

## Newsletter no. 8 October 2020

Music for the Many is a registered charity no. 1185526



**Music for the Many** has been back in school this term, catching up with all our musical friends in real life, socially-distanced, of course. It has been very encouraging to hear some great progress from pupils who have been practising during the lockdown. (You can see some of them playing at home in the picture above). Having a musical instrument at home during the pandemic is a really good way of staying creative and focussed and expressing ourselves beyond words. Our pupils can do this because of your kind donations of funds and instruments, which, even in these difficult times, have still kept coming in. Thank you!

We are also amazed and impressed at how carefully all our schools have accommodated instrumental lessons whilst keeping us all safe. What a wonderful team!



Our usual series of fundraising concerts has stopped for the time being, but, after a bit of scratching of musicians' heads, we've come up with a new covid-secure way for performers to show their support for our children and to keep Todmorden entertained with lovely live music. One of our great supporters and M4M parent,

Sonya Moorhead, has gathered together many of our professional musical colleagues to make the outdoor concert

series, **Live at the Market**. Every Saturday afternoon 12 – 1pm outside Todmorden Market Hall, as you get your week's groceries, you can hear these stars play, find out more about our work and, of course, make a donation. So far we've heard Todmorden's own Andrew and Kathy Kim of Thingumajig Theatre in the sunshine and the smooooth saxophone of Paddy Higginson in the rain (M4M umbrellas provided).

Forthcoming gigs include superstars, such as celebrated jazz pianist, John Ellis, our very special operatic friend, Nicola Mills and the



spellbinding traditional Irish piper, Ellen McGovern. There'll also be a very seasonal festive contribution on 19<sup>th</sup> December. Here at M4M, Christmas is definitely going to be celebrated!

Remember, if you do come to listen, stay in your household groups, keep 2 metres apart, enjoy the music, and, if you can, give us a donation.

Thank you, musicians! Thank you, Sonya! Thank you, market traders! Thank you, people of Todmorden! You will find the full listings overleaf.

## #M4MCREATE



Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND We are *very* excited to announce that we have been successful in our recent application to **Arts Council England** for project funding. This is the first time that Music for the Many has been granted public funding, and is a great recognition of the groundbreaking work we have built up as a community over the past three years.

We will be using the current restrictions on public gatherings, ensemble playing and singing as an opportunity to explore different ways of making and sharing our music, working with specialist visiting artists.



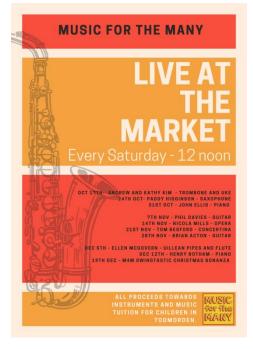
For the first part of the project, from now until Christmas, we will be making some new songs, with words and music composed by our pupils, responding to the theme of "life during the pandemic". In collaboration with chamber music specialist, **Ellie Boney** and musical sign language specialist **Amy-Rose Atkinson** from Music and the Deaf, we will be recording the songs with BSL videos to share online. *If you would like to contribute some original song words for us to use, please send them to* music4themany(agmail.com



From January to April 2021, we will also be working with brilliant young Punjabi sufi singer and friend of M4M, **Imaan Lone**, exploring the meditative and healing aspects of South Asian music; and with international percussionist and circus musician, **David Insua-Cao**, making outdoor music.



## Dates for your diary:



outside Todmorden Market Hall 12-1pm on Saturdays (please keep in household groups and observe social distancing)

31<sup>st</sup> October – John Ellis (piano)

7<sup>th</sup> November – Phil Davis (guitar)

- 14<sup>th</sup> November- Nicola Mills (opera)
- 21<sup>st</sup> November Tom Besford (concertina)
- 28<sup>th</sup> November Brian Acton (singer)

5<sup>th</sup> December – Ellen McGovern (uillean pipes) 12<sup>th</sup> December- Henry Botham (New Orleans piano) 19<sup>th</sup> December - M4M Swingtastic Christmas Bonanza

Remember, you can donate online at <u>https://localgiving.org/charity/musicforthemany</u> 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.