



PATRONS OF SCARBOROUGH AREA MUSIC CENTRE

Newsletter July 2015

Dear patron,

Firstly a big thank you for your continuing support of Scarborough Area Music Centre. As a patron you are helping to fund equipment and activities for our members that otherwise would not have been possible.

We are now coming to the end of my first year as Music Centre Manager, since taking over from long-serving Nigel Blenkiron back in September 2014. Nigel had been in post for many years and it has been quite daunting taking over from him. However, as you know, Nigel still works at Music Centre every Saturday sharing the directorship of EASY Jazz with myself, so he has been on hand to show me the ropes and to give me advice when needed!

There were some changes to staffing at the start of the year. Andy Firth left us to go and work at Whitby Music Centre, so JCB was shared jointly between Julie Alder and Howard Clough. Jazz Train was taken over by myself and changed from Monday evenings to Tuesday evenings.

Our academic year started back on September 4th. Our Senior Orchestra SAYSO took part in a workshop and joint concert with The Scarborough Spa Orchestra. During the afternoon the young musicians were rehearsed, coached and guided by the professional musicians then they performed together in the evening to a large audience in the Spa Main Hall. We are lucky enough to have direct links with the Spa Orchestra as husband and wife Kathy Seabrook (Flute) and Graham Quilter (Clarinet & Sax) from the Spa Orchestra have twin sons at our music centre. Adam is a talented young Trombonist and Ben a talented percussionist. Both came along to take part in the event.



On a similar note our Senior Big Band, EASY Jazz, also took part in a workshop and concert at the Spa on September 27th with professional musicians. This time it was as part of the Scarborough Jazz Festival held annually at the Spa. The morning was spent rehearsing and being coached by both Robert Fowler (Sax) and Steve Brown (Drums). Again there was an evening performance that was well received by a large audience in the Suncourt.

It's not only our senior ensembles that have been busy. Our junior Big Band, Jazz Train, performed at St Catherine's Hospice in Scarborough on 13th September to provide entertainment for walkers at the start of the "Starlight" charity walk. They went down really well and we have received some thank you letters from the Hospice who hope we can perform there again in the future. Later on in the Autumn term we had a "Winter Concert" in Ryedale, at Pickering Church on 29th November. This concert was given by our Junior and Senior Guitar Groups, our Junior String Orchestra and our Intermediate Orchestra and helped to raise money for the bus fund. December 6th saw the return of EASY Jazz Orchestra to Thornton-le-Dale to help celebrate the turning on of the villages Christmas lights. This is an annual event for the band and really helps to mark the start of the festive season. December 13th was our Gala Christmas Concert at the Spa, where all of the 11 Music Centre ensembles performed. This is our most popular event and saw a finale consisting of all our young musicians performing together a specially commissioned medley of Christmas songs arranged specially for us by local arranger and band leader Mr Dave Clegg. There were fireworks and streamers galore at the end!



The spring term was yet another very busy term at Scarborough Area Music Centre. On 27th February both our junior and senior jazz orchestras (Jazz Train and EASY Jazz) were involved jointly in a concert at Snainton village hall. The hall was packed with standing room only and the people of Snainton gave us a very warm reception. On 6th March our Junior Strings, Intermediate Orchestra and Junior Guitar Ensemble took part in a charity concert in aid of the charity SASH (Safe And Sound Homes) who provide safe shelter in volunteers' home for young homeless people. On 7th March we had our 31st Boyes Celebrity Concert which involved BIG, Junior Concert Band, Easy Concert Band, Jazz Train and Easy Jazz Orchestra. This event has been sponsored for 31 years now by Boyes department stores and the Boyes family. This year we had the New York Brass Band, an 8-strong brass/sax outfit who gave such youthful inspiration to all of the kids. One of the NYBB is an ex-Scarborough Music Centre member, Laurence Marshall, who is now in his final year at Leeds College of Music. Their set at the start of the concert was both expertly performed but with so much energy and enthusiasm. The second half saw the music centre ensembles perform, with members of the guest band playing alongside. The finale pieces of "A Message to You Rudy" and "The Conga" saw the guests and the all the music centre kids weaving their way around the tables of the audience whilst playing!!

On 8th March Easy Jazz Orchestra travelled north to Sunderland to take part in the Great North Big Band Festival. The band got to hear many other youth big bands from across the north of England and played extremely well. They finished their set with a specially commissioned arrangement of Bruno Mars and Mark Ronson's "Uptown Funk" which went down a storm. Matthew Harvey, the Baritone Saxophonist in Easy Jazz, picked an adjudicators award for "outstanding contribution to the band's performance in all areas"

The term ended with SAYSO and Ebony at Westborough Church on March 21st. Both ensembles provided an entertaining programme based on the theme of "Music from the films". We would like to thank Stan Jackson (headteacher of Northstead School) for a wonderful job as Compere as well as Narrator for Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf". This concert also gave us the opportunity so say a sad farewell to Wendy Standish who has been a Musical Director at SAMC for over 25 years. Wendy still works for the Music Service, now as one of the core team teachers, so relinquished her role as Musical Director of Intermediate Orchestra. I am pleased to announce that her baton was taken up by Sophie Martin. Sophie is an ex music centre member herself, and has recently left the army, where she was an Army musician. On March 25th some members from BIG went to Leeds Town Hall to take part in a Gala concert with other musicians from across our county.



The Summer Term started with a fantastic workshop, master class and performance for the two Guitar ensembles on 25th April. Richard Saffhill from the Aquarelle Guitar Quartet worked with the guitar ensembles all morning and then there was a brief performance to parents at the end. On 28th June the Senior Guitars performed at "The Orangery" at Sewerby Hall, Bridlington as part of the halls 2015 concert programme. This wonderful setting saw the group perform to a receptive audience, and their programme was executed with meticulous precision and professionalism.

There were two very successful concerts at Westborough Church on both June 27th and July 4th which marked the end of the year for us in a very nice way. We would like to take this opportunity to say a fond farewell to all our students who are off to university this year and wish you good luck with all your future studies. We would also like to say a fond farewell to Graham Tacon who is leaving us after many years directing our junior guitar ensemble. He has worked tirelessly for this ensemble and we are sad to see him go. His successor, Mr Adam Carpenter, will be taking over from Graham in September.

We will be reinstating a Choir at Scarborough Music Centre called "EASY Voices". This will start in September and will be directed by Amanda Wademan. It is designed for children of all ages who have an interest in singing, and not just those having singing lessons. Following on from our successful taster session on 9th June, we hope to see this new ensemble grow and develop over the coming months. Their repertoire will include everything from Classical to pop and show tunes, and will rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 7.00—8.30pm at Scarborough 6th Form College.