

'What is Harrogate Music Centre?'

Dear Sir/Madam,

The centre caters for the musical demands of approximately 300 school-aged pupils at the moment. They come from the primary and secondary schools of Harrogate and Skipton. Pupils not only improve their ensemble skills, but also their playing, reading and socialisation skills, facilitated by a highly skilled and experienced staff of musicians. Young Musicians undoubtedly improve their musical performance by being members of Harrogate Music Centre.

About the Centre

We operate during most Saturday mornings during the school term, from 9.15 am to 12.30pm working with the following ten groups-

Junior Concert Band. Grade 1 standard- this rehearses from 9.15am to 10.45 am, directed by Mr. Stephen Price at St. Robert's R.C. Primary school.

Junior String Orchestra. Grade 1 standard- this rehearses from 11.15 to 12.30 pm, directed by Mrs. Pam Else, again at St. Robert's R.C. Primary School.

Guitar Group (music of all styles-grade 1 standard and above) Rehearsing from 9.30 to 10.45 am- directed by Michael Waterhouse, Maths room 14, Harrogate High School.

Hyperactive (Grade 5 standard and above) Rehearses from 9.30 to 10.45 am, directed by Mr. David Speake. A small group for older players interested in modern musical styles, in the High School Drama Room.

Intermediate Symphony Orchestra (Grade 3 to Grade 5 standard) Rehearses from 9.30am to 12.30pm, directed by Amanda Crawley, music room, High School .

Intermediate Concert Band (Grade 3 to Grade 5 standard) Rehearses from 9.30am to 12.30pm, directed by Emma Calvert, High School Community Hall.

Area Concert Band (Grade 5 standard and above, by summer audition only) Rehearses the whole morning.

Harrogate and Skipton Schools Symphony Orchestra (Grade 5 standard and above) Rehearses from 9.30am to 12.30pm, directed by Mr. Mike Hughes, High School Lower Hall.

Harrogate Youth Jazz Orchestra (Grade 5 standard and above, by summer audition only) Rehearses from 9.30am to 12.30pm, directed by Mr. Jo Williamson, High School Youth Centre.

Junior Choir. Rehearsing from 11.15am to 12.30pm, directed by Jonathan Hills, in the High School Drama Room

To maintain the high standard of playing within the last three ensembles, an auditions process is in place. The closing date for entries is 20th March 2010 . Details are available at www.hmc-parents-assoc.org.uk

Our staffing ratio is such that we enjoy sectional rehearsing.

If your child plays any of these instruments it is worth joining us- violin, viola, 'cello, double bass, guitar, bass guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophones, oboe, bassoon, trumpet, cornet, horns, trombone, tuba, euphonium, drum kit, timpani, mallet percussion , orchestral and Latin percussion.

We give concerts locally in schools and churches, sometimes supporting local charities. We play for summer Garden Fetes, produce C.D.s, compete in National competitions, and engage in workshops with professional soloists and ensembles. It is a vibrant place to be.

We have our own parents committee who support us with selling refreshments during rehearsals and selling tickets and programmes at concerts, and we have our own student council.

If you are interested in any of the above, please call us on 01609 534980. We are on the web- www.hmc-parents-assoc.org.uk and www.northyorks.gov.uk/musicservice, following the links.

A small charge is made to the parents of the young musicians for membership, available on request.

Best wishes,

Jonathan Hills Harrogate Music Centre Manager.