

Suffolk County Music Service
Our Ref: WSYM/Newsletter/Summer 2017
Date: April 2017
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To: All WSYM members, and their Parents/Carers

West Suffolk Youth Music 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.

West Suffolk Youth Orchestra (WSYO) and West Suffolk Youth Wind Band (WSYWB) will have nine Friday rehearsal sessions this term. You are reminded that there will not be a session on Friday 26 May or 2 June (half-term week). Term ends on 30 June, when we will be holding our end of term concert in All Saint's Church, Bury St Edmunds.

West Suffolk Youth Jazz (WSYJ) and West Suffolk Youth Guitar Ensemble (WSYGE) will have nine Tuesday rehearsal sessions this term. You are reminded that there will not be a session on Tuesday 30 May (the Tuesday of the half-term holiday). Please see the item below for details of this term's performances for WSYJ and WSYGE. The final session of this term is Tuesday 27 June.

Further details for all WSYM events will follow but please put these dates in your diaries now.

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).

End of spring term concert: 24 March 2017

Our combined concert with WSYWB and WSYO provided an excellent opportunity to celebrate the culmination of our spring term's work.

The Apex was the most fitting venue for our performers and their audience of family and friends. We were really very pleased that so many enjoyed our performance that included music from the Classical, Film and Television, March, and Contemporary repertoire. It is always lovely to receive feedback from our audiences and also to see you at our events supporting Suffolk's young musicians.

WSYGE and Bury St Edmunds County Music School end of term sharing: 25 March 2017

This was an excellent opportunity to celebrate the culmination of our spring term's work. There was a good crowd of parents and family represented to hear the musical mix on offer. Very entertaining performances were provided during the morning by all of the BSECMS ensembles, from Cygnets and 5-note Band through to Improvisation Group, Choir and Orchestra, and also by West Suffolk Youth Guitar Ensemble. 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.

Upcoming performances

WSYJ, WSYO, and WSYWB will perform at Tattersalls in Newmarket at 7.30pm on Friday 12 May. All members have had a letter with Parental/Carer consent form and ticket details.

WSYJ have a return invitation to the Bury St Edmunds Festival and will perform at The Apex Lounge, Bury St Edmunds, on 28 May for a lunchtime 'set' from 12.30pm. This free event is open to all Festival goers and is likely to be well attended; get there early!

WSYGE will join together with BSECMS for a massed end of term concert in All Saint's Church, Bury St. Edmunds at 10.30am on Saturday 1 July. 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.

The WSYO and WSYWB summer concert will be held on Friday 30 June in All Saint's Church, Bury St Edmunds, beginning at 7.30pm. Concert tickets: £7.00 (student/child £5.00) 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 will be taking part in their respective events, so please put the dates in your diary now. Final arrangements for each event will be sent out shortly with Parental Consent and Ticket Booking forms (where applicable), 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 the activity ends, 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. 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.

Members are registered in their ensemble rehearsal rooms with their member of SCMS staff. Any parents/carers wishing to stay in the building for all or part of the sessions must sign in and out with the ensemble leaders and follow their guidance on where to sit and wait. We do have a parents/carers register which our staff will complete. If you are waiting for your youngster on a Friday evening, please do grab a cuppa just before the members' break time at 6.15pm. We remind parents/carers that visitors are required to wait for their youngsters only in designated areas and are not permitted into other areas of the building.

Safeguarding, housekeeping and practical arrangements

Parents/Carers waiting for youngsters attending rehearsals must only wait in the designated area as agreed with ensemble leaders (see registration and fire drill section). Visitors are not permitted to be in rehearsals (without prior permission) or in other areas of County Upper School. Of course, parents do not need to stay in the building during the sessions – members can be left and collected at the end of their rehearsal.

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 about any of the above matters that relate to Friday evening activities; Mr Mark Sewell, Senior Tutor, with matters regarding West Suffolk Youth Jazz; and Mr Ben Watson, Tutor, with matters relating to West Suffolk Youth Guitar Ensemble.

Alternatively, contact Mrs Helen Simms, Senior Manager by email to [county.music@Suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:county.music@ Suffolk.gov.uk)

Copies of SYM newsletters are available on our website:

<https://www.suffolkmusic.org.uk/newsletters>

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