

Head's Lines - Gerard Booth - Director of Music



Welcome to this latest edition of the Oldham Music Service and Music Centre's regular newsletter.

As ever at this time of year, all of us at the Music Centre are focused on the upcoming Christmas musical celebrations and you can check out the details of those major events below. Long-time supporters of the Music Centre will be pleased to hear that we will be retaining all of the much-loved features of our seasonal programme including the Junior Christmas Concert, 'Mince Pie Gig', the Community and Adult groups' concert and, our 'flagship' event, the Christmas Festival. All of these are fantastic ways to get in the Christmas spirit and, if you have never attended any of them before, then please consider coming along. We hope to see you and your families at one of the concerts.

Of course, our focus on supporting students taking part in the Heidelberg tour next summer also remains and we will be making collections at each of the concerts listed above. As well as this, those students and staff that have signed up for the trip will be making their own contribution by carolling at Tesco on Huddersfield Road all day on both 21st and 22nd December. Again, if you are able to pop along and support them there, I know that it would be very much appreciated.

The Families and Friends Charitable Association that support our work here at the Music Centre is making a huge difference to our efforts to make the opportunities that we provide accessible to all young people, regardless of their family circumstances. The group is financially supporting more and more of our students who otherwise would not be able to take part because of financial barriers. It is also making a significant contribution to the cost of the summer tour. You will see the people that lead the efforts at most of the Christmas events where they will be raising funds by selling refreshments and selling raffle tickets. They are always on the lookout for new members and assistance and would welcome your involvement, no matter how limited it might be. Please either speak to any of the group members at the concerts or email info@ffomc.co.uk for further information.

As ever, thank you for your continued support and, whether you celebrate Christmas or not, please accept very best wishes for the season from all of us here at the Music Service. We look forward to seeing you again as we start 2025.

Children in Need concert



The annual fundraising performance at Trinity Methodist Church is a firm favourite in our calendar. This year's concert raised £1300 for Children in Need and was attended by the Deputy Mayor Councillor Eddie Moores and Deputy Mayoress Mrs Kath Moores. Adult Wind Band, Junior Choir and Adult Choir performed an entertaining concert with a varied programme.



For some of our Junior Choir members, this was their first public performance so definitely one that they will remember for years to come. The concert is organised by Lilian Day who is a staunch supporter of Children in Need. We were very pleased to see Lilian and our musicians get a mention on the live TV broadcast!



Many musicians... one harmony

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Website: www.oldhammusicservice.co.uk

Christmas Concerts 2024

As in previous years, we have a number of festive performances taking place in December. What better way to get into the festive spirit than by joining us?



Mince Pie Gig

Friday 29th November 5.30pm at the Music Centre

Featuring all of our Guitar and Ukulele groups and with the added enjoyment of a mince pie!

Tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EBDG>

Junior Christmas Festival

Tuesday 3rd December 7pm at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

Groups: Junior Choir, Vocal Recall, Junior Wind Band, Intermediate Wind Band, String Workshop, Starter Strings, Junior Brass Band, Intermediate Brass Band, Repercussions

Tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EAZO>



Christmas Festival

Wednesday 4th December 7.30pm at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

Groups: Adult Choir, Intermediate Choir, Youth Choir, Youth Orchestra, Youth Wind Band, Youth Brass Band

Details of the rehearsal schedule for the Christmas Festival (Monday 2nd December) have been shared via email but can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EAZQ>

Adult Community Groups Christmas Concert

Wednesday 18th December 7.45pm at Royton Band Club OL2 5QP

Groups: Adult Choir, Adult Wind Band, Late Start Wind Band

Tickets: www.trybooking.com/uk/EBKT



Remembrance Sunday

For something approaching 50 years, the Oldham Music Centre Youth Brass Band have been providing the music for the Oldham Civic Act of Remembrance. This year, they once again did a fantastic job to help create the reverent mood for this important day. They not only accompany the hymns and National Anthem but provide the last post bugler and play the incidental music at various points in the proceedings.

