gratifying as ours.

Michael and Cherie
(both Yr 12)