



Amersham Music Centre



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Newsletter

4 November 2011

News updates : Café Fermata, Health and Safety, Concert Dates, PTA, Concert Ticket purchase

Café Fermata continues to flourish with coffee, tea, cakes, cookies and now live music being enjoyed by all. Thank you to those students who are busking – we already have several regulars who seem to enjoy their complimentary Café Fermata treat – I certainly enjoy your playing and the ambience it creates. Those of you who would like to busk please just turn up and play – it's very informal. ALL are welcome – students, parents and staff. There is now a keyboard set up and if I am around I will happily accompany. We can even manage a CD player if you would like to use that.

The box of Maltesers was won by Miranda and Rosalind Le Good – they were able to tell me that 'fermata' means 'a pause' when being used musically. Well done to them both. I gave away quite a lot of runner up prizes especially as most of you had found the hidden fermata signs on the café poster. TWB even played a 'fermata' in their second rehearsal!

Slots to **help with the café** (as little as 30 minutes) are always available if you would like to get involved – both with serving on a Saturday morning and with baking on a Friday night - the sooner I can start to work with staff and get to know their bands the better. Please do come and sign the rotas in the café – it doesn't have to be every week if there are enough offers! My sincere thanks go to Elizabeth and Philip Rutter and to Simon Pullen who give their time so generously and have given the café a fantastic first half term. Also to those bakers who have kindly measured, mixed and poured – chocolate, fairy, carrot, apple and cinnamon, vanilla, lemon drizzle, cherry cake; flapjacks, choc chip cookies, chocolate brownies – you like them all! We continue to offer tea, coffee, apple and orange juice, water, chocolate treats for 10p, crisps and even a smaller treat for just 5p!

Health and Safety – Duty of Care

We ran a successful and smooth Fire Drill on Saturday 8th October. It did however raise several other issues to which I would like to draw your attention:

- Reception area is now down in the Dining Room where Café Fermata is also to be found
- Phone calls can still be received on 01494 789007 between 8.30am and 1.00pm
- When the reception desk is closed (and it will be at certain times during the morning), please leave messages in the Post Box on the table. A Suggestion Box is also available.
- I am delighted to find that several parents keenly support their children across the morning at AmMC. Much time is spent drinking, eating and chatting with others in the Café Fermata and indeed helping out of course. This is greatly appreciated and the Café is developing a very comfortable feel. Please observe that **no child is to help serve behind the table** where there is a large urn and a coffee machine – both very hot!
- Children being dropped off for AmMC activities should not arrive on site more than 10 minutes before the start of their ensemble. When not occupied musically they should be in the Café Fermata awaiting pick up or of course enjoying the refreshments and listening to or even taking part in the busking. AmMC cannot be held responsible for children playing outside around the campus or sitting waiting in the foyer. There are a lot of hard surfaces, steps and incoming/outgoing cars; all of which are potential hazards.

Concert Dates

Please see the return slip at the bottom of this letter. We intend to operate a different system with regard to the running of concerts.

- Staff can sometimes be left wondering exactly who is available to play in the concert from their ensemble and unless that is clear, they find themselves unable to plan, rehearse and prepare thoroughly for the best possible performance.
- It goes without saying that all members of AmMC are expected to play in their ensemble concert – performance opportunities are **the** ultimate purpose of all that hard work as is the enjoyment and sense of achievement when working towards something together. There are of course clashes that occur in any busy family diary but I do ask you to help us all by taking the fullest part you can. Hence the reply slip below.
- Please complete and return this slip to the office, the Saturday Reception Post Box or to the member of staff who directs your child's ensemble.

