

Head's Lines - Gerard Booth - Director of Music

I am delighted to be able to welcome you to this latest edition of the Oldham Music Centre Newsletter, 'Music Notes'. I know that many of you will have attended one of our performances leading up to Christmas. We were truly fortunate that these were able to go ahead and were all so incredibly successful after the worst that Covid-19 has thrown at us during the last two years. There is more on these later in this newsletter, but suffice it to say for now that no-one could have been an audience member or performer at one of those events without being incredibly impressed by the resilience of Oldham's musical community and the way in which our brilliant performers have bounced back since we were able to recommence rehearsals.



Of course, this was just the first stage of our recovery and the year ahead has much to look forward to. In the next six to seven months there will be many musical highlights and these will include the following:

- A week of Departmental Concerts at the QE Hall from 14th March culminating in the Community Groups' Showcase at St Paul's Royton on 18th March.
- The resumption of our Chamber Music Concert Series at Gallery Oldham featuring many of our smaller ensembles. These will take place in late March/early April.
- The Youth Brass Band's participation in the National Youth Brass Band Contest in Corby on 27th March
- The Youth Wind Band's performance in the Finals of the National Concert Band Festival at the RNCM on 9th April



and much more besides including our spectacular Summer Festival in Parliament Square on 9th July.

The Music Service staff and I are extremely grateful for all of the dedication, commitment and talent that Music Centre members and their families demonstrate in such abundance. Going forward, I am sure that will remain the case as, with their full participation, we continually strive towards even greater achievements and inclusion in the future.

OMC Belgium Concert Tour 20th-26th July 2022



A brass band, wind band and orchestra from the Music Centre will be travelling to Wallonia in Belgium in late July this year. One of the main focal points of the tour will be our presentation of a concert on 21st July as part of "Belgian National Celebration Day" in Wavre near Brussels. We shall also be giving concerts in the Collegium de Nivelles and at Durbuy. 75 students in total are making the trip and we are in the midst of making sure we have the correct passes to travel to Belgium at this time. We know that our hosts are very excited to have us and pleased to be welcoming Oldham Music Centre

as one of the first, large touring music groups to visit Wallonia since 2019. If previous tours are anything to go by, this will be a fantastic experience for all those involved.

Many musicians... one harmony

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Retirement

At the end of February we will say a fond farewell to Christine Murphy, one of our Business Support staff. After eleven years at the Music Centre and a total of seventeen years of service with Oldham Council, Christine will be enjoying a well-earned retirement. We would like to wish Christine health and happiness and exciting adventures in this new phase of her life.

Christmas Concerts 2021



After 18 months of restrictions, our Christmas Concert season was a glorious celebration of musical talent. All our ensembles had an opportunity to perform either in the Mince Pie Gig, Junior Christmas Festival, Christmas Festival or Adult Community Groups' Concert. We were delighted to welcome children from Burnley Brow Community Primary and Diggle Primary schools to sing alongside our own Junior Choir and perform as part of the massed chorus in the Christmas Festival.



For some of our young musicians, this was their first public performance. A highlight of the Christmas Festival was the introductions to each ensemble by one of its student members. It was heartening to hear the impact that music has played in their lives and the benefits of music-making with our online offer throughout the two lockdowns.



We were grateful to St Matthew's Church for hosting the Adult Community Groups' concert. Featuring the ukulele and guitar groups plus our Choir, the concert was certainly an enjoyable evening and a showcase of musical talent.



More information about our Adult Community Groups can be found here: [Community | Oldham Music Service](#)



Photographs of the various Christmas events can be viewed in our online Flickr album: [Oldham Music Service | Flickr](#)

GMMH Singing Challenge: Platinum Jubilee Celebrations



As a special tribute to Her Majesty The Queen, a brand new Song for the Commonwealth has been composed to be sung by choirs in all 54 Commonwealth countries at the same time as the lighting of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons on June 2nd 2022. The Greater Manchester Music Hub (GMMH) has chosen to sing "A Life Lived with Grace" for the 2022 Primary Schools' Singing Challenge. Further details in the near future. In addition to the resources for schools, there are various arrangements for adult choirs which may be of interest to those who sing in local choirs. More information can be found here [A Song for the Commonwealth - Commonwealth Resounds](#)

GM Hub Youth Ensembles

Our ever-increasing range of GM Hub music ensembles are catering for our most advanced students and challenging them to achieve their very best. Many of these students are moving on to music in higher education with a promising career in music ahead of them. It is only through sharing talent and resources that the Music Services in the GM Hub and their partners can work together to provide these special opportunities. You can find out more about the individual ensembles here: [GM ensembles | Greater Manchester Music Hub \(gmmusic hub.co.uk\)](#)

Royal Opera House

Join the Royal Opera House for FREE Teacher Training at Oldham Music Centre
Thursday 5th May 2022 9am-3pm
Create & Sing: Hansel and Gretel

The Royal Opera House's innovative [Create & Sing programme](#) gives teachers free access to certified training and unique online resources, enabling them to explore dramatic singing in their classrooms. Create and Sing supports teachers in delivering the National Curriculum and enriching their children's creative learning. Designed alongside teachers from across the UK, the programme creatively develops children's music and drama skills and knowledge through the process of making an opera.

