



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

Newsletter

November 2006

First, a word about the Parents' Committee

Newcomers may not be aware that the Music Centre has its own PTA; the Parents' Committee. Our function is to raise money and to support events held by the Centre for the benefit of the young musicians who attend the Centre.

A major role of the Committee is to provide refreshments every Saturday morning break time and for the audiences at the various concerts. We also maintain a website and produce a (termly) Newsletter through which everyone can be kept informed of forthcoming events, concerts, competitions and other items of interest. Occasionally we are asked to place adverts for musical instruments that members of the Music Centre wish to sell.

With our fundraising we have been able to buy new 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, entry to competitions and occasional repairs to the instruments.

The Committee is now very depleted since several members left when their children went on to higher education, and our numbers will decrease further at the end of this coming year. Unless new parents volunteer, it will not be possible to provide mid-morning refreshments and there may not be funding for many of the events that are currently available to our children. We are very much hoping, therefore, that some of you will volunteer to join us. It is not very time consuming; the whole Committee meets once or twice a term during the Saturday morning rehearsals and Committee members help serve the Saturday morning refreshments a couple of times per term. By joining us, you would both support the Music Centre in providing an excellent environment for your child to develop his or her musical skills and also get to know other like-minded parents. If you would prefer not to join the Committee but are willing to help out with refreshments we would be still very grateful to hear from you. Please contact Rick Sweeney (the Chair of the Committee) on 01423 524494 if you are able to help.

A successful sponsored practice

Very many thanks to those who took part in the sponsored practice; at the time of printing we have collected £784. As a result, from a position where we were in desperate need of funds, we are now in a comfortable position to proceed with booking everything for the Gala Concert in February. Some of the young musicians have really worked hard to raise money for the centre. To thank those who took part for their effort we have decided to award prizes to the individual who raises the most money and also to the ensemble who raises the most money per person.

We would encourage anyone who has not yet handed in their money (or perhaps haven't yet completed their sponsored practices) to bring the money in as soon as possible so we can award the prizes.

Gala Concert

This will be held on Saturday February 3rd, 2007 at the Harrogate International Centre. 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 the concert are on sale every Saturday morning from 9.30 - 11.00am and also from 12.15 – 12.30 pm in the refreshments area. *We would encourage you to buy tickets from the Music Centre because the International Centre takes 20% of the ticket price if you buy tickets from their box office.* We will also be selling raffle tickets for the Gala concert at these times during the morning if you want the opportunity to win some great prizes.

Forthcoming Music Centre Concerts

Saturday 2nd December: **JS, ISO, HASSO, GO** 7.00pm at Harrogate High School Lower School Hall.

Sunday 3rd December: **JCB, ICB, AB and HYPE** 7.00pm at Harrogate High School Lower School Hall.

Sunday 17th December: **HYJO** 7.30pm at the Manhattan Club, Harrogate.

Ticket prices: £5.00 adults, £3.00 concessions, Music Centre members are free.

HYJO News

On Saturday 25th November HYJO is taking part in a Big Band night as part of the Harrogate Music for Youth concert at the Majestic Hotel. They will be sharing the evening with bands from Ashville College, Ripon Grammar School, St. John Fisher School, Rossett High School and Unisax. It promises to be a lively and entertaining evening.

On Saturday 2nd December HYJO will be helping to support the Soroptomists' Christmas Market. The band will be playing in Market Square throughout the morning and a collection will be taken in aid of the Music Centre. Please go and support them if you are shopping in Harrogate at that time.

For Sale

Straight soprano Jupiter JPS-547 Sax with hard case.
A good starter sax for someone who wants to play the soprano. £300 ono
Contact Christine on **01423 508124** or **07798 674451**

Calling all parents....

We still need help from parents who have:

Marketing experience, who could help us to be more effective at contacting potential young musicians in Harrogate and the surrounding area. With fewer young musicians joining the Music Centre we would welcome advice and expertise to help us reach our "target audience".

Muscle (!), who could lend a hand with loading and unloading the various instruments and items of equipment into and out of vans before and after concerts in which their children are taking part. This would reduce the load on the ensemble directors and those Parents' Committee members who have sufficient muscle power. A band of several volunteers for this would, therefore, be greatly appreciated.

D.I.Y. know-how, who could occasionally be asked to do simple odd jobs. This is a rare event but would save the less experienced of us a lot of time and angst!