

Welcome to this latest edition of the Oldham Music Service and Music Centre's regular newsletter. We have had a busy term of performances and projects with many exciting events yet to happen this term. You can see and hear all our ensembles and choirs at the Summer Festival on Friday 4th July and Saturday 5th July. Check out our social media platforms for more information nearer the time.

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.



The Adult Community Groups performed at the Brian Clarke Academy on the Friday evening. The Wind Band, Acoustic Guitars, Late Start Wind Band, Uke 2 and the Adult Choir gave a great evening of entertainment.

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 amount. Many thanks to all that contributed and stepped up to help on the five nights.

National Youth Brass Band Championships

The Youth Brass Band, conducted by Mr Leedale, competed in the National YBB Champs in Hull on 29th March. The band produced a performance of the highest order. They played a very tough programme, including a challenging set test piece.

We are so proud of what the band achieved, firmly cementing Oldham in the top level of Youth Brass Banding in the UK. The YBB is a special bunch of young people who are doing tremendous things and being noticed nationally.

You can see them perform in a joint concert with Dobcross Youth Band

on Friday 9th May at Brian Clarke Academy. Or watch out for them on Whit Friday!



Many musicians... one harmony

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Facebook: Oldham Council Music Service Twitter: @OldhamMusic

Website: www.oldhammusicservice.co.uk

Oldham Schools' Singing Challenge

It's not too late for schools to sign up for the annual Singing Challenge! This year's song is "Music Matters". A brilliant, simple and satisfying-to-sing song that highlights the importance of Music, and singing specifically. A great way to introduce easy part-singing. Lots of opportunities for body percussion, adding instrumental accompaniment and learning some Signalong Signs. All primary schools across the region to unite in song on **Thursday 12th June at 2.15pm**

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

We are delighted to be working in partnership with Sparkyard. The song and additional resources are hosted on the Sparkyard platform.

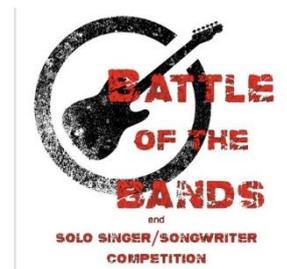
Sign up for a FREE 30-day trial of Sparkyard and then email angela.preen@oldham.gov.uk to request an extension to your trial. (All Oldham Music Service teachers have access to Sparkyard and will be teaching the song in their lessons).



Battle of the Bands and Solo Singer/Songwriter Competition

Congratulations to all of the bands who were part of the annual Oldham Battle of the Bands in February. Every band performed an excellent and polished set and showed true professionalism all day from sound checks to slick band changeovers on the night.

Libby Libby Libby – Oldham College
Hells Abyss – Newman RC College
Rerun Room – Saddleworth
Park 56 – Blue Coat
Arthur – Royton and Crompton
Redlip – North Chadderton
The Reapers – Saddleworth
The Cassettes – Crompton House
Anomaly – Oldham Sixth Form



Congratulations to you all, your hard work and dedication shone through and was clearly on show in the quality of the gig.

Extra congratulations to the Oldham band winners, Anomaly, who went on to represent Oldham at the Greater Manchester final at Band on the Wall. They were crowned WINNERS and won a professional recording session. They showcased stage presence fitting of the world famous venue.

Arthur Nuttall (Royton & Crompton) did Oldham proud as our representative in the inaugural songwriters competition, with the judge commenting on the quality of storytelling through his lyrics.



A great gig from great talent! What an amazing opportunity to perform at a sell-out gig at a world-class music venue!

Musical Beasts: Halcyon Way Special School

Oldham Music Service worked in partnership with Carrot Productions to bring a wonderful, interactive musical performance to the pupils at Halcyon Way. Professional musicians staged three 50-minute performances. This included a vibrant and inclusive performance of 'Peter and the Wolf' followed by a showing of 'The Bear and the Piano' film with live accompaniment. The children then had the fantastic opportunity to experience the instruments up-close and to request their favourite tunes. In addition, Carrot Productions were able to provide a digital resources pack to enhance the experience before and after their visit, with supporting and differentiated activities across the curriculum.

The "Musical Beasts" performance was an accessible, enriching, memorable and educational experience for all.

Oldham Schools' Music Festival

The Oldham Schools' Music Festival has been an annual feature of the musical life of the borough and educational community for generations and has a special place within the Music Centre's calendar of events. Many generations of young musicians have taken part in this celebration of Oldham's musical talent over more than four decades. The scope of its inclusivity, both in terms of the level of experience and ability of performers and the range and diversity of the musical genres on display, is exceptional and unique.

