

Welcome to this latest edition of the Oldham Music Service and Music Centre's regular newsletter. It has been a busy term and there is plenty to celebrate!

## Departmental Concert Week & Easter EGGstravaganza

After more than forty years of performances by Oldham Music Service at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, our annual Departmental Concert Week delivered a fitting farewell to the venue that has long been our concert home. It was remarkable to see and hear all of the ensembles and choirs perform throughout the week.



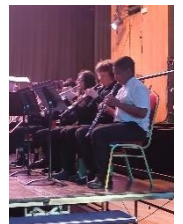
We were delighted to welcome the Mayor Eddie Moores and his wife, Mrs Kath Moores to join us for the Monday evening Wind Department concert. Amongst the wonderful performances by the string and orchestral ensembles, one of the highlights of Tuesday evening was a solo cello performance by Ruby of the exquisite "Vocalise" by Rachmaninov. Wednesday's concert featured all of the choirs and Musical Theatre groups, alongside three brilliant soloists. The Brass & Percussion concert showcased Repercussions and the Junior, Intermediate and Youth Brass Bands. YBB gave the audience a preview of their programme for the forthcoming National Youth Brass Band Championships.



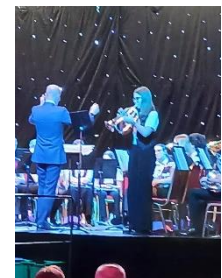
Preceding the QEH performances was the Pop Department 'Easter EGGstravaganza' in our local Billingtons venue. Featuring performances from EGG 1, 2 3 and GENEggz, it was a fabulous evening.



The Adult Community Groups Concert at St James's Derker provided a fitting end to our incredible week of performances and featured the Adult Choir, Wind Band, Late-Start Wind Band, Acoustic Guitars, Uke 1 and Uke Too. The social benefits of making music with others are central to all of the Adult Community groups and they continue to thrive and perform to a high standard.



A big thank you to the Families and Friends of Oldham Music Centre for giving so generously of their time to support all our events and to raise vital funds.



Oldham Music Centre is a centre of excellence for all instrumental disciplines and provides pathways from beginner through to youth level. For a small town such as Oldham to be able to sustain such a wide variety of ensembles at all levels is something to celebrate, to protect and to be proud of. Thank you to all the OMS staff who work tirelessly to ensure that the children of Oldham can continue to access and benefit from involvement in music ensembles and choirs.

## Oldham Music Centre Trophy: Musical Theatre Award

Each year, Musical Theatre students undertake LAMDA examinations. An award is made to the student who gains the highest marks in Grade 8 LAMDA. During Wednesday's Voice Department Concert, we were thrilled to present Scarlett Hilton with the Oldham Music Centre Trophy. She performed a moving solo, "With You" from 'Ghost', to the spellbound audience. Congratulations to Scarlett on her fantastic achievement.



## Many musicians... one harmony

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Facebook: Oldham Council Music Service Twitter: @OldhamMusic  
Website: [www.oldhammusicservice.co.uk](http://www.oldhammusicservice.co.uk)

## Oldham Primary Music Conference



Delegates from Oldham primary schools attended the annual Oldham Primary Music Conference in March. 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. Congratulations to Mrs Goodwin from Horton Mill Primary School who won the raffle prize which was kindly donated by Normans Musical Instruments.

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](mailto:angela.preen@oldham.gov.uk) for more information.

## Battle of the Bands

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.

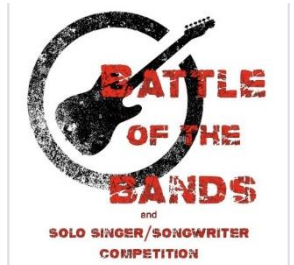
Students from Oldham Sixth Form College, Oldham College, Blue Coat School, Saddleworth School, Mossley Hollins, King David High School, Newman RC College, Radclyffe School, Oasis Leesbrook and Royton & Crompton Academy took part.



