Welcome to Harrogate Music Centre - the place for developing musicians of all ages. We know that you will derive pleasure and enjoyment from music making to a high standard with others who have similar musical attainments and interests to yourself.

The Centre provides a wide range of ensemble experience from the junior groups through to our senior and adult ensembles and seeks to expand further.

In addition to our main concerts, Music Centre has a policy of inviting musicians from the music profession to work with and perform alongside students in organised workshops.

Harrogate Music Centre has a strong and established reputation for music making of high quality that we strive to continue.

I thank all of the specialist Music Centre staff for their continuing hard work, initiative and inspiration and I look forward to another successful year working with them. We are indebted to our excellent ‘Friends of HMC’ group for the work that they do in much-needed fund raising activities and the support that they give to the benefit of all those who attend the Centre.

Ensemble music making is benefiting socially and cerebrally too! Learning an instrument enables you to exercise both sides of the brain, leading to more effective thinking that has a positive effect on academic subjects, as well as often having a significant affect on a person’s social life and confidence.

Finally I would like to thank those of you who attend Music Centre for giving us the opportunity to work with you and make music together.

We look forward to sharing many more successful and fulfilling years together.

Stephen Price.
Music Centre Manager.
Harrogate Music Centre meets at St. Aidan’s High School, Harrogate.

Music Centre Dates

2018

September  8, 15, 22, 29

October    6, 20 (No MC on 13th as St Aidan’s Open Day)

November   10, 17, 24

December   1, 8, 15

2019

January    12, 19, 26,

February   2, 9, 16

March      9, 16, 23, 30

April      6

May        4, 11, 18

June       8, 15, 22, 29
Ensembles

Regular attendance at rehearsals and concerts is absolutely vital to maintaining the high standard of performance which we strive to maintain.

**Junior String Orchestra**
Director/Conductor: Lucy Brewster.
11.00am – 12.30pm Room Gg6

The Junior Strings consists of around 30 young players. For many new members it will be their first experience of large ensemble work, so we aim to introduce them to new orchestral skills whilst reinforcing playing techniques.

Entry to the orchestra is by teacher recommendation, but players would normally be of a pre grade 1 standard and this level is recommended to all string players at this level.

**Blast Off**
Director/Conductor: Sammy Spruce
9:30 – 11:00am Maths Corridor

Blast Off is suitable for all woodwind and brass players who have either just started learning or have had lessons for about a year.

The band plays music tailored to the abilities of the children who turn up and serves as an introduction to playing in an ensemble as well as addressing some of the basic skills of playing a wind instrument.

**Guitar Group**
Director: Michael Waterhouse.
9:30am – 10:45am Room Hi4

The Guitar Group has a membership of students with a wide range of experience. The ensemble plays a varied repertoire- some of it arranged specifically for them by their director. A minimum standard for new members is that grade work should at least be begun.

**Ukulele Band**
Director: Michael Waterhouse
11:00 – 12:30pm Room Hi1

The Ukulele Band is a brand new group. It welcomes Ukulele players of all ages and abilities. The band jumps on to the wave of Ukulele hysteria which is sweeping the nation at present. Watch this space…

**Parental Guidance**
Director: Amanda Crawley
11:10 – 12:30

Parental Guidance is for adults who either play or used to play a wind instrument. If you have a Clarinet in your loft, feeling unloved, get it out and come along! The standard covers from more or less beginner to an intermediate standard and they will always welcome new members.
**Accidentals (Choir)**  
Director: Amanda Crawley  
9:45 – 10:45

The Accidentals in a choir of mainly, but not exclusively, adults who either already enjoy singing or would like to try. Amanda is an experienced choir director and all who sing in this group thoroughly enjoy it!

**Wind Band**  
Director/Conductor: Stephanie Yaple (Emily Ferguson after Christmas)  
9:30 – 12:30

Wind Band is suitable for students who are approximately grade 3 and whose music reading and technical skills are developing enough to enable them to play easy arrangements of standard wind band repertoire including popular hits and film music.

**HYS (Harrogate Youth String Orchestra)**  
Director/Conductor: Lucy Brewster  
9.30am – 12.30pm Room Gg2

Harrogate Youth Strings is the senior string orchestra at the centre. Members experience a wide variety of the rich string orchestra repertoire.

Entry to HYS is by audition

**Chamber Orchestra**  
Director/Conductor: Fiona Mayo  
11:10 – 12:25pm Room Gg2

The Chamber Orchestra offers Orchestral experience for senior wind and string players from HYS and HYWO, playing from a repertoire which combines Classical and light music.

