



Autumn Term Newsletter 2015

- Learn to play • Start to sing •
Perform to the world

Hello and welcome to this term's newsletter.

Welcome to our first electronic newsletter; new once a term reading. As a Music Service we have been very taken with our responsibilities leading [Norfolk Music Hub](#) and so it is wonderful to be able to present an update on all the work we do as Norfolk Music Service. It's not until we start to collate our activities that we realise just how much we do and just how much difference we are making! Thank you to everyone who returned the data questionnaire – we collated and submitted all your responses and I hope the outcome will feature in our good news section next term!! I would especially like to extend a warm welcome to new schools and families who have either re-joined us or who are working with us for the first time. This means that we are now working in 211 Norfolk schools and academies and are a truly County-wide Service. So what else has been going on? This term we have blitzed our publicity machine; please check out our new look [Music Service Facebook](#) page updated regularly. All our bands and events are posted, we're getting up to 400 views a day and growing. The [Music Service website](#) is also updated.

One of our strengths is the way we survive! Embracing the new but also proud of our traditions.

The High School Choir Festival is a good case in point. It was another great evening this year and now established as a strong annual event and a wonderful partner to our fledgling [Saturday Centre](#). This weekly music making opportunity at City of Norwich School is a first for Norfolk, it is the Norfolk Music Service working with Guildhall School of Music & Drama joining our established pathways for young people into advanced training or conservatoire study.

And so to the last week before the Christmas break. I am sure that all schools are as busy as us, we are in the final week of concerts, singing and performing. Thank you to everyone who supports Norfolk Music Service, you help make us what we are as we respond to your needs. We are proud of our efforts and of our achievements and are already planning next term.

A Happy and Peaceful Christmas to everyone.

Maureen Hanke

Head of Norfolk Music Service

Instrumental Teaching & WCIT

It's been a very busy start to the academic year with nearly 500 instruments having gone out to schools county wide for pupils learning an instrument with Norfolk Music Service. Over 400 of these have gone out to primary school children taking advantage of our offer of no hire

charge to primary schools for the first year!!

We have 84 schools in receipt of WCIT this year which equates to approximately 4000 pupils learning an instrument every week, many of them for the first time, as part of the National Plan for Music Education.

We would like to say a special thanks to our Instrument Coordinator Andy Grand who has delivered over 1700 instruments to schools all over Norfolk this term!!



Ensembles

Our twelve ensembles continue to rehearse weekly at their venues around the County. With over 250 young musicians playing regularly the ensembles provide the perfect opportunity for pupil's instrumental progress and social development and it's very likely that many parts of the County have been enjoying the sounds of 'Deck the Halls' or 'White Christmas' as the groups have rehearsed for their end of term Christmas concerts during the last week of term. The ensembles cater for beginner to advanced players and new players are always welcome to join. You may have seen our new postcard this term, with details on how to join. Information can always be found by [following this link](#) to the ensemble webpage.



NCYM

NCYM has been very busy this term with 29 new members and an even larger range of ensembles to choose from! Since it opened in 2013, NCYM has established itself as an important part of the work of Norfolk Music Service, providing over 23 ensembles and choirs, theory, dalcroze, performance skills, improvisation classes and the Norfolk Intermediate Youth Orchestra.

Staff at NCYM work closely together with students to support them as they progress through different ensembles and Saturday mornings are always buzzing with activity and fun!

We started our autumn term with an open morning on Saturday 19th September which was attended by around 35 students (most of whom signed up to join us!).

Another highlight was the visit by Fabio Fernandez a 2nd year Guitar student from the Guildhall who delighted the students with sunny Spanish guitar music on a rainy Norfolk Saturday morning. We finished off the term with our end of term Christmas concert for the younger ensembles on Saturday 5th December.



2016 promises many more exciting activities including a trip to London to look round the Guildhall and see Debbie Wiseman rehearsing her film music with the Guildhall Symphony Orchestra and complimentary tickets for a concert by the London Schools Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican concert hall. We will also be welcoming an Oud player from Palestine, Flutist from Columbia and Pianist from Latvia for our next workshop on Saturday 30th January.

Students are always welcome to visit the NCYM to see what is on offer and we will be holding an open session in the spring term for prospective September candidates. Further information about admission can be obtained by contacting Juliet Rickard the NCYM Manager (Juliet.rickard@norfolk.gov.uk).

