



# True Romance

Tom Huggins recently sat down with former pupil, the Soprano, Christina Johnston who now resides in the Czech Republic to talk about music and life at Framlingham College, how it shaped her career and how she met her future husband on her first day!

**It's clear to say that you have become an immensely talented performer. When did you first begin to sing?**

I first started performing and singing as soon as I can remember. Apparently my mother told me that I used to put on performances for all my family and their friends even before I was at school! I began private singing lessons when I was nine and my music teacher told my parents that she believed I should be an opera singer, of course they laughed at the time.

I always wanted to be a singer and the passion for performing just grew and grew as I got older especially when I came to Framlingham College, director of music, Rob Goodrich and my singing teacher Pamela Vinten-Phipps really encouraged me and supported me in my passion for singing.

**Tell us how you met your husband?**

When I was in my last year of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, I

met with friends from school for New Year's Eve of 2009. I had not seen my Russian class mate, Viacheslav Myachin since we had finished at Framlingham College school. He lived in Prague at the time, as he had begun a furniture business there.

We fell in love very quickly and once I had finished at Guildhall we got married straight away. I already had an agent in London and was ready to begin my career in England, however I thought long and hard and believed I could begin my singing career anywhere in the world so why not Prague.

I auditioned for the National Opera and was accepted straight away as a young artist and it all went from there.

**What are you up to at the moment?**

Currently I have just finished in the studio, recording my new album with The City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra, who have recorded the likes of: Placido Domingo, Jonas Kauffmann, Lesley Garrett, Sarah Brightman and many more. It is hoped to be released in Spring 2016.

I will then be touring again with the National Opera, in The Magic Flute and also the role of Olympia (the doll) in The Tales of Hoffmann. After all that I am hoping to come to England to promote my CD.

**Music aside, what are your fondest memories of your time at Framlingham College?**

I remember having a wonderful relationship with all the teachers. There was such a family bond between everyone. Framlingham especially means so much as I met my lovely husband there.

We met on our first day in Year 9. He didn't know much English. He came to Victoria house to see his sister, he was so upset as he didn't understand anyone and she introduced me to him and we became good friends. So this is a very fond memory!

For us both it is really a special place as we have the same friends and memories, we remember it with great fondness. Framlingham College will always have a very special place in my heart! ♦

