

## Youth Brass Band Success!

Youth Brass Band had a great day at 'Bold as Brass' at the National Coal Mining Museum in Wakefield. For the third year in a row, they won the audience vote for 'People's Choice'.

They also had a brilliant night on Whit Friday. It was a beautiful, warm evening which really brought the crowds and bands out. They had fantastic crowd reactions to their counter-marching (Barbie Girl) and performed their contest march 'Collaroy' to great acclaim. Their hard work was rewarded with prizes from Lydgate (Best Youth Band, Best Soprano Cornet), Diggle (Best Youth Band and Best Soloist), Friezland (Best Youth Band, Best Entertainment), Uppermill (Best Youth Band).



This group of young people are committed, hard-working and talented. Under the baton and encouragement of Mr Leedale, they represent Oldham Music Service on a national platform and are fantastic ambassadors. If you want to hear them perform, join us at the Summer Festival on 4<sup>th</sup> July or pop over to Whitby and Filey on 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> July!

## Hallé Schools Partnerships

Three schools in Oldham have recently benefited from the Oldham Music Service partnership with The Hallé.

**Alt Academy** Year 3 & 4 children worked with two Hallé musicians and created their own compositions based on their class topic of Ancient Egypt. They performed these to an audience. Hallé Inspire aims to raise the aspirations and expectations in communities across Greater Manchester. Using music as a creative tool, the programme promotes positive attitudes to learning, helps to develop life skills and motivation and deepens the children's learning and understanding in a range of curriculum areas.

Children from **Thornham St James** and **Crompton House School** have been enjoying the Hallé "Adopt a Player" programme. The pupils have been involved in several creative workshops led by their "adopted" player. They create their own version of a piece they will hear performed at a Hallé Orchestra concert at the Bridgewater Hall. For many children, this will be their first experience of attending a concert and visiting the Hall, which is one of the UK's finest music venues.

## National Youth Choir: Sing! – free workshops for KS2/3

Oldham Music Service is pleased to be working in partnership with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain.



Children in Years 5-8 are invited to attend a FREE Singing Workshop on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June at Oasis Academy Leesbrook**. It's open to all children who enjoy singing and is guaranteed to be a fun day of vocal workshops. Further info is available here: [SING! 2026 - Workshops in Greater Manchester](#)

## Schools Music Festival

Over 1000 children from 31 Oldham primary schools are looking forward to showcasing their musical talents in the annual Oldham Schools Music Festival. We were thrilled to receive so many entries and have already made plans to extend the festival for an additional day in 2027!

It's free to watch the Festival. Come along and join us in The Loom Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June-Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July!

## Many musicians... one harmony

T: 0161 770 5660; F: 0161 770 5670; E: [musicservice@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:musicservice@oldham.gov.uk)

Facebook: Oldham Council Music Service Twitter: @OldhamMusic

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

## Festival of Childhood



The Oldham Music Centre Youth Choir and Intermediate Choir were honoured to be invited by Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner, to perform at the 'Festival of Childhood'.

The choirs performed to an audience of VIPs at the Museum of Science and Industry. They participated in a range of workshops including: "How might we reimagine the Screen Age for healthy futures?" And "What will the next green industrial revolution need to happen?" They had fun working in groups to build a wind turbine and enjoyed exploring games consoles from 1980s to the present day in the 'Power Up' hall.

## Singing Challenge

This year's Singing Challenge song is "Go to the Park". All primary schools across Greater Manchester are invited to participate on **18<sup>th</sup> June**. Tune-in to Oldham Community Radio at 2pm and listen to a special programme featuring children from Broadfield Primary School, then sing along! Our special event will be held in Alexandra Park and will include performances by local primary schools, followed by a massed sing. Find out more here: [GMBD Music Hub Singing Challenge 2026 | Out of the Ark Music](#)



The Singing Challenge is supported by Out of the Ark Music/Sparkyard, one of our wider partners in the GMBD Music Hub. Every school in GM is able to access a 4-month free subscription to Sparkyard and entitled to 30% off the full subscription thereafter using code **GMAN252630**

## Youth Choir: National Festival of Music for Youth

We are absolutely thrilled that the Oldham Youth Choir has been invited to perform at the **Music for Youth Festival at Symphony Hall Birmingham on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July**. This is an incredible achievement for the choir and we are extremely proud of Mrs Nixon and all of the choir members. Symphony Hall is a world-class venue and it's a huge honour for the choir to be selected from the many hundreds of groups that entered the regional festivals.

## FFOMC Mayoral Appreciation Award



The Families and Friends of Oldham Music Centre are a charitable organisation that support the work of the Music Centre. They provide OMC membership bursaries, fund the Monday Music Group for children with SEND, subsidise overseas tours and much more. The Mayor of Oldham, Cllr Eddie Moores, recognised the dedication and commitment of the volunteers and bestowed a civic appreciation award. Louise Sever (Chairperson), Helen Borg (secretary), Mrs Preen, Mr Leedale and Mrs Campbell-Green were honoured to be invited to tea in the Mayor's Parlour and to have a tour of the recently refurbished JR Clynes Building including the Council Chamber.

