

Once again, it's a packed edition of the newsletter which celebrates successes and details forthcoming projects. Don't miss the Calendar of Events and the CPD for schools at the end of the newsletter!

Youth Choir: Music for Youth Prom: Royal Albert Hall

Oldham Music Centre Youth Choir has been invited to perform at the prestigious Music for Youth Proms at London's Royal Albert Hall this November.

The invitation marks the culmination of an outstanding year for the choir. In March, the group performed at the Music for Youth Regional Festival at Rochdale Town Hall, where their performance impressed adjudicators and led to an invitation to perform at the National Festival at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, in July.



Following their success in Birmingham, the choir, under the baton of their musical director Helen Nixon, has now been selected to perform at the Music for Youth Proms, one of the UK's most celebrated showcases of young musical talent. They will take part as an anchor choir in the Creative Project, *Frequencies*, a specially produced collaboration bringing together more than 1,000 young musicians from across the country.

Each night of the Music for Youth Proms sees over 1,200 young performers take to the stage in a spectacular concert featuring full-scale symphony orchestras, jazz bands, chamber ensembles, singer-songwriters and specially commissioned collaborations. The *Frequencies* project has been developed in partnership with BBC Ten Pieces, ABRSM and the Royal Albert Hall, creating a unique musical experience for performers and audiences alike.

The invitation to perform at the iconic Royal Albert Hall is a significant achievement and recognises the talent, dedication and hard work of the choir's young singers and their leaders.



Angie Radcliffe: Retirement

After 12 years of dedication to Oldham Music Service, Angie Radcliffe will be leaving us at October half-term. Angie is known and respected as an incredible voice and keyboard teacher in Oldham schools. She has nurtured the talents of many children and young people, building their confidence and encouraging them to develop their musical knowledge and skills. Her contribution to music education in Oldham goes back many years before she joined Oldham Music Service when she taught at North Chadderton School. We wish her well in her new adventures.

The Snowman – Carrot Productions



Our annual interactive performance of The Snowman will take place on **Monday 30th November**. There are two performances in 'The Loom'. Oldham schools that subscribe to the DMG are entitled to free tickets for a full class of children for the afternoon performance.

Non-DMG and out of area schools have the opportunity to buy tickets at £10 per pupil. Tickets are available via this link:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GWLX>

Contact angela.preen@oldham.gov.uk for more details.



Many musicians... one harmony

T: 0161 770 5660; F: 0161 770 5670; E: musicservice@oldham.gov.uk

Facebook: Oldham Council Music Service

Website: www.oldhammusicservice.co.uk

National Youth Concert Band Summer Course

Oldham Music Service was well-represented at The National Youth Concert Band (NYCB) Summer School. We had four students involved: Seb (euphonium), Nell (double bass), Ollie (principal tuba) and Daniel (euphonium).

The NYCB brought together 98 young musicians from across the UK for an intensive three-day residential course at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester from 28th to 30th August, welcoming musicians from the National Children's Concert Band (NCCB) to the summer course for the first time.

The young musicians spent three days immersed in music-making, working alongside professional instrumental tutors and conductors and tackling ambitious repertoire designed to develop their musical skills and experience. The course included full ensemble and sectional rehearsals, with the musicians also revisiting repertoire introduced during the bands' Spring residential at Bedford School as well as new music.



The two bands were led by conductors David Chatterton (NYCB) and Adam Broughton (NCCB), with both ensembles having the opportunity to work with internationally renowned wind band conductor Dr Timothy Reynish MBE. Dr Reynish conducted NYCB in their performance of Vaughan Williams' iconic *English Folk Song Suite*.



NCCB musicians also enjoyed a unique opportunity to meet composer Lisa DeSpain, who joined their rehearsal via Zoom from her home in New York. Lisa watched the young musicians rehearse her piece *The Bicycle Shoppe*, written to commemorate the centennial of the Wright brothers' first flight, and spoke to them about the deliberate comedy in her music and its inspiration.

For the young musicians involved, the course provided an opportunity not only to develop their playing at an advanced level, but also to spend time with like-minded peers from across the country. The summer course culminated in a sold-out concert at Manchester's Stoller Hall on 30 August.

