



<http://www.hmc-parents-assoc.org.uk>

Newsletter

February 2005

GALA CONCERT

This year's concert was, again, a wonderful event for the musicians of the Music Centre and was a great night out for the audience. The breadth of styles of music played by the various ensembles was stunning, ranging from baroque to romantic, with African rhythms being followed by popular musicals and jazz sounds. The musicians and ensemble directors truly showed their ability to tackle a huge range of musical genres, and by bringing different ensembles together, a rich mix of rhythms, tones and melodies was created, emphasising the fact that by extending the standard repertoire of the groups, new avenues of music could be explored – to everyone's enjoyment.

Having listened to the more experienced ensembles, our younger musicians will have gained a deeper appreciation of the wide variety of music available, which they can look forward to playing as they progress through the Music Centre. What better way is there to motivate them to do more practice?!

A Gala Concert Gift.

The councillors of Ripon who attended the Gala concert were so impressed that they have made a financial contribution to the Music Centre. This will be used for upgrading the microphones for HYJO. This was an unexpected and very nice surprise.

Open Morning and Christmas Fair

Many thanks to all those who supported the Open Morning and Christmas Fair. Although this was not as well attended as in previous years, we still made around £850 profit. This can be used for purchasing some essential equipment on the ever present 'Wish List'. First off is a timpani for ICB, which will be a very welcome addition.

And some comments about the Gala Concert

Best bits:

- ?? Listening to HYJO...they were brill. (Member of Woodwind choir)
- ?? I liked Area Band's Scottish music very much. (Member of the audience)
- ?? HASSO wouldn't be out of place in a professional orchestral setting. (Member of the audience)
- ?? The rendition of Chicago was awesome and matched any professional performance that I have seen. I wanted to get up and swing. (Non-parent member of the audience)
- ?? HYJO were utterly amazing. (Maggie Punyar)
- ?? Watching the show from the comfort of the Green Room. (Member of Stage Crew)
- ?? Being bought chocolate the week after. (Member of Junior Brass)

Worst bit:

- ?? Getting lost. (Member of Woodwind choir)

Scariest bit:

- ?? Looking round when people were watching...there were millions. (Member of Woodwind choir)

Forthcoming Concerts & Events (also posted on the web site)

Saturday 5th March: Area Band, 2.00-5.00pm, Music for Youth regional heats, Garforth.

Saturday 21st May: Parents' Committee AGM, Granby High School.

Saturday 21st May: HASSO, 7.00 pm, Airedale High School, Skipton, for the Skipton Tsunami benefit concert.

Saturday 25th June: ICB, 2.00pm, Oatlands Summer Fair.

Saturday 25th June: Guitar Orchestra, HASSO and HYPE, 7.00pm, St Marks Church.

Sunday 26th June: Junior Wind Band, Junior Strings & ISO, 3.00pm Granby High School.

Saturday 2nd July, HYJO, Grassington Festival.

Saturday 2nd July: ICB, 1.15-2.15pm St. John's Garden Party, Bilton.

Wednesday 13th – Monday 18th July: County Wind orchestra course.

Saturday 16th – Thursday 21st July: County Youth Orchestra course.

HELP! Accommodation wanted.

ICB will not be taking part in the Easter Festival this year. However, if anyone can offer accommodation to musicians visiting Harrogate for the festival, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact Sylvia Doherty, the festival organizer, on 01423 566204. If you can't get through to Sylvia, please contact Jane Donald at the Music Centre Office, on 01423 700118.

Junior Wind Band Makes its Debut.

A completely new ensemble is to be created in the near future; the Junior Wind Band, directed by Kate and Stephen Price. Musicians from Junior Brass and Woodwind Choir will be playing together in this new group, extending and enhancing their range of music making. We very much look forward to hearing you in the future.

Thoughts about Junior Strings

by Hannah Branch & Victoria Difrancio

When I joined Junior Strings I had no idea what it was going to be like. My friend had been there before and was always talking about how she almost won a competition or that her group's song was really good, so I thought that we were going to be in this huge room practising for an upcoming performance or something. When we (me and my Mom) were finding our way in I was nervous because I thought that I wouldn't know anyone there, but I was wrong about everything. We were playing in a fairly small room, bigger than most, but small for an orchestra. Everyone was sitting in a half circle practising the piece they were given and tuning their violins.

It was quite scary at first because I didn't know anyone there, or so I thought. To my surprise in front of me was my best friend! It was a big relief knowing that there was someone to talk to. The songs were easy enough; I could play all of them even though I had to sight read through them.

They start you off on an easy level. As you gain confidence, they will gradually move you up to higher levels. It takes a while to sort out everyone's standards but eventually they will come around to you. I was finding my parts easy so I talked to them and they gave me a higher levelled piece. It was scary at first, but then I got lucky because my friend showed up. I was fine after that.

All in all, Junior Strings is fun to go to. It's scary at first, but you get used to it. It also helps to have a friend with you.

Music Centre Auditions

Auditions will be held on May 7th, 14th and 21st. Information can be obtained on Saturdays at the Music Centre or from the Music Centre Office: 01423 700118.

Reward Offered for missing Music Centre Banner – please contact Jonathan Hills on 01423 700118

A drummer's tale

by Adam Hemingway (Junior Wind Band)
When I first came to Granby Music Centre I was nervous and excited, but it is good fun playing in a band with other instruments.