

# Music and the creative arts

Solutions for the learning environment

CHAMBERLAIN  
**MUSIC** 

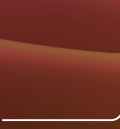


# About Chamberlain Music

Chamberlain Music is an award-winning independent music retailer based in Surrey where we have a large showroom and offices for our marketing department, education sales, publishing, accounts and distribution teams.

The business was formed back in 1990 and has grown to become one of the foremost music education suppliers in the UK today. We now stock a huge range of musical instruments and accessories, and house a specialist piano department all under the same roof.

Customers can visit our website at [www.chamberlainmusic.com](http://www.chamberlainmusic.com) to browse and order from the complete range of musical instruments and accessories, check up-to-date prices, and discover the latest deals.



# What we do

Good music teaching demands quality resources. To teach effectively we need the right tools. This is just as important when considering music technology as it is when choosing reliable orchestral instruments. Away from the traditional classroom, recording studios and multimedia performance areas offer extra learning opportunities. It is vital when making a purchase that you receive the very best advice and service.

Whatever you need, we have a range of services and solutions that will help your pupils achieve their full potential.

## Consultancy & Design

We have many years' experience in planning and developing creative facilities for schools and colleges. We will work closely with you to arrive at the best solution, ensuring that any project is implemented efficiently, on time, and on budget.

## Installation & Training

Our team looks after every aspect of the job, working closely with consulting engineers and building contractors to make sure that you are delivered the quality facilities you expect. Follow-up bespoke training means that you will get the best out of your new equipment.

## Instruments & Equipment

As one of the UK's biggest music retailers we enjoy unrivalled purchasing power with all major instrument and equipment manufacturers. We can then offer the best prices to our customers. We can supply everything you need for teaching music and other creative arts.





# Consultation & Design

Our team, under the leadership of William Thompson our Director of Education, provides Consultation and Design advice to schools. Many schools around the world have benefitted from William's considerable expertise and experience, on every step of the journey from aspiration to implementation. We work with architects, consulting engineers and other professionals, along with school staff. We ensure that the result is affordable, appropriate, relevant, and future-proofed.

We have been providing advice and support to music teachers for over 30 years, during which time changes in the exam system have led to a rethink of the role of creativity in the music curriculum. Music departments no longer teach only notation, aural, recorder and singing. Pupils can express their creativity through improvisation and composition. This new era in music teaching brought about a need both for better accommodation and new equipment.

We have always provided impartial advice over the years, and this has expanded into other areas of the creative curriculum, not least the introduction of new and exciting technologies. Many schools and school-build companies do not have the required know-how to design spaces suited for creativity.

That is where we come in, providing the missing elements, acting as advocates for both teaching staff and students.

We can bring clarity and focus at the planning stage, continuing to work with the design and construction teams throughout the length of the project, to ensure that areas such as acoustic separation, room relationships and audio connectivity are dealt with appropriately. We offer specialists who have a passion for their subject areas, combined with excellent creative skills and balanced with budgetary awareness and a recognition that the best solution is not necessarily the most complicated or the most expensive.

Many schools experience challenges in their facility infrastructure, related to both sound transference and acoustic performance within the creative spaces. We can advise on remedial solutions for both of these issues, providing cost-effective design proposals for better sound insulation, and the right treatment for rooms so that they become pleasant places acoustically for both teachers and students.







*"I wanted to build a studio at our school, and a friend recommend I get in touch with William Thompson at Chamberlain Music, saying how good he was. They were not wrong. The attention to detail in the install was matched only by his understanding of what I wanted to do. His clear experience as a musician as well as working for Chamberlains and with schools shone through in every conversation.*

*I would recommend his services to anyone interested in installing a high-quality studio. We are so very grateful for all of his hard work in creating this amazing resource in our school."*

Simon Hendry - The Skinners School, Tunbridge Wells





# Installation & Training

For schools to get the best out of their equipment, we provide structured, comprehensive, and tailored training on every aspect of the equipment we install. Teachers can opt to stagger aspects of their training to match their own progression through using the new facilities: our staff can return after a number of weeks or months to answer any questions which have arisen in the interim, and to help staff move on to the next level. We can also provide ongoing support for teachers via phone, email, or a remote online session.

It is vital that details agreed at the design stage are effectively implemented during construction. Excellence at this stage will preserve the integrity of the complete project.


We understand the challenges faced in achieving the best outcome for any new build or refurbishment project. We have worked with construction companies who, like us, aimed to provide the very highest standards to our shared clients. Sadly, we occasionally encounter those whose lack of vision has threatened to compromise the whole scheme.

No matter what challenges we have faced, our staff always act as advocates for the school throughout the project, ensuring the best outcomes for the school and its future student population.

We offer comprehensive installation services, working in tandem with industry-leading companies to provide the highest quality at every stage.

