



NEWSLETTER

Issue 33 • Summer 2024

About the Hub

The North Yorkshire Music Hub was set up in early 2012 and works in partnership with local and national arts programmes and organisations.

It's objective is to deliver the government's commitment to improving the quality of local music services and our performance is monitored by Arts Council England.

There are great opportunities to be part of the Hub and this edition contains information about how and when you can get involved in music making across the county.



Welcome to the Summer Newsletter

We hope you find this information in this newsletter useful - please let us know if there is anything else you would like to see in this quarterly update.

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Summer Issue

The summer term was full of concerts this year. Every music centre was busily engaged in performances of all kinds and we also had an amazing residential course at Giggleswick School. We also said goodbye to a number of staff who are either retiring or moving on. Stephen Price and Ralph Alder had a combined career of over 72 years for the Music Service. Ralph has been Scarborough Music Centre Manager for many years and worked for 35 years as a teacher for us and Stephen worked for 37 years. We would like to wish them a long and happy retirement.

Ian Bangay
(Head of Music Service)

Scarborough Music Centre

Scarborough Music Centre's big end of year Concert on 29th June at Westborough Church saw all the Music Centre ensembles coming together to give some fantastic performances. This was the culmination of the year's work and all ensembles played to such a high standard. We also gave out our awards at this event, including the Alex Williamson awards to the most committed student in each ensemble. There was also the Geoff Laycock Award going to the most promising member of the EASY Band, as well as the Wendy Standish String award to the most promising string player. We have been able to continue to offer free violin lessons at music centre this year and have seen around 16 children attend these and they have even performed at our summer concert. We hope to continue to offer these free lessons next year to a new batch of children. The students who attended these lessons last year have now formed a new ensemble at Music Centre called "Viva Violins!". They have been practising hard since September, and I thank Sarah Bancroft for all her hard work in this respect.

The Summer Concert was a fitting finale for Ralph Alder, the centre manager, who is retiring at the end of this term. We wish his replacement, Mrs Amanda Bond, all the best for her future in this role.



Whitby Music Centre

The summer term has been a busy and a significant one for Whitby Music Centre, and we start our round-up of the term by saying a big thank you to Bob Butterfield who is passing on the baton as Centre Manager. A well-known and popular face around the town, musicians of all ages have benefitted from Bob's expertise and encouragement for many years. However, this is a thank you, not a goodbye as Bob continues his role as woodwind teacher and conductor of the Esk Valley Wind Band and Esk Valley Big Band ensembles.

Our New Manager

We welcomed Richard Wood as the new manager of Whitby Music Centre at the start of the summer term. Richard is no stranger to North Yorkshire's ensembles; as a young trumpet player he performed with EASY band and aged 9 became the youngest-ever member of the North Yorkshire County Concert Band, performing as soloist with them on a tour of France and Jersey. He became principal cornet with the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain, won the Junior Cornet Championship of Great Britain when he was 13 and a year later won Barnardo's Champion Child for Music national competition, receiving an award presented from HRH Diana, Princess of Wales in London. Richard's experience of performing at the very

highest level as a young player will inspire the current generation of musicians at Whitby Music Centre.

Our Musicians on the Road

WMC's ensembles are some of the busiest in the county and our summer term was no exception as we performed at schools, churches and bandstands around the town and surrounding villages. Every one of our ensembles was involved in at least three performances. Our first concert of the term was at Hawsker Church and featured Whitby Trainers, Whitby Concert Band and our string ensembles, then Esk Valley Concert Band and Big Band performed at the town-wide Fish and Ships festival. Four of our ensembles performed in the fabulous setting of the Youth Hostel, next door to Whitby Abbey

and the Esk Valley Concert Band and Big Band entertained a picnic-eating audience at Grosmont Church before we rounded off the term with our final summer concert at Eskdale School which showcased the music of all our ensembles.

WMC Online

We launched a brand new website this term; we invite you to visit the site - whitbymusiccentre.co.uk - to find out more about our community of ensembles and players and to keep up to date with our news. Alongside the website we have new Facebook and Instagram pages for the latest information and photos.



Coming Soon

We open our doors for the new school year on Saturday 21 September in our usual venue, Whitby Sixth Form College, and look forward to welcoming back our current members as well as seeing some new faces. All our ensembles begin on this date at the usual times, which you can check on the website. We are starting to confirm concerts and performances for the autumn term including Christmas dates and will post these on the website as they are finalised.

We are getting ready to launch the brand new Whitby Music Centre Choir next term; we expect to rehearse on a weekday evening so that singers of all ages can get together to discover the well-documented musical, social and wellbeing benefits of choral singing and enjoy an activity that is accessible to everyone.



