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## Newsletter no. 12

### May 2022

Music for the Many is a registered charity no. 1185526

We've got lots to tell you about some very exciting future plans and projects which are already underway, but first let's have a look at what's been happening so far this year in the world of Music for the Many.

Amongst all the diverse events and activities which we present, support and get involved with, our core work every week is the **instrumental tuition** we deliver. Currently we work with **97 instrumental pupils** each week in our three schools on 11 different



instruments. We encourage some pupils to study instruments which have been neglected in recent years by mainstream music education, and we are very pleased to say that we now have 3 French horn pupils and 5 tabla pupils.



This year we have a focus on developing ensemble skills and so, in addition to the essential individual work which all our pupils get, we have been teaching some lessons in groups of mixed instruments. Pupils have been learning to accompany each other, to harmonise with other instruments and to arrange, rehearse and perform together.



All this has led to the **Music for the Many Orchestra**

performing at two public events last term. In March we provided live entertainment for Tod College's open day, where we were able to enjoy playing on the huge stage of the newly refurbished hall, complete with its grand old Bluthner piano, which was a special treat for our keyboard pupils to play. On April 1<sup>st</sup> our pupils performed at Fielden Hall, where they were joined by the professional jazz rhythm section of the The Daniel Bath trio.

Highlights included our reggae

rendition of What Shall We Do with the Drunken Sailor with a hearty helping of tablas, a beautifully brave solo recorder performance of the Skye Boat Song by Lubaba and a very groovy Canteloupe Island by Reuben on Saxophone.



March also saw Music for the Many's first ever **ABRSM exam entries**. Zishan and Nina both took grade 1 violin and both passed with merit. Well done you two! More of our pupils have decided to take exams in July. We'll let you know how they get on. Practical exam fees are part of the expense of music education which your donations help to pay. So, thank you!

January saw the relaunch of our **fundraising concert series**, which had been interrupted for nearly 2 years by the pandemic. We were honoured to welcome *Alice Jones*, superstar of the British folk scene, who held the packed-out Fielden Hall spellbound with ballads of old Yorkshire accompanied on harmonium and some scintillating Appalachian step dancing.

February's concert was the return visit of *Manouche North* which was another full house enlivened this time by some infectiously feelgood gypsy jazz in the style of the Hot Club of France.

Unfortunately *Red Hippo*, who were due to play on 1<sup>st</sup> April, were struck down with covid and so the concert was hastily reorganised with *The Daniel Bath Trio* playing some beautiful jazz. Daniel on piano was joined by two good friends of Music for the Many: Adam Medlock on bass and David Insua-Cao on drums. We look forward to welcoming *Red Hippo* to play before not-too-long.



**Our next fundraising concert** will be on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 at Fielden Hall**. This will be a very special recital given by one of Britain's finest classical guitarists, *Robin Hill*, whose long and illustrious career has spanned Wigmore Hall recitals, concerto performances with The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and BBC Concert Orchestra and sessions with Deep Purple. Our young guitarists are very excited to be playing alongside Robin for a few pieces in this concert. [Book your tickets in advance.](#)

Another innovative project we have launched recently is **Todmorden Festival of Nasheeds**. Nasheeds are devotional poems and songs from Islamic traditions and are very popular and commonly performed in our muslim communities in English, Arabic, Urdu, Bangla and other languages. This initiative has gathered momentum during Ramadan and Eid, thanks to the enthusiasm of the community of Todmorden's Hamza Mosque, and the collaboration of Parkinson Lane School, Halifax. Young people from our mosque performed nasheeds at the community iftar in Todmorden Town Hall on 22nd April, much to the delight of all present. The project will culminate in a live event on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 2pm at Tod College**, with performance by our young people from Todmorden and visiting musicians from Halifax and Feversham Academy in Bradford. Admission is by donation in aid of Music for the Many and White Pearl Foundation, which is a muslim humanitarian aid charity based in Todmorden.



M4M's artistic director, Daniel Bath and Katrina Heath of Story Magic Theatre are currently writing a new work of music and drama commissioned by Friends of Centre Vale Park and funded by Arts Council England in celebration of **the Queen's platinum jubilee**. The new work will be a celebration of the past 70 years of Todmorden's history, including reminiscences gathered from members of the local community, especially in collaboration with Age Concern. The event will be a community picnic in Centre Vale Park on **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June**, at which the new work will be performed by children and young people from all of Todmorden's schools and adult volunteers from Todmorden's community music groups, such as Todmorden Community Brass Band Todmorden Choral Society.

**Special fundraising thanks** go to *Platform One Gallery* for raising a splendid £600 for Music for the Many. Next time you're at Todmorden Station, make sure you visit this wonderful gallery displaying the work of local artists. Thanks also to *Roomfield Baptist Church* which has announced Music for the Many as their local charity for this year.

Donate at [www.justgiving.com/musicforthemany](http://www.justgiving.com/musicforthemany) or at [www.localgiving.org/charity/musicforthemany/](http://www.localgiving.org/charity/musicforthemany/) or you can get in touch with us at [music4themany@gmail.com](mailto:music4themany@gmail.com) **Thanks for all your support!**