



# Hertfordshire Music Service

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## NOTES FROM THE NORTH

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### NORTH HERTS MUSIC SCHOOL

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Nicky Footer  
Head of North Herts Music School

May 2011

Dear Parents, Carers & Students,  
Welcome to the latest edition of 'Notes from the North @ Hitchin'!

#### INVOICES

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/Groups Tuition and should be notified as follows:

<u>WHEN CHANGE IS TO TAKE PLACE</u>	<u>NOTIFICATION DEADLINE</u>
Start of Autumn term	Fri 27 May 2011
After Autumn half term	Tues 26 July 2011

#### CONCERTS AND MUSIC CENTRE NEWS

##### North Herts Youth Orchestra

NHYO had an inspiring Spring Term, working with amateur Tim Steiner and five professional musicians from the RPO. Creating their own piece of music, the orchestra developed improvisation skills and explored new instrumental sounds – a particular favourite was the brass trying to sing and play at the same time! This culminated in a collaborative concert at Knight's Templar School, alongside composition groups from local schools. NHYO also tackled Honegger's Pacific 231, directed by Justin Fung. Despite initial reservations – 'When do the 1st violins get the tune?!' – an energised performance proved that the orchestra has exciting potential.

##### Senior Wind Band perform in Baldock

Senior Wind Band directed by Sue Pettitt performed at the Knights Templar School in Baldock. In an exciting and challenging program which included "Thames Journey" by Hess, Holst's "1st Suite in Eb" and Malcolm Arnold's "English Dances", the band displayed their talent and virtuosity. Solo clarinet player Kirstin Bulger wowed audiences performing "Clarinet Concertino" by Weber, SWB open the Stevenage Festival on the 20 June at the Gordon Craig Sports Hall where they are accompanying a choir of 350 primary school pupils in Nigel Hess' "To the Stars!" On 2 July, along with the Youth Orchestra the Band will also close the festival in the Gordon Craig for a "Last Night of the Proms" concert. Lots of opportunities to hear them perform before they depart on their tour to Barcelona.

##### North Herts Youth Jazz wow Hitchin audience!

On Thursday 31 March, North Herts Youth Jazz performed at the Woodside Hall, Hitchin to a capacity audience. The evening was in aid of "Help the Hospices" and featured both the North Herts Youth Jazz from both Hitchin and Stevenage directed by Paul Woodin. The Hitchin band took control of the first half by performing a range of Jazz, Blues and Funk numbers. Fantastic solo contributions were heard by Tim Cranfield and James Woodin. In the second half, the Stevenage band performed a mixture of music from the technically challenging "Big Tune" to the well known "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy". Outstanding solo contributions were heard from Laurie Covell and Tom Plater on Saxophone, and by vocalist Karen Mar who sang "Cry Me a River" and "I'm in the Mood for Love". The evening was a resounding success in raising money for these charities, and many audience members were astounded by the standard of playing from both bands.

##### Student Recitals @ Highbury House.

Congratulations to all those pupils who have taken part in our new informal student recital evenings. 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. Watch this space for new dates for the Autumn Term ~ please ask for more information at the office.

This term we have been unable to start our new **Aural Clubs** which were being offered as 8 week courses to support students in their Aural work when preparing for Grade exams. We hope that these will finally get off to a roaring start in September. We do need students to sign up to this to make it happen!

**Please ask at the office for further details.**

#### CONGRATULATIONS

.....to Laurie Covell (Year13) and Tom Plater (Year 12) who won this years Hitchin Priory Rotary Club Youth Bursary. Runners up were and Edward Shaw and Hollie Woodley.

Applications will be invited for 2012 in the Autumn term. This annual event will be 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 a 'first' and 'runner up' prize. Watch this space.....

#### AREA GROUPS FOR SENIOR PLAYERS

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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

**PLEASE SEE OUR NEW WEBSITE FOR FUTURE NEWS AND CONCERT DATES**

We will be auditioning for places in our area Youth Orchestra **Mon 11 July** – String Players **Tuesday 12 July** – Wind and Brass players. Please hand in your name to the office or collect an application form if you are interested in becoming a member. You should play an orchestral instrument, wind, brass, strings, percussion and are grade 5 and above. We will send you further information regarding times for auditions.