We are delighted that we have received so many entries for this year's festival which will take place at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on **Monday 30th June, Tuesday 1st July and Wednesday 2nd July**. It will include vocal warm-ups and songs led by Music Service specialist teachers as well as a massed sing for all participants. Members of the public are warmly welcomed to join us for these free performances.

Music for Youth



The Youth Choir, directed by Mrs Nixon and accompanied by Mrs Brennan, recently participated in the regional series of the Music for Youth Festival at Rochdale Town Hall. Their programme included a world premiere of "Fallen" composed by Sage Avery Quinn (ex-OMC and Crompton House School student).

Once again, our Music Centre students were proudly representing Oldham at a national level.



Saddleworth Male Voice Choir

The Youth Choir were invited to perform in a joint concert with Saddleworth Male Voice Choir at Friezland Church in March. It was a packed-out audience. The varied programme concluded with a joint performance of 'Power in the Music'. Collaborations such as this show clear progression routes for our musicians once they have left us. The town of Oldham has a strong musical tradition and varied opportunities. The Music Service strives to ensure that our students experience this during their time with us. Our thanks to Dorian Kelly (SMVC) for making this event possible.



Oldham Primary Music Conference

40 delegates from Oldham primary schools attended the annual Oldham Primary Music Conference in March. It was an opportunity to consider how the National Plan for Music Education is re-shaping music in schools and the role of the Music Lead to support that change. We explored new ideas, resources and teaching techniques, affirmed enjoyment of and skills in teaching music and the day concluded with a think-tank focussed on key issues in Music Education. The conference was in addition to our half-termly Primary Music Network meetings which are free of charge CPD. Contact angela.preen@oldham.gov.uk for more information.

Oldham Headteachers' Conference

The Advanced Musical Theatre group, under the direction of Mrs Huckfield, were invited to perform once again at the Oldham Headteacher's Conference which was held at the Last Drop Village in Bolton. Their performance was warmly appreciated and we were honoured to be invited to showcase the work of the Music Centre and to entertain the headteachers after a busy day at the conference.



Heidelberg Tour

The Heidelberg Tour is fast-approaching and we are very excited to be taking 81 musicians and 10 staff on an overseas Concert Tour. The Youth Wind Band, Youth Orchestra, Youth Choir and Youth Brass Band will be performing in three spectacular concert venues (Bad Rappenau outdoor Concert Shell, Johanniskirche in Mannheim and Gedachtnichtskirche in Speyer). Aside from performing, the student will have the opportunity to find out more about the history, culture and geography of the area. Our itinerary includes a visit to Speyer Imax Technik Museum, Luisenpark in Mannheim, Heidelberg Castle, a boat trip on the River Neckar, the Salt Mines in Bad Friedrichshall, a tour of Speyer Cathedral Dom and, of course, a day at Europapark Theme Park. Follow us on Social Media for updates when we are there!

Heidelberg Oldham Music Centre 2025

Can you support FFOMC?

A Music Centre parent has recently offset his workplace volunteering hours for a £600 financial donation to FFOMC from his employer. Many companies do offer financial support for charities. Does your employer do so and would you be willing to support the work of FFOMC in this way?

Recent projects supported by FFOMC include:

- The Christmas Parties for Junior & Intermediate groups
- Excursions on the Heidelberg Tour
- The Monday Music Group for children with SEND
- Bursaries for Music Centre Membership Fees for families who face financial barriers
- £2000 of equipment for the Pop Department



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.

Student Spotlight: Whitney Anais Kramoh

This regular feature of our newsletter is an insight into the musical journey of one of our Oldham Music Centre students. This edition features Whitney Kramoh who was recently awarded the Oldham Music Centre Musical Theatre Award for gaining the highest marks in Grade 8 LAMDA. The award was presented at the recent Voice Department Concert.

Whitney has been a huge asset to Musical Theatre at the Music Centre. Not only is she an accomplished and fantastic performer, she also choreographs some of the dances for the MT groups. She is a fabulous role model for all our students and will be continuing her dance studies at The Arden in September.

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.

Primary Music Network

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

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



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!

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



SCAN ME

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)

Tuesday 10.30am (0-4 years with SEND) FREE of CHARGE

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

Friday 9th May

Friday 13th June

Mon 30th June-Tues 2nd July

Friday 4th July

Saturday 5th July

Saturday 19th July

Youth Brass Band Concert at Brian Clarke Academy

Whit Friday (Youth Brass Band)

Oldham Schools' Music Festival

Summer Festival (Pop Dept)

Summer Festival (all Music Centre groups)

Heidelberg Tour

Keep in touch

Twitter: @Oldhammusic

Facebook: Oldham Council Music Service

Website: www.oldhammusicservice.co.uk

Email: musicservice@oldham.gov.uk