



[donate here](#)



Newsletter no. 14

January 2023

Music for the Many is a registered charity no. 1185526



The Summer holidays brought new musical opportunities to our families in our first family fun day, "**Come And Join In!**" Lots of families from near and far gathered in the beautiful grounds of Todmorden Unitarian Church to have a go at playing all sorts of instruments with the help of our tutors and the volunteer musicians of Fantasy Orchestra. New musical interests were sparked and long-held ambitions were realised by children and adults alike. The day culminated in a dazzling performance



by the **Fantasy Orchestra**, who invited us all to join in and finished with a tambourine disco fiesta to Lionel Richie's All Night Long. (Thanks to Nicky for donating the tambourines!)



The current series of M4M fundraising concerts at Fielden Hall started on 14th October with a delightfully entertaining and musically stunning gig by **Red Hippo**. This unusual trio of Simon Chantler (violin), Daz Jones (sousaphone) and Peadar Long (saxophones, bass clarinet, Irish whistle and bagpipes) spun improbable yarns of charming melody, infectious rhythm and chaotic

improvisation in a performance which left the audience elated. It was especially lovely to welcome so many of our M4M families to the concert. Peadar, who also composes the trio's music, called in on our afterschool orchestra practice at Ferney Lee School a few days beforehand to teach our young musicians two of Red Hippo's pieces, so that they could perform with the band for the finale of each half of the concert.

November's concert saw our good friend and supporter **Amy-Rose Atkinson** and her Band give a lovely performance of her own brilliant songs, steeped in tradition and brimming with the colour, emotion and exuberance of gospel, folk and jazz. There were also special guest spots from Calder Valley musical legends Roy Atkinson and Miss Airedale. We are very blessed with so many musical friends who join our campaign for equal opportunities. Also in November **The Hepton Singers** donated the door takings from their performance of Northern European Choral music at Todmorden Methodist Church to Music for the Many.



This academic year we are focussing much of our effort on developing orchestral and other ensemble playing. This is a great way to develop our young people's listening, reading and general musicianship and to celebrate the social power of music to build communities. A new initiative launched in the Autumn term was the CBSO (**Complete Beginners' Symphony Orchestra**). In order to give our children a more immersive, contextualised experience of learning instruments we have designed a new method of learning to play from scratch in an orchestra. From the very first rehearsal the 20 children, helped by 4 tutors, are sitting in the orchestra with their instruments



(flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, violin, viola and cello), reading music and learning by playing very excerpts from classical orchestral repertoire, with parts very carefully arranged to be accessible to everyone. Our brave pioneers in the scheme are years 4 and 5 in **Todmorden C of E School** and, venturing for the first time outside Todmorden, **Beech Hill School**, Halifax. We've explored music by Brahms, Beethoven, Vivaldi and some Christmas music. Extra thanks go to Tamsin Curror of Todmorden Orchestra for making a special guest appearance as our solo clarinettist for our end-of-term festive performance with the CBSO at Todmorden C of E School.

Our M4M **2022 Christmas Song Festival** saw some imaginative new compositions from Todmorden's young musicians, including the weird festive earworm, Christmas Bean Juice by year 5 at Cornholme School, which became somewhat of an internet sensation, and the beautifully wistful Once, Long Ago by Sophia, given an inspirational performance by Ferney Lee School Choir in their end-of-term concert. You can hear the new songs here: (it's never too late to donate to our Xmas fundraiser!) <http://music4themanym.com/m4m-christmas-song-festival-2022/>

We are very pleased to announce that, thanks to a successful joint application to **Calderdale Cultural Fund**, we have secured a grant for 3 years' project work with **Todmorden Orchestra**, through which we will offer many more musical experiences for our families for the whole community. The first part of this project will be Todmorden Orchestra's family concert on 21st January, when some of our pupils will be joining the Orchestra in 2 pieces from their programme. There will also be engagement workshops with year 5 classes at Shade and Ferney Lee schools, who will also be taking part in the concert.

The long-term aim of the project is to establish a permanent **Todmorden Youth Orchestra**.

Forthcoming fundraising concerts...

Fridays at 7.30pm at Fielden Hall. Ewood Lane, Todmorden OL147DD.

Admission by donation. Pay-as-you-can refreshments.



27th January

Celloship of the String

Chamber music from Margit van der Zwan and Manchester's brilliant new cello quartet

24th February 2023

Beware of Trains

Soprano Marie Claire Breen and pianist Leighton Jones give colourful renditions of classical arias and cabaret songs.



24th March 2023

Kirsty Newton

Singalong fun and comedy for all the family



Donate at www.justgiving.com/musicforthemany or at www.localgiving.org/charity/musicforthemany/ or you can get in touch with us at music4themanym@gmail.com **Thanks for all your support!**