

Head's Lines - Gerard Booth - Director of Music

Hello and welcome to this latest edition of the Oldham Music Service and Music Centre newsletter, 'Music Notes'.

When we published our previous edition, we were all looking forward to the virtual Christmas Festival that featured so many of our wonderful musicians. As you will know if you saw the film, this was a real triumph and a great achievement that showcased the tremendous talent that has continued to develop throughout even through this most challenging of years.



The hope then was that we would continue to see an easing of the lockdown restrictions and that it would be possible to introduce some face-to-face activities in the Lyceum by now. As we all know though, that just has not been possible and most of the activity has had to revert to the world of cyberspace. The OMS and OMC team appreciates just how difficult the period of lockdown has been, not just for our young people, but for all families and also how much students have been challenged by the lack of social interaction. To that end we are planning to reinstate regular weekly rehearsals online on a trial basis from immediately after half-term. These will include woodwind, string, voice and brass groups with classes set at appropriate levels to ensure that all of our pupils can have opportunities to participate. We are also looking at ways to restore those community groups that had to be suspended as a result of the pandemic and members of all these groups will be receiving details in due course.

We appreciate that virtual rehearsals are never going to be the same as in-person sessions. However, we aim to recreate some of the camaraderie of normal Music Centre classes as well as maintaining musical standards. When you receive the invitation to take part, I sincerely hope that you will be able to engage with the sessions and we look forward to welcoming you back.

Meanwhile, OMS teachers have been delivering weekly lessons, both in schools where possible and remotely over Zoom and YUMU (our virtual learning platform) since the start of the latest lockdown. The response from pupils and parents has been really pleasing and it's a terrific testament to the efforts, resilience and dedication of the OMS staff that they have once again adapted so brilliantly to this new way of working.

We know that the dangers of COVID-19 are very real but that we seem to be heading in the right direction now and, with luck, we are at the beginning of the end as far as the restrictions on our way of life are concerned. With that in mind, I look forward to welcoming Music Centre members and their families back to the Lyceum as soon as possible and wish you all good health and fortune until that day arrives.

Many musicians... one harmony

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Annie Meaden: Chetham's School of Music place

Music Centre student Annie Meaden has been very busy during lockdown! Working tirelessly for her Associated Board Grade 8 Violin examination since the first lockdown in March, she was able to take the exam "face to face" at the Oldham Music Centre in December during the brief period when lockdown restrictions were eased. Annie achieved a Distinction with a fabulous mark of 136! The good news didn't end there. Following a rigorous series of video auditions, a zoom lesson and 2 interviews, Annie was successful in being offered a place at Chetham's School of Music Sixth Form to start in September 2021.



A lifelong, committed member of the Oldham Music Centre, Annie started her musical journey as a baby in the Music Centre's Musical Beginnings Classes. She joined the Music Centre Junior Choir at the age of 4 years old and began violin lessons at around the same time. She soon joined the Music Centre Elementary String Group and the rest, as they say, is history. Annie has progressed through all the Music Centre Groups available to her and is currently a member of the Oldham Youth Orchestra, The Lyceum Strings, Oldham Youth Choir, Advanced Music Theatre Group and the Funky Folk Group. With the Music Centre she has enjoyed trips to perform in Lake Garda, The Royal Albert Hall, The Bridgewater Hall, Birmingham Conservatoire, The Stoller Hall and many other venues. All of these fabulous opportunities helped to heighten Annie's passion for music which has led to her recent successes. Annie says,

"The Music Centre has been a huge part of my life and musical journey. It is like a family. You make friends for life whilst playing music and getting to perform in some amazing places." We wish Annie every success in this exciting new stage in her education.

Musical Beginnings: Online sessions

Our Musical Beginnings sessions are back! Since January, Kay Huckfield has been leading the weekly sessions online for our 0-5 year old Music Centre members. This arrangement will continue after half-term. After Easter, Claire Crebbin and Angela Preen will resume their weekly sessions too. It's an exciting time for our youngest musicians.

If you have recently adopted a 0-5 year old, or you know someone who has, please get in touch with angela.preen@oldham.gov.uk to register for our FREE Musical Beginnings Extra sessions. These will take place after Easter and will be solely for children who are adopted.



CPD Programme

Our CPD programme develops and extends the musical skills of teachers and practitioners by supporting you in delivering a high-quality music curriculum. Practical, engaging and excellent value for money; our courses are guaranteed to provide a wealth of knowledge and expertise which will have a real impact upon pupils' learning, engagement and progression.

The **Primary Music Network** consists of pre-recorded training videos which can be accessed for 14 days prior to the Zoom Q&A session. The next Network Meeting is **Monday 22nd March 4pm**. Discover new ways to include Music in your Continuous Provision for EYFS and Year 1. The full details of our CPD programme are at the end of the newsletter.

Online Rehearsals



Regular Online Rehearsals are already up and running for some of our ensembles and we have an exciting programme planned for after half term for all our Music Centre members.