We install stage lighting, theatre sound systems and digital studio wiring; music ICT suites, school radio stations and Apple server systems; mobile and fixed staging, bespoke keyboard and computer furniture and television green screens. In short, anything related to the effective teaching of the creative curriculum.





*"From my first contact... I was confident that they would be able to provide my department with the technology solution we needed. The iMacs are totally reliable, unobtrusive in the classroom and intuitive to use."*

*The children are able to achieve a great deal musically and really enjoy using the computers. I am able to spend my time teaching rather than trying to deal with ICT problems.*

*The installation, training and ongoing support offered... have been superb."*

Kate Davies - Edgeborough Preparatory School



# Music ICT step-by-step

We have considerable experience in the development of music ICT facilities in schools around the world. Whether based around Apple computers or tablets, we can help you find the best solution to provide a relevant music curriculum using ICT.

## Design

Our experience means we will design the perfect ICT system for your music department.

Our education advisors use the software and hardware that we recommend, so you can be confident that what we suggest will meet your needs.

We interact with your consulting engineers and architect to ensure that the building infrastructure supports the music department's vision.

## Pre-installation

We pre-install as many of your software packages as possible onto your new computers so that when you receive them you are ready to teach.

With all software pre-configured and drivers for your hardware installed, you can focus on the teaching rather than being distracted by the technology. Multiple licences for Sibelius can either be pre-installed or deployed from any new network server.

## Server configuration

Where multiple Apple computers are being considered, an Apple server seamlessly joins any new computers to the school's existing Active Directory.

This can be a challenge for any school without expertise or experience in Mac OS integration. We will configure the server to your school's specifications and create or migrate usernames and managed preferences.

## Installation

Any music ICT suite usually consists of computers (often with an associated server), ancillary devices (keyboards, audio interfaces), network cabling and switches, and dedicated bespoke furniture that allows effective use of music and computer equipment together.

We will ensure that everything is set up correctly, and that it is left tidy, easy to maintain and ready for use.

## Training

Our tailored training ensures that you can operate and teach effectively using your software and hardware packages. We deliver training that provides a comprehensive overview of your software.

We ensure that you understand how your new suite is put together and can train you on its relevant use in the music curriculum. We also provide training for your ICT technicians on any server software we have installed.

## Support

Music departments often need support - whether it is general advice or help after a system problem. We offer a remote support package which provides fast and reliable solutions.

Almost all queries or problems can be resolved using remote support, taking the waiting time and any potential additional costs out of the equation.







# Media installations

More and more schools are recognising the benefits of the creative curriculum for all their pupils. No longer restricted to a few talented musicians, the use of creative technologies is now enhancing the learning of many more students, through school radio stations, television and drama studios and spaces where sound and video equipment are incorporated into school performances.

## Recording Studios

Modern digital audio recording facilities provide not only the requirements for many aspects of the music curriculum, they also become places where informal creativity can be nurtured. Children love the excitement of taking home an audio recording of something they have created or performed.

## Podcasting

The advent of podcasting in recent years has led schools to consider this medium as an appropriate area for their students to explore, combining as it does skills in language, communication and technology. Our podcast solutions allow students ease of access into this world, with high quality production available through relatively inexpensive equipment and infrastructure.

## TV Studios

Having a school TV studio puts the power of video into your students' hands and helps them to develop employable media skills using professional equipment. Extended learning takes place when video is incorporated as part of the everyday curriculum. Everyone benefits from sharing the ethos and vision of the school through the students' eyes, showcasing professionally created content of sports matches, school productions and special events to the school and the local community.



## Drama Studios

Drama (and Dance) studios require careful planning because of the mix of requirements: space, lighting, sound, even audience seating. Flooring and acoustic treatment are also areas which need consideration. We ensure you end up with a creative space which can be used for a multitude of different activities, from drama rehearsals to art exhibitions, dance performances to master classes.

## Theatre AV installations

All schools require effective performance spaces, and good sound and lighting systems in the theatre or auditorium are a prerequisite. Whatever the occasion, clarity of sound and ease of operation are essential, especially in the increasingly common 'multi-purpose' venues. The appropriate use of DMX-controlled LED lighting enhances any performance, lecture or event.

We can also design projection or LED wall equipment, and surround-sound AV systems to transform your school theatre into a top-quality cinema!



**Director of Education at Chamberlain Music, William Thompson**

studied music at Cambridge where he sang in the world-famous King's College Choir. Following further studies in music and computing at Queen's University in Belfast, he taught in Dublin and Belfast, before becoming a music advisor for schools in Northern Ireland, and examiner for GCSE and A Level Music Technology.

William has travelled extensively throughout Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East, advising schools and colleges on the development of their creative education learning spaces, and providing music teachers with training and support on the relevant use of technology in the classroom.

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The Chamberlain Music  
**Teacher Hub** 

For helpful articles on ICT, acoustics  
and much more, go online to the  
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**www.chamberlainmusic.com**