



Music for the Many is now well into our third year. So, first of all a huge "Thank you!" and "Congratulations!" to all of you parents, teachers, children, supporters and musicians who continue, with your support, financial and otherwise, to help this musical dream for our children to come true .

After a very lively start to 2020, welcoming lots of new pupils and presenting performances from some stunning and diverse artists, two weeks into March everything suddenly came to a halt. Since then our schools, families, tutors and trustees have all been working hard to adjust to life in Todmorden under lockdown. We are currently trying to connect and engage creatively with as many of our M4M families as possible to make sure that musical opportunities are still available to all our children even though our usual school-based work and professional concerts cannot happen.

Cultural diversity is very important to us, as this is a treasure of great artistic and creative potential in Todmorden and it makes our community especially strong. Following January's klezmer-themed concert from **Manouche North**, featuring songs from Jewish traditions, February's fundraising concert embraced the theme of South Asian music.

Our friend and supporter, **Shahbaz Hussain**, widely acknowledged to be one of Europe's finest tabla players, came to give a recital at Ferney Lee School. This very special evening began with some Indian classical music and a fascinating demonstration from Shahbaz about the rhythms of the tabla, including some astonishingly virtuoso playing. He was then joined by some of our own M4M pupils who played their instruments (tabla, cello, violin,



trumpet, guitar) and sang some Urdu-language Qawali by Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. After an interval of aloo tikka, samosas and other delicious Punjabi treats, made and provided by our community, we welcomed the inspirational young singer, **Imaan Lone** and the string players of the **Yorkshire Bollywood Orchestra** (including a couple of our M4M tutors) for some very beautiful and heart-warming renditions of Bollywood film songs. By the end, the whole room was either singing along, clapping, dancing or all three.



Our final fundraising concert before lockdown was given by **Mr. Wilson's Second Liners** at Fielden Hall on 8th March. Well-known for their high-energy performances at festivals all over Europe and a favourite half-time entertainment at premier league football matches, the Second Liners got Todmorden raving with their unique renditions of 1990's club classics, from the likes of Happy Mondays, New Order and Soul II Soul, all played in the manner of a New Orleans parade band. They gave a very warm welcome to our

pupils who had been practising these songs to play with Mr. Wilson's, taking many delighted parents back to their teenage years. We even managed a big parade, playing all the way across the park to the Bandstand, before hurrying back to Fielden Hall when the heavens opened.

This event set a new fundraising record for us, bringing in £990 in donations, thanks not least to the relentless bucket-shaking of our tutors Emily and Jack.

May marked the end of Cllr. **Ken White's** year as mayor of Todmorden. He has worked tirelessly all year to raise money for Music for the Many, through charity events, quiz night, DJing under his stage name, **Disco Betty**, and through the collection tin chained to the bar at the Golden



Lion, whose landlady, Gig, is also a loyal supporter of ours. Sadly, the final big M4M charity concert of Ken's mayoralship had to be postponed until further notice due to the pandemic. In spite of this, a newly bearded Ken was able to hand over, at arm's length, a total of £1,400 raised to help us offer Todmorden's children equal musical opportunities. Thank you Ken! You are a star!



Whilst the schools are closed, our tutors have continued to offer our pupils instrumental lessons online via Zoom. Please get in touch, if you haven't done already, if you would like your children to receive online instrumental lessons. We are adapting to each new challenge, keeping our focus on the provision of instrumental tuition and musical opportunities. Follow our facebook page to keep up to date and keep in touch. Email us at music4themany@gmail.com

Finally, we say another extremely large "Thank you!" to **Sonya Moorhead**, one of our founding trustees, who has recently stepped down from this role. Sonya is a huge and vital part of the M4M story, not just as a trustee, but as a performer, parent, fundraiser and source of much help and kindness, whose tea and cakes have fuelled many a lengthy board meeting.

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.