

Head's Lines - Gerard Booth - Director of Music

I am delighted to be able to welcome everyone back at the start of this academic year, which promises lots of new and exciting musical developments for the Music Centre and all of its members.

This is the first newsletter since the fabulous concerts and events that took place during the latter part of the summer term, the most high-profile of which was the Music Centre Summer Festival. This was, as always, an amazing celebration of the dedication, talent and musical ability of our hundreds of Music Centre members and below you can remind yourself about what a terrific day this was.

Of course, there were many other outstanding, musical highlights last term as well. As usual, in early July we held the annual Oldham Schools' Music Festival and were treated to three days of sensational performances from many of the borough's wonderful school-based bands, choirs, orchestras, pop groups, class music ensembles and much, much more. This was a real demonstration of the diversity and inclusivity of modern music making in Oldham's schools and academies and was wonderful to see and hear. This fantastic celebration is scheduled to take place again next year from 30th June to 2nd July and we hope to see even more of our educational establishments taking part.

I can also share the excellent news that the Oldham Music Service has, along with its partners from across Greater Manchester, once again been successful in its bid to Arts Council England and the DfE to lead the continued development and provision of music education across the region. The new Music Hub will cover all ten of the GM boroughs as well as Blackburn with Darwen and continue to provide enhanced opportunities for young musicians across the whole spectrum of ability and experience, from first access to those looking to make careers in music and across all musical tastes, maintaining the traditional music-making that we have long celebrated as well as improving and developing educational opportunities for those with more contemporary tastes. Oldham Music Service will continue to be the Local Lead Partner, and this ongoing investment into local music education will filter through and support all that the Music Service does on a daily basis.

OMC Summer Festival

The Oldham Music Centre held its annual Summer Music Festival on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th July. The event was a wonderful celebration of the skill, talent, creativity and dedication of the Music Centre's hundreds of members, featuring bands, choirs, orchestras, musical theatre, rock and pop and even a Teddy Bears' Picnic!



The Festival demonstrated just how much progress Oldham's musicians have made since the COVID pandemic and how the many thousands of hours of personal practice and collective rehearsal have resulted in an astonishing return to the high standards that have, for generations, been a hallmark of Oldham Music Centre and its members. You can see photos from the event [here](#) and posts from those attending on our [Facebook page](#).



Congratulations and sincere thanks to all the exceptionally talented performers and teachers that made the event possible.

Many musicians... one harmony

T: 0161 770 5660; F: 0161 770 5670; E: musicservice@oldham.gov.uk
Facebook: Oldham Council Music Service Twitter: @OldhamMusic
Website: www.oldhammusicservice.co.uk

LAMDA Musical Theatre Examinations

Congratulations to all our musical theatre students who entered for LAMDA examinations. We had an incredible:

- ❖ 43 distinctions
- ❖ 17 merits
- ❖ 4 passes

Some of the stunning results included:

- ❖ Amy R – Grade 8: 91/100
- ❖ Charlotte S - highest Grade 6 score: 95/100

Special mention to Whitney Kramoh who will be the recipient to the Musical Theatre Trophy which is awarded to the Music Centre student who gains the highest marks in Grade 8. An amazing 93/100. Well done to everyone who took the examinations and particular thanks to Miss Davis, Mrs Huckfield and Miss Needham for preparing the students so well.

The Snowman soloist Auditions

The annual production of “The Snowman” has become a popular feature of our Oldham Music Centre Christmas celebrations. Working in partnership with Carrot Productions, we are seeking a soloist to sing the iconic “We’re Walking in the Air” at the performance on **Monday 2nd December**. This is a wonderful opportunity for a child to sing, accompanied by a live orchestra, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall to an audience of school-children from across Oldham.

The successful soloist will be expected to be available from 10am on the date of the concert for a rehearsal with the live orchestra and the concert begins at 1.30pm.

You must register online by the deadline of Sunday 6th October if you wish to audition. The audition details are as follows:

Audition Venue: Oldham Music Centre OL1 1QG

Time: 4pm-7pm (you will be allocated a 5 minute slot and will be notified via email)

Date: Tuesday 8th October 2024

Register via: [Soloist Auditions](#) | [The Snowman](#) | [Carrot Productions](#)

Age: 7-17 years

You will also need to download the vocal and instrumental tracks to practise at home, together with the score. These can be accessed via the weblink (above) for auditions.

Children do not have to be a member of a Music Centre choir in order to audition. They must be either an Oldham Music Centre member, attend an Oldham school or live in Oldham.

Mike Butterworth: FFOMC

The Families and Friends of Oldham Music Service is a charitable organisation which supports the work of the Music Centre. Mike Butterworth has been a stalwart member of FFOMC for ten years and for much of that time has been the chairperson of the group. As his children left the Music Centre some time ago, Mike has decided that the time is right to stand back from FFOMC. We would like to extend our thanks to Mike for volunteering his time and for making such a great and positive difference through his involvement.

Oldham Music Service carrot productions

Are you our next soloist?