Skipton Music Centre

It's been a busy and successful Summer Term at Skipton Music Centre! We said goodbye and thank you to Will Osborn as he stepped down as Music Centre Manager, replaced by Isobel Mortimer who has really enjoyed getting to know all of our members and ensembles.

Our Rock Band and Music Production members teamed up for a recording session, using professional equipment to record the Rock Band playing three tracks. The students learned so much about the studio recording process, developing their performance and production skills. The finished product sounded incredibly professional – well done to all and a special thanks to our tutor Allie for organising.

We've really enjoyed welcoming some younger members along this year thanks to our partners at Rhythm Time! Charlotte, our woodwind and Rhythm Time tutor, has led a range of exciting themed sessions from 'In the Jungle' to 'On the Beach' – lots of fun with moving, singing and trying out different props and instruments.

From our newest to some of our most long-standing members – we said goodbye and thank you to our school leavers who are off on exciting adventures to university next year. We can't wait to hear what you get up to – keep playing and come back and visit us!

We enjoyed a wonderful celebration of all our members' achievements at the Summer Concert. Our Concert Band entertained us with a fabulous selection of tunes, including Leroy Anderson's

'Sandpaper Ballet' with the all-important sanding block solo played by Sam. Beginner Band whisked us off to Harry's Wonderful World while the Beginner Recorders entertained us with the EBGBs! We enjoyed a live performance of Rock Band's latest record alongside some fantastic original compositions from our Music Production students. Our Adult Recorders impressed with their musical talents and ensemble skills – a great model for our newer players.

We were delighted to hear from so many of our Beginner players, too. Congratulations to our Beginner String, Woodwind and Brass players who practised hard to perform solos, duets and group numbers confidently – they all sounded fantastic! We are really excited to see them develop their playing further next year in lessons and in Beginner Band.

We look forwards to welcoming members old and new to the centre in September! We'll be holding our Open Morning and instrumental trial sessions early in the term – spaces for beginner and more advanced players in many of our ensembles. Check our website for more details or email isobel.mortimer@northyorks.gov.uk.



Harrogate Music Centre

HMC at Knaresborough Castle

The weather this summer has been rather disappointing at times, but it did not let us down for our HMC performance at Knaresborough Castle on Sunday 23rd June! The sun came out from its hiding place and shone down on us during a wonderful afternoon of music in the beautiful grounds of Knaresborough Castle. The afternoon featured performances from Blast Off!, Youth Choir, Adult Ukuleles, Parental Guidance and HYJO as well as a debut performance from our wonderful Sound Explorers! All groups performed extremely well, and we attracted a large audience who thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon of live music in the sunshine. We'd like to thank the Parks and Environmental Services team at North Yorkshire Council for making this possible and for helping the event to run smoothly on the day.



Harrogate Music Centre

Valley Gardens Performance

The sun was not kind enough to appear for our concert at the Valley Gardens on Sunday 30th June, but that did not stop us! The rain held off and we had a fantastic afternoon listening to our String Ensemble, Concert Band, Concert Orchestra and HYPE. They drew a big crowd and raised a good sum of money to put towards instrument repairs and new resources for our ensembles. It was a great success, and we'd like to say a big thank you to all involved. We hope to return in the future!



Best of luck to our leavers!

This time of year unfortunately means we must bid farewell to our year 13 students who will be departing for University. These students have been part of the Harrogate Music Centre family for a number of years, and some have been attending music centre for over a decade! They are hoping to study in some fantastic Universities on a variety of courses and we are certain that music will continue to play a big part in their lives. They will be missed but we wish them all the very best of luck for the future!

In addition to our student leavers, we are waving goodbye to our fantastic HYJO conductor, James Heaton. James has been HYJO director for approaching

two years and the band has gone from strength to strength in that time. He will be greatly missed by all at HMC and we wish him the very best for the future.

HMC Open Morning – 28th September 2024

Harrogate Music Centre will be hosting an Open Morning on Saturday 28th September. We will be opening the doors to all our ensembles from 09:30-12:30 at St Aidan's High School and everyone is welcome to attend. We have opportunities for students and adults, whether you play an instrument already or not! For a list of ensemble rehearsal times, please visit www.harrogatemusiccentre.org.uk. We will also be holding taster sessions for brass instruments from 10:00-10:30

and woodwind instruments from 11:15-11:45. For more information and to book your place, please contact Emily.Jones@northyorks.gov.uk.

New Ensemble Alert!

New Ensemble Alert! We will be starting a new ensemble – the Harrogate Youth Rock Academy – in the Autumn Term. This group is aimed at guitar and bass guitar students from grade 1 standard and above. We will be holding the first trial session during the HMC Open Morning on Saturday 28th September and sessions will take place from 09:30-10:45. For further information and to register interest, please contact Emily.Jones@northyorks.gov.uk.