National Youth Choir Summer School (by Jonath)

Jonath sings in Vocal Recall and Oldham Music Centre Youth Choir. He's also a talented clarinettist! He recently attended the National Youth Choir Summer School and has written this review of his experience.

I went on the National Youth Choir course for 5 days (from Tuesday to Saturday). The venue was a boarding school in Uppingham. On the first day we sang a bit and played fun games to get to know each other then we went to the boarding house which was 5 minutes from the school. The rooms accommodated up to 3 people. We would get up in the morning and eat breakfast, then we would walk to school and sing until lunch. We would walk back to the boarding house to eat lunch and dinner. After meals we would go back to the school to sing more. At 8:00pm we would go back to the boarding house and spend our time either going to the shower or playing pool. We spent our time rehearsing songs for the



concert on Saturday. The venue for the concert was The Albert Hall in Nottingham. We travelled by coach from Uppingham to Nottingham. At the concert we sang 'We rise again', 'Now We rise', 'Cantate Domino', 'The Voice of the Heart' and many other pieces. Some of these songs were written by Jim Papoulis, who came all the way from America to teach us a bit and watch us sing. It was a brilliant week and I recommend it to anyone who enjoys singing!

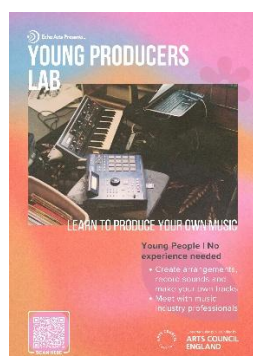
Find out more about the NYC here: [Join the National Youth Choir today](#)

National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain

We are very proud of Josh who spent a week as a member of the NCBGB on the summer school in Taunton. He successfully auditioned for a place and had a fabulous week rehearsing alongside other talented musicians from across the country. Josh is a committed member of Oldham Music Centre. He has progressed through our Junior and Intermediate ensembles and now plays in Youth Brass Band and Youth Orchestra.



Young Producers Lab



Oldham Music Service is working alongside Echo Arts and Bobby James Turner to bring **Young Producers Lab** to Oldham. It is an exciting new programme designed to give young people aged 11-18 the opportunity to explore music production using industry-standard technology. Through hands-on learning with Logic Pro for iPad, participants will develop their creative, composition, digital and technical skills while creating original music that reflects their own interests and musical styles. By providing access to equipment, expert guidance and practical experience, the project aims to build confidence, nurture creativity and inspire future progression in music technology and the wider music industry. The programme is supporting 10 young producers, creating new pathways into music-making

and digital creativity. Echo Arts has a grant from Arts Council England to launch this project. FFOMC are kindly funding 5 of the places.

Caro Churchill: Music Technology Project

Oldham Music Service is delighted to be working with music technology specialist **Caro Churchill** on an ambitious programme designed to inspire the next generation of digital musicians and producers. The project is already underway, with Caro having delivered two highly successful CPD sessions for secondary music practitioners and launched the new **Techies Club**, providing practical training and support for teachers and school staff. Over the coming year, the programme will bring innovative music technology projects into schools, including a six-week pilot at **St Martin's Primary School**, alongside teacher development, digital resource creation, creative performance opportunities and a music technology summer school for girls at Mahdlo Youth Zone. Together, these initiatives will help build confidence, skills and sustainable music technology provision across Oldham, creating exciting new pathways into music production and the wider creative industries.

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: 26GMAN2730



Irene Ketikidi

On Saturday 5th December, Global Grooves are hosting the incredible Irene Ketikidi from Greece for a one-off evening Q&A/demo/clinic at The Vale in Mossley. It's most suitable for adults and those aged 14+ attending with an adult. Tickets are only £5-£10 and it's a great opportunity!



Irene is an acclaimed guitarist and composer. The event will be an evening of virtuosic musicianship, storytelling and conversation. An ICMP graduate who first gained international attention following her appearance at Steve Vai's Guitar Nation Masterclass, Irene has since released two acclaimed solo albums, toured internationally and built a reputation as one of the most exciting voices in modern instrumental guitar. Her powerful blend of technical brilliance, melodic composition and captivating stage presence has earned a devoted following around the world, with recent live performances attracting millions of views online.

