



THE VIRIDIAN

# THE VIRIDIAN

DECEMBER 2024

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# HO-HO HOLIDAY SHOPPING

BY STEPHANOS ARTEMIS



Fa-la-la-largesse! That's right, it's that time again! I'm not talking about the holidays, of course! I'm talking about when you get to listen to me ramble on and on about a somewhat niche topic, thinking "Why on earth would he choose to write about this?" Well, I can tell you that this month you are getting a very Christmassy article! I love giving and receiving presents as much as the next person, but have you ever wondered why you are inclined to buy certain products during the holiday season? Thanks to IGCSE Economics (and a LOT of research), I have the answers that you are looking for!

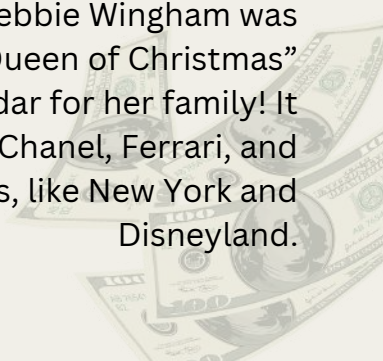


One way that businesses make their products more appealing to us consumers is by offering "Special" offers and markdowns on their products. For instance, numerous businesses hold a festive "12 Days of Christmas" sale, where products are sold at lower prices in an effort to incentivise us to buy them. Oftentimes, however, the discount is more token than economic. Indeed, discounts deceptively fabricate the illusion that by buying a product on sale, we are saving a significant amount of money, but in reality, discounts are used by businesses to mold the consumers' perception of their purchases with regard to their finances. Limited-time sales are particularly effective in increasing demand for products, proving to be irrefutably advantageous for businesses during the holiday season.

At least once a year, one of those sappy advertisements comes on, with a family enjoying a Christmas feast by the fire, smiling and laughing, or something like that. These ads are actually an effort on behalf of the businesses to pitch their products to consumers by appealing to their emotions. They bring about a feeling of nostalgia and make us reflect upon the lovely memories we have from this time of the year with our loved ones. The holidays can be a very emotional time for some, so by tugging at their heartstrings, businesses are able to market their products to consumers by constructing a link between their product and the consumers' holiday memories.



Advent calendars are a beloved part of the holiday season around the world. In recent years, more and more businesses have begun putting together massive, expensive advent calendars, filled with their products. Whilst their festivity may interest consumers, these large-scale advent calendars are very rarely good value for money. If you thought the name-brand chocolate advent calendars in supermarkets were expensive, you won't believe how much Debbie Wingham was willing to pay for an advent calendar. The Swiss "Queen of Christmas" spent \$10.3 million on a single advent calendar for her family! It included gifts from designer brands like Cartier, Chanel, Ferrari, and Louis Vuitton, as well as trips to major destinations, like New York and Disneyland.



Brands usually offer limited-edition, Christmas-themed products during the holiday season, enticing consumers to purchase them. Businesses purposefully select to do so to engage the consumers' Christmas spirit, since it is one of the most enjoyable times of the year, with most being more willing and able to spend their money on gifts, decoration, and food. As the products are Christmassy and only available for a limited time, people choose to buy the products and spend a lot of money on them, instead of saving their money for other purchases. In behavioural economics, this is known as present bias and is illustrated by this example since consumers opt to buy festive products in the peak of the season for short-term pleasure instead of waiting for the holiday season to pass. More often than not, these products are only used during this season by the consumer, meaning that they are not used during the rest of the year. What's more, demand for these products is typically price-inelastic, meaning that businesses can raise the prices of the products with demand for them still being high, hence increasing revenue.



Businesses often blend the social, cultural, and emotional aspects of marketing during the holiday season, as it is one of the periods during the year when aggregate demand is at its highest. All in all, however, despite the many marketing techniques that businesses use to push their products, the holidays are the perfect time of the year to show your loved ones appreciation and affection through meaningful presents.

Happy holidays to you and your families! Shop responsibly(ish)





THIS MONTH'S

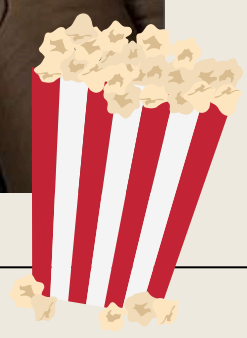
THE VIRIDIAN'S

# VIDEO

CHRISTMAS-IS-H  
EDITION

# ARCHIVES

# ARCHIVES



BY NOAH NATHANAEL

OUR FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS  
RECOMMENDATIONS



I'll begin this month's edition with letting you know that I have ignored the word 'Christmas' for half of these films and yes, I'm aware. I just cannot and will not bring myself to talk about Home Alone or Love Actually for the millionth time.

It's a mental health thing. My real recs, however, do all take place in December and have snow in the frame at some point or another, so I haven't completely failed. Enjoy!

