



Music for the Many

News



(Photo by Eloise Butler)

Newsletter 3

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email: music4themany@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page.

Our aim is to bring equal opportunities back into music education by offering every child a chance to study an instrument, in school, for free.

A happy and musical 2019 to all our friends, students and supporters! This February will see the first anniversary of Music for the Many, and it's hard to believe that we've only been going for one year. Many of the children who are learning with us would probably never have had the opportunity for the kind of intensive music tuition that we offer – and they're loving it!

News

The last few months of 2018 saw plenty of musical activity. Our wonderful **M4M choir**, including children from Castle Hill, Ferney Lee, National, St. Josephs, and Todmorden High School, came back together to perform in a beautiful concert with 'the Greyhounds' at the Fielden Centre, followed by a performance at the Town Hall as part of Todmorden Book Festival. The young singers were incredibly confident and professional in front of such a large crowd, and every single member of the choir can be truly proud of such a remarkable achievement after just a few rehearsals.



The M4M choir in concert
(Photo by Eloise Butler)

In school, lessons continued through the hectic weeks before the Christmas holidays, with children learning festive tunes to play for families and friends, and a concert performance of Christmas music by M4M pupils at St. Josephs. It was particularly inspiring to hear our young musicians accompanying each other sympathetically on different instruments.

Upcoming events

We've got some great fundraising concerts coming up, so come and support the project and enjoy the performances of these professional artists who are sharing their love of music to help our children.

The **Hillary Step Saxophone Quartet** will be playing at the Fielden Centre on **Sunday 3rd February**, in the afternoon, playing classical, jazz and all sorts of music in a relaxed family atmosphere. Tickets are £7 (£5 concessions) but entry is free for our pupils and families (with optional donations, of course!). There will be our usual pay-as-you-feel bar with hot and cold drinks and lovely cakes.

The inimitable **Mr Wilson's Second Liners** (including our very own woodwind tutor, Will Lenton) will perform a fundraising event for us at the Trades Club in Hebden Bridge, on **Saturday 23rd February**. (You've probably heard them, even if you haven't heard *of* them – they're the band that wear the funny outfits at the Lamplighter Parade.) Their events are hugely popular and this one is already sold out!



Endangered Instruments Project

We hear a lot about endangered animals, but musical instruments can be endangered too! Some instruments, though essential in much of the music we love to listen to, are not often chosen by learners. Music for the Many is doing its bit to keep these instruments alive.

The **cello** is not always considered endangered, but here in the whole of Calderdale very few children were learning, until M4M's cello project began. Cellos were donated, or bought second-hand and reconditioned in our 'workshop' (Daniel's cellar), and we now have 7 children learning with our inspirational new tutor, Helen Thatcher.



One of our cello lessons in Ferney Lee's new music room

Bassoons are large, expensive, and often seen as difficult to play.

However, Todmorden High School just happened to have one in the cupboard...! The high school has generously agreed to lend it to us, and Diana Monahan, an expert bassoonist and instrumental tutor, is going to come in and teach one of our woodwind students to play it.

We're looking at ways to get other endangered instruments into the hands of our young musicians, so if anyone out there has a spare oboe or french horn lying in a cupboard, we can find it a whole new life.

The **trombone** is another very important instrument that is not chosen as often as it deserves. We're lucky enough to have Joe Brown, a brilliant trombonist, coming to Ferney Lee soon to give a masterclass to our trombone pupils.

Breaking down barriers to learning

The Musicians' Union has just produced an important report which demonstrates with clear facts and figures what we already knew from experience. Children from lower income families are much less likely to have access to instrumental tuition, but are no less eager or able to play. Music for the Many is pioneering a model for making sure that high quality tuition is available to all, without barriers, and every single donation, big or small, is helping this ground-breaking work to continue and to grow. So **thank you!**

