



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

Newsletter

October 2004

Welcome back to Music Centre for a new year of music making. We hope those are new to the Centre will enjoy coming to the Saturday morning music ensembles and will make many new friends.

OPEN MORNING and CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 20th November.

The Open Morning is held so that parents can hear the wide variety of music produced every Saturday morning: there is 'open house' for everyone to wander around the site at leisure and see what goes on in all of the different music ensembles. On the same morning, we, the Parents' Association, hold the Music Centre's Christmas Fair and invite you to come along to help us raise much-needed funds for the Music Centre. The Christmas Fair will run from 9.30am-12.00am in the main hall.

THIS IS OUR MAJOR FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR THE YEAR!!

Please come and support this event 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. In addition, this year a violin maker will be coming along to demonstrate how string instruments are made.

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 will be winging its way to you before half term with more details about the Christmas Fair and who to contact if you can provide us with extra help. (So if you don't receive one, you may need to rummage through your child's pockets or instrument case to find it).

HELP WANTED

**PIANO/KEYBOARD PLAYER, GRADE 3
LEVEL, NEEDED FOR WOODWIND
CHOIR**

**TRUMPET PLAYER, GRADE 7 OR
ABOVE, NEEDED FOR HARROGATE
YOUTH JAZZ ORCHESTRA**

PLEASE PHONE 01423 700118

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 buy several new (and expensive!) musical instruments, sets of music stands, lots of sheet music, various items of equipment needed for the ensembles, and we have also paid for coach trips and entry to competitions. This has only been possible due to the support of parents at Music Centre events, so please keep up the good work – the benefits to our children are very real!

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

- Sunday 28th November** **HYJO** at the Majestic Hotel for Ben Tierney's farewell gig ,7.30pm. (Gala tickets will be available)
- Sunday 28th November** **Area Band** Yorkshire Regional heat of the National Concert Band Festival; Whitcliff Mount High School, Cleckheaton.
- Saturday 4th December.** **Junior Brass and possibly ICB** (tbc) at the first Harrogate Christmas market. Time to be confirmed (probably late am or early pm)
- Saturday 11th December** **Area Band** at St. John's Church, Bilton. Time to be confirmed. (Gala tickets will be available)
- Sunday 12th December.** **HASSO, JS and GO** at Soothill Hall, 3.00 pm. (Gala tickets will be available)
- Saturday 22nd January-** **All ensembles** at the Gala Concert at the Harrogate International Conference Centre, 7.00pm.

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 Fair 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.

Transport for Supporters of the Area Band
If you would like to go and support the Area Band at Cleckheaton when they play at the National Concert Band Festival in November, we may be able to offer you transport on the coaches taking the band, for a nominal sum (around £5.00). Please contact Tony Elgie if you are interested (01423 501377).

Thoughts from a new recruit to the Music Centre

"Getting up on a Saturday morning isn't easy but it is worth getting up to go to music centre. The woodwind choir is a fantastic group. It is fun to play with lots of other people and it sounds great if you are listening to it. At first I played the alto sax but the group owned a tenor sax and asked me to play it, it was a really good idea from them because I get the experience of playing a bigger instrument and they get the benefit of someone else playing the base-line. I have massively improved on my saxophone since I started learning it as I think when playing in a group you get loads more practice and you get to try lots of different music. My Mum thinks it's great especially as the first term is free!" **Amy Griffiths**

GALA CONCERT

This will be held on Saturday 22nd January. This concert is held once every two years and provides a fantastic experience for the young musicians of the Music Centre to perform in the auditorium of the Harrogate International Conference Centre. All the ensembles play at this event, which gives all the children a chance to listen to the whole range of music played at the Music Centre. It is possible for them to appreciate that, at whatever level they play, from the junior groups right through to the senior ensembles, the music they make can sound interesting, exciting and also professional.

Tickets for this concert will be on sale at the Open Morning and then every Saturday morning during the refreshments time. Nearer the time of the concert, tickets will be available from the Harrogate International Conference Centre.

To assist our fundraising, we hold a raffle at this concert. We try to provide a variety raffle prizes and if you are able to help us by donating a prize, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact Catherine Bissett on 01423 548692.