

Head's Lines - Gerard Booth - Director of Music

Welcome to another bumper edition of our regular round-up of all that's been taking place at Oldham's amazing Music Centre in the last few months. As you will see below, despite the arrival of Spring, the grass has most certainly not been allowed to grow beneath our feet, and our fantastic Music Centre members and teachers have been busy with a multitude of musical projects.



Many of you will have been to one or more of the wonderful Departmental Concerts that took place in March. During the course of the week hundreds of Oldham's finest musicians participated in performances given by our choirs, wind and brass bands, orchestras and various other groups from across the musical spectrum. The Music Centre's adult and community groups were also a key part of the week having their own concert on the Friday evening. Throughout all this diversity, one common thread was really apparent and that was that the standards being achieved by these musicians are exceptional and that the impact caused by the pandemic has well and truly been shaken off.

March also saw the return of the Music Service's annual 'Biggest Band Day'. For this event we invite hundreds of beginner instrumentalists to spend a day out of school in an intensive day of music-making with their instrumental teachers. The day then culminates in a concert to parents and carers in the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Taking part this year were 144 brass and percussion students, 98 woodwind students, 62 guitar students and 24 string players who were supported and directed by 14 Music Service teachers. As you can imagine, this is one huge band and it's fair to say that their final performance really brought the house down!

Other highlights not included elsewhere in this newsletter included the Pop Department's 'Easter EGGstravaganza', which once again was held in Dobcross Band Club and the performance given to the Oldham Education Leadership Conference by our advanced Electric Guitar Group, 'EGG 3'.

I am sure that you will agree with me when I say that we are extremely proud of our musicians and teachers here at the Music Centre and continue to be delighted by the sensational standards that they achieve. Thank you for your continued support of these amazing opportunities and I look forward to seeing you at future concerts and performances.

OMC Youth Brass Band Cheltenham

On 23rd March, the Oldham Music Centre Youth Brass Band travelled to Cheltenham to take part in the National Youth Brass Band Championships. They were competing in the highest category, largely against county and large city bands. They gave a superb performance of their programme, entitled "Space" receiving excellent reports from the adjudicator and being awarded silver. The adjudicators said that the band gave, 'a superbly crafted programme...your presentation was the best we had all day'.



Many musicians... one harmony

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Website: www.oldhammusicservice.co.uk



Not content with a flying visit to Cheltenham, the band stayed over at Cheltenham Ladies College and on the Sunday morning they performed, open-air, in the sunshine, at Sudeley Castle for the first weekend of the opening season and also for Lady Ashcombe's birthday. That afternoon they presented a concert at St. Peter's Parish Church in Winchcombe, to a very appreciative audience. The concert was also broadcast on local radio.

We arrived back in Oldham late on Sunday evening, tired but pleased with a very successful weekend's work.

GMMH Singing Challenge: Thursday 20th June 2.15pm

Have you downloaded your song resources for the GM Music Hub Singing Challenge yet? **Chase Down the Sun** celebrates the theme of respect through sport and competition, the importance of trying your best and the Paris Olympics. All primary schools across the region to unite in song on **Thursday 20th June at 2.15pm**



Tune-in to Oldham Community Radio on the day and sing along! 99.7FM, DAB and www.OldhamCommunityRadio.com

Download the song and supporting curriculum resources using this link: [2024 – Chase Down The Sun | Greater Manchester Music Hub \(gmmusichub.co.uk\)](https://www.gmmusichub.co.uk/2024-Chase-Down-The-Sun-Greater-Manchester-Music-Hub) or scan the QR Code.



Oldham Primary Music Conference

Over thirty delegates from Oldham schools attended the annual Oldham Primary Music Conference on 21st March. With a focus on developing teacher's knowledge, skills and confidence to teach Music, the day featured a variety of workshops, discussions, new resources, Ofsted Deep Dives and a focus on the National Plan for Music Education. The workshops included: Bucket Drumming, Musical Vocabulary Explained, Muslim Songs for KS2, Music Technology (Chrome Music Lab), Ukulele Basics and Vocal Warm-ups.



OMC Youth Wind Band: National Youth Concert Band Festival

The Youth Wind Band received a Gold Award at the National Concert Band finals in Warwick. Congratulations to the musicians and their conductor, Duncan Byers, on this fantastic achievement.