The Choirs have recently commenced a series of “Developing your Singing Technique” workshops. Including top-tips for exercising the voice without straining it (using Semi-Occluded Vocal Tract techniques) and exercises to improve diction and expand vocal range, it will be a great benefit to our choristers at the Music Centre. It is probably fair to say that the SOVT techniques session resulted in a lot of splashing water everywhere! But Miss Davis helped us all to discover how this fun activity can enhance our

singing. There will be two further singing workshops after half term for our children’s choirs and the Adult Community Choir.. Watch out for an email with further details.

Uke 1 remain dedicated on weekly Zoom rehearsals. Mr Bergin looks forward to this highlight in his week. In these difficult times, it’s great to see our more mature musicians are able to keep in touch through their music-making.



Keep in touch

Twitter: @Oldhammusic
Facebook: Oldham Council Music Service
Website: www.oldhammusic-service.co.uk
Email: musicservice@oldham.gov.uk

Oldham Primary Music Network

PRIMARY NETWORK ONE

Covid-secure ideas for Music Teaching (EYFS, KS1 & KS2)

Monday 18th January 4pm-4.45pm

Book: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/WML>

Creative, budget-friendly ideas for creative music-making in a covid-secure music session. With a focus upon fine-motor strength (EYFS) and rhythm & rhyme.

The Zoom Q&A will be an opportunity to answer questions and to share ideas from your own school/setting.



PRIMARY NETWORK TWO

Music in Continuous Provision (EYFS & Y1)

Monday 22nd March 4pm-4.45pm

Book: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/WNE>

This session will introduce a range of ideas including:

- *Encouraging children to re-tell and create their own stories using music*
- *Exploring musical contrasts*
- *Exploring and creating sounds and music*
- *Developing and supporting speech, language & communication through Music*
- *Counting songs*



PRIMARY NETWORK THREE

The Olympics (EYFS, KS1, KS2)

Monday 26th April 4pm-4.45pm

Book: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/WNH>

The Tokyo Olympics will take place in July/August 2021. To celebrate this sporting event, the theme of GM Music Hub Singing Challenge Song is "Olympics".

In this CPD session you will:

- *Learn the song*
- *Explore Olympic-themed music resources for EYFS, KS1 & KS2*



Singing in the Classroom: GM Music Hub

Oldham Music Service is part of the Greater Manchester Music Hub (GMMH). We collaborate to bring you high-quality, great value CPD led by experts in the field.

Spring term – Wednesday 16th June 2021, 5.00 – 7.00 pm

Singing and Percussion

An interactive, fun-filled singing and percussion session

Delivered by members of the Vocal Vision Group for the GM Hub, this session will help you to:

- Learn new songs and warm up ideas.
- Explore percussion trolley instruments and discover creative and effective ways to include them in your regular classroom singing sessions.
- Repertoire suitable for each year group.

There will be something for everyone in this interactive session for non-specialist primary teachers and Music Subject Leaders alike.



Spring term – Tuesday 16 March 2021, 5.00 – 7.00 pm

A Singing School is a Successful School

For teachers across the whole primary school delivered by **Out of the Ark**

Grounded in solid research, this workshop is aimed at every teacher in every school. Out of the Ark Music will show you how you can use music to improve literacy and numeracy; promote well-being and team spirit through whole-school singing; and influence mood/attention in the classroom. With loads of fabulous free resources, the session has been designed to allow attendees to incorporate great new ideas into their teaching right away. You will receive clear guidance on:

- How you can use music to support curriculum areas from phonics and literacy to numeracy.
- How active engagement with singing can have an enormous impact on pupils' intellectual, social and personal development.
- How whole-school singing, especially in assemblies, can promote team spirit and create a collaborative learning environment.
- How to influence mood and attention in the classroom through the use of music.

Summer term – Tuesday 20 April 2021, 5.00 – 7.20 pm

Beatboxing and Body Percussion

Introducing beatboxing in Upper KS2 & KS3 with Faz Shah

Former Oldham Music Service student Faz Shah is an actor muso, composer, violinist and beatboxer. He has toured his original piece of theatre 'The Awakening' in 2019 to UK audiences and has been the Music Director for the New Vic Theatre for 'Astley's Astounding Adventures' in 2018 and 'The Prince and the Pauper' in 2019. He has delivered training courses to teachers internationally and across the UK, as well as leading projects in schools and colleges.

This course is for all Upper KS2 & KS3 teachers who are interested in developing techniques to get pupils started in beatboxing. Faz Shah will lead you through an engaging session exploring body percussion & beatboxing and how to layer sections, basic core rhythms and facilitation techniques to nurture creativity from a whole class.

Please note that this session will be divided into three 40-mins sessions with a short break in between.

Cost: Just £15 for one session, £25 for two and £30 for three.

Booking is via Eventbrite. To secure your place, visit www.gmmusichub.co.uk/training

A few days before the training date, you will receive an email invitation to join the course on Zoom, so please make sure that you book using the email address you want to receive this! Should the invitation not arrive, or if you have any other queries, please email music.service@bolton.gov.uk