Long Service Awards

Congratulations to Alison Saville and Elizabeth Brocklehurst who have both received their 25 Years Long Service Award from Oldham Council.

In addition to her curriculum and voice teaching in schools, Mrs Brocklehurst was the Musical Director of the Oldham Music Centre Youth Choir for many years. She founded 'The Candyemen' (an A Capella barbershop group). Many students have developed their talent and enjoyment of singing under Mrs Brocklehurst's teaching and some have even gone on to pursue singing as their career.

Mrs Saville has particular expertise in working with children with SEND both in schools and at the Music Centre. She is a qualified Signalong Tutor and teaches sign language through Music as part of the 'Hands

and Voices' programme which she developed. The success of the Monday Music Group for 8-13 year olds with SEND is largely due to her hard work and dedication.

Both Mrs Brocklehurst and Mrs Saville are humble about their own achievements. They are highly valued colleagues and we are very grateful for the dedication and commitment they have shown in their 25 years at Oldham Music Service. Of course, we hope they will both be here for many more years to come yet!

Student Spotlight

A new, regular feature of our newsletter will be an insight into the musical journey of one of our Oldham Music Centre students. As the principal cornet player in Youth Brass Band, Marianna had the honour of being the bugler for the Oldham Civic Act of Remembrance. It was an important, public and, no doubt, nerve-wracking role which Mariana executed perfectly. It seemed only right that we should invite Marianna to be the first person to feature in "Student Spotlight".



Marianna plays cornet and trumpet. She is a member of Youth Wind Band, Youth Orchestra and Youth Brass Band. She began her musical journey at Ss Aidan and Oswald's Primary School and progressed through the Junior ensembles and Junior Choir to take up her present positions. She is a student in Crompton House 6th Form where she plays an active role in the musical life of the school including being a member of the Chapel Choir. One of the highlights of Marianna's Music Centre experiences is the overseas tour to Belgium in 2022. She is looking forward to joining us for the Heidelberg Tour next July.

The Snowman

The annual production of "The Snowman" has become a popular feature of our Oldham Music Centre Christmas celebrations. We are excited to be welcoming 600 children from Oldham schools to enjoy a live screening of the film accompanied by live orchestra.

Congratulations to Poppy Waddington from Delph Primary school who successfully auditioned to sing the iconic 'We're Walking in the Air' at the performance on Monday 2nd December accompanied by the Carrot Productions orchestra.



Willow Bowen from Hulme Grammar School will be opening the performance with 'Once in Royal David's City'. This beautiful solo is a traditional feature of many Christmas concerts and we are delighted to include it in the performance.

Ofsted Webinar

Ofsted's Christopher Stevens, HMI National Lead for Music, returned to speak with Music Mark in October 2024, this time talking inspections and giving more details on SEND. Many Oldham schools are Music Mark members but, if you missed it, you can catch up here: [Ofsted Update on Music In Schools | Music Mark](#)

BBC Ten Pieces: Women Composers

BBC Ten Pieces has released a new set of resources. The new collection is written exclusively by women giving teachers the opportunity to explore and get creative with fantastic classical music whilst improving representation of women composers in the classroom. Find the FREE resources here: [BBC Ten Pieces](#)



Hallé Concerts For Schools

The next set of Hallé for Youth concerts will take place in March at the Bridgewater Hall. There are separate performance aimed at KS2 and KS3. Tickets are on sale now. Find out more here:

https://issuu.com/thehalle/docs/education_brochure_2425

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.

Make a donation:



<https://bit.ly/FFOMCdonate>

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 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.

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



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!