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, 'Heikki's Suburbia Bus Tour' featuring the Oldham singer-songwriter winner, Boaz. They went on to represent Oldham at the Greater Manchester final at Band on the Wall and. A great gig from great talent! What an amazing opportunity

to perform at a sell-out gig at a world-class music venue!



## BBC Philharmonic 'Side by Side'

Eight young musicians from Oldham Music Service were incredibly fortunate to be invited to perform alongside professional musicians from the BBC Philharmonic. The event took place at the BBC Philharmonic Studios, Media City. They participated in sectional rehearsals led by members of the orchestra and played alongside them in an orchestra with other young musicians from across the GMBD Music Hub. It was a wonderful experience for all involved.



## Music for Youth Festival

Our musicians from Youth Choir, Youth Orchestra and Youth Wind Band, once again, did Oldham proud. The MFY Regional Festival was in the glorious surroundings of Rochdale Town Hall. Each ensemble performed



a challenging programme to an excellent standard. The feedback from the adjudicators was extremely positive with some useful suggestions for further improvement. The MFY Festival is a collection of regional festivals across the UK aimed to inspire musicians at every level of experience across every genre of music. It is the UK's largest festival for young musicians: 30,000 musicians take part every year.



## Music Masters Training

Oldham Music Service recently hosted a training workshop led by Darren Abrahams: Co-Regulation and Music Education. Attendees explored the role of the nervous system and the co-regulation practices vital for looking after ourselves, our teams and our classrooms. Special guest speaker, Bella Ikpasaja, spoke about how we can build sustainability in music education as well as creating happier and healthier teaching communities.

## Singing Challenge: Go to the Park

Go To The Park is a punchy, swing-style song that's great fun to sing and celebrates the joy of getting outside into our wonderful parks. This song is a great way to introduce easy part singing and has an instrumental break for you to add your signature dance-moves or percussion to!

We invite all primary schools across the region to unite in song on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 2.15pm** Tune in to Oldham Community Radio on the day and sing along! 99.7FM, DAB and [www.OldhamCommunityRadio.com](http://www.OldhamCommunityRadio.com)



GMBD Music Hub are delighted to be working in partnership with Out of the Ark Music for this year's Singing Challenge. Out of the Ark are giving EVERY school\* in Greater Manchester a **completely free, four-month subscription to Sparkyard**, their primary school-singing streaming service. As well as Go To The Park, you can access 1,000 other Out of the Ark songs, assembly plans, a flexible and innovative primary school Music Curriculum, and so much more! Find out more at [GMBD Hub Singing Challenge page](#). \* Free subscription available for schools who do not already have an active subscription.

## Schools Music Festival

All Oldham primary and secondary schools should have received an invitation to the annual Oldham Schools' Music Festival which will take place 29<sup>th</sup> June-1<sup>st</sup> July in Oldham's amazing new venue, The Loom. Further details to follow for all schools that enter by the deadline of 27<sup>th</sup> March.

## FFOMC

Thank you to the volunteers from the Families and Friends of Oldham Music Service who have supported all of our recent events. Through raffle ticket sales and refreshments, they have raised over £1200.

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
- Pink Cowboy Hats for Youth Brass Band



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](mailto:info@ffomc.co.uk) or you can donate using the link.

## Sparkyard Music Curriculum: special offer

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 GMAN252630



**SPARKYARD**

Use code GMAN252630 to claim your 30% discount on an annual subscription

## 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. Our CPD programme for 2025-26 is at the end of this newsletter.

## 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](http://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
Y3-Y5 Boys & Girls	KS2 & KS3 Boys	Y6-Y9 Boys & Girls	KS4/5 Mixed Voices	Adults
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](http://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 £66 per term, they are excellent value for money and very high quality.

We have various sessions throughout the week.

