



Hertfordshire Music Service

www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk

NOTES FROM THE NORTH

E mail: hitchinmusicenquiries@hertsc.gov.uk

NORTH HERTS MUSIC SCHOOL

Highbury House
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Nicky Footer
Head of North Herts Music School

September 2011

Dear Parents, Carers & Students,
Welcome back after the summer holidays and a very warm welcome to all our new students starting at North Herts Music School! At the end of last term we said farewell to Ruth Furniss who had taught with our String Team on Saturday mornings. In her place we welcome Rowena Thompson and we also welcome guitar teacher Johnny Pilcher; both joined our team at the start of term.

INVOICES & ADMIN

All payments are now dealt with through County Hall. On the reverse side of your invoice are payment options and phone numbers should you have any payment queries. May we remind you that a **full half term's notice in writing** is required to the Music Centre when giving **any** change in Instrumental/Vocal/Group Tuition. Please notify as follows:

FOR CHANGE TO TAKE PLACE	NOTIFICATION DEADLINE
Start of Spring term	Fri 21 st October 2011
After Spring half term	Fri 16 th December 2011

Newsletter: We will be phasing out the printed paper version of our newsletter. For the time being, paper copies will continue to be available from teachers & our reception as well as on our website, but if you would like to receive your copy of future newsletters via e-mail, please send an e-mail to hitchinmusicenquiries@hertsc.gov.uk

Vacancy for Admin Staff on a Saturday Morning. We are looking for someone to man our reception at NHMS, answer the phone and help with general enquiries from 8.30am – 12.30pm. This might suit a student (Yr 13 or gap year) or parent/friend. If you are interested, please contact Nicky Footer for an informal chat.

Vacancies for Students: We currently have lessons available for piano and percussion students. If you are interested please contact the office.

EXCITING NEWS FOR NORTH HERTS MUSIC SCHOOL

A message from James Dickinson, Head of Hertfordshire Music Service: For musicians and families using Highbury House, the home of our North Herts Music School, I am delighted to announce that there has been an agreement reached between the Music Service and Hitchin Girls School over the long term future of the building. As part of the school's recent transfer to Academy Status, Highbury House has been leased by the Local Authority to Hitchin Girls School. Some larger rooms will be used in the daytime for their curriculum delivery, as well as by their music department and instrumental teaching as before. The Music Service will

continue to deliver music centre provision after school and Saturday mornings through a new partnership agreement with the school. The most significant change you will see is that there will be a programme of refurbishment and redecoration starting this half-term that I believe will, over time, transform Highbury House for future generations. I would like to thank all at Hitchin Girls School and the Local Authority who worked so hard to make this happen, ensuring the long term future of North Herts Music School.

CONCERTS AND MUSIC CENTRE NEWS

North Herts Youth Orchestra's year culminated with its two performances in early July. Firstly they brought the 2011 Stevenage Festival to a close with an evening of traditional "Last Night of the Proms" music, including Edward Elgar's Pomp & Circumstance March No. 1 (Land of Hope and Glory) and Sir Henry Wood's Fantasia on British Sea Songs and was a very successful joint concert with Stevenage Choral Society. The following evening saw NHYO performing at the Priory Picnic with the ever popular Dambuster's March, Theme from Jurassic Park & Lord of the Dance. With thanks to their conductor, Justin Fung, and assistants Diane Tisdall & Danny Basford for all their work with NHYO last year. We are now looking forward to our Christmas Concert on 9th December at Hitchin Town Hall.

Senior Wind Band, directed by Sue Pettitt, have had an amazing summer with three local concerts before their Spanish tour to Barcelona for three further performances where they went down a storm! Their increasing repertoire provided a varied programme for all their concerts including Darkened Theatre, Bandology, Marcini, Duelling Xylos & Vaughan Williams' Folk Song Suite. They played to capacity crowds at The Gordon Craig Theatre (twice) at the Primary Schools Festival and The Last Night of the Proms concert as well as The Priory Picnic and their Spanish venues. Future concerts include Royston Arts Festival on 2nd October, creative project with RPO on 20th October & a joint concert with visiting German wind band players from Stevenage's twin town of Ingelheim at St Andrews and St Georges Church, Stevenage Sat 22 Oct.

North Herts Jazz@Hitchin gave another superb and enthusiastic performance at the Priory Picnic in July. The programme included the classics "I Feel Good" and "Oye Como Va". Many parents complimented the band afterwards. **North Herts Jazz@Stevenage** also gave a top performance at the Stevenage Carnival, Fairlands Valley. Despite the hot weather they were enthusiastically received by parents and friends. Our next confirmed joint concert is in December at the Plinston Hall (Dec 13th). Please also put in your diaries Sunday 20th November.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR FUTURE NEWS, MUSIC SCHOOL CALENDAR AND CONCERT DATES

www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk/north-herts-music-school

This is a **County Jazz Day** and all players from both groups will be needed to make this a success.

Student Recitals @ Highbury House.

Well done to all those pupils who took part in our informal student recital evening in May. Those we have had so far have been well received and have given those pupils a good opportunity to perform in front of a wider audience. New dates have been set for the Autumn Term ~ Monday 17th October and Thursday 20th October, at 7pm. Please ask for more information from your teacher or pick up an application form in reception.

Wind Day: We are holding a wind day for all students of woodwind instruments from Year 3 – 8! This is on 25th November at Hitchin Boys' School from 9.00am – 3.00pm. We are hoping to run three groups: Beginner, Grade 1-2, Grade 3 – 4. Please ask for an application form from your teacher. We will only have 100 places, so will deal with applications on a first come, first served basis.