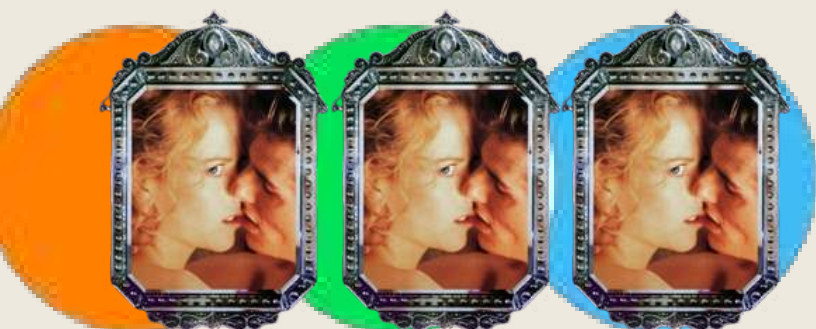
## **THE HOLDOVERS (2023)**

**DIR. ALEXANDER PAYNE**

You know how people say, "they don't make movies like this anymore". Well, this is the movie they don't make anymore. It's a classic. I know it came out last year, I don't care. This movie does for Christmas what Goodfellas did for gangsters. It's about a student, a cook, and a teacher all left behind at a boarding school over winter break, and the unlikely bond which forms between them. Set in the 70s, it captures emotion so authentically that it had me feeling nostalgic of a time I never knew, yet still leaving room for both the audience and the story to grow so that when the tragedy feels real, the comfort does too, which is why it's so easy for me to say it's a classic.

At it's heart, alongside Da'vine Joy Randolph's revelation of a performance, what really makes this so wonderful is that it reminds us that as people, we all deserve love. Romantic love, platonic love, familial love. That sense of belonging we crave is satisfied from the moment you see that vintage Universal Pictures screen appear and is maintained until the last Cat Stevens song is heard. On another note, it's endlessly quotable dialogue, specifically the teacher's bottomless insults for his students are now forever added to my vocabulary; notably: 'rancid little philistines', 'hormonal vulgarians' and 'snarling Visigoths'. So great.

Forget about Elf. There, I said it. Will Ferrel can go back to his frat house and cry, watch this instead.



## **EYES WIDE SHUT (1999)**

**DIR. STANLEY KUBRICK**





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No one will believe me, and I can't prove it, but I genuinely believe this is an indirect biopic surrounding Tom Cruise's initiation into Scientology. Giving the term cult classic a whole new meaning, Eyes Wide Shut strips us down as people, leaving behind an ugly painting to explore what it means to be human, finding it's answer through societies perception of, implications class has on, and the fear associated with all things: sex. Disclaimer: this is not a family movie night on December 24th type of movie, this is a 3am alone on a school night type of movie.

The erotic' and everything affiliated with it; sexual autonomy, infidelity and temptation corrupt us, taking away parts of ourselves so we have less to offer for every new person we meet, and every experience we have yet to live. Unable to see what is hidden in plain sight, or rather what we choose not to see, we veil ourselves as to not confront the truth right in front of us, and Kubrick shows us explicitly of the implications which occur when that happens. Because of this, the lines between fantasy and reality are blurred so closely we're left wondering what is real and what is illusion, both in the story and in our own lives. But the way this movie lays it out, oh my god. The hauntingly ominous score, never quite reaching a climax, and the polarizing scenes acted to perfection. Jazz clubs. Secret societies. New York in the 90s. These are all great words. It's unlike anything I have ever seen before and probably unlike anything I will ever see. Five stars on my Letterboxd.



## HONOURABLE MENTIONS:

### FARGO (1996)

DIR. JOEL COEN

Fargo is basically a perfect movie. Watch this with some warm hot chocolate and take a sip every time they say 'Yeah'.



### THE HOLIDAY (2006)

DIR. NANCY MYERS

Is it really Christmas if your family doesn't fall asleep 3/4 of the way through the movie and you're all alone because you have to finish it? Commit to this, thank me later.



### LOVE ACTUALLY (2003)

DIR. RICHARD CURTIS

I caved.





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# THE YEAR SPORTS WERE BANNED FOR CHRISTMAS



BY ORIANA THEODOTOU

Hi everyone I'm Oriana Theodotou and this is the first article I've ever written for the viridian so I hope you all enjoy. A known fact about me is that sports have always been an integral part of my life—I've participated in countless sports but my excitement extends beyond playing. I joined the viridian to share my passion for sports with others, and contribute to engaging conversations about the latest and most intriguing sporting news.



Henry VIII can be most aptly characterized by his one-of-a-kind eccentricity. While he's best known for his rapid succession of wives, he also played a pivotal role in the growth of sports in England -- even if this achievement was unintentional.

In 1541, Henry VIII issued a proclamation banning all sporting events on Christmas Day, justifying this decision by declaring that Christmas is a holiday that must be devoted to honouring Christ, and avoiding delinquency. Funnily enough, archery and jousting – his favourite sports – were exempt from the ban. Perhaps a better way to honour Christ would have been in sparing the lives of his two beheaded wives, but... to each their own.