Monday 11am (0-4 years)

Monday 1pm (pre-school)

Contact [musicservice@oldham.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.oldham.gov.uk/music_centre_application) or scan the QR code

## Calendar of events

### Spring 2026

27/03/2026	Break Up - Easter Holidays	Holidays
28/03/2026	National brass Band Champs YBB	Birmingham

### Summer 2026

13/04/2026	Summer Term Begins	
20/04/2026	Charanga Training 4-6.30pm	Burnley Brow School
21/04/2026	Primary Network Meeting	Music Centre/EB Room
24/04/2026	Adult Wind Band: concert with St Mary's CE School	St Mary's HC Church
19/05/2026	Primary Network Meeting	Music Centre/EB Room
22/05/2026	Break Up – Half Term	Holidays
23/05/2026	Bold as Brass - YBB	Wakefield
29/05/2026	Whit Friday - YBB	Saddleworth
08/06/2026	Secondary Network	Lyceum
11/06/2025	Come and Play with the Halle	Bridgewater Hall
18/06/2026	GMBD Singing Challenge – Go to the Park	Alexandra Park AND in schools
21/06/2026	GMBD Hub Celebration Concert (Junior Choir)	Bridgewater Hall
29/06/2026	Voice Assessments 4-7pm	Music Centre
28/06/2026	NYC Sing! Event	Oasis Leesbrook tbc
29/06/2026	School's Music Festival	The Loom
30/06/2026	School's Music Festival	The Loom
01/07/2026	School's Music Festival	The Loom
04/07/2026	Summer Music Festival	Oldham Parish Church
06/07/2026	LAMDA Exams	Music Centre
07/07/2026	LAMDA Exams	Music Centre
08/07/2026	LAMDA Exams	Music Centre
09/07/2026	SMF Presentation	Mayor's Parlour
09/07/2026	LAMDA Exams	Music Centre
10/07/2026	LAMDA Exams	Music Centre
17/07/2026	Staff CPD TRAINING (no teaching in schools)	Music Centre
18/07/2026	YBB Tour to North Yorkshire 18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> July	Music Centre
20/07/2026	Break Up – Summer Hols (allocated for CPD – no teaching in schools)	n/a

No rehearsals w/c 6<sup>th</sup> July or 13<sup>th</sup> July, except YBB

Autumn Term Begins Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026

## Keep in touch

Facebook: Oldham Council Music Service

Website: [www.oldhammusicservice.co.uk](http://www.oldhammusicservice.co.uk)

Email: [musicservice@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:musicservice@oldham.gov.uk)



## Who we are and what we do

The Oldham Council Music Service is committed to supporting and fulfilling the musical aspirations of **all** young people living in the borough (in and out of school), and engaging people of all ages in a variety of exciting musical activities.

- award winning groups for all abilities and all ages – bands, orchestras, choirs, musical theatre, rock and pop, folk music and more!
- Classes for babies right through to senior citizens
- Specialised groups for children and young people with SEND

### Membership

- £59 per term for school-age children (join as many groups as you wish)
- £69 per term, per group for adults
- £66 per term for Musical Beginnings
- Sibling discount, bursaries and financial assistance available for 5-18 year olds

*It's our ambition to ensure that every resident in Oldham who wants to make music has an opportunity to do so with us or one of our partners, so get in touch today to see how you can become part of our musical community.*

### Get in touch

E: [musicservice@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:musicservice@oldham.gov.uk)

T: 0161 770 5660

W: [www.oldhammusicservice.co.uk](http://www.oldhammusicservice.co.uk)

**Try us for free!**

First term of  
membership is free  
for 5-18 year olds

## Music Centre Choirs

**Junior Choir** Wednesday 4.15pm-5.15pm

*Children in Year 3-Year 6*

**Intermediate Choir** Wednesday 5.45pm-6.45pm

*Children in Year 6-9*

**Vocal Recall** Wednesday 5.15pm-5.45pm

*Boys in Year 5-9*

**Youth Choir** Wednesday 6.15pm-7.45pm

*Year 9-13*

We also have various **Musical Theatre groups**. Please get in touch for details!

