

# OC OF THE MONTH

February 2018



## JAMIE SPERLING (QG 2011)

**A LEVELS:** MUSIC, HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

**AS LEVELS:** GERMAN

**UNIVERSITY:** ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC, U. OF LONDON,  
MASTER'S DEGREE IN CHORAL CONDUCTING

[HIGHGATE CONNECT PROFILE](#)

**HIGHGATE**

1. Tell us about yourself – where do you currently work, and how did you get into that?

I am currently studying at the Royal Academy of Music doing a Masters in Choral Conducting. Alongside that, I'm a freelance musician. I conduct 3 choirs in London/Home Counties, and do any other work that gets sent my way!

2. What are some of your proudest achievements since graduating?

Being able to work at Highgate setting up music projects in local state schools, conducting the BBC Singers in 2 masterclasses and working with the Clarion Choir of New York.

3. What advice would you give someone who is looking to follow a similar career path?

Meet people! So much in Music nowadays is about who you know, as well as what you know. For those who are still at Highgate, go and do residential courses in the summer and meet other people who love making music. I am now working with people who I met on courses I did while still at Highgate!

4. Which A Level subjects did you choose at Highgate, and do you have any advice for pupils currently choosing A Levels?

I studied Music, History and Geography for A-Level, and German for AS. Keep it simple: do the subjects you're passionate about and want to pursue further. I would really recommend doing a language, as I spend lots of my time doing music in German and Latin, and often performing/working will take you to other countries! Languages are such a useful skill to have which can stand you apart from others.

5. Where did you go to University? What did you study? Do you have any advice for pupils currently thinking about University options?

For my Undergrad, I went to Royal Holloway, University of London, and read Music. I was also a Choral Scholar in the Chapel Choir there. My advice would be to do your research! You have to live where you go to Uni, not only study, so go to places you're interested in and get a feel for the city/campus you're looking at before making a decision.

6. Did your time at Highgate help you? If so, how?

I was really fortunate at Highgate to be able to do so many different things: I really enjoyed the classroom work, but it was being able to pursue the extra-curricular music and sport that I really loved.

7. In three words, how would you describe Highgate?

Inclusive, stretching, outward-looking.

## 8. What is your strongest memory of Highgate?

I have two (cheating I know): my first is a music memory, performing Whitacre's 'Water Night' as part of the ACappella group at Southwark Cathedral. The second is saving two penalties for Queensgate in a penalty shootout against School House in House Football in Year 13 - we went on to win the Tournament!

## 9. What drives you?

I love making music with people of all ages, and the joy of understanding music and performing it to people who hopefully will get something positive out of the experience is something I don't think will ever get bored of! Being able to make music is a gift, and a precious one at that.

## 10. What's next?

I'm going to be based at a church running youth music after I graduate from the Academy in July. I'm applying for some choral conducting jobs in London at the moment, and I will also look to develop my solo singing career as well.