

Summer Soiree – Tuesday 26 June by Owen Wheeler

Last Tuesday, the annual summer concert took place, with many new groups and soloists performing to a packed-out school hall. This was the biggest concert in recent memory, with over 30 pieces being played. The evening was hosted by Jack Harms and James Guest, who were very engaging and told some nice jokes. The Junior Choir, conducted by David Guest, gave a brilliant rendition of Space Oddity, and the Orchestra, in Mr Woodhurst's last performance as conductor, headlined with The Great Gate of Kiev, and a selection from My Fair Lady. Another group, that was a pleasure to watch, was the violin group, who had been selected from the large group of younger students who had been given free violin lessons by the school. This was also the first performance of the Beths Samba, led by Mr Ticino, and we played a piece that we had been working on this term. Another new group was Killer Kilroy and the Jazz Massacre, led by Mr Kilroy, and we played All Blues by Miles Davis, from his album, 'Kind of Blue'. It was then the turn of The Big Band and we played Crossfire, which is possibly the hardest piece that I have ever played!

I really enjoyed drumming with these groups, and look forward to playing again. For me, the standout soloist of the night was Yip Hoang, who amazed the audience with an excerpt from Ballade no. 1 in G minor by Chopin. However, this concert will probably be best remembered as Ms Rayner's last concert. Ms Rayner has been teaching Beths' students to play piano for decades, and it is such a shame to have to say goodbye to her as a school.