## Music Centre Groups: Brass, Wind, Strings, Guitar, Percussion

We offer pathways from Junior through Intermediate to our award-winning Youth bands.

As soon as a child can read/play 5 notes on their instrument, they are able to join one of our Junior ensembles. We have Wind Bands, Brass Bands, Orchestras and guitar groups for all abilities.

If your child plays brass, wind, string, guitar or percussion and isn't currently in one of our ensembles, please do get in touch. Free membership for the first term.

Music Centre membership for school-age children is £59 per term and you can be in as many groups/choirs as you want to. Plus, your first full term is free!

## Starter Strings

Wednesday 5.15pm-6.16pm for beginner string players. Contact [musicservice@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:musicservice@oldham.gov.uk) to find out more about this FREE opportunity and how you can loan a violin/cello for free.

## Adult Community Groups

**Adult Choir** Monday 7.15pm-8.45pm

**Adult Wind Band** Thursday 7pm-8.30pm

**Late Start Wind** Wednesday evenings (suitable for beginners/lapsed players to build confidence)

**Uke 1** Tuesday 7-8pm (For beginners - no experience necessary)

**Uke Too** Tuesday 7.15pm-8.45pm (for more experienced ukulele players)

**Acoustic Guitar** Tuesday 5.55pm-6.55pm

**Electric Guitar** Tuesday 7.15pm-8.45pm

(Adult Community Groups are £69 per term, per group)

## Musical Opportunities for 0-7 year olds

**Musical Beginnings** provides young children with excellent musical opportunities including singing, rhymes, action songs, dancing, stories, musical appreciation and exploring instruments.

Monday 10am (0-4 years)

Monday 1pm (pre-school 3 & 4 year olds)

Friday 10am (babies)

Friday 11am (toddlers)

(Musical Beginnings is £66 per term)

## Musical Explorers

Tuesday 4.15pm-5.15pm children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Thursday 4.15pm-5.15pm children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

(Musical Explorers is £59 per term, first term free)



SCAN ME

**To book your place** for any of our groups, visit [www.oldham.gov.uk/music\\_centre\\_application](http://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.com/uk/FCSH>



### 2025-26 Network Dates

**Tuesday 23rd September 4pm-5.30pm**

The role of the Music Lead in Primary schools: Suitable for those new to the role and those who have already experienced being a Music Lead/co-ordinator. We will look at the requirements of the role and effective ways to lead and manage Music in your school.

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 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 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 4pm-5.30pm**

Singing Games and Rhymes for the playground: Develop aural, rhythm and singing skills through play. Ideas to introduce to your playground. This session may also be of interest and suitable for mid-day supervisors.

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 4pm-5.30pm**

Progression in singing: Singing is key to developing musicianship and is at the heart of quality music provision. This practical workshop demonstrates how singing skills progress through primary school and provides songs, games and ideas for how to make your school a singing school.

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 4pm-5.30pm**

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

## Oldham Primary Music Conference

**Thursday 12th March 9am-3pm**

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

£50 DMG-paying schools/£80 non-DMG  
Free for trainee teachers in Oldham Schools/Manchester Nexus Lunch Included.

Booking details will be shared Jan 2026

## Charanga Essentials: Getting Started

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 4pm-5.30pm  
Mills Hill Primary School OL9 ONH**

An overview of the Musical School programme, from Scheme lessons and detailed teacher support materials to the creative freedom of Freestyle, the dynamic Instruments section, uplifting Sing resources, and Inclusive materials for learners with special needs. You'll leave feeling confident, inspired, and ready to make music with your pupils.

**Book:**

[https://www.gmmusiconline.co.uk/training\\_events/5367](https://www.gmmusiconline.co.uk/training_events/5367)

## 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

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



**SPARKYARD**  
Use code **GIMAN252630** to claim your 30% discount on an annual subscription

## Many musicians... one harmony

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T: 0161 770 5550 E: [musicservice@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:musicservice@oldham.gov.uk) @OldhamMusic [www.oldham.gov.uk/musicservice](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/musicservice)