We're looking for solo singers to perform *Walking in the Air*, accompanied by a professional orchestra in *The Snowman Tour* at Oldham Queen Elizabeth Hall

Auditions taking place on
Tuesday 8 October
Time: 4.00-7.00pm
Held at: Oldham Music Service,
Lyceum Building, Union St., Oldham OL1 1QG
Closing date: Sunday 6 October

For performances on
Monday 2 December at Queen Elizabeth Hall

APPLY ONLINE

We are looking for a girl or a boy with an unchanged voice, up to and including age 17, for this incredible opportunity.

© carrotproductions.com/auditions

The Snowman
WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA

Image © Snowman Enterprises Limited

Starter Strings for children in Y3-6 - it's FREE!

There's still time to register for our amazing **free** Starter Strings group for years 3-6. It is on Wednesdays from 5:15-6:15pm, so your child will be able to attend Junior Choir first. This is an amazing musical opportunity, many of last year's 'graduates' are now playing in the Strings Workshop ensemble, and are having ongoing lessons at the Music Centre.

All necessary resources and instruments are provided.

If you want any further information, please email richard.lord@oldham.gov.uk at the music centre. We can't wait to see you there! Register here: www.oldham.gov.uk/music_centre_application

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, Grosscomburg 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 or you can donate using the link.



CPD for School Staff

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. Book your place at the Primary Network here: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DSUB> or scan the QR code



Tuesday 24th September 4pm-5.30pm

Writing your School Music Development Plan: The DfE now requires schools to publish their MDP on their website. In this session, we will explore what to include, how to present the information and ways in which Oldham Music Service and the GM Music Hub can support you to develop Music in your school.

Tuesday 22nd October 4pm -5.30pm

Music in EYFS: Explore a range of resources for use in EYFS settings both in discrete "Music lessons", as part of Continuous Provision and to facilitate routines throughout the day.

Tuesday 28th January 2025 4pm-5.30pm

How to Integrate Music into a Class Topic

Tuesday 29th April 4pm-5.30pm

Singing Games & Rhymes: Develop aural, rhythm and singing skills through play. Ideas to interweave in your curriculum for EYFS, KS1 and KS2.

Tuesday 20th May 4pm-5.30pm

Rhythmic Notation: How to read it and how to teach it well.

Charanga Essentials: Getting Started

Tuesday 12th November 4-5.30pm

Whether you're new to the platform or seeking more ideas, this session equips you to navigate Charanga confidently. Explore what Charanga offers, from ready-made units to building a bespoke Scheme using a range of resources. Learn how to integrate them seamlessly into your teaching to enrich student musical experiences and discover how Charanga can elevate music education in your schools. Book Here:

https://www.gmmusiconline.co.uk/training_events/4757

Sparkyard Music Curriculum: special offer



SPARKYARD

Special Offer
30% off Subscription for all Oldham Schools.
Use code 24OLDHAM30

We have teamed up with Out of the Ark Music to offer a 30% discount on a Sparkyard Subscription for all Oldham schools. Find out more here: [Start Your Free Trial Now! | Sparkyard](#)

Don't forget to use the discount code 24OLDHAM30

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

Mondays 5.30pm-6.30pm *Free to attend – funded by the Families & Friends of Oldham Music Centre*

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



SCAN ME

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
Y3-Y5 Boys & Girls	KS2 & KS3 Boys	Y6-Y9 Boys & Girls	KS4/5 Mixed Voices
Wednesday 4.15pm-5.15pm	Wednesday 5.15pm-5.45pm	Wednesday 5.45pm-6.45pm	Wednesday 6.15pm-7.45pm



SCAN ME

*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

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 £63 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)

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

Calendar of events

Saturday 9th November 2pm

Sunday 10th November

Friday 29th November

Monday 2nd December 1.30pm

Monday 2nd December (eve)

Tuesday 3rd December (eve)

Wednesday 3rd December (eve)

Sat. 7th December 3pm

Wednesday 18th December (tbc)

Saturday 21st December

Sunday 22nd December

Saturday 11th January

Monday 24th March

Tuesday 25th March

Wednesday 26th March

Thursday 27th March

Tbc

Saturday 29th March

Mon 30th June-Tues 2nd July

Friday 4th July

Saturday 5th July

Sunday 6th July

Saturday 19th July

Children in Need concert (Junior Choir, Adult Choir, Adult Wind Band)

Remembrance Sunday (Youth Brass Band)

'Mince Pie Gig' Pop Department

The Snowman performance (invited schools only)

Christmas Festival rehearsal

Junior Christmas Festival (Groups tbc)

Christmas Festival

George Street Chapel (Intermediate Choir, Vocal Recall)

Adult Groups Christmas Concert (Choir, Wind Band, LS Wind)

Christmas Carolling (all tour members expected to be involved)

Christmas Carolling (all tour members expected to be involved)

Musical Theatre Showcase

Departmental Concert: Wind

Departmental Concert: Strings

Departmental Concert: Voice

Departmental Concert: Brass

Adult Groups' Concert

National Youth Brass Band Championships, Hull

Oldham Schools' Music Festival

Summer Festival (Pop Dept)

Summer Festival (all Music Centre groups)

GMMH Celebration Concert (Junior Choir)

Heidelberg Tour

Keep in touch

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