**HYWO (Harrogate Youth Wind Orchestra)**  
Director/Conductors: Stephen Price  
9.30am – 12.30pm Main Hall.

HYWO is a full symphonic wind band playing from the large range of music written for such an ensemble. They are regularly invited to perform in the local community as well as taking part in National Festivals.

Entry to HYWO is by audition

**HYJO (Harrogate Youth Jazz Orchestra)**  
Director/Conductor: James Gregg  
9.30am – 12.30pm Room Mu4/5

HYJO is a senior ensemble offering opportunities to those students who wish to explore jazz technique and repertoire. The band plays from a large library of music ranging from traditional big band numbers to more contemporary music. HYJO regularly perform concerts throughout the year as well as jazz venues and cafes in the area. The ensemble consists of about 20 members, with a keen interest in jazz and rock music. New
members need to have some experience of improvisation although this will be taught as part of rehearsals.

**Entry to HYJO is by audition.**

**Harrogate Music Centre Concert dress**

For most players, the dress code for concerts is-

**Boys.**
Senior ensembles: black trousers, black shirt and black shoes
Intermediate ensembles: black trousers, white shirt and black shoes.
Junior ensembles: black trousers, white shirt and black bow tie.

**Girls.**
Senior ensembles: Black dress or black trousers and black shirt/blouse. Black shoes.
Intermediate and junior ensembles: Black skirt or trousers, black shoes and white shirt/blouse.

There is an exception though-
H.Y.J.O. has its own concert dress which is cheaply available to its members.

**The Friends of HMC**

This group of volunteers is essential to the operation of the centre. They provide refreshments weekly and manage the selling of tickets at concerts. They also organise fund-raising activities and always welcome new members.

Please check out their website on [www.friendsofhmc.org.uk](http://www.friendsofhmc.org.uk) or contact the Music Centre Office (01609 534979) if you require any further information.
Please also make use of the facebook and twitter accounts for up to date information.

**Notification of non-attendance**

We enjoy full commitment from most of students at concerts and rehearsals over the year which is essential for the success of the centre.

It is clearly important that ensemble members make every effort to be present each Saturday, especially members of the senior ensembles. It is, however, understood that there will be occasions when health issues, for example, make this impossible.

If you/your child is unable to be present for a rehearsal they should let their ensemble director know so that this can be marked in the register.

Alternatively please let us know in advance via email (Stephen.price@northyorks.gov.uk) or phone the office (01609 534979 – 8:30-4:00 Monday to Friday)

The Music centre mobile is switched on from 08:30 every Saturday morning (07791 755941) to allow notification of 'last minute' absence or emergencies.

If you/your child no longer wants to attend, please let us know immediately. Some information you could provide about the reasons why will help to improve our service for the future.
Recruitment

We all have a stake in the music centre and we are constantly on the lookout for new members. Anything students and parents can do to help us in this would be very much appreciated. We especially welcome bass instrumentalists and local music teachers are welcome by appointment.

Progression through the Centre

Progression though the various ensembles should happen with the full knowledge of all stakeholders concerned – Music Centre Manager, current ensemble director and successive ensemble director. Progression from junior to intermediate level will normally be initiated during the last half of the summer term, by teacher recommendation, mindful of ensemble stability. Auditions will be held for all senior ensembles early in the summer term. We may, on occasions, advise against a transfer on educational or social grounds.

Sponsorship

There are benefits to individuals and companies being associated with the centre. Should you or your company wish to sponsor the centre, please contact the Friends of HMC. (link above)

Procedure for bad weather

In the event of severe weather conditions or other unavoidable factors, Harrogate Music Centre may have to be closed. Obviously we will endeavour to inform you of such a closure in advance but if this is not possible an announcement will be made on the following radio stations from 8.00am:

Stray FM (fm stereo 97.2).  
BBC Radio York (fm stereo 103.7)

There will also be a facebook message as well as twitter

Or you can check your e mails to see if your ensemble director has notified you.

Alternatively, you can contact Stephen Price (Music Centre Manager) on Music Centre mobile no. 07791 755941.

Enquiries

Any enquiries about Centre activities should be made to:
Harrogate Music Centre, 68a High Street, Starbeck, Harrogate, HG2 7LW
Telephone: 01609 534979.
Stephen Price, Music Centre Manager, is generally available on Tuesdays during term time.
Email: stephen.price@northyorks.gov.uk
The Office is staffed during term time between 8.30am and 4pm. (01609 534980)

Further information

www.friendsofhmc.org.uk (for more current operational information)