



International Women's Day

Grace Jappy looks into International Women's Day and why it really matters

International women's day is a celebration of the women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and domestic violence against women. The day has been honoured annually on the 8th of March since 1911. It initially began in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland, however, by 1975 the united nation officially recognised the day, and it became a worldwide celebration.

There are three main beliefs that guide the purpose and provisions of international women's day (IWD). The first of these is identifying and upholding the increasing visibility of women's past achievements, helping to encourage and forge equality. Another focal point of the day is reflecting on how we as individuals impact the desire for positive change for women. Everyone working together in a collaboration based on trust, appreciation, and a shared purpose for development in equality. The final idea the day aims to address is worldwide awareness raising, by using meaningful resources and activities to help combat gender bias and discrimination, as well as accelerate gender parity.

Despite international women's day being recognised by many countries as a worthy and useful appreciation of women, honouring the achievements of women and promoting women's rights, it still often sparks a debate regarding whether or not it should be celebrated.

Some don't see it as a day of celebration, but rather an opportunity to take off our 'rose coloured glasses' one day a year and see the reality we don't usually see.

Criticising the idea that IWD only focuses on the positive progression and ignores that harsh truth of many women's current lives. The corporate rebranding of IWD, as a time for cupcakes and celebration, couldn't be further from its

revolutionary roots, or any meaningful discussion of women's liberation. We're even now told, by one of the world's most prominent IWD websites, "Equality is not a women's issue, it's a business issue.", the improvement of women's rights is only valuable so that it can advance capital accumulation.

Our world has a long history of discrimination against women (which has intersectional implications), anyone can have biases whether they know it or not. International Women's Day provides an opportunity to reflect on your own beliefs, thinking about areas where you might be uneducated or where you might have preconceptions. Additionally, all international days are opportunities for more focused education and awareness. By marking a specific day, there's a concentrated influx of info and education that isn't normally present for people to access. Frequently, corporations will use the language of progress and the promise of gender equality for good branding. However, many will never follow through with it. International Women's Day is a great day for corporations to be held to these promises and see if they're pursuing gender equality, whether it's giving money toward causes or improving parity within their own organization.

International women's day matters because at its core, it's an empowering cry. Some may use it to promote a rose-coloured view of the world, but it's an essential reminder that progress doesn't happen by accident. All the accomplishments and successes of the world didn't come easily, but they prove what's possible. As a call to action, International Women's Day tells us to look at where we've been, see how far we've come, urging us all to keep fighting for more.



Giving Classical Music A Go

Mrs Ramsay shares some of her favourite 'classical' pieces to help you expand your music taste

I enjoy listening to music. My tastes are quite eclectic but one form of music I return to a lot is classical music. I fully appreciate that the readership of Culture Vulture probably does not have a playlist full of Mozart, Verdi or Beethoven but I wanted to suggest that you all should taste and see if actually there are some great 'tunes' out there that you would enjoy.

Classical music really helps calm you down, revise, concentrate and has a richness in its notes that is echoed in motifs and melodies of its more popular cousins. It can also completely transform you to a different place. No one piece of music will sound the same as the other, or make you feel the same way. For example - try listening to these two classical pieces - The Sleeping Beauty & 1812 Overture. Both are by Russian composer Tchaikovsky, but the end products (and endings for that matter) are completely different!

Below are some more suggestions of orchestral and choral, romantic and baroque, modern and past 'classical' music pieces for you to give a go. So, in no particular order and completely subjectively can I suggest:

1. Barber's Adagio for Strings (also used in the excellent 'Platoon') <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izQsgEOL450>
2. Copland's Rodeo Hoedown - uplifting with a real American feel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBMGsUNRL7k>
3. James McMillan's Miserere - the final sections have some of the best combinations of chords ever and the whole effect is overpowering <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cnj-k4EgE0>
4. Spiegel im Spiegel by Arvo Part - very emotional <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmcoTNn9YAk>

5. George Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue - one of the best clarinet openings of all time!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynEOo28Isbc>

6. Arturo Márquez: Danzón No.2 - another one of the best clarinet openings of all time...
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjZPHW0qVvo>

7. Dies Irae - Verdi's Requiem
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6cogix3cwQ>

8. Elgar's Enigma Variations - Nimrod (Do you recognise this from Dunkirk?) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iM5dymBBI4>

9. Finlandia by Sibelius https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F5zg_af9b8c

10. Movement 2 of Shostakovich's 2nd Piano Concerto
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DFqVqApm8>

Still interested? A good starting point is reading Oliver Condy's 'Symphonies for the Soul' book which groups together music by mood. Whatever your mood, he suggests some recordings to listen to, complete with a linked story about the piece's composition or composer, and brings the whole piece to life.

