



A very happy and musical new year to all our supporters!  
A lot has happened aboard HMS M4M since our last newsletter.

We were delighted to welcome back our inspirational soprano friend, Nicola Mills, on 4<sup>th</sup> October for *Opera for the People*, a spellbinding evening of arias and popular classics at the Fielden Centre. Accompaniment was provided by the professional strings of the M4M micro orchestra who kicked off the evening with Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* Overture. Nicola enchanted us all with the music of Handel, Verdi, Puccini, Mozart, Dvorak, Elvis and Queen, interspersed with some fascinating and moving anecdotes from her own international career. She also gave us a sneak preview of her new touring Julie Andrews show, *A Spoonful of Julie*, which comes to Hebden Bridge on 7<sup>th</sup> March.



### **Christmas music**

December was an especially busy and Christmassy time for Music for the Many, with the amount of requests for our wonderful young musicians to give performances, turning it into a mini concert tour of Todmorden, playing the music we've learned and raising money for our work. This began on 5<sup>th</sup> December with a concert at the enchanting Todmorden Unitarian Church (pictured above) with our friends and supporters, 3 Valleys Gospel Choir. We wrapped up well and showed that you can play the cello with a furry coat on.

On 13<sup>th</sup> December, we joined the exciting new choir, Vocal Highs, directed by our friend Ailsa Nicholson, at the Fielden Centre for an evening of festive fun, including *Caroloke* (sing-along carols chosen by the audience), fundraising cake, and, for the first time, the inclusion of a French Horn in the M4M children's orchestra. (For those of us who know how few French Horn pupils exist these days, this is an extremely exciting moment!). The following day, 14<sup>th</sup> December, saw our pupils playing alongside the legendary Todmorden Choral Society at Central Methodist Church, which made us feel properly part of Todmorden's formidable musical traditions.

19<sup>th</sup> December was our end-of-term concert at St. Joseph's, which each term becomes more epic in proportion as more children take up more instruments and become more able to play. Finally, on 20<sup>th</sup> December, we joined the children of Ferney Lee School in their Christingle service at St. Mary's, ending with a beautiful rendition of In the Bleak Midwinter accompanied by our pupils on cello, violin and guitar.

### **Concert series**

It is important to M4M that we reflect the dazzling diversity of musical culture and 17<sup>th</sup> January's fundraising concert was given by Manouche North, a quartet of violin, cello, guitar and clarinet, who play an irresistible combination of gypsy jazz and klezmer from the European Jewish tradition with effortless virtuosity and style. Stephen the violinist and Vernon the guitarist very kindly came into school before the gig for a workshop with our pupils, who joined the band in the evening to play *Ale Brier*, a traditional Yiddish song to a jam-packed Fielden Hall.



Our children are currently busy learning to play some Punjabi qawali and Bengali song in preparation for our next concert which will be given by the world-famous tabla player and star of Indian Classical Music, Shahbaz Hussain. Shahbaz and the children will also be joined by players from the Yorkshire Bollywood Orchestra. The concert on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February starts at 7pm at Ferney Lee School**. This will be an unmissable event, and there'll be samosas!

Our fundraising concert on **8<sup>th</sup> March at Fielden Hall** will be given by local celebrities, Mr. Wilson's Second Liners. We're very fortunate to have them here because they are in such serious demand to play for big events all over Europe in festivals and football stadia with their unique blend of 1990's Manchester dance music and New Orleans parade. This one's going to get you dancing like never before!



### **Fundraising**

Mayor Ken White has been tireless in his fundraising for M4M, with discos, quizzes, the Christmas lights switch-on, etc. and the mayor's big fundraising day of music, drama, dance and art will be at **Todmorden Town Hall on 18<sup>th</sup> April**, afternoon and evening and will feature our pupils.

Remember, you can donate online at <https://www.justgiving.com/musicforthemany> It's only with your help that we can do what we do. You can give regularly with an amount as little as £2 per month.