



Amersham Music Centre



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Newsletter

5 January 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Welcome back to what promises to be a busy and exciting term including a variety of Music Centre concerts, a PTA sponsored trip to the Barbican and participation in the National Festival of Music for Youth.

Many thanks to you all for such a warm welcome last term. I am thoroughly enjoying my new role and look forward to introducing more fresh ideas this term. On behalf of all staff I would also like to say thank you for your very generous Christmas gifts both individually and to the staff in general – we look forward to several staff meetings with delicious goodies to share round.

Café Fermata

The Café Fermata has proved to be extremely popular and combined with both the reception desk and the Busking Spot; the room now has a sense of a developing community and a definite buzz. The final Saturday witnessed the first queue for the Busking Spot and much fun was had by **all** in the room as we emptied a box of percussion instruments and accompanied whichever band was playing. Once again I extend my thanks to all parents who continue to lend a hand in the café - some of you do this on a very regular committed basis and others more casually but all help is much needed and appreciated. There are fresh rotas available in the café for you to sign up to help with baking or with serving on a Saturday morning – we experience a ‘rush’ around both 10.00 and again at 11.00 so if you can spare half an hour around dropping off or picking up time, please do come and join in.

PTA

Your newly formed PTA committee meets this Tuesday 10th January at 8.00pm in the Music Centre office at Woodside School. Again, do please join us if you are interested or able to offer some time, a skill, some support or enthusiasm. We welcome all ideas to build a stronger community, have fun social events and perhaps to even raise a pound or two. The committee is large enough to function but of course we would welcome all extras!!!!

Barbican Trip

The tickets for the Barbican concert have arrived and so if you ordered seats, we will be in contact shortly with travel arrangements for the evening and a request for payment. May I take this opportunity to thank the PTA for their kind funding of the coach so as to enable a really exciting opportunity to happen at an accessible price.

NFMY (National Festival of Music for Youth)

We are awaiting confirmation of places but Guitar Concert Ensemble, Senior Guitar Ensemble, Intermediate Guitar Ensemble and Drum a Lot have all applied to take part in the regional round of this festival on 25th March 2012. Please keep this date free in your diary until it is confirmed one way or the other – places are allocated on a first come first served basis so fingers crossed. My thanks to Phil Fentimen for his enthusiasm and interest in entering his guitar groups – we will keep you posted of our progress.

Invoices

Invoices for this term were sent out by 2nd class post on 3rd January. If you have not received yours by next week could you please let Nicky know in the office? Prompt payment of these is always appreciated.

Exam Results

Congratulations to the following students:

Matthew Luttrell Trumpet Grade 2 Merit
Francesca Luttrell Flute Grade 5 Merit
Ellie Farrer Guitar Grade 5 Distinction
Samuel Barnes Grade 5 Theory Merit
Alasdair Armstrong Trombone Grade 7 Merit
Matthew Batsman Trombone Grade 6 Distinction
Jonathan Slade Trombone Grade 6 Pass
Connor Lenihan Euphonium Grade 6 Pass
Richard Slade Trumpet Grade 5 Pass

Also, £220 was raised by Brass students who took practical exams last term, which totals £915 being donated to charity for 2011. Since the idea began in 2006, a total of £5,893 has been raised and donated by brass students who have enjoyed Chrissie Hollingdale's accompaniment skills and make donations instead of paying fees. A huge thank you to all involved.

Double Reed Day 11th February

If you play oboe or bassoon and are interested in developing your skills, including reed scraping and adjusting, then you may be interested in attending a Double Reed Day on 11th February in Milton Keynes. The day is advertised by MK Music Service and includes support from Aylesbury Music Centre staff. If you can't make this date, look out for a Bucks Music Service workshop coming later. Details from your teachers or from the Woodside office.

Health and Safety – Duty of Care - reminders

- Phone calls can 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 when I am teaching), please leave messages, ticket requests, paid invoices etc in the Post Box on the table.
- 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.

Centre Concerts

We are going to continue to sell tickets for concerts in advance this term. Individual, Concessions, Family and Season tickets are all available so do plan ahead and see what savings you could make. Please complete order forms as and when they become available and drop them with payment in a labelled envelope (correct cash or cheque made payable to Amersham Music Centre) either directly to the office or in the box at reception on a Saturday. Tickets can then be collected the following Saturday from Reception or from a member of staff if it is a mid week ensemble. Please do make use of the message box as I intend to become more involved with ensembles this term.

I would welcome parental help with the routine jobs of serving refreshments and the door/last minute ticket sales at each of the concerts. This would allow me to generally host the evening and leave the teaching staff to supervise students as they tune, find their seats etc. Again, if enough parents come forward the task need never become too onerous.

For any new students, 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. 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. **When ordering tickets you will be asked to confirm the availability of your child.**

Concert Dates

Saturday 28th January 7.30pm St Mary's Chesham
Youth Orchestra, Adult Orchestra

Saturday 4th February 5.00pm Amersham School
Junior Orchestra, Junior Recorder, Choir and Intermediate String Orchestra

Saturday 17th March 7.30pm St Mary's Chesham
Advanced Brass, Madrigal Choir

Saturday 24th March 7.30pm Amersham School
Drum-a-lot, Training Wind Band, Junior Wind Band, Intermediate Wind Band, Concert Band

Sunday 25th March Aylesbury Music Centre - time tbc
NFMV Drum-a-Lot and Guitar Ensembles – Concert, Senior and Intermediate

Wednesday 16th May 7.30pm St Mary's Chesham
Chamber/Small groups, Junior Recorder, Intermediate Strings, Scholars

Saturday 26th May 7.30pm Amersham School
Combined Concert Junior, Senior and Advanced Brass Ensembles

Saturday 16th June 7.30pm Amersham School
Senior Orchestra, Flute Choir, Senior Guitar Ensemble, Madrigal Choir, Adult Orchestra

Saturday 23rd June Amersham School
5.00pm Training/Elementary Strings, Junior Orchestra, Choir, Intermediate Guitar
7.30pm LEAVERS CONCERT Youth Orchestra, Concert Band, Guitar Concert Ensemble, Senior Recorder Ensemble, Advanced Brass Ensemble, Madrigal Choir
Saturday 30th June MADD Festival Waddesdon Manor Time tbc
Drum-a-Lot, Choir

Saturday 7th July 7.30pm Amersham School

Junior and Senior Recorder, Training and Junior Wind Bands, Junior Guitar Ensemble

Please note:

- The running order of each concert is yet to be decided
- Arrive 20 minutes before the start in order for the children to warm up and to allow for parking
- There will be no interval at most of these concerts.
- You are all invited to stay for Refreshments afterwards and if you would like to volunteer to help please let us know

Concert Ticket Prices

Individual Concert Tickets

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

Family £12 (2 adults and 3 concessions)

Season tickets for all Spring Term Concerts

Individual Adult £10.00

Individual concessions £5.00

Family Ticket £24.00

Cheques payable to Amersham Music Centre please

With kind regards

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink on a light green background. The signature reads "Helen" in a cursive, flowing script.