

## Head's Lines - Gerard Booth - Director of Music

I am delighted to be able to share this latest Oldham Music Service and Music Centre newsletter with you as it marks another step on the road to full recovery from the effects of the pandemic on our lives. In this edition you can read about the marvellous Concert Week that took place in mid-March and which I am sure many of you attended. This was a wonderful re-affirmation of our borough's exceptional musical talent, which can be found at all levels, from pre-school right through to retired citizens, all of whom contribute massively to the cultural life of Oldham. It was a great tribute to them all that they performed to such a high standard and in such numbers after the devastating effects of the past two years on so much of our social, educational and cultural activities.

You can also read about our musicians representation of Oldham further afield, both within Greater Manchester and also at a national level with performances from the Youth Brass Band and Youth Wind Band in the finals of UK competitions. Looking further ahead, there is also information about some new or revitalised initiatives that may be of interest to you and your family members as well as an update to the calendar of events for the remainder of this year.

Whatever your involvement with the Music Service or music in the borough, I am sure that you, like me, cannot fail to be amazed at the resilience, talent and ability of all of our musicians and teachers as they continue to raise standards and strive towards a full restoration of all of our musical achievements. The next few years will be a very exciting time for the Music Service and Music Centre and we will be glad to have you on-board for the ride!

## Departmental Concert Week



Every Music Centre instrumental ensemble and choir participated in a week-long showcase of musical talent at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. It was heartening to see the stage filled with young musicians performing a wide range of musical genres. For some of our younger members, this was their first public performance.

One of the strengths of the Departmental Concerts is the opportunity for these younger members to see the progression routes through to our youth ensembles. Thank you to our hard-working teaching team who have done an incredible job of re-building our Music Centre ensembles following the pandemic.



## Many musicians... one harmony

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The Adult Community Groups performed at St Paul's Church on the Friday evening. The Wind Band, Acoustic Guitars, Late Start Wind Band, Uke 2 and the Community Choir gave a great evening of entertainment. If you would like to join one of our Adult Groups, get in touch via email.



Thanks to the generosity of our audience in buying raffle tickets and purchasing tea & coffee at the concerts, The Families and Friends of Oldham Music Centre have raised a magnificent £900. Many thanks to all that contributed and stepped up to help on the four nights.

If you couldn't make it to the QE Hall, or you didn't have any change on you, the JustGiving link is below. All funds raised go to supporting the Music Centre and our focus at the moment is on subsidising the cost of the Belgium Tour. [Families & Friends of Oldham Music Centre - JustGiving](#)



## GMMH Battle of the Bands

On 13th March, Saddleworth band “The New Variant” played represented Oldham in the **Greater Manchester Music Hub** Battle of the Bands at Academy 2 in Manchester. The three piece opened the show, playing high energy covers of songs by Blink 182 and Green Day.



Connor Mitchell was on guitar/vox and Ruby Whitehead on bass. Prior to the gig, their drummer Ben unfortunately tested positive for Covid-19. Oliver Sowden filled in superbly on two days' notice and one short rehearsal with a performance highly praised by adjudicator Andy Stott of the RNCM.



The yearly concert provides a fantastic opportunity for young people to perform at a top-class venue with a professional light and sound show provided by the team at the Academy.



## Youth Championships 2022: Brass Band England



The Youth Brass Band gave a magnificent performance at the National Youth Brass Band Championships of Great Britain. The event was held in Corby, Northamptonshire. The band played one of the most challenging programmes of the day, ending with Saint Saens Variations by Philip Sparke. They were certainly equal to the challenge and were rewarded for their efforts with a Bronze Award. Now it's back to rehearsals and looking ahead to Whit Friday.

## National Concert Band Festival Finals

The Youth Wind Band will be performing in the finals of the National Concert Band Festival on 9<sup>th</sup> April. The event is at the RNCM and we are participating as a result of gaining a Platinum Award in the regionals last term. Hopefully more news to follow in the next newsletter, maybe with an award to celebrate!

## 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.

**REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL FOR THE SINGING CHALLENGE HERE:**

[GM Hub Singing Challenge Song 2022 Tickets, Thu 16 Jun 2022 at 14:15 | Eventbrite](#)

Once registered, you will receive a supplementary Platinum Jubilee resource with Class Music ideas for EYFS, KS1 and KS2. On the day of the Singing Challenge, we will send you a link to join the online performance at 2.15pm.

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](#)

## Summer Festival Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July

Join us in Parliament Square for a whole-day musical extravaganza featuring all of our Oldham Music Centre ensembles. New for this year is a Teddy Bears' Picnic for young children and their families. Put the date in your diary – more details to follow soon.

## Primary Music Network

The Oldham Primary Music Network meets half-termly. Our most recent meeting was on the theme of the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee. Attendees explored the resource pack together and now feel confident to teach these in their school.

The network is for class teachers and TAs (not just music co-ordinators) and would be particularly useful for trainees and ECTs who are looking to develop their skills and confidence in teaching music well.

The next Primary Network is on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 4pm-5.30pm**  
Book your FREE PLACE here: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BFXH>



## 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 \(gmmusiclub.co.uk\)](#)

## Togetherall



Togetherall is a free online (24/7/365) mental health service for residents of Oldham 16+ with access to art & writing therapies, tools & resources, as well as a variety of online courses.

Register here: <https://togetherall.com/en-gb/>

## 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

#### **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 9am-3pm**

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



#### **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 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>

## Royal Opera House

Join the Royal Opera House for FREE Teacher Training at Oldham Music Centre

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

## 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](https://www.gov.uk/research-review-series-music) ([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.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](mailto: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](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/music_centre_application) or scan the QR code

## National Youth Choir of Great Britain 22/23 Auditions

NYCGB are looking for talented singers from all backgrounds & communities across the UK aged 18-25 to join the nation's flagship youth choral ensemble!

Details: [National Youth Choir Online Auditions 2022](https://www.nycgb.org.uk) | [National Youth Choirs GB](https://www.nycgb.org.uk) ([nycgb.org.uk](https://www.nycgb.org.uk))



## Keep in touch

Twitter: @Oldhammusic  
Facebook: Oldham Council Music Service  
Website: [www.oldhammusic-service.co.uk](http://www.oldhammusic-service.co.uk)  
Email: [musicservice@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:musicservice@oldham.gov.uk)

## Dates for your Diary

Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> April	National Concert Band Festival RNCM	Youth Wind Band
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Jubilee Concert Uppermill Civic Hall	Youth Brass Band
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Whit Friday Saddleworth	Youth Brass Band
27 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Oldham Schools' Music Festival QE Hall	Open to all school music groups
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Festival Parliament Square, Oldham	All Music Centre groups
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	GMMH Concert Bridgewater Hall	Junior Choir

## Term Dates 2021-22

Last day of Spring Term: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
First day of Summer Term: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
Half Term: 30<sup>th</sup> May-3<sup>rd</sup> June (no rehearsals)

There will not be any Music Centre rehearsals after the Summer Festival on 9<sup>th</sup> July. Teaching will continue in schools until the end of the summer term.

Rehearsals resume in the Autumn Term on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September.