In alignment with his eccentric character, Henry VIII made sure to include mumming: a traditional form of masquerade, equivalent to our modern-day carnival. This questionable “sport” involved members of the aristocracy dressing in elaborate costumes and enjoying the Christmas festivities, but only under strict supervision. Meanwhile, major sports such as football and bowling were strictly prohibited due to their “aggressive” nature

His reasoning for such bans was that sporting activities were disruptive and unregulated. Football, in particular, was notorious for its intensity, as it often led to injuries and public disorder. In addition, he specifically emphasized his ban on bowling, associating the sport with gambling and idleness.



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Now, you may be wondering how a ban on sports could have possibly led to an increased public interest in them. Sports such as football and cricket gained popularity amongst commoners, largely due to Henry's ban, but also because of their flexible rules and the minimal equipment required to participate.

Therefore, lower class citizens all around England had taken a liking to the sports' simplicity. This law applied only to the lower classes, as Henry believed their time was better spent on activities that supported military preparedness. Even so, citizens often found ways to enjoy sports in spite of these bans by participating in underground and informal games. In addition, Henry's prohibition of "violent" sports in the 1540s led to the rules of football being reformed in order to encourage more engagement in the sport.

This shows that sports can persevere in the face of adversity, and how an attempt to curb its influence can even lead to its increased popularity.



**B O O K**

**TEN BEFORE THE END**

**C O R N**

**E R**

**BY SOPHIA DOMBO**



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It's that time of year again when my reading starts to pick up and to my dismay, I have guiltily been reading lowbrow romance novels left, right, and centre, trying to pretend I've made it through my stack of literary fiction. After coming to the realisation that I just read a nine-hundred-page romance in four days I have decided to stage myself an intervention and let you all in on it to hold myself accountable.

**I hereby declare myself banned from reading any other books but the ones that follow, for the next month.**

So, in light of my current predicament I have decided to partake in the trend of 'Ten before the End', giving you my top ten titles I want to speed through before the end of this year.

1

## JAMES BY PERCIVAL EVERETT

Finding out about this book making it onto The Booker Prize shortlist the same day I started reading Huckleberry Finn is unashamedly my top moment of 2024. I am convinced beyond logic and reason that I can read this three-hundred-page book alongside nine more novels in three weeks entirely because of the fanatic trust everyone reviewing this book has in Everett's work. If this turns out to be even a tenth as good as what the buzz surrounding it has made it out to be, you should expect a rave review coming your way in January.

2

## A BOOK OF MY OWN BY SCHOLASTIQUE MUKASONGA

Cockroaches by Mukasonga is one of my favourite autobiographical works so having this one be recommended by a trusted source means I am legally obliged to read it.

3

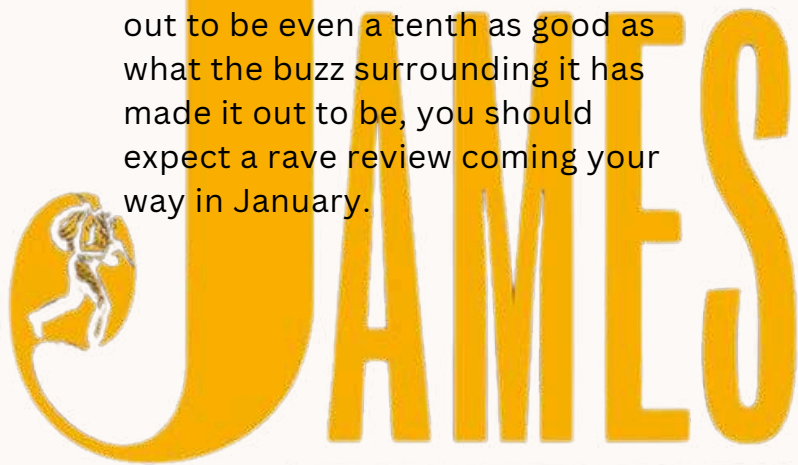
## MADONNA IN A FUR COAT BY SABA HATTIN ALI

Devastation, my favourite genre. All very conveniently wrapped up in under two hundred pages so perfect for a last-minute read.

4

## INTERMEZZO BY SALLY ROONEY

Can I feasibly read this alongside the rest of these books? Absolutely not. Still, I shall recommend it because I just read the first five pages and don't see myself stopping. To quote a review I read on a Goodreads thread, "the prose? Lyrical. The relationships? Complex. The speech marks? Gone." Sign me up.





## THE VIRIDIAN

# 5

**PERFUME**  
BY PATRICK SUSKIND

The last time I read this was on an overnight flight and I just don't trust my intellectual abilities at 35,000 feet enough to feel confident in my less than favourable opinion on this novel. Hence, this shall be another reread, and I hope a worthy one.

# 9

**THE HOUSE ON MANGO STREET**  
BY SANDRA CISNEROS

Gut-wrenchingly poetic, I hear. That's all the persuading needed to make me want to read just about anything and this is no exception. Again, review to come if it lives up to its name.

