

Suffolk County Music Service
Our Ref: BCMS/Newsletter/Summer 2017
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To: All BSECMS members, and their Parents/Carers

Bury St Edmunds County Music School Newsletter

Welcome back and summer term dates

Welcome back to the new term: we hope you have all had a lovely Easter holiday. We wish any new members joining our programme of activities for the first time a particularly warm welcome.

There will be nine sessions this term. You are reminded that there will be no Saturday morning Music School on Saturdays 27 May and 3 June (half-term week).

Term ends on Saturday 1 July when we will be holding an end of year concert, in All Saints Church, Bury St Edmunds. Further details will be available later in the term.

Attendance, absence, and emergency arrangements

Members unexpectedly unable to attend any session are asked to let us know, in advance if possible, by leaving a message on the West Suffolk Music Centre answerphone: 01284 723105 or by emailing county.musicsservice@suffolk.gov.uk (emails are accessed Monday-Friday until 5.30pm).

Punctuality is very important for our Suffolk Youth Music (SYM) group activities and we would like to be able to start all sessions at their advertised times and with all members present. There is always lots to do, especially with our end-of-year summer sharings and concerts coming up at the end of term, and whilst it is understandable that there will be some absences from week to week, we do ask to be informed of these in advance where possible.

In the event of an unexpected closure of any of our activities we will do our best to get this information to you. Where possible, announcements will be made on the Suffolk County Council website (www.suffolk.gov.uk), on BBC Radio Suffolk (103.9, 104.6, 95.5 and 95.9 FM), and our social media channels (see overleaf).

BSECMS open morning: 25 March 2017

This was an excellent opportunity to celebrate the culmination of our spring term's work at Bury St Edmunds County Music School. There was a good crowd of parents and family represented to hear the musical mix on offer. Very entertaining performances were provided by all the ensembles involved, from Cygnet Strings and 5-note Band through to Improvisation Group, Junior and Senior Strings, Choir and Orchestra. West Suffolk Youth Guitar Ensemble also took part in the morning. It is always good to see the outcomes of the work that takes place at our activities.

Thank you to the *Friends of Bury St Edmunds County Music School* for organising refreshments.

BSECMS end of summer term concert

Our summer concert will be held on Saturday 1 July in All Saints Church, Bury St Edmunds, beginning at 10.30am. Concert tickets: £5.00 (student/child no charge) will be available from Northgate Arts Centre and will be allocated upon receipt of a ticket booking form. Please note that in the first instance tickets will be limited to four per family.

All members of music school will be taking part, so please put the date in your diary now. Final arrangements for the concert will be sent out shortly with Parental Consent and Ticket Booking forms, both of which will require returning within the specified timescale.

Suffolk County Music Service (SCMS) Exams Summer 2017

Our SCMS summer examination session will take place on Saturday 8 July. Parents/Carers are reminded that the last date for receipt of examination entry forms at Northgate Arts Centre is Monday 15 May. Your child's SCMS tutor will have spoken with your child already if they would like them to take an instrumental music exam and should have already handed them an entry form. Only if the Saturday sessions are oversubscribed will we look to hold additional sessions on Tuesday 4 and Friday 7 July. To guarantee an examination during this session please make sure that your child is available on Saturday 8 July.

Membership

Please note that it is a requirement of membership that a completed, signed form for each member is returned to us at the start of each term, whether or not a fee is to be paid, in order that we can ensure our records are accurate and up to date. This is particularly important should we need to contact you in the event of an emergency, for example. If you have not already returned your membership form, we must receive this from you within the next week.

New members should speak to a member of staff to ensure they have the correct membership form and ask their parent/carer to complete and sign both sides and return it to the address shown as soon as possible.

All membership forms should be sent to Northgate Arts Centre at the address overleaf.

Registration and fire drills

It is essential that all members and parents/carers sign in, AND out if leaving before 12.00 noon, so that we know exactly who needs to be accounted for in the event of an emergency. It has come to our attention that some members and their parents/carers have been unsure about, or have not followed, the correct process.

BSECMS members routinely register at the sign in desks, situated in the main entrance to the Performing Arts Block. Please remember that members are not permitted to sign anyone other than themselves in and out on the register.

A Fire Drill will be held at some point this term. Please familiarise yourself with the emergency evacuation procedures and make sure you know which member of staff you need to register with in the event of an emergency. If you are unsure about how the registration or Fire Drill process works, please speak to a member of staff who will be happy to explain.

Safeguarding, housekeeping and practical arrangements

The Library in the adjacent building to the Performing Arts Block is open on Saturday mornings and parents/carers are very welcome to wait there while their child is involved in activities. The *Friends of Bury St Edmunds County Music School* operate a fundraising coffee bar all morning and there is internet access available, so why not find a quiet corner to relax with a cuppa while your child is occupied? Please see Mr Waters, Tutor in Charge, if you require the log-in codes for wi-fi access. You are reminded that, in the interest of child protection and safety, parents may only wait in the Library, and not in the corridors around the Performing Arts Block. Of course, parents do not need to stay in the building during the sessions – members can be left and collected at the end of the session/morning.

A gentle reminder to parents/carers to ensure we are in receipt of any important **medical information** about your child. Please ensure that we receive this information in writing as soon as possible.

Friends information

The *Friends of Bury St Edmunds County Music School* continue to work hard to support our activities, both on Friday evenings and Saturdays by providing tuck and refreshments, and by providing support and catering for Suffolk Youth Music activities. All profits are used towards providing 'extras' for us, such as workshops, outings, and, occasionally, equipment. We are very grateful for the help the Friends provide and we welcome any more volunteers who are able to give up the occasional Friday or Saturday for tuck shop duty. We urgently need to add to our list of volunteers as increasingly there may be occasions where we will be unable to run the Tuck Shop on a Saturday morning. The Friends website www.friendsofbcms.org.uk provides additional information about their activities.

Contacts

Please speak with Mr Waters, Tutor in Charge, should you require further information on any of these matters. Alternatively, contact Mrs Helen Simms, Senior Manager by email to **county.musicservice@suffolk.gov.uk**

Information regarding the full programme of Suffolk Youth Music activities and events can be found on our website **www.suffolkmusic.co.uk**, where you will also find news and updates about the work of the Suffolk Music Education Hub and the Suffolk County Music Service. You may also consider following us on social media, where we share photographs, news and updates about music making in Suffolk and beyond.



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