
 Harrogate Music Centre

 Parents' Association

Newsletter

October 2003

Welcome back to Music Centre for a new year of music making. We hope those of you who are new to the Centre will enjoy your Saturday mornings joining in with the music, and that you will make many new friends.

OPEN MORNING

The Open Morning this term will be held on **Saturday 22nd November**.

We hold the open morning for two main reasons. First, it gives parents a chance to see what goes on during the Saturday morning rehearsals; during the morning there is 'open house' for everyone to wander around all the ensembles to listen to the wide variety of music produced. In addition, the Parents' Committee will be organising the Christmas Fayre from 9.30am-12.00am in the main hall, to which all children and parents are invited and, we hope, will come to enjoy themselves.

THIS IS OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR THE YEAR!!

Please come and support the Open Morning and make a note in your diaries **NOW**. There will be a variety of stalls, games for the children to play and refreshments will be on sale throughout the morning.

We always need extra helpers for this event, so if you feel you can help us on the morning by manning a stall or serving the refreshments, we would be very pleased to hear from you. A notice with more details about the Open Morning and who to contact if you can provide us with extra help, will be winging its way to you before half term. (So if you don't receive one, you may need to rummage through your child's pockets or instrument case to find it).

FREE to a good home

Russell & Russell upright mahogany piano with stool. Regularly tuned, and cared for.

To view, ring 01423 888915

HELP!

To assist our fundraising, we hold raffles at the Open Morning and also at our concerts, and we try to provide a variety raffle prizes. If you are able to help us by donating a prize, we (any member of the committee) would be very pleased to hear from you.

Also, if you have access to any 'funfair'-type of game (e.g. roll-a-penny) that you would be willing to lend to us for our Open Morning, again please get in touch - we'd like to be able to offer different types of games for the children to play this year.

A day trip to London for HASCAB and Saxism.

Having won a place to play at the finals of the National Festival of Music for Youth finals, after an outstanding performance in the regional final at Wakefield earlier in the year, the Area Band went down to London last July. Although the Band did not win their section, performing in such a prestigious hall, and listening to all the other music going on will have been a memorable and valuable experience for the players.

The effectiveness of the Music Centre in inspiring young musicians to take their music a step further was borne out by the success of the all-girls sax quartet – Saxism, who also won through to the finals in London in their class. The girls have all been in the Music Centre for some years and received a glowing report from the adjudicators: “we feel this quartet has a definite future performing and competing, and should go far.”

Well done to both groups!

How do we spend the money we raise?

As the 'PTA' of the Music Centre, the function of the Parents' Committee is to raise money and to support events held by the Centre. This year we have managed to raise sufficient to donate £1500 towards new sheet music for the ensembles. We bought a double bass to supplement the strings and a Music Centre banner to take to concerts. We also paid for the hire of the coaches down to London last July for HASCAB to perform at the Royal Festival Hall, and will continue to provide money for the hire of coaches and venues when required.

Every Saturday morning, refreshments are provided between 10.45am and 11.15am to coincide with the end of early morning groups, the start of late morning groups, and break-time for the groups that rehearse throughout the whole morning. Parents as well as children are welcome to come to this. To those who are unfamiliar with the layout of the school, the refreshment area is beside the main entrance to the school, which is at the other end of the main corridor from the hall where the Open Morning Fayre and the Christmas concerts are held.

Each week, members of the Parents' Committee man the refreshments with two additional volunteers; this additional parental help is essential for us to be able to provide the service. Along with making music, this social aspect at break-time of meeting up with friends and making new friends makes the Music Centre more fun for all our musicians.

If we do not have sufficient volunteers, members of the Parents' Committee may 'phone you to see if you can spare a couple of hours on a particular Saturday (once a term at the most), so if you are asked to help, please consider doing so - it is, after all, for the benefit of our children.

HYJO News

This Autumn there are lots of new faces in this senior jazz ensemble, including Ben Tierney, who has taken over as their new musical director. Nigel Beetles has retired after more than 12 years holding the baton, and the band plan to say "Thank you" in their own unique style at their Christmas gig later this term.

HYJO has adopted both an international and a local charity this year and hope to raise money for them before Christmas by playing in Harrogate town centre on 29th November and 13th December. More details about this will follow.

For Sale

Steck mahogany upright piano in excellent condition
£995

Phone 01423 501877 or 07949 065204

Dates for your Diary - Forthcoming Concerts

Saturday 29th November, 7.00pm; Intermediate Concert Band (ICB), Guitar Orchestra and Junior Brass will perform at St. Mark's Church.

Sunday 30th November, 3.00pm; Junior Strings, Harrogate Youth Percussion Orchestra (HYPE) and Area Band will perform at Granby School.

Saturday 6th December 7.00pm; Woodwind Choir, Intermediate Symphony Orchestra (ISO) and Harrogate and Skipton Symphony Orchestra (HASSO) will perform at St. Mark's Church.

As usual, entry is £5.00 for adults, £3.00 for concessions and children are free. If you go to more than one of the Christmas concerts, please keep the programme from the first concert and this will allow you free entry to subsequent concerts.