Beginner French Horn Club This runs on a Tuesday evening, 5.00– 5.45pm and currently has some vacancies. If you have a child in Year 3 or above who would like to learn the French Horn in a group, please ask at the office for further details.

Bassoons are coming to North Herts! We have got the rare opportunity of being able to offer Bassoon lessons either at NHMS or in school. We have been loaned two instruments so we need two new students to start. If you have a child in Year 4 or above who would like to learn the bassoon, please ask at the office for further details.

COMPETITIONS & PRIZES

Congratulations to the winners of the Hills Prizes for String playing: Louisa Drake, Frances Dee, Heather Beard & Helena Britten; to Bryony Pomfret & Andy Jones for the winning woodwind and brass prizes sponsored by instrument repairer Graham De Vere White; to Adam Burns for the Baker Glen Prize for Senior Wind Band and the Highbury Cup to Christina Farley & Rebecca Burge for NH Youth Orchestra.

Peter Lambourne Bursary Competition: Application forms for the Peter Lambourne Bursary Competition which is sponsored by Hitchin Priory Rotary, will be available after half term. This annual event is open to all Year 12 instrumental and vocal students who live or come to school in the North Herts or Stevenage area. There will be 'first' and 'runner up' prizes. Please ask at the office for an application form. The deadline for entries is Tuesday 31st January, 2012.

AREA GROUPS FOR SENIOR PLAYERS

NORTH HERTS YOUTH ORCHESTRA ~ MONDAY 5.30 – 7.30 BENSLOW MUSIC TRUST, HITCHIN

(All orchestral instruments welcome, particularly 'cello, double bass, oboe, bassoon, trombone, french horn & tuba – from ~Grade 4 upwards)

SENIOR WIND BAND – WEDNESDAY 6.00 – 7.30 STEVENAGE MUSIC CENTRE, STEVENAGE

For woodwind, brass and percussion players of Grade 5

NORTH HERTS YOUTH JAZZ

For trombone, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, flute and rhythm section players with a desire to be part of Jazz!

PLACE: NORTH HERTS MUSIC SCHOOL, HITCHIN
TIME: TUESDAY 5.00 - 6.30

PLACE: STEVENAGE MUSIC CENTRE
TIME: THURSDAY 5.00 - 6.30

FRIENDS OF NORTH HERTS MUSIC SCHOOL

As always, we would like to extend our thanks to the 'Friends' of our Music School for the invaluable help that

they regularly give to our staff in the smooth running of all our events, and especially those who promoted and worked so hard at the Priory Picnic. As parents of students at NHMS, you automatically qualify as a "Friend". If you would be prepared to help out on an occasional basis please contact Nicky Footer for more information.

AUTUMN/WINTER COUNTY ACTIVITY CONCERTS

County Classical Guitar Ensemble & Forum:

Autumn Course - 24th-25th October 2011

CONCERT: 25th October 2011, 6:30pm - Venue tbc

Hertfordshire Youth Jazz Ensemble:

County Jazz Day - 20th November 2011

Hertfordshire Wind Sinfonia:

Autumn Workshop Day - 4th December 2011

Hertfordshire County Youth Orchestra:

Winter Course - 18th-22nd December 2011

CONCERT: 22nd December 2011, Weston Auditorium - Hatfield

Schools' Symphony Orchestra:

Winter Course - 17th-20th December 2011

CONCERT: 20th December 2011, 7:30pm - Venue tbc

Hertfordshire County Youth Brass:

CONCERT: 19th October 2011, 7:30pm - The Clarendon Muse, Watford School of Music

Repertoire Day - 13th November 2011

NHMS DIARY ~ AUTUMN TERM 2011

OCTOBER

- Sun 2 Royston Arts Festival presents 'Last Night of the Proms' Senior Wind Band
Mon 17 Recital Evening at NHMS
Thur 20 Recital Evening at NHMS
Thur 20 Senior Wind Band – workshop day with RPO
Sat 22 Senior Wind Band Joint Concert at St Andrews & St Georges Church, Stevenage 7.30pm
Sat 22 Half term ~ Music Centre closed until 31 October

DECEMBER

- Chamber Concert (date & venue to be confirmed)
Mon 5 Guitar Concert NHMS 6.30 p.m.
Wed 7 Midweek band & Recorder Ensembles NHMS 6.00pm
Fri 9 Youth Orchestra Concert, Hitchin Town Hall 7.30 p.m.
Sat 10 Sat Morning Music School Concert, Hitchin Girls School 11.00 a.m
Tues 13 NH Jazz (Hitchin & Stevenage), Plinston Hall Letchworth 7.30pm

All Music School teaching finishes Saturday 10 December

NHMS ~ SPRING TERM 2012

- Tues 3 January: All Music School teaching starts
Half term: 11 February ~ 19 February
Sat 24 March: SMMS Concerts (To be confirmed)
Mon 26 March: All Music School teaching finishes

NHMS ~ SUMMER TERM 2012

- Mon 16 April: All Music School teaching starts
Half term: 2 June ~ 10 June
Sun 1st July Priory Picnic
Sat 7 July SMMS Concerts (To be confirmed)
Mon 16 July: All Music School teaching finishes

... AND FINALLY

We hope that you enjoy the term ahead, and indeed, the new academic year and look forward to seeing you at the Music School and later at our concerts.