The NCBF celebrates and promotes the music and activities of wind bands and jazz bands by holding regional festivals across the UK and a National Festival. The organisation aims to provide unique performing opportunities in a friendly, welcoming and musically enriching environment.



National Youth Concert Band Course



Some of our Music Centre students attended the National Youth Concert Band course over the Easter Holiday. An intensive week of music making, the students worked with specialist tutors over the course of the week at Stamford School in Lincolnshire, building up to the end of course concert at Warwick School. This year the repertoire included Grant Kirkhope's trombone concerto 'Kirkfeld', in which the band were joined by the BBC Symphony Orchestra's principal trombone player Helen Vollam.

During the week the group also had a workshop Issie Barratt, Artistic Director of the National Youth Jazz Collective, as well as opportunities to take part in chamber ensembles and rehearse solo pieces with the course accompanist. NYCB are holding a short summer residency at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester, where friends and family are warmly invited to join them for a concert in the Stoller Hall at 2:30pm on Sunday 25th August.



Heidelberg Tour 2025

The Families and Friends of Oldham Music Centre (FFOMC) are busy organising fundraising activities to support the forthcoming tour to Heidelberg. The OMC Youth Wind Band, Brass Band, Orchestra and Choir will perform three concerts in prestigious venues within the region and will have the opportunity to discover and explore cultural highlights in Heidelberg, Strasbourg, Schwaebisch Hall and Speyer. Activities at these locations will include river cruises, Chocolate Museum tour, cathedral towers, castles, mountainside railway trips, Grosscomburch Monastery and much more.

If you are able to support FFOMC by making a donation, sponsoring an event or providing match-funding for an event, please get in touch info@ffomc.co.uk

Adult Community Wind Band Concert

The Adult Community Wind Band was very excited to be asked again to perform in a joint concert together with the children of St Mary's School. The concert took place at St Mary's Church, opposite the school in High Crompton, Shaw. The Adult band performed numbers such as 'Wallace and Gromit', 'We Don't Talk about Bruno' from the musical film Encanto, and a Medley from 'Grease the Musical'. Music of Tom Jones and Queen made an appearance before finishing the second half with another medley, this time from the Swedish pop sensation Abba.



To end the concert, the Adult Band and the School Band joined forces to perform together an arrangement by Jonathan Leedale of the famous pop song 'As it Was' by the pop sensation Harry Styles. It really was a pleasure to perform alongside the very talented pupils who always amaze us with their fabulous musical abilities.

Thank you to FCHO!

The Adult Community Wind Band is a fundamental channel of communication that provides a means by which they can share emotions, intentions and meanings through the music. Each week, members of the band, of all ages and different professions, join together to share their love of music and playing an instrument together as part of a team.



One of our members who works for First Choice Homes mentioned that the company would like to donate money to the band to enable us to buy some new music. For a large wind band each set of music can cost anywhere from £50-£200, sometimes depending on the popularity of the music. We would like to thank First Choice Homes whose generous gift has enabled us to purchase several new pieces of challenging, fresh and fun music to ensure that the band can continue to work together and enjoy the challenges and mental stimulation that comes with working on new and exciting material. This will have a very positive impact on the band as it is really important to continue to add new music into a band's repertoire to challenge their brains and to keep rehearsals exciting and most of all fun. We will start to work on some of the pieces and

we will look forward to performing them in the community over the coming months and for years to come!

The Families and Friends of Oldham Music Centre

The Families and Friends of Oldham Music Centre is a registered charity founded to support the work of the Oldham Music Service. They fundraise to support trips, tours, music centre activities and also provide bursaries for young people who may not otherwise be able to access the music centre.

FFOMC need fundraising ideas, and would appreciate the help and support of parents, carers, family members and the wider community. If you have ideas, access to sponsorship/match funding, social media expertise or any spare time to help out, they would love to hear from you.

For further information on how you might be able to help us in our fundraising activities click here: [FFOMC - we need your help! Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)

Alternatively, if you would like to donate, follow this link [Donate - Donation amount - JustGiving](#) which will take you to the Just Giving page.

The Families and Friends of Oldham Music Centre info@ffomc.co.uk

Oldham Music Centre Hoodies

Last year, at the request of members of our Youth ensembles, we offered our Music Centre members the opportunity to purchase an Oldham Music Centre hoodie. The hoodies are optional and will not form part of the official uniform for concerts and events. However, we encourage our members to wear them proudly when travelling to/from events. A few parents/carers have enquired recently about how to purchase the hoodies, so here is a reminder of the information.