**OPEN REHEARSALS ~ JUST COME ALONG**

**SENIOR WIND BAND**

(woodwind, brass and percussion players of Grade 5)

Place: Stevenage Music Centre

Time: Wednesday 14 & 21 September 6.00 - 7.30

**NORTH HERTS YOUTH JAZZ**

(Calling all 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 13 & 20 September 5.00 - 6.30

Place: Stevenage Music Centre

Time: Thursday 15 & 22 September 5.00 - 6.30

**FRIENDS**

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. We are still on the look out for **new members**; any parents who would be prepared to help out on an occasional basis would be welcomed and their help very much appreciated. Please contact your head of centre for more information.

**HITCHIN FESTIVAL 2011**

**Sunday 3 July – 6.30 Priory Picnic, The Priory, Hitchin**

We have our fingers crossed for good weather for Priory Picnic after the hugely successful event last year.

Groups will include:

North Herts Youth Orchestra, Senior Wind Band, North Herts Youth Jazz, Hitchin Intermediate Wind Band, Combined Strings, Intermediate Brass and Woodwind Ensembles (Hitchin).

**Rhythms of The World**

This year the string players from our Chamber Music Groups look forward to performing at the very popular Rhythms of the World on Sunday 10 July.

**... AND FINALLY**

Our very best wishes go to all those students who are leaving school for pastures new this term. We thank them for their contribution to life at the Music Centre in North Herts and wish them good luck for the future. Wishing everyone a restful Summer break when you get there.

**SUMMER COUNTY ACTIVITY CONCERTS**

**County Classical Guitar Ensemble & Forum:** Fri 29 July, 6:30, St. Albans Music School.

**Hertfordshire Youth Jazz Ensemble:** Sun 31 July, 7:30pm, The Clarendon Muse, Watford.

**Hertfordshire County Youth Brass:** Tues, 2 August, 7:30, St. Saviour's Church, St. Albans.

**Hertfordshire Wind Sinfonia:** Sat 6 August, 7:30, The Clarendon Muse, Watford.

**Hertfordshire County Youth Orchestra/Schools' Symphony Orchestra:** Sat 27 August, 7.00, Watford Colosseum.

**MUSIC CENTRES DIARY ~ SUMMER 2011**

**MAY**

Saturday 28 **Half term ~ Music Centres closed**  
**Until Monday 6 June**

**JUNE**

Wednesday 8 Hitchin String Day, Benslow, Hitchin  
Monday 20 Senior Wind Band with Stevenage Primary Schools, Gordon Craig Theatre, 7.00  
Monday 27 Guitar Concert 6.30, Walton Room, HGS  
Wednesday 29 'Summertime' ~ Joint Concert, Strings & Choirs, Gordon Craig Theatre, 7.30

**JULY**

Saturday 2 Last Night of The Proms, NHYO and SWB Gordon Craig Theatre, 7.45  
Sunday 3 Priory Picnic, **The Priory, Hitchin 6.30**  
Wednesday 6 Mid-Week Band and Recorders Concert.  
Saturday 9 **Hitchin SMMS Concert**, Fearnhill Sch, 11.00  
Tuesday 26 Last teaching day of Summer Term

**MUSIC CENTRES DIARY ~ AUTUMN TERM 2011**

**SEPTEMBER**

**Saturday 10 September 2011 ~ SMMS starts**

**All Individual instrumental teaching starts**

**Monday 12 September 2011**

**OCTOBER**

Sunday 2 Royston Arts Festival presents 'Last Night of the Proms' Senior Wind Band  
Saturday 22 **Half term ~ Music Centres closed**  
**Until Monday 31 October**

**DECEMBER**

Saturday 10 **Hitchin SMMS Concert**, HGS School ~ TBC  
**All Music School teaching finishes Saturday 10 December**

**SPRING TERM 2012**

Tuesday 3 January: **All** Music School teaching starts  
Half term: 11 February ~ 19 February  
**SMMS Concerts 24 March ~ TBC**  
Monday 26 March: **All** Music School teaching finishes

**SUMMER TERM 2012**

Monday 16 April: **All** Music School teaching starts  
Half term: 2 June ~ 10 June  
**SMMS Concerts 14 July ~ TBC**

Monday 16 July:

All Music School teaching finishes