



Hertfordshire Music Service

www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk

NOTES FROM THE NORTH

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STEVENAGE MUSIC CENTRE

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Daniel Hunt
Head of Stevenage Music Centre

May 2011

Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

Welcome to the latest edition of "Notes from the North"!

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

Stevenage Music Centre Performance Platform

The Centre played host to the first student recital concert this year. These "performance platforms" are intended to provide pupils of all abilities an opportunity to perform in an informal and relaxed setting before friends and family. Congratulations to Eloise Seymour, Raza Chandna, Amy Carrick, Francesca Seymour and Patrick Pilipow who all showed (with much hard work!) what every musicians can aspire to. We all look forward to our next exciting Performance Platform next term!

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.

North Herts Youth Orchestra

NHYO had an inspiring Spring Term, working with animateur 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.

Stevenage Music Centre ensembles perform for the Mayor!

North Herts Youth Jazz and a String Ensemble consisting of players from Stevenage Music Centre recently performed for the Mayor of Stevenage at his annual charity concert. The sell out audience at the Gordon Craig Theatre saw the talented string players perform Mozart's "Divertimento" directed by Diane Tisdall. Audience members commented on the maturity of their performance and quality of sound for such young performers. North Herts Youth Jazz directed by Paul Woodin closed the concert and kept everyone entertained with a range of Jazz and Funk numbers which included "Afro Blue" and the Michael Buble favourite "For Once in my Life".

BALDOCK

Our Spring Concert at the end of term was full of variety and accomplished performances. Many thanks to all our conductors for their enthusiasm and commitment. We would be particularly interested to form closer links with the communities around and about the area. If you know or are involved with any groups and have some ideas do come and talk to us on a Saturday morning. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our Summer Concert on Saturday 2 July.

ROYSTON

RSMMS has had a really successful year. All the groups have continued to flourish and have performed in concerts to an extremely high standard. If your child wants to join groups as diverse as our percussion ensemble or choir or jazz group or wind ensembles then come along to the Meridian school on a Saturday morning and we'll make sure they join the group that will develop their musical skills to the highest level.



PLEASE SEE OUR NEW WEBSITE FOR FUTURE NEWS AND CONCERT DATES

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.....

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).

AREA GROUPS FOR SENIOR PLAYERS

NORTH HERTS YOUTH ORCHESTRA ~ MONDAY 5.30 – 7.30

BENSLOW MUSIC TRUST, HITCHIN

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

HELP

As always, we are greatly indebted to the 'Friends' of each of our Music Schools for the invaluable help that they regularly give to our staff in the smooth running of all our events. We want to thank the **Friends of Stevenage Music Centre** who have been very generous this year as the new music and equipment has really helped us to open up opportunities for children in the area.

We are always on the look out for new members; any parents who would be prepared to help out on an occasional basis – even if it is just with the particular group in which their own child is involved – would be welcomed and their help would be very much appreciated. This help could simply consist of helping to load/unload the van with staging, percussion, stands etc. for an area group or you would be welcome to take a more active role – whatever suits you, suits us! We are always on the look out for volunteers to assist with the Saturday Morning Tuck Shop. Please contact the office staff for more details. Thank you!

... AND FINALLY

We wish to congratulate everyone on an outstanding year of music-making. Our thanks go to all of the families, friends and teachers who have supported our young musicians during this highly successful year so far!

Daniel Hunt

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, 7.00 Gordon Craig Theatre,

Sunday 26 NHYJ to perform at Stevenage Carnival

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**

Saturday 9 **Baldock** SMMS Concert, KTS School

Saturday 9 **Royston** SMMS Concert, Meridian School

Saturday 9 **Stevenage** SMMS Concert, Valley School

Tuesday 26 Last teaching day of Summer Term

MUSIC CENTRES DIARY ~ AUTUMN 2011

SEPTEMBER

SMMS starts ~ Saturday 10 September 2011

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 **Baldock** SMMS Concert, KTS School - TBC

Saturday 10 **Royston** SMMS Concert, Meridian School

Saturday 10 **Stevenage** SMMS Concert, Valley School

All Music School teaching finishes Saturday 10 December

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Tuesday 3 January: **All** Music School teaching starts

Half term: 11 February ~ 19 February

SMMS Concerts 24 March

Monday 26 March: **All** Music School teaching finishes

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Monday 16 April: **All** Music School teaching starts

Half term: 2 June ~ 10 June

SMMS Concerts 14 July

Monday 16 July: **All** Music School teaching finishes