For children, 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	Adult Choir
<i>Y3-Y5 Boys & Girls</i>	<i>KS2 & KS3 Boys</i>	<i>Y6-Y9 Boys & Girls</i>	<i>KS4/5 Mixed Voices</i>	<i>Adults</i>
Wednesday 4.15pm-5.15pm	Wednesday 5.15pm-5.45pm	Wednesday 5.45pm-6.45pm	Wednesday 6.15pm-7.45pm	Monday 7.15pm-8.45pm

*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



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	Children in Need concert (Junior Choir, Adult Choir, Adult Wind Band)
Sunday 10th November	Remembrance Sunday (Youth Brass Band)
Friday 29th November	'Mince Pie Gig' Pop Department
Sunday 1st December	Victoria Baths (Adult Choir)
Monday 2nd December 1.30pm	The Snowman performance (invited schools only)
Monday 2nd December 5.45pm	Christmas Festival rehearsal
Tuesday 3rd December 7pm	Junior Christmas Festival (Groups tbc)
Wednesday 3rd December 7.30pm	Christmas Festival
Sat. 7th December 3pm	George Street Chapel (Intermediate Choir, Vocal Recall)
Wednesday 18th December 7.45pm	Adult Groups Christmas Concert (Choir, Wind Band, LS Wind)
Saturday 21st December	Christmas Carolling (all tour members expected to be involved)
Sunday 22nd December	Christmas Carolling (all tour members expected to be involved)
Saturday 11th January	Musical Theatre Showcase
Saturday 22nd February	Illuminate Parade (Brass, Wind and Musical Theatre) tbc
Fri/Sat 7th/8th March	Music for Youth (Youth Choir plus other groups tbc)
Monday 24th March	Departmental Concert: Wind
Tuesday 25th March	Departmental Concert: Strings
Wednesday 26th March	Departmental Concert: Voice
Thursday 27th March	Departmental Concert: Brass
Thursday 27th March	Oldham Headteacher's Conference – Adv Musical Theatre
Tbc	Adult Groups' Concert
Saturday 29th March	National Youth Brass Band Championships, Hull
Mon 30th June-Tues 2nd July	Oldham Schools' Music Festival
Friday 4th July	Summer Festival (Pop Dept)
Saturday 5th July	Summer Festival (all Music Centre groups)
Sunday 6th July	GMMH Celebration Concert (Junior Choir)
Saturday 19th July	Heidelberg Tour

Mince Pie Gig

Friday 29th November 5.30pm at the Music Centre

Groups involved: Uke 1, Uke 2, EGG 1, EGG2, EGG3, Acoustic Guitar Orchestra, Adult Acoustic Guitar Orchestra, Adult Electric Guitar Group, Gen Eggz

Tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EBDG>

Junior Christmas Festival

Tuesday 3rd December 7pm at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

Junior Choir, Vocal Recall

Junior Wind Band, Intermediate Wind Band

String Workshop, Starter Strings

Junior Brass Band, Intermediate Brass Band, Repercussions

Tickets for Junior Christmas Festival: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EAZO>

Christmas Festival & Rehearsal Details

Christmas Festival Rehearsal Monday 2nd December at the QE Hall

Groups involved in the REHEARSAL: Adult Choir, Intermediate Choir, Youth Choir, Youth Orchestra, Youth Wind Band

5.45pm Arrival and seating of choirs + Youth Orchestra

6.00pm Rehearsal of massed choral items with Orchestra (Jesus Child, 3 x carols)

6.45pm Intermediate Choir

7.05pm Youth Choir

7.30 pm Adult Choir

7.50 pm Youth Orchestra

8.15pm Youth Wind Band

Musicians should ensure that they are in attendance at least 10 minutes before the earliest time shown for their group in the schedule above. They will be able to leave immediately after the end of their rehearsal, with YWB finishing not later than 8.45pm..

The Youth Brass Band will not be taking part in this rehearsal but are involved in the performance on Wednesday 4th December.

The Christmas Festival will take place on Wednesday 4th December at 7.30pm.

Performers are required to arrive not later than 7.00pm for the concert.

Tickets are now available at <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/EAZQ>

Keep in touch

Twitter: @Oldhammusic

Facebook: Oldham Council Music Service

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