# 6

**THE EMISSARY**  
BY YOKO TAWADA

I always say I'm not the biggest fan of Japanese writing and then pick up another book by a Japanese author. I'm a hypocrite who picked this up simply because I love the cover of it. I'm a materialistic hypocrite with a looming deadline and no patience for anything too long.

# 10

**AN HONORARY RECOMMENDATION BY ANNA WUTHERING HEIGHTS**  
BY EMILY BRONTE

You may have heard of Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, the victims of a tragic love story, held prisoners by the intense yearning that bound them, consumed by an inextinguishable desire for one another. Yet behind all of this are two of the most self-absorbed, irrational, stubborn, malicious characters you'll ever have encountered. And this is precisely where Emily Brontë outdoes herself, creating an inner conflict so powerful that readers are led to question their own values.

But back to the beginning... Lockwood, the newest tenant of Thrushcross Grange, seeks shelter one night at Wuthering Heights, upon being caught in a violent storm. While there, he catches a glimpse of the house's tempestuous past, the remnants of Catherine and Heathcliff's passion and of Catherine's betrayal. The bleak Yorkshire moors make the perfect eerie backdrop for a winter-by-the-fire read.



# 7

**OF MICE AND MEN**  
BY JOHN STEINBECK

I've read this before but something about it being so short and available to me is making it a very strong contender for a reread. Also helps that I can barely remember what it's about.

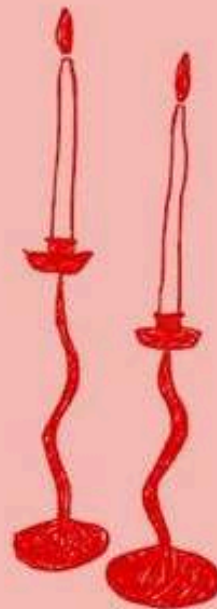
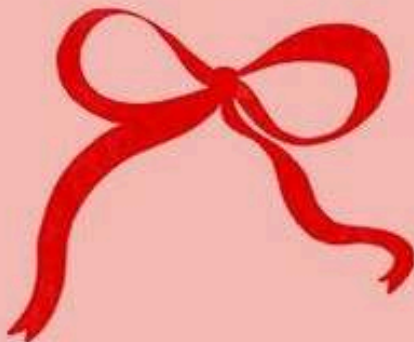
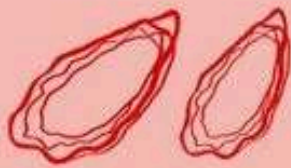
# 8

**ANNIE JOHN**  
BY JAMAICA KINCAID

After reading an excerpt from A Small Place I've predetermined that I already love Kincaid. I also love books about girlhood, so this is a win-win. I especially love books that provide me with searing commentary on adolescence while being short and sweet. Win-win-win.



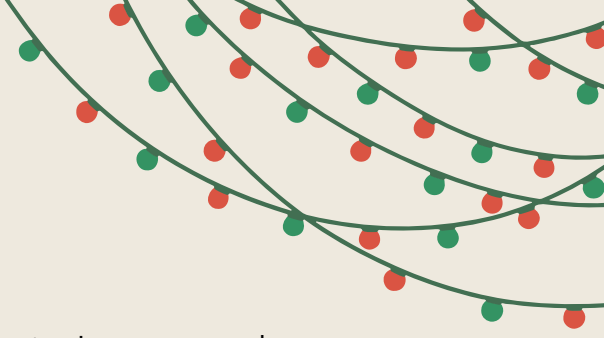
# A MAGIC TRICK. BUT WAIT... WHERE'S THE MAGIC?



BY STYLIANA AVRAAMIDOU



# THE VIRIDIAN



In the midst of apolyterion tests and on the days leading up to January mock exams, our advent calendars become dreaded Christmas decorations rather than a thrilling countdown. In light of this, it can be difficult to remember a time when our main preoccupation was what snack we should bring to our class's Christmas party on the last day of school. And yet we lived those magical times and it's hard to suppress the insurmountable nostalgia that we feel for those carefree days when Christmas was not a time for writing essays, with the slight benefit of having a cosy and festive background, but a time when we were eagerly writing our letters to Santa Clause with a hot chocolate on our nightstand and Mickey's Once Upon A Christmas playing in the background.

As if by magic, every year when the clock stroke twelve, on the first of December, the Christmas spirit would reignite in every neighbourhood. Our houses were miraculously transformed into Winter Wonderlands with twinkling lights and tinsel gracefully wrapped around our Christmas trees. Hot chocolate stocked in the cabinet and trays of freshly baked μελομακάρονα alluringly rested on the table. Traditionally, on Christmas Eve the delectable smell of turkey and stuffing enchantingly left traces of its fragrance in every room while the stereo blasted jolly Christmas music in the background. And finally, on Christmas morning a basket of presents temptingly resided under the tree beside the almost empty plate of crumbled cookies and bitten carrots.