Find out more and book tickets here: <https://the-vale.co.uk/event/irene-ketikidi/>

Oldham Town of Culture: Rising Up

The Youth Brass Band will be working with film and video game composer Calvin Thomas in November as part of his Oldham Town of Culture micro-commission. His project will show how sound and music can tell Oldham's story. He will visit communities to record people's memories and familiar sounds, from trams and traffic to busy public spaces. These recordings will be turned into a piece of music and a walk-in audio experience.



Thirteen local artists, schools, charities and community groups have been chosen to bring their ideas to life during Oldham's year as Greater Manchester Town of Culture. From theatre, film and music to a new mural and giant fuzzy felt artwork, the projects cover a wide range of art forms and celebrate Oldham's people, places and stories.

FFOMC

Thank you to the volunteers from the Families and Friends of Oldham Music Service who have supported all of our recent events.

Recent projects supported by FFOMC include:

- The Christmas Parties for Junior & Intermediate groups
- Choral folders for the Youth Choir
- 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
- Young Producers Lab



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. Our CPD programme for 2026-27 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 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 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)
- Friday 11am (0-4 years)

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

2026-27 Events for Music Centre Groups

Event	Date	Venue	Groups
Christmas Concert	Sunday 29 th Nov	Victoria Baths	Adult Choir
Christmas Festival 1	Tues 1 st Dec	The Loom	Starter Strings/Strings Workshop, Function Band, Intermediate Choir, Vocal Recall, Youth Brass Band
Christmas Festival 2	Weds 2 nd Dec	The Loom	Youth Wind Band, Youth Choir, Intermediate Brass Band, Repercussions
Christmas Festival 3	Thurs 3 rd Dec	The Loom	Youth Orchestra, Junior Choir, Intermediate Wind Band, Junior Wind/Junior Brass Band
Christmas Carolling 1	Monday 7 th Dec	The Market (meet at the Music Centre at 4.15pm)	Junior Wind Band Junior Brass Band Intermediate Wind Band
Christmas Carolling 2	Tuesday 8 th Dec		Starter Strings, Strings Workshop
Christmas Carolling 3	Wednesday 9 th Dec		Junior Choir Intermediate Choir Vocal Recall
Christmas Carolling 4	Thursday 10 th Dec		Intermediate Brass Band
Mince Pie Gig	Tues 8 th Dec	Lyceum	EGG 1, 2, 3 Gen Eggz Acoustic Guitar Orch, Adult Acoustic Guitars Uke 1, Uke Too
Adult Community Groups Christmas Concert	Thursday 10 th Dec 7.15pm-8.45pm	Royton Band Club	Adult Choir Adult Wind Band Late Start Wind Band
Musical Theatre Showcase	Saturday 16 th January	Library Theatre Oldham	Junior MT Senior MT Advanced MT
Departmental Concert Week	15 th – 18 th March	The Loom	Monday: Wind Tuesday: Strings Weds: Choirs Thurs: Brass & Percussion
Easter Eggstravaganza	Friday 12 th March	Billingtons	Egg 1, 2, 3 Gen Eggz
Adult Groups Spring Concert	Fri 19 th 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 th July	Music Centre	Y13 Leavers & Parents & carers
Induction Evening for new-starters	Mon 12 th July & Thurs 15 ^h July	Music Centre	Monday: Woodwind Thursday: Brass, Perc & Strings/gtrs
Summer Festival	Saturday 3 rd July	tbc	All OMC groups

No rehearsals w/c 14th December with the exception of:
 Junior & Senior & Musical Theatre (combined): Monday 4pm-5pm
 Advanced Musical Theatre: Thursday 4.30pm-6.30pm
 The Lyceum will close to all other visitors at 5pm from 14th December until 4th January.