Another great way to start could be to listen to your favourite film soundtracks. Harry Potter, Gladiator, Lord of the Rings, and How to Train Your Dragon all have colourful and iconic orchestral scores, which can be added to any playlist.

Go on, give it a go. You might be surprised by what you discover!



Within these pages lie musical PRESCRIPTIONS that offer comfort, solace and strength in the face of DARK TIMES.

Whether you SUFFER from a case of loneliness or laziness, from bereavement or betrayal, a heartbreak or a mere hangover, here you'll find the perfect piece of CLASSICAL MUSIC to heal the HEART, soothe the SOUL and cure the MALADIES of the modern world.

LAST WEEK'S SONNET:

Hotline Bling - Drake

Can you guess the pop song from the Shakespearean sonnet? Correct answer in next week's Culture Vulture!

My reputation's sown with rumours' threads:
it's said that I carouse, am void of wit,
and have amassed more beaus than Hydra's heads
yet cannot make a single one commit.
Although my honour's by their words maligned,
I'll waste no effort t' have their tales disproved.
Instead, I'll dance to music in my mind;
my malady's by melodies improved.
For just as bakers must their loaves create
and thespians put on their fictive acts,
the ones who live in scorn shall always hate -
I'll from my shoulders shake their vile attacks.
O gentleman well-coiffed! I thee entreat
to hither come and dance to this sick beat.

OSCARS 95

Everything Everywhere at the Oscars 2023

Miss Ramsay breaks down the big wins from Sunday 12 March Oscar ceremony

Late on Sunday night, the 95th Academy Awards Ceremony took place in Los Angeles. The coveted ceremony saw Hollywood stars flock to the Dolby Theatre to see which awards they would win, and attend the famous Vanity Fair afterparty.

This year, the big winner was sci-fi/ adventure film, Everything Everywhere All at Once, which won 7 Oscars - including Best Picture, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress and Best Supporting Actor. Ke Huy Quan's win as Best Supporting Actor saw him embrace his former co-star Harrison Ford - who he starred alongside in Indiana Jones, 39 years ago. Brendan Fraser was awarded Best Actor for his performance in A24's The Whale. He collected his award in tribute to his fellow nominees who he professed "laid your whale-sized hearts so we could see into your souls".

All Quiet on the Western Front won 4 Oscars - picking up the trophies for international feature, cinematography, original score and production design.

After the event, the celebrity crowd headed to the Vanity Fair afterparty, where Britain's own Amelia Dimoldenberg was waiting on the red carpet for interviews. Social media users around the globe held their breath at the prospect of Amelia Dimoldenberg X Andrew Garfield pt. 3, but at the time of writing this, no such video has come out. Dimoldenberg did interview Irish star, Paul Mescal who was nominated for Best Actor for his role in Aftersun - and Pedro Pascal, the fan-titled 'internet Daddy' who is most famous for his roles in Kingsman: The Golden Circle, The Mandalorian and The Last of Us. As the fallout from the Oscars continues, I am sure we will gain more insight into the elite event that can tie-us over until next years celebrations.



Miss Hay suggests: Slow Horses on Apple TV+

If you liked Killing Eve then this is for you! The incredible Gary Oldman's character leads a team of MI5 "slow horses" who have made mistakes whilst on the job, however their skills and intel are still needed to help protect the country. This is a great drama full of shocks but also hilarious moments.

Soundtrack to the week:

This week's soundtrack to the week has been built by editors and readers. If you would like to have your say, follow the QR code on page 5!

MONDAY: Recommended by

Grace Jappy

(There is) No

Greater Love - Amy

Winehouse



TUESDAY:

Recommended by

Charlie Williams

Say Yes to Heaven

- Lana del Ray



WEDNESDAY:

Recommended by a

Teacher

Circles Around This

Town - Maren Morris



THURSDAY:

Nobody Knows

(Ladas Road) -

Loyle Carner



FRIDAY:

When You Were

Mine - Joy

Crookes



SATURDAY:

I Ain't Worried

- One Republic



SUNDAY: Recommended

by Grace Jappy

Nightswimming -

R.E.M



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

As the weeks progress, we are hoping Culture Vulture will become jam-packed with student articles, recommendations and reviews. If you would like to make your own creative suggestion, or have a piece of work that you would like to see in the next magazine, scan the QR code.



Alternatively, if you would like to contribute an article, film, album, book or podcast review, or have an itching to write a features piece about a current cultural affair, email either theysham@gordanoschool.org.uk or pramsay@gordanoschool.org.uk with your idea and they can point you in the right direction. Who knows - you may see your name in print!

Make sure to encourage your tutors and friends to get involved, and let's make creativity central to the Gordano Sixth Form experience!