The hoodies are black and feature our logo on the front and "Oldham Music Centre" printed in teal on the back. They must be ordered directly via Q Print.

Adult sizes £22 Children's sizes £18

Sizes available:

9-11 years, 12-13 years, XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL

You need to order and pay for the hoodies by email or in person directly from the suppliers:

Q Print

2 Greenwood Street, Oldham OL4 2DB

info@qprintoldham.com

T: 0161 652 6666 (orders will not be taken over the telephone)

We request that you do not personalise the hoodie with your child's name as this detracts from the corporate appearance and could also present a safeguarding issue.

Music Group for children with SEND (8-13 years old)

Mondays 5.30pm-6.30pm

Come along to

- explore and learn to play a musical instrument, find your singing voice
- create music with other young people in a group
- have fun
- develop your self-confidence

Venue: Oldham Music Centre, Lyceum Building, Union Street, Oldham OL1 1QG

Register: www.oldham.gov.uk/music_centre_application Or scan the QR code

Join a Music Centre Choir



Recruitment is ongoing for all our Music Centre choirs. We cater for singers of all ages. No previous experience necessary, just lots of enthusiasm!

The period from their first attendance until the end of that same term is a **free trial period** so there has never been a better time to join us!

Junior Choir	Vocal Recall*	Intermediate Choir	Oldham Youth Choir
<i>Y3-Y5 Boys & Girls</i>	<i>KS2 & KS3 Boys</i>	<i>Y6-Y9 Boys & Girls</i>	<i>KS4/5 Mixed Voices</i>
Wednesday 4.15pm-5.15pm	Wednesday 5.15pm-5.45pm	Wednesday 5.45pm-6.45pm	Wednesday 6.15pm-7.45pm



*Members of Vocal Recall must also join either Junior Choir or Intermediate Choir

To join one of our choirs, complete the online registration here:
www.oldham.gov.uk/music_centre_application or scan the QR code

Join an Adult Group

Did you know that we have a range of Community groups for Adults? Participating in musical activities is good for your physical and mental health. It promotes well-being and reduces social isolation. There are proven benefits for your blood pressure and brain function. Membership is only £62 per term. Contact musicservice@oldham.gov.uk to find out more or register here: [Oldham Music Centre – Membership Registration Form - Oldham Council](#)

Choir	Monday 7.15pm-8.45pm
Ukulele: Uke 1	Tuesday 7-8pm
Ukulele: Uke 2 (Advanced)	Tuesday 7.15pm-8.45pm
Acoustic Guitar Group	Tuesday 5.45pm-6.45pm
Electric Guitar Group	Tuesday 7.15pm-8.45pm
Community Wind Band	Thursday 7pm-8.30pm

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 £56 per term, they are excellent value for money and very high quality.



We have various sessions throughout the week.

Monday 9.45am (0-4 years)

Monday 1pm (pre-school)

Wednesday 10am (0-4 years)

Friday 10am (babies)

Friday 11am (toddlers)

Additionally, we have FREE **Musical Beginnings Extra sessions on Tuesdays:**

10am: 0-5 year olds who are fostered or adopted

11am: 0-5 year olds who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities



Contact musicservice@oldham.gov.uk to find out more about any of our Musical Beginnings sessions.

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

Oldham Council Music Service and Music Centre



Primary Music Network

The Primary Music Network is for all teachers, trainees and TAs (not just Music co-ordinators).

Integrate composing, performing, listening and appraising into your music lessons and develop your confidence to deliver a high-quality and enriching music education which:

- enhances **class topics**
- develops children's **confidence**
- improves **collaborative** skills, **literacy** and **communication**
- meets the requirements of the **National Curriculum** and is guided by the framework of the **DfE Model Music Curriculum**
- is underpinned by the principles of **The National Plan for Music Education**

Whether you are an experienced music co-ordinator or an ECT with no musical experience whatsoever, the Primary Music Network is your **FREE** opportunity to develop your knowledge, skills and expertise.

Book here: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CPNY>

Or scan the QR code



2023-24 Network Dates

Tuesday 26th September 4pm-5.30pm

Ancient Egyptians: Explore composing, listening and performing linked to this popular History topic. Consider musical progression and assessment.