Now that the secrets have been revealed, it would be expected that this facade would tarnish the magical element of this holiday season. Our childhood innocence has elusively left us, and we can be more pragmatic about the overcommercialised aspect of Christmas. After all, when a magician reveals the process behind his magic trick, our curiosity inevitably fades, and the trick is just an equation performed. At a time when all we could think about was how the magician pulled a rabbit out of his hat, we now know that he places the hat on a specially made table and his helpers do the rest. In the same way, we've solved the puzzle behind Christmas. The disheartening truth is that Santa can't travel the entire world in one evening, our parents simply go to the mall and purchase our gifts.





# THE VIRIDIAN

While all of this is true, I would argue that even as adults or teenagers, the holiday season still contains several elements of magic. Call me optimistic or idealistic, but most often or not, as soon as we learn a magic trick we want to perform it to someone else and see their reaction. In the same way, even when we discover the truth behind this sensational Christmas mystery there is still a profound need to preserve the faith that Christmas used to bring us as children. Even though I now know that the cookies I set out for Santa, were eaten by my parents on Christmas Eve and that my letter was not sent out to the North Pole and that it never even left the house, it is not Santa who made Christmas magical. It was my mother who bought two kinds of wrapping paper to make sure that we never suspected how both Santa and my parents used the same wrapping paper, even though one was bought in Alphamega and the other was meticulously designed by Santa's elves in the North Pole. It was my father who spent time crafting the perfect Christmas playlist, one that would give us a theme song for our Christmas Eve's at home. Truly, it is all the people who continued performing this magic trick to make me believe that such a concept exists, even though they stopped believing a long time ago that made Christmas so magical for me as a child.

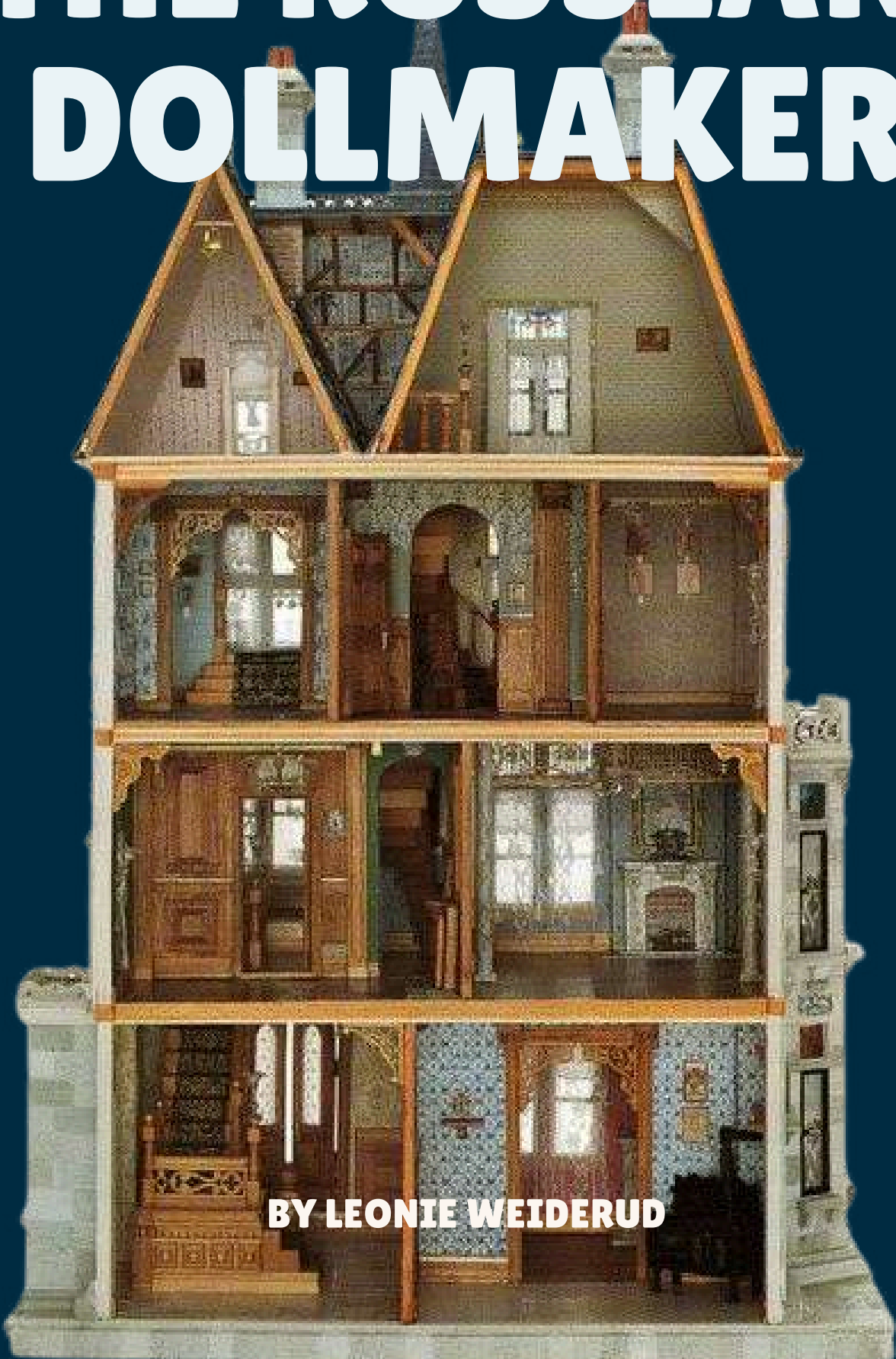


So, even if our Christmas holidays will be more tedious this year, we mustn't be Grinches. Instead, we should continue our traditions to make the Christmas season magical for those around us. And who knows, by doing so, maybe we can bring some of the Christmas magic back into our own holidays? Even if we have to become magicians for a day...