The concerts are as follows:

Wednesday 30th November 7.30 St Mary's Chesham

Junior Guitars, Senior Guitars, Recorder groups, Junior Brass, Choir, Training Wind Band

Saturday 3rd December 5.00 The Amersham School

Training/Elementary Strings, Madrigal Choir, Flute Choir, Intermediate Strings, YO Strings & Drum-a-lot

Saturday 3rd December 7.30 The Amersham School

Intermediate Guitars, Senior and Advanced Brass, Guitar Concert Ensemble, Senior Orchestra and Jazz 1/2

- The running order of each concert is yet to be decided
- Please arrive 20 minutes before the start in order for the children to warm up and to allow for parking
- There will be no intervals at any of these concerts.
- You are all invited to stay for Refreshments afterwards (at the Amersham School Concerts) and if you would like to volunteer to help please indicate below
- Tickets will need to be reserved and paid for in advance – they will be available from Saturday 12th November – reception desk at AmMC or in person from the office the following week. Office hours are Wed, Thurs & Fri 0930-1500.
- Prices include the refreshments and a re-alignment in price to fall in with other Music Service Centres. It has been suggested that some of you would benefit from a season ticket for all three concerts – been there and done that one with a singer/string player, an

oboist and a trombone/percussionist all from the one family! Hope some of you make use of it.

- I am also introducing a family ticket to include 2 adults and 3 concessions which should hopefully cater for most combinations.

Concert Ticket Prices

Individual Tickets

Adult £5.00 Concessions £2.50 (Student, Senior, Child)

Family ticket

2 adults and 3 concessions £12

Season tickets for all three concerts

Individual Adult £10.00

Individual concessions £5.00

Family Ticket £24.00

Cheques payable to Amersham Music Centre please

I am hoping that you are beginning to feel the energy, drive and vision that I bring to AmMC. My wish is for you all to join me in building up a stronger, more accessible and sustainable Music Centre where all are welcome, feel comfortable and secure and best of all make even more wonderful music together. This brings me to the next set of points:

PTA

It would appear that the PTA is in need if it is to continue.

- The current committee exists of too few people who have held it all together for far too long – their children have not only left AmMC but have graduated from University!! They wish to and should now stand down. I am reminded of a situation I found myself in some 20 years ago when the playgroup my children had finished attending could not fathom why I no longer wished to chair it. We all need to give at a time when it is **our** children who benefit.
- So do please come forward and consider playing your part – the more people and the more ideas, the more vibrant the community we develop together.
- The AGM is to be held in Café Fermata on Saturday 19th November at 10.30am. There will be plenty of coffee and cake etc and the current committee will be thanked for all they have done for us in the past.
- Please do join the AmMC trip to the Barbican– supported by your PTA

Please do come and give us your support.

Helen Mitchell

!!STOP PRESS NEWS!!

**AmMC Trip to the Barbican February 24th 2012
BBC Symphony Orchestra
Sibelius Symphony No 4
Prokofiev Piano Concerto No 1
Stravinsky Petrushka (1947 version)**

**Kirill Karabits (conductor)
Khatia Buniatishvili (piano)**

Tickets £12.00 to include coach fare.

Limited places available and on reserve for only a fortnight!

COACH PROVIDED BY THE PTA!! COME AND JOIN IN!!

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**Please complete and return:
AmMC Concerts Autumn Term 2011**

My child.....is able to perform in the following Concert(s)

Please tick/circle/highlight date and ensemble

Wednesday 30th November 7.30 St Mary's Chesham

Junior Guitars, Senior Guitars, Choir, Recorder groups, Junior Brass, Training Wind Band

Saturday 3rd December 5.00 The Amersham School

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Saturday 3rd December 7.30 The Amersham School

Intermediate Guitars, Senior and Advanced Brass, Guitar Concert Ensemble, Senior Orchestra, and Jazz 1/2

I would like the following tickets for

Wed 30th Nov 7.30pmCost.....

Sat 3rd Dec 5.00pm.....Cost.....

Sat 3rd Dec 7.30pm.....Cost.....

Total cost..... Cash/Cheque made payable to Amersham Music Centre

I am able to help serve refreshments after the concerts at the Amersham School

Printed Name.....Contact: email.....

Signed.....Parent/Guardian Phone.....

I would also like to reservetickets for the AmMC Barbican trip 24th February 2012

(No money needed yet, just an indication of interest/numbers)

Please return this slip to Office – post or email, Post Box at Reception desk or to Ensemble director