Tuesday 7th November 4pm -5.30pm

Singing in the Classroom: Ensuring quality singing, creating collaborative learning environments, influencing attention and mood, using music to support other curriculum areas. Lots of resources to explore and use straight away.

Tuesday 30th January 2024 4pm-5.30pm

Music Technology in KS1 and KS2: Simple and effective approaches for children to use music technology

Tuesday 23rd April 4pm-5.30pm

Inventors, Inventions and Greater Manchester: Explore a unit of work linked to this theme. All resources provided for you to take away and try with your own class.

Oldham Primary Music Conference

Thursday 21st March 9am-3pm

An exciting day of composing, performing, listening, improvising and singing.

Workshops, discussions and resources

Workshops will include:

- Musical Vocabulary explained
- Ofsted: Deep Dive Support
- Developing your co-curricular offer
- Transition Y6-Y7
- Bucket Drumming
- Music in EYFS
- Singing Nasheed

£50 for DMG-paying schools

£80 non-DMG

Free for trainee teachers in Oldham Schools/Manchester Nexus
Lunch included.

Booking details will be shared Jan 2024

Special Offer: FREE one term of OMC Adult Choir membership for attendees of the Primary Music Network when signing up for 3 full terms of Adult Choir membership



SCAN ME

Sign up here: [Oldham Music Centre – Membership Registration Form - Oldham Council](#) and then email musicservice@oldham.gov.uk to request the FREE term

GM Music Hub Choral Leadership

Confident Conductors, Confident Choirs

Monday 15th January 5pm-7pm

Newman RC College, Oldham

Refine your Conducting Skills

Monday 11th March 5pm-7pm

Venue tbc

Further details will be shared soon

Contact: ryan.hunt@bolton.gov.uk

Many musicians... one harmony

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Oldham Council Music Service

Music Centre Term Dates 2023-24

First rehearsal of Autumn Term: Monday 11th September
 Last day of first half of Autumn Term: Friday 20th October
 First day of second half of Autumn Term: Monday 30th October
 Last day of Autumn Term: Friday 22nd December

No rehearsals week commencing 18th December

First rehearsal Spring Term: Monday 8th January
 Last day of first half of Spring Term: Friday 16th February
 First day of second half of Spring Term: Monday 26th February
 Last day of Spring Term: Thursday 28th March

First rehearsal of Summer Term: Monday 15th April
 Last day of first half of Summer Term: Friday 24th May
 First day of second half of Summer Term: Monday 3rd June
 Last day of Summer Term: Tuesday 23rd July

No rehearsals week commencing 15th July

Calendar of events

Friday 10 th May	World Inner Wheel Convention for Women's Round Table	Youth Brass Band
Friday 25 th May	Whit Friday	Youth Brass Band
Sat 15 th June	Bold as Brass Contest	Youth Brass Band
Weds 19 th June	Come and Play with the Hallé	Invited schools
Thurs 20 th June	GMMH Singing Challenge	All schools
21 st June	Make Music Day	
Sun 23 rd June	GMMH Celebration Concert	Junior Choir
Sat 29 th June	Saddleworth Sing for Pleasure	Youth Woodwind Ensemble
1 st -3 rd July	Oldham Schools' Music Festival	Participating schools
6 th July	Musical Theatre Dress Rehearsal	JMT, SMT, AMT
8 th -11 th July	LAMDA Musical Theatre Examinations	
Fri 12 th July	OMC Summer Festival: Pop	Pop Dept Ensembles
Fri 13 th July	OMC Summer Festival	All Music Centre Ensembles
Sat 9 th November	Children in Need Concert	Junior Choir, Adult Choir
Monday 2 nd December	The Snowman	Invited schools (DMG schools)
Monday 2 nd December (eve)	REHEARSAL Christmas Festival	All Choirs, Youth Orch, Wind and Brass Bands
Tuesday 3 rd December (eve)	PERFORMANCE Christmas Festival	All Choirs, Youth Orch, Wind and Brass Bands
Weds 4 th December (eve)	JUNIOR Christmas Festival	Junior and Intermediate Choirs and ensembles
Saturday 7 th December 3pm	Age UK Carol Concert	Intermediate Choir & Vocal Recall
Saturday 11 th January 2025	Musical Theatre Showcase	Musical Theatre groups

Keep in touch

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