**\*Song recommendation from my father's Christmas playlist: Christmas Time (Bryan Adams.)**



# THE RUSSIAN DOLLMAKER



BY LEONIE WEIDERUD

# THE VIRIDIAN

As the days grow shorter and a chill fills the air, we step into the magical embrace of the Christmas season. The world is transformed with twinkling-lights, warm scents of cinnamon and pine, and decorations in every corner. However some choose a different route with decorations, such as Moskvin's 29 life-size dolls made from mummified female corpses, which he placed around his apartment.



Anatoly Moskvin was born in the city of Gorky in the Soviet Union, 1966. As a schoolboy, Moskvin enjoyed wandering through cemeteries, attributing his interest in the dead to a childhood incident in which he accidentally witnessed a funeral procession for eleven-year-old, Natasha Petrova. Moskvin alleged that the participants forced him to kiss the dead girl's face, and later, Natasha's grieving mother put a wedding-ring on each of their fingers, bonding them in 'marriage'.

After graduating with a degree in Philology from Moscow State University, Moskvin became well-known in academic circles. Becoming a linguist, speaking 13 languages, a journalist, and a historian who taught at universities. But as an adult, Moskvin led a secluded life, never married, or dated, preferring to live with his parents. He was described as both a genius and an eccentric. Yet, he always yearned for a daughter, and had applied for adoption but was denied, due to low income.

Moskvin's obsession with the unknown and macabre never abated and he earned a further degree in Celtic Studies, a culture whose ethos blurs the line between life and death. Inspired by the ancient Druids, eventually led him to begin searching for obituaries of recently deceased children and after finding one that "spoke" to him, he would sleep on the grave to determine if the spirit wished to be 'brought back to life'. Moskvin claimed that throughout the 20 years, he never dug up a grave without the 'permission' of the child within.



After exhuming the corpses, Moskvin dried the corpses using a combination of salt and baking soda and later carried them to his home in attempt to make 'dolls'. Wrapping the limbs in strips of cloth, sometimes adding wax masks decorated with nail polish over the faces, before dressing them in brightly coloured children's clothes and wigs.

He had dug up the graves of over 150 dead girls, mummifying at least 29 corpses, (majority of them aged 3-12). Moskvin denied any sexual attraction to the dolls, instead considered them to be his children. Never "treating them with contempt".

He spoke to and interacted with the corpses, sang songs to them, watched cartoons with them, and even held birthday parties and celebrated holidays for their benefit.

In 2009, locals observed that the graves of their loved ones had been desecrated, sometimes completely dug up with the bodies missing. After 2 years, Anatoly was arrested in 2011.

Police search uncovered the life-sized figures resembling antique dolls, sat on chairs and shelves throughout the apartment. Also found were photographs and nameplates taken from headstones as well as instructions for making dolls and maps of cemeteries in the region.

The Russian historian was charged with the desecration of graves and dead bodies. However, after a psychiatric evaluation, he was diagnosed with a form of paranoid schizophrenia, perhaps explaining some of the actions he took, and was eventually deemed unfit to stand trial.

Moskvin was moved to a psychiatric clinic, he cooperated with investigators, explaining that he was aware that he was committing a crime, but felt that rescuing the dead children was more important.

During a court-hearing he refused to apologise to the parents, quoting "These girls are girls. There are no parents in my view. I don't know any of them. Besides, they buried their daughters, and this is where I believe their rights over them finish. So no, I would not apologize. You abandoned your girls in the cold - and I brought them home and warmed them up."



**Now aged 58, he continues to be held at the psychiatric clinic, despite many petitions for his release, so if you ever have a question on necromancy, Anatoly Moskvin is your guy.**



THE VIRIDIAN

# WHITE CHRISTMAS

BY DANA E KARTOUDE

When thinking of Christmas, the visuals that come to mind usually involve Santa Claus, gift-giving, Jesus in his nativity scene and so on. But Christmas means something vastly different to what we know in areas outside of Europe and North America. In this Christmas article we will explore the Eurocentric culture that has developed surrounding Christmas which has, to an extent, neglected or completely overshadowed cultures in Africa or Latin America in both the celebrations themselves but also the commercialization of the holiday.

A good starting point to identify would be the emergence of a globally dominant Christian Europe. Considering the religious aspect of the holiday, we celebrate Christmas to honor the birth of Jesus, thus we have images of the star of Bethlehem, little baby Jesus in the nativity scene or the three wise men. But even the commercialized aspects of the holiday with Santa Claus, Rudolph or Christmas trees, emerged from Western European cultures and folklore like the Dutch Sinterklaas which, with the help of a famous soft drink, evolved into the modern-day image of Santa Claus.



