

February 2008

Directorate of Education Standards

## AWARDS FOR LOYAL EX-PUPILS



Some of the 43 ex-students who received awards in a ceremony last December.

The William Appleby Trust Award, which consists of a cash prize and certificate of loyalty, was presented to 43 ex-students by Kate French, the Senior Advisor for Primary Strategy. Kate very kindly stood in at the last moment for the Deputy Mayor, Margaret Ward, who was unfortunately unable to attend owing to a sudden illness.

The William Appleby Trust Award has been presented annually for over 10 years now, and is a recognition of the loyalty and commitment which it's recipients have demonstrated to the Music Centre and to their school. In many cases, students have also played an important part in the musical life of Doncaster.

Those receiving the award were:  
Lydia Adelowokan, Laura Barrett, Jake Canner, Amy Canning, Rebecca Clark, Laura Daley, Laura Daly, Alison Davis, Clare Gee, Holly Gibson, Thomas Goodman, Emma Grimes, Aoife Hurley, Lynette Le

Riche, Mary Leverton, Jonathon Lodge, Callum MacMaster, Katie Matthews, Joanna Moore, Lorna Peters, Anna Priestley, Alastair Rech, Clare Roberts, Katherine Roberts, Lyndsey Rushton, Megan Simpson, Claudia Simpson, Kathryn Sinha, Eleanor Smith, Jason Smith, Joy Staniforth, Emma Stockdale, Sophie Thickett, Helen Thorp, Adam Tyas, Isabel Vickers, Gareth Ward, Rachel Ward, Tammy Ward, Joseph Welsh, Claire Wilkinson, Wilson Yeung.

**Ben Latham** (clarinet) was presented



with the Moray Hughes Cup for

achieving the highest mark for a Grade 8 examination during 2007, and the singer **Alastair Rech** re-



ceived the John Remington award.

Ben and Alastair both contributed to the musical part of the evening, with the lion's share being provided by The **Doncaster Schools Symphonic Band** conducted by Jonathan Cook.

The Music Service sends its best wishes for the future to everyone.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Awards 2007

Doncaster Young Musician 2008

New Government funding for music in schools

Top Tips for Perfect Practice

Samba Workshop

Concert dates

Holiday and closure dates (page4)

## DONCASTER YOUNG MUSICIAN 2008

This February sees the launch of the first ever 'Doncaster Young Musician' competition, for students who attend the William Appleby Music Centre.

We hope that this will become an annual event, with classes for all ages eventually. For this first year, however, the competition will be for our more advanced students, who will be performing two contrasting pieces of their own choice - a great opportunity for any students preparing for a practical exam in the summer term.

The competition is taking place on Saturday 2nd February, in room 8 at WAMC, between 12.30 and 16.00, and anyone will be welcome to come along to listen to the performances, and show their support for these young players.

We are delighted that for their prize, the William Appleby Trust Committee has very generously offered to fund 4 places for the winners to travel to Taganrog, in Russia. Taganrog is famous as being