Join the specialist ROH drama and music practitioners as they introduce the programme, its resources (including arrangements for young voices, backing tracks, lesson videos and schemes of work) and effective approaches to exploring and making opera in the classroom. No previous music or drama training is required to deliver this programme, so all educators are welcome!

[Watch out short programme summary video](#) to find out more.

Training Details:

To register for this training please go to the Eventbrite link below.

[ROH Create and Sing Hansel and Gretel CPD \(full day\)- Oldham Tickets, Thu 5 May 2022 at 09:00 | Eventbrite](#)

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. Scan the QR code to book onto our Primary Music Network.

Upcoming CPD events

Tuesday 8th March 4pm-5.30pm

Primary Music Network: KS1 & KS2 - Castles, Dragons & Platinum Jubilee
<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BFXH>



Thursday 5th May 9am-3pm

Royal Opera House: Create & Sing Hansel & Gretel (see above for details)

Tuesday 10th May 4pm-5.30pm

Primary Music Network: Active Listening. Ideas & resources for supporting focussed, musical listening in KS1 & KS2.
<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BFXH>

Oldham Secondary Music Network

The Secondary Music Network meets regularly throughout the year. The network is led by Angela Preen (Oldham Music Service) and Daniel Corrigan (The Radclyffe School) who are both SLEs for Northern Alliance Teaching School. The aim of the network is to develop subject leadership for a knowledge-based curriculum. This year there is a focus on Curriculum Recovery and the findings of the Ofsted Music Research Review [Research review series: music - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



Chetham's School of Music Events



Some of our brass players are attending the **Chetham's Brass Academy** on 6th February. The event will feature special guest tutors including Peter Moore and Jason Evans – both former students of the school and principal players of the London Symphony Orchestra and Philharmonia respectively – as well as current Chetham's tutor Dr David Thornton, euphonium soloist and Head of Brass Band Studies at the Royal Northern College of Music; Stephanie Jones, member of BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and tutor at the Royal

Conservatoire of Scotland; and Sasha Koushk-Jalali, member of the world-famous Septura Brass. From 10am – 4pm, the packed day will include classes for trumpet, trombone, tuba, euphonium and horn and a chance to play in a massed brass ensemble directed by Chetham's Head of Brass, David Chatterton. We are looking forward to hearing all about it from our students in the next issue of Music Notes.

Chetham's School of Music is also offering a free, one-day event for young **woodwind players**, aged 11-18. Young players – from grade 3 standard to diploma level – are invited to join the friendly, specialist tutors at Chetham's School of Music, to work with Chetham's students and alumni in a day full of music making, discussion and performance. Find out more here: [Chetham's Woodwind Academy | Chetham's School of Music \(chethamsschoolofmusic.com\)](#)

Junior RNCM events

Young musicians and their families are invited to attend the Junior RNCM Open Day on **Saturday 12 February 2022**. To allow for social distancing the day will be split into two identical sessions from **10:30 – 1.00** and **2.00 – 4.30**, where you will sample life at the Junior RNCM, hear more about the wonderful opportunities available to the students, and listen to some of the JRNCM students in concert.

JRNCM recruits young musicians who are working at lower grades as well as more advanced players. They are looking for musicality, potential and commitment as well as prior attainment. Anyone with an interest in applying is encouraged to attend the Open Day to see if it could be for them.

Auditions Applications for September 2022 entry to Junior RNCM are now open. To secure an audition slot, please complete the [online Application Form](#) by **12 noon, Tuesday 1 March 2022**. Further information here: [How to Apply and Fees - Royal Northern College of Music \(rncm.ac.uk\)](#)

Musical Beginnings

If you have a child 0-4 years old, you may be interested in our Musical Beginnings sessions at the Lyceum. Currently only £54 per term, they are excellent value for money and very high quality.



We have various sessions throughout the week.

Additionally, if you have recently adopted a 0-4 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 classes are solely for children who are fostered or adopted.



Register online for these classes here www.oldham.gov.uk/music_centre_application or scan the QR code

Keep in touch

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