Considering that Christmas became a global celebration, many non-Western cultures attempted to include it in its calendars as a secular event which in no way reflects Christian beliefs, traditions or customs. Considering that, the widespread commercialization of Christmas has quite literally diluted the true meaning of Christmas effectively diminishing its religious significance globally whilst refocusing the meaning of Christmas to something more of “I want to get the perfect present” than “Let’s go to church”. Even completely neglecting the religious aspect of Christmas, the extent of commercialization that has developed can feel like an imposition on other cultures particularly in Asia or the Middle East.

Considering that visiting Dubai or Singapore in December will make a German feel at home with the overwhelming amount of Christmas lights and trees despite being locations with little Christian history, simply highlights the absence of cultural significance to modern day Christmas; it has become a symbol of Western inclusion and a marketing scheme rather than a holiday of community and culture.



Not only that, but the idealized image of a European Christmas leaves Christian branches or communities feeling excluded. For example, the Latin American tradition of “La Posada” where people reenact Mary and Joseph seeking shelter or the African American holiday of Kwanzaa, which consists of a week representing the seven principles of Kwanzaa and families collecting to light candles each day, are largely overlooked by the Eurocentric, overbearing and widespread “White Christmas”.



This focus on Eurocentric traditions might “sell better” but it actively neglects the opportunity for cross-cultural exchange and understanding. It has enforced an idea that Christmas is a time where the whole world collects, exchanges gifts and sleeps awaiting a man in a red suit, enforcing the erasure of cultural diversity and limiting the potential for an inclusive celebration. Celebrations including Chinese New Year, Hannukah or Diwali could all serve towards the cultural enrichment of society as a whole, educating generations to observe the world, not just during Christmas time, through many lenses rather than the one they’ve known all their lives

We are constantly trying as a modern society to promote inclusivity. Why leave Christmas out of it? Eurocentrism has deprived non-Western cultures from expression of their traditions and customs and has aided in the struggle of cultural identity since colonialism. Why not promote the differences that make each culture unique?

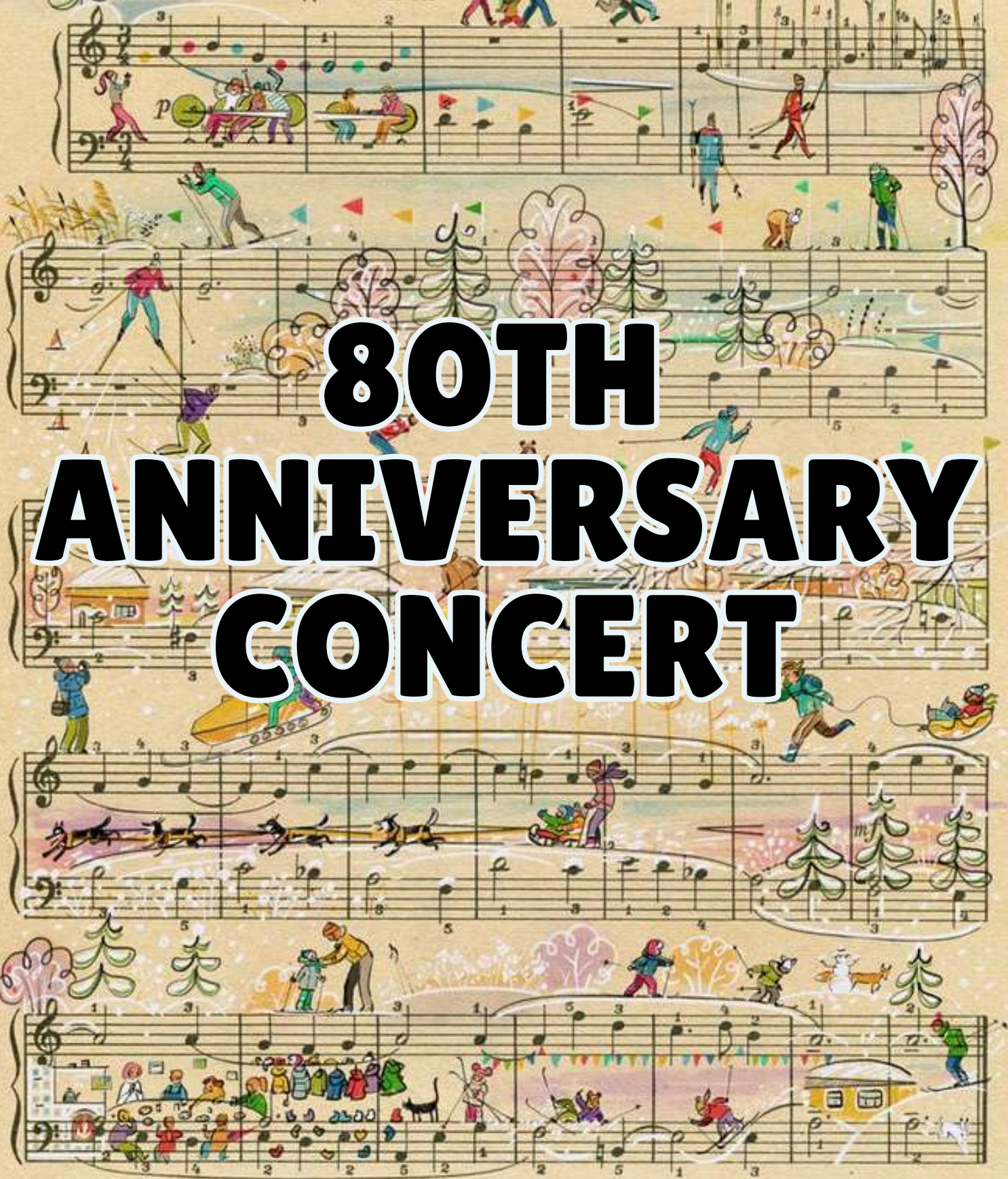
By continuing to promote Western ideals non-Western cultures continue to struggle in establishing an identity which is globally recognised and respected. Therefore, we should all consider the importance in including Christmas in the attempt towards globalization in order to reshape it from a one-dimensional, Western-dominated view of the season to a more inclusive and diverse time which honors the differences which make us unique.