When does HMC resume?

Harrogate Music Centre will return on Saturday 14th September for our first rehearsals of the Autumn Term. We have plenty in store for the new academic year, including concerts, Christmas carolling, more Bring a Parent Days and more. Everyone at HMC would like to wish you a restful summer break and we look forward to welcoming you back in September!

Selby Music Centre

Our summer concert took place in the grand and ancient setting of St Mary the Virgin Church in Hemingbrough and we would like to thank the church wardens for allowing us to use their beautiful building. This was a new venue for us and it offered a large performing space and plenty of room for the audience, as well as slightly raised seating for the back rows of the audience, which is unusual in a church. All of our groups took part. The choir, led by Rachel Mackenzie, performed a selection of traditional and pop songs, including a song accompanied by Makaton hand signing, which is becoming a regular feature of their concert repertoire and always results in an engaging and committed performance.



The senior strings took advantage of the lovely church setting to play Pachelbel's Canon in D, which brought back happy wedding memories for some of the parents. The finale to our summer concert was a performance of The Wellerman, arranged by Rachel Mackenzie and performed by every member of the Music Centre who was able to take part in the concert, each group having their own moment to shine and the audience joining in to sing the verses, finishing each chorus with a resounding "Huh!"



The guitar group keeps on growing and going from strength to strength under the direction of Adam Greener and the folk/rock group played a range of folk and rock standards and then gave us a surprise rendition of the Doctor Who theme, which they had devised themselves. Thankfully, no daleks rolled in!

Next term, we will continue to meet in Osgodby Methodist church halls on a Saturday morning and we are looking forward to expanding the wind group and encouraging more of the players in our junior groups to stay for choir during the second half of the morning. As Christmas approaches, we hope to do some carol singing in local community settings and to hold our end of term concert in Osgodby Institute. If you would like more information about term time musical opportunities for your children aged between 6 and 18 at Selby Music Centre, please contact helen.moulds@northyorks.gov.uk.

Wider Opportunities Bands represented in Rural Schools Concert

The rural schools concert was held at the Royal Hall in Harrogate on Friday 26th April. The event was packed with choirs from schools throughout the rural area surrounding Harrogate and performers sang to a capacity audience. Apart from the choirs, there was a Ukulele ensemble and the whole class Wider Opportunities Band from Dacre Braithwaite Endowed Primary School – a school tucked away in a remote area of the Dales near Pateley Bridge.

The band represented all the children in Years four, five and six (with some absences) and they played a mixture of well known and original material, complete with choreography. They played with confidence and demonstrated their ability to perform pieces in four or more different parts, rising to the occasion splendidly. Dacre Braithwaite have represented the work of Whole Class instrumental playing every year at this concert, since it restarted after the Covid pandemic.



Playground Proms

The summer term saw 10 schools receive a Playground Proms performance as part of a project aiming to inspire pupils into learning an instrument. The performances by the strung quartet were terrific. Not only did they play a wide range of classical music but they did it whilst dancing, singing and acting. The comments from the staff and pupils were amazing:

“it was excellent, an outstanding experience. The children and staff loved every minute and were fully engaged throughout. It really served to promote live classical music and provided excellent role models for inspiring children to play string instruments.”

“I just wanted to let you know that the Playground Proms concert performed by Graffiti Classics at Kirkbymoorside School on Friday 7th June at 1.30pm, was absolutely BRILLIANT!!! We all loved it...children and teaching staff alike and from the instant they began to play, that had us all hooked!”

County Ensembles Residential

The Music Service ran a memorable residential at Giggleswick School in July. The week long course featured a new look chamber orchestra, training orchestra, choir and Big Band.

The chamber orchestra performed Beethoven’s Symphony No.1 in the second half. This was a real challenge for the orchestra, but they performed it so well, under the leadership of Ryan Watkins. The first half was capped by a superb performance of the Mendelssohn Piano Concerto No.1, given by Freddie Johnston.

Freddie is currently in Year 12 at New College, Pontefract. He passed his grade 8 on piano in 2023 at the age of 15, and at 16 gained his ARSM piano diploma with distinction. He has been successful in competing at Harrogate and Wharfedale piano festivals leading to opportunities to play masterclasses and invitations to play on the Leeds Piano Trail with support from the Leeds International Piano Competition. He is also a great tuba player, having reached Grade 8 and played with Opera North’s Youth Orchestra as well as our own North Yorkshire Youth Orchestra.



County Ensembles Residential



The Choir and Training Orchestra performed together in a concert offering a wide range of music from film to theatre, classical to modern. The choir conducted by Andrea Rhodes and Scott Senogles were small in number but produced a quality sound. We very much hope that we will be running a hub wide choir next academic year and numbers will grow.