We are immensely grateful to FFOMC for their unstinting support and for so generously giving their time to fundraise at events.

## Summer Festival: 4<sup>th</sup> July

Once again, all of our Music Centre ensembles will entertain the crowds in a musical extravaganza in the grounds of **Oldham Parish Church**. The Summer Festival is a family-friendly event. Entrance is free. Refreshments are available from FFOMC inside the church. Bring your deckchair or picnic blanket (and the sunshine!) Come along and join us 10am-6.30pm.

Raffle prize donation are gratefully accepted. Please get in touch with [info@ffomc.co.uk](mailto:info@ffomc.co.uk) or drop them off at the Music Centre reception.



## 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



**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!

<b>Junior Choir</b>	<b>Vocal Recall*</b>	<b>Intermediate Choir</b>	<b>Oldham Youth Choir</b>	<b>Adult Choir</b>
<i>Y3-Y5 Boys &amp; Girls</i>	<i>KS2 &amp; KS3 Boys</i>	<i>Y6-Y9 Boys &amp; 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](http://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 £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

### Summer 2026

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 – rehearsals w/c 7<sup>th</sup> September

## 2026-27 Events for Music Centre Groups

Event	Date	Venue	Groups
Christmas Festival 1	Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	The Loom	Starter Strings/Strings Workshop, Function Band, Intermediate Choir, Vocal Recall, Youth Brass Band
Christmas Festival 2	Weds 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	The Loom	Youth Wind Band, Youth Choir, Intermediate Brass Band, Repercussions
Christmas Festival 3	Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	The Loom	Youth Orchestra, Junior Choir, Intermediate Wind Band, Junior Wind/Junior Brass Band
Mince Pie Gig	Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	tbc	EGG 1, 2, 3 Gen Eggz Acoustic Guitar Orch, Adult Acoustic Guitars Uke 1, Uke Too
Adult Community Groups Christmas Concert	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 7.15pm-8.45pm	Royton Band Club	Adult Choir Adult Wind Band Late Start Wind Band
Musical Theatre Showcase	Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Library Theatre Oldham	Junior MT Senior MT Advanced MT
Departmental Concert Week	15 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> March	The Loom	Monday: Wind Tuesday: Strings Weds: Choirs Thurs: Brass & Percussion
Easter Eggstravanza	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Billingtons	Egg 1, 2, 3 Gen Eggz ???
Adult Groups Spring Concert	Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> March	St James Derker	Adult Choir Adult Wind band Adult Guitars Uke 1 Uke Too Late Start Wind Band
Leavers Event for Y13	Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Music Centre	Y13 Leavers & Parents & carers
Induction Evening for new-starters	Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> July & Thurs 15 <sup>h</sup> July	Music Centre	Monday: Woodwind Thursday: Brass, Perc & Strings/gtrs
Summer Festival	Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	tbc	All OMC groups

## 2026-27 Events for Schools

Event	Date	Venue
Battle of the Bands Oldham	Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Whittles
Battle of the Bands GM	tbc	Band on the Wall
Secondary Vocal Gala	w/c 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Newman RC
Snowman soloist audition	13 <sup>th</sup> October	Music Centre
Secondary Vocal Gala	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Newman RC College
Oldham Sings 1	2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Secondary school
Oldham Sings 2	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Secondary school
Oldham Sings 3	4 <sup>th</sup> March	Secondary school
Oldham Sounds on Tour	21 <sup>st</sup> April	Tbc
Oldham Sounds on Tour	22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Tbc
Oldham Sounds on Tour	23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Tbc
Schools Music Festival	28 <sup>th</sup> June-1 <sup>st</sup> July	Tbc
Singing Challenge	17 <sup>th</sup> June?	tbc
Come & Play	tbc	Bridgewater Hall
The Snowman	Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	The Loom
Princess & the Pea 1	Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Secondary schools
Aardman in concert /Carrot Productions SEND Performance	Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Manchester Central Exchange Auditorium

### Keep in touch

Facebook: Oldham Council Music Service

Website: [www.oldhammusic-service.co.uk](http://www.oldhammusic-service.co.uk)

Email: [music-service@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:music-service@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

<b>Junior Choir</b> Wednesday 4.15pm-5.15pm	<i>Children in Year 3-Year 6</i>
<b>Intermediate Choir</b> Wednesday 5.45pm-6.45pm	<i>Children in Year 6-9</i>
<b>Vocal Recall</b> Wednesday 5.15pm-5.45pm	<i>Boys in Year 5-9</i>
<b>Youth Choir</b> Wednesday 6.15pm-7.45pm	<i>Year 9-13</i>

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

<b>Adult Choir</b>	Monday 7.15pm-8.45pm
<b>Adult Wind Band</b>	Thursday 7pm-8.30pm
<b>Late Start Wind</b>	Wednesday evenings (suitable for beginners/lapsed players to build confidence)
<b>Uke 1</b>	Tuesday 7-8pm (For beginners - no experience necessary)
<b>Uke Too</b>	Tuesday 7.15pm-8.45pm (for more experienced ukulele players)
<b>Acoustic Guitar</b>	Tuesday 5.55pm-6.55pm
<b>Electric Guitar</b>	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)



**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.