Details of all our events including the senior spring concert on Saturday March 19th 2016 can be found on our website at www.ncym.co.uk

Norfolk County Youth Orchestra

Norfolk County Youth Orchestra goes from strength to strength and their performance at the Norwich Central Baptist Church on Friday October 30th has been praised by many as the best yet! All 68 members of the orchestra spent 4 days together at Belsey Bridge Conference Centre, Ditchingham for a week of intensive rehearsals to prepare for the performance. The programme for the concert was challenging, and included the Bliss 'Checkmate Suite'; Music from Henry Vth by William Walton; Bizet's L'Arlesienne Suite no 2; Faure's Pavane and the Somerset Rhapsody by Gustav Holst.

Our NMS young musicians justifiably received high praise for their performance including a letter from Roger Rowe OBE to the EDP on November 7th stating that 'this orchestra has been established for many years and has done magnificent work of which the county can be proud'. It was also noted in another letter to the EDP on November 12th that: 'a great deal of work has, in recent years, been put in by our professional music teachers to regenerate and sustain a high level of orchestral training for our young people'.



A second performance by the NCYO strings as part of a special service on the 5th November at Norwich Cathedral entitled 'Courage in Action' was a moving rendition of the two string movements from Henry Vth – and much appreciated by those in attendance who described it as an 'excellent' performance.

The establishing of the Norfolk Intermediate Youth Orchestra on Saturday mornings as part of the work of Norfolk Centre for Young Musicians shows us that there are many talented younger performers in the county who have great opportunities through the work of the Norfolk Music Service to develop their orchestral playing and we look forward to seeing more students taking advantage of this.

The next concert for NCYO is on April 8th at West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge and we are thrilled to be joined by world famous pianist Peter Donohoe CBE who will perform the much loved Rachmaninov Piano Concerto no. 2 with the orchestra, followed by the Symphony no. 5 by Shostakovich – lots of practice for NCYO players(!) - but they just keep getting better and better...!



High Schools' Choir Festival

Over 300 students from CNS, Flegg High, Hethersett Old Hall School, Old Buckenham High, Norwich High School for Girls, Notre Dame, Thetford Grammar, Thorpe St Andrew High and Wymondham College took part in this years High School Choir Festival at St Andrews Hall on November 5th.

The students delighted the audience with performances of sacred works by Tallis, Jenkins, Taverner, through to Duffy and Pharell Williams, culminating in a rousing performance of 'O Fortuna' from Carl Orff's Carmina Burana. The choir was conducted by Andrew Weeks from Norwich School and accompanied on the piano by Duncan Barlow from Norwich High School for Girls. The audience were also treated to 2 lively pieces from the CNS Brass Ensemble.



Certificate of Music Education (CME)

At Norfolk Music Service we have prided ourselves on our small but perfectly formed professional development programme for all our teachers and this new course is a perfect contribution to the field. The Certificate of Music Education is an accredited course; GNVQ level 4 and validated by Trinity College of Music. The one year course has 6 units that are all work based activity. We design it each year to link the training to meet individual teachers' specific needs so that it fits around professional commitments. All adults are welcome, music subject leaders in school, teaching assistants, private instrumental teachers and workshop leaders ... And it's an affordable price! Just contact the Norfolk Music Service and join our pathway to professional excellence.

Forthcoming events for next term

- 11 January - NCYM students' trip to the LSSO Concert at the Barbican, London
- 24 January - Norfolk Medics' Orchestra Concert at St Andrew's Hall, to raise funds for NCYO
- 31 January - [NCYO Mahler workshop](#) with the Norwich Phil
- 23 February - Drake Music, Leaders in Music Disability and Technology coming to leading workshops for Norfolk schools
- 29 February-11 March - Norfolk County Music Festival
- 16-18 Feb - Combined Wind band Residential at Langley School
- March (dates tbc) CASMA
- 26 February - Apollo 5 Vocal Workshop at St Williams Primary School
- 03 March - Apollo 5 Vocal workshops (Venue tbc) – further details contact maureen.hanke@norfolk.gov.uk
- 19 March - NCYM Spring Concert
- 16-17 March (tbc) - ABRSM Exams
- 8 April - Peter Donohoe with Norfolk County Youth Orchestra Concert, West Road Concert Hall, Cambridge. Tickets available from [Cambridge Live Tickets](#).



Did you know Norfolk Music has been operating in the County since the 1900's? Here is an article from The Musical Times in October 1948! Can anyone come up with anything earlier?

Click on the image to see an enlarged version.

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