The training orchestra conducted by Andy Novell played really well. It is encouraging to see so many younger players coming through. The orchestra was slightly bigger than last year and we hope this continues to be the case.

The Big Band performed a range of pieces from Glen Miller to the Jackson 5 and many more. It was almost entirely made up of new players. Normally the band tours Europe but this year we decided to rebuild the band and introduce more players to it. This should mean a core of about 30 to 40 players in the future.

The band was conducted by Ralph Alder, and it was a great way to say goodbye to him, after his 35 years working for the Music Service. We were joined by Matt Anderson, a former pupil who has gone on to work professionally as a saxophonist in London. He took some workshops and performed a number of solos with the band.

Next year it is our intention to tour with the full orchestra and band. For more details please contact Jane.Atkinson@northyorks.gov.uk



AMP: Sampler

We've had an exciting summer hosting AMP: Sampler sessions at the Barn and Brayton Community Centre. These FEAST funded sessions have been open to 11-16s looking to explore new musical skills. We've done DJ-ing with DJ School, songwriting, learned favourite songs on electric guitar with TRACKS, we've made graphic scores, designed t shirts and badges and written raps with NY Voice. We're looking forward to returning with these sessions in future school holidays, so watch this space at Christmas!



Little Notes



We are pleased to announce that our Little Notes series will continue from September, in four libraries across the region including Ripon, Catterick, Harrogate and Bentham. These are interactive music sessions for 0-5s and their families. We are thrilled to announce that we will be extending this programme into two more libraries, Selby and Whitby. We'll be posting the details on our social media and website in the coming month, so make sure to check back soon.

Musicians in Residency

We have two new residencies starting in SEND schools this Autumn. Each school will have a weekly visit from a music practitioner offering music sessions to regular classes and an opportunity for pupils and staff alike to get more comfortable with building music in every day!



AMP: Plugged IN

There are some exciting projects bubbling away as part of our AMP: Plugged In Delivery, including PODs centring on electronic music, working with new communities in Selby and collaborating with new and existing partners like Mediale, Pioneer Projects, Inspire Youth Yorkshire and NY Voice. Watch this space!

Sound Sense, Leeds Beckett Joint conference - Save the Date

We are so happy to announce our upcoming event, Community Music Now, in collaboration with **Sound Sense** and **Leeds Beckett University**

The two day conference will take place in Leeds on 1 & 2 March 2025, so make sure to save the date!

Stay tuned for more details on how to book your place and how to be part of the programme!

AMP Early Years and SEND music Song/Practice shares

Due to high demand, a series of song shares will be coming to venues across North Yorkshire this upcoming academic year. If you are a school/nursery/community setting and would be interested in hosting one of these events at your setting please get in touch - abby@amp-music.co.uk

Contact AMP

Sarah McWatt (she/her)

Director AMP

www.amp-music.co.uk

Call us on **01904 543382** or **07761 525709**

E-mail sarah@amp-music.co.uk

Send a letter to: **AMP, Clements Hall, Nunthorpe Road, York, YO23 1BW**

Give us a follow on:

Facebook www.facebook.com/helloampmusic

Twitter: https://twitter.com/_ampmusic_

Instagram: www.instagram.com/_ampmusic/



Get Involved

We're developing projects that you can take part in – these are just some of them:

- Continuous professional development programmes for school staff, particularly in supporting schools to deliver music in the curriculum.
- Providing an instrument loan service, with discounts or free provision for those having instrumental lessons with North Yorkshire County Music Service.
- Providing access to large scale and high quality music experiences for pupils through working with professional musicians and venues.
- You can find out more information and share examples of great partnership working in the county on our new music hub website www.northyorkshiremusichub.co.uk

If you'd like to be added to our mailing list, want to tell us about your projects, or find out more about our plans, please email: countyhall.music@northyorks.gov.uk

This publication is the quarterly newsletter from the North Yorkshire Music Hub and we are sending it to you as an interested party, partner, parent or friend.

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Buy in services

All partners involved in the hub run workshops, concerts and other bespoke musical projects for children and young people on a bought in basis. If you have a specific project that you would like to launch or just require some advice on setting up your own, our partners will be happy to discuss your needs. The following examples may be of interest:

- curriculum guidance/delivery;
- working with professional musicians;
- catering for pupils with specific SEND needs; and
- bespoke CPD.

AMP are also the signposting organisation for the hub and are happy to add your organisations details/activities to their website.

Contact us

Online: northyorks.gov.uk/contactus

By telephone: **0300 131 2 131**

Email: countyhall.music@northyorks.gov.uk

County Music Service, CYPs Business Support, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AE

Or visit our website at:

www.northyorkshiremusichub.co.uk

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