

Bramall Music Building Impact Report

October 2013

The University is set to mark the first anniversary of the opening of the **Bramall Music Building**

'To say that the Bramall Music Building has had a positive impact on our students would be an understatement. The Music Department underwent a colossal transformation when it moved into the building a year ago and has been enjoying its excellent facilities ever since.

'The Dome Rehearsal Room has been configured for a range of ensembles and it alone has helped our performances, by giving us a dedicated, purpose-built space in which to rehearse. The building also houses our 450-seat Elgar Concert Hall, which is an adaptable space, designed by acoustician Nicholas Edwards, who also designed the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. We have been able to adapt the hall's acoustics and space to accommodate our wide range

of rehearsals and performances, ranging from solo recitals to full symphony orchestras.

'These events, which form part of our packed calendar, have been very popular over the past year and I would encourage you to come and experience them for yourself.

'In a social sense, the Bramall Music Building has become a hub for students and staff to share ideas; a space the Department has never had in the past. We are delighted to see the wider University enjoying the facilities as well.'

Professor Andrew Kirkman,
Head of the Department of Music



Looking ahead to our new pipe organ

In summer 2014, we will be celebrating the installation of our new pipe organ. The organ will take its place in the Elgar Concert Hall and will provide even greater opportunities for making music in the Bramall Music Building.

The organ will be a classical instrument, though it will have an enclosed division and a further 'chair' organ, in meantone tuning at A=415. It will be the first to be built in the

UK by the highly regarded French company, Garnier. Garnier has built organs for St Paul's Church, Strasbourg; St Jean, Belfort; and the concert halls of the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Space and Tokyo University of the Arts.

A festival of organ music will be held to celebrate the installation. Keep an eye on our website next Spring.

www.birmingham.ac.uk/bramall

What your support means to us

'Moving to this state-of-the-art Music Building in my third year was a fantastic experience. I have been involved in many of the ensembles we have hosted, either as a University Music Society committee member or as a conductor.

The Elgar Concert Hall is an excellent space for rehearsals and recitals and the acoustics in the Dome Room are amazing. I am very grateful to the donors – they have changed how the Music Department works for the better and given us, and other students who use the facilities to keep up their musical interests, a world-class environment to practise in and develop our musical talents. It's a long way from what we had previously.'

Edward Mylechreest, (BMus, 2013)



'I play the harpsichord and spent every day of my first two years at University rehearsing at various locations. Unfortunately, they were scattered around the campus, which meant that time was wasted and it wasn't always easy to book rehearsal space.

'However, the new Bramall Music Building is really good as it gives music students a place of their own in which to study and practise. Having all of the facilities it offers, such as the sound recording rooms, rehearsal rooms and the Concert Hall, under one roof has made the Music Department feel like much more of a community.'

Bonnie Pao Nan Wang, (BMus, 2013)



BRAMALL 1ST ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

23–24 November 2013

We celebrate a year since the Bramall was officially opened with a weekend of choir and choral music featuring uplifting performances by the University Chorus, the University Music Society Chamber Choirs, Birmingham University Singers and University Women's Choir.

For information please go to www.birmingham.ac.uk/events/index.aspx#performance, email musicboxoffice@contacts.bham.ac.uk or call 0121 414 3280



Keeping music alive

Inspired by the transformational impact of the new home for music at the University, we were inundated by alumni asking us how else they could support music-making at Birmingham. Investment from the University, combined with your generosity, has enabled us to increase the number of music scholarships from five to 36.

Scholarships are awarded to talented students who choose to pursue a non-Music related subject and have achieved a Grade Eight or equivalent in Music or Voice, and top marks

in their academic subjects. Scholars receive £1000 for three years, which we ask them to put towards the costs of music tuition to continue and develop their interest in music.

The successful candidates have now begun their studies and are enjoying the facilities that the Bramall Music Building and wider University have to offer. Thank you for inspiring our music-makers.



What giving means to us



'I played cello in the University's Symphony and Chamber Orchestras. In recognition of the enjoyment I got from music and, because the University has become a family tradition – my wife and one of our daughters are fellow alumni and our son is studying music at Birmingham – we were keen to lend our support. No other university's facilities compare to this extraordinary building.'

Paul Tosswill, (BA French Language and Literature, 1982)



'Although I studied languages when I was at Birmingham, I enjoyed playing in the University Orchestra. The timing of the appeal coincided with our daughter – who graduated with a BMus earlier this year – starting at Birmingham, so the donation also benefited her. She played in the inaugural concert in the Elgar Concert Hall, which I attended with my husband, Craig (BSc Civil Engineering, 1982). Our son is about to start his third year of English at Birmingham. In all, my family has connections with Birmingham over three generations, as my father was on the staff when I was born.'

Sue Woolhouse,
(BA French and Italian, 1983)



'As a student and member of staff, I was at the University for nine-and-a-half years. My office was part of the Aston Webb Semi-Circle and I would often look out at the gap, which I'm very pleased has been filled with the impressive Bramall Music Building. My husband and I attended the opening concert and several concerts since. The acoustics are superb and the building makes a lovely venue.'

Diana, (BSc Physics, 1983; PhD Modern Physics, 1986)
and **Peter Wardley, (BDS Dentistry, 1978)**

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