В спокойном движении

А. ГЕДИКЕ. Соч. 36. №12



# 80TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

27557

BY REBECCA PETROU

The 80th Anniversary Concert. An event that had been months in the making, worked on tirelessly by students and most importantly, by our dedicated music teachers, Mrs. Filippou and Mr. Creen. To learn about the hard work and effort behind the show, which took place on Friday, the 13th of December, at the Nicosia Municipal Theatre, The Viridian spoke with the teachers.

Mrs. Filippou shared with us, **“This concert was undoubtedly a very complex one in many ways: it included a great number of students across the Junior and Senior School. It involved almost the entire Year 7, a significant number of students in Years 8–13, and around 40 instrumentalists, most of whom were in Years 10–13, as well as our school orchestra, which consists of students of all levels of ability. It brought together experienced musicians and highly skilled performers alongside novices, showcasing the inclusive nature of music and celebrating the school’s history.”**

She continued by saying, **“In a way, I was very excited and grateful that both Mr. Creen, who used to work here at the start of the Senior School, and I worked on this concert together. It almost felt symbolic.”**

Mr. Creen, who was a music teacher during the first Senior School concert in 2005 – when all 80 students of the school participated as both singers and players – explained, **“Surprisingly, the Music Department was, and still is, about music. Appreciating it, absorbing it, striving for accuracy, detail, and excellence. But more importantly, aiming to respect ALL music, whatever the period or genre. And above all else, being proper people.”**



“

**“The main idea was to bring together various types of ensembles and as many voices from both the Junior and Senior Schools,” Mrs. Filippou explained. “I do believe that the most impressive aspect of these performances was that the entirety of the concert included live accompaniment by Senior School students and that all the music was arranged and tailored based on their level. I sincerely hope there was something for everyone to enjoy.”**

”



# THE VIRIDIAN

When asked what the most rewarding part of seeing this concert come to life was, Mrs. Filippou shared,

**“Seeing the power of music in bringing people together. There are many talented students in our school who are so used to performing on their own, but unfortunately, do not realise how much more powerful it is to be a part of something greater and collective. My main objective for this concert was to put together the biggest concert the Junior & Senior School has ever done. Perhaps I was being overly ambitious, but I truly hope that one day these participants will look back on the 80th Anniversary Concert with fond memories.”**



Also, The Viridian asked Mr. Creen a similar question:

**“How do you feel about this event? Are you proud of the outcome and the students’ participation?”**

He responded, **“One doesn't really do 'feel' until the actual event itself – when everyone is on the stage, at the time whilst it is happening. Music is a temporal art. One gains the greatest pleasure from it during either active participation or passive listening. Equally important, however, is THE preparation. This, particularly in an educational situation, is a growth time for all involved. Students learn how to sit and stand properly, how to be silent and still for extended periods, to use their eyes and focus in a more disciplined way than they ever have before. They learn that expectations of them can be higher than they previously thought possible. They learn that, in addition to being important as individuals, one can be even more powerfully important when one contributes to the many.”**



The 80th Anniversary Concert was more than a celebration of the school’s rich history; it was a testament to the power of music in uniting people, fostering growth, and creating memories. The event's success was a fitting tribute to eight decades of excellence and creativity.

“ He added,  
**“Music performance, in addition to the necessary musical skills, required large amounts of effort, self-control, and patience, which the students developed greatly. And it was seeing the progress of these attributes that gave us, as teachers, the greatest satisfaction, as these are transferable skills that can, and should, be applied to everything they do. At The Junior and Senior School, we expect students to have a natural and honest joy about them before, during, and after performing. This is one of the things which has made, and hopefully continues to make, the school different and special.”**”



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