

Suffolk County Music Service
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To: All WSYM Members, and their Parents/Carers

West Suffolk Youth Music Newsletter

Welcome Back

Welcome back to all WSYM members. We extend a particularly warm welcome to those who, having now spent the first few weeks of term experiencing an ensemble for the first time, have decided to join us as a full member of that ensemble. There will be 11 sessions this term. You are reminded that there will be no Friday evening rehearsal on 21 October (County Ensemble auditions) and 28 October (Autumn Half-Term holiday). The final session for this term will take place in the week beginning 5 December when we will be hosting our usual end of term concerts for all ensembles (see below for details).

Membership

Don't forget that 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 are given a membership form, and ask their parent/carer to complete and sign both sides.

All membership forms should be sent to Northgate Arts Centre at our address below.

Progression and Transition

Some ensemble members may be invited to transfer to the next level of ensemble playing, whilst you may have had some communication with your ensemble conductor, or Tutor in Charge of the programme prior to the summer break regarding these moves, we would ask for your co-operation during this half term as we organise and facilitate the transfer of members within all ensembles, and so that we can oversee this process in an organised way and update membership records and registers accordingly.

Registration and Fire Drill

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. It is essential that all members and their parents/carers sign in and out so that we know exactly who needs to be accounted for in the event of an emergency. If you are unsure about how the registration process works, please do speak to a member of staff who will be happy to help out with this.

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).

During the winter months it is not unusual for there to be some disruption to SYM activities due to inclement weather. 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 on our website and social media channels (see below).

Medical Information

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

Safeguarding, Housekeeping and Practical Arrangements

Parents and all others waiting for youngsters attending BSECMS must only wait the Library, and not in the corridors around the *Performing Arts* block. 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 and catch up on the Saturday papers perhaps while your child is occupied?

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 rehearsal or morning (BSECMS).

Friends of Bury St Edmunds County Music School

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 WSYM activities. All profits are used towards providing 'extras', such as workshops, outings, and, occasionally, equipment. We are very grateful to the new volunteers joining us for tuck shop duty this term, and will welcome any more volunteers who are able to give up the occasional Friday or Saturday. The *Friends* website www.friendsofbcms.org.uk provides additional information about their activities. The Annual General Meeting of the *Friends* will take place in the Library at County Upper School, Bury St Edmunds at 10.30am on Saturday 15 October 2016. All parents/carers are most welcome to attend and hear what goes on. New volunteers for committee duties are always needed as older students move on and their parents are no longer involved with us. Attending the AGM is a very good way of finding out just what membership of the committee involves.

Concerts and Events

Please make a note of the following dates in your diaries:

Thursday 8 December: evening concert at The John Peel Centre, Stowmarket

West Suffolk Youth Jazz in concert.

Admission £7.00 (Student/Child £5.00)

Friday 9 December: evening concert at West Suffolk Music Centre (Bury St Edmunds County Upper School)

Concert featuring *West Suffolk Youth Orchestra* (WSYO), and *West Suffolk Youth Wind Band* (WSYWB).

Admission: £7.00 (Student/Child £5.00)

BSE County Music School end of term 'sharing'

Saturday 10 December at West Suffolk Music Centre (Bury St Edmunds County Upper School)

All members will be taking part, and further details including practical arrangements will be available later this term.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF OTHER PLANNED EVENTS

Friday 24 March at 7.30pm at The Apex, Bury St Edmunds County Upper School

Concert featuring *West Suffolk Youth Orchestra* (WSYO), and *West Suffolk Youth Wind Band* (WSYWB).

Admission: £7.00 (Student/Child £5.00)

Monday 27 March (tbc) at The Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds County Upper School

Concert featuring *West Suffolk Youth Jazz* (WSYJ).

Further details including practical arrangements will be available later.

Friday 12 May at 7.30pm in Tattersalls, Newmarket

Concert featuring *West Suffolk Youth Orchestra* (WSYO), *West Suffolk Youth Wind Band* (WSYWB), and *West Suffolk Youth Jazz* (WSYJ).

Further details including practical arrangements will be available later.

Contact

Please speak with Mr Waters should you require further information about any of the above that relate to Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. For all other matters including ensembles meeting during the week please contact Mr Andrew Coles, Senior Manager (01473 281866).

Copies of SYM newsletters are available on our website: <http://www.suffolkmusicHub.co.uk/schools/county-music-schools>

Information regarding the full programme of *Suffolk Youth Music* activities and events can be found on our website www.suffolkmusicHub.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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