2026-27 Events for Schools

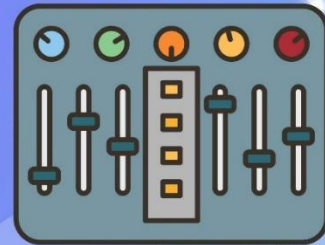
Event	Date	Venue
Battle of the Bands Oldham	Sun 24 th Jan	Whittles
Battle of the Bands GM	tbc	Band on the Wall
Secondary Vocal Gala	w/c 8 th Feb	Newman RC
Snowman soloist audition	13 th October	Music Centre
Secondary Vocal Gala	Thursday 11 th Feb	Newman RC College
Oldham Sings 1	2 nd March	Secondary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

Keep in touch

Facebook: Oldham Council Music Service
 Website: www.oldhammusicservice.co.uk

Email: musicservice@oldham.gov.uk

NEW



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TUES OF
THE MONTH
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CPD Programme 2026-27

Our comprehensive 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

The Primary Music Network is for all teachers, trainees and TAs (not just Music Leads).

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.

Tuesday 15th September 4pm-5.30pm

Singing in the Classroom Ensuring quality singing, creating collaborative and inclusive learning environments, influencing attention and mood, using music to support other curriculum areas.

Tuesday 3rd November 4pm -5.30pm

Discover Classroom Recorder – basic technique, classroom routines and progressive musical activities.

Tuesday 5th January 2026 4pm-5.30pm

Composition – soundscapes Explore how to use soundscapes to develop pupils' creativity and composition skills through engaging activities that use voices, instruments, and environmental sounds to create and perform musical stories and scenes.

Tuesday 23rd February 4pm-5.30pm

Improvisation Strategies to nurture improvisation skills from EYFS to Year 6, helping pupils explore, create, and respond musically with confidence through voice, movement and instruments.

Tuesday 4th May 4pm-5.30pm

Music in Continuous Provision (EYFS) This session will introduce a range of ideas including: Encouraging children to re-tell and create their own stories using music; Exploring musical contrasts; Exploring and creating sounds and music; Developing and supporting speech, language & communication through Music; Counting songs.

Book your free place here: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GVHP>



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Oldham Council Music Service and Music Centre



Tune-in to Talking/EYFS Music Network

Training 4pm-5.30pm at the Lyceum: 22nd September, 19th January, 20th April, 22nd June

Tune-in to Talking is a specialised programme which supports the development of young children's speech, language, communication and social skills through the use of music.

It aims to:

- Accelerate the progress of disadvantaged children in order to close the achievement gap
- Train EYFS practitioners and develop their knowledge and skills with regard to children's Speech, Language and Communication development
- Work with settings to improve their engagement with parents
- Develop EY practitioners' confidence and skills in using music within their settings to promote Speech, Language and Communication development and in general use of music



At the heart of the Tune-in to Talking programme, and a key factor in its proven success, is the ORIM framework (Opportunity, Recognition, Interaction, Modelling). This is explored in detail during the training sessions and complements the existing ORIM work that is being done across Oldham through the REAL programme.

Tune-in to Talking training is open to all EYFS practitioners, regardless of whether their setting currently has an OMS teacher leading Tune-in to Talking sessions.

Book your FREE place: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GVHQ>



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**SECOND
TUES OF
THE MONTH
4-5:30 PM**

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musicservice@oldham.gov.uk

Oldham Primary Music Conference

Thursday 11th 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 2027



SPARKYARD

Use Code 26GMAN2730 to claim your 30% discount on an annual Sparkyard subscription

Many musicians... one harmony

Oldham Music Service and Music Centre, Lyceum Buildings, Union Street, Oldham, OL1 1QG
T: 0161 770 5660; E: musicservice@oldham.gov.uk

Oldham Council Music Service



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

- £61 per term for school-age children (join as many groups as you wish)
- £71 per term, per group for adults
- £68 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

T: 0161 770 5660

W: 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 £61 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-6.15pm for beginner string players. Contact

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 £71 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 and Friday 11am (0-4 years)

(Musical Beginnings is £68 per term)

Musical Explorers

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

(Musical Explorers is £61 per term, first term free)

To book your place for any of our groups, visit

www.oldham.gov.uk/music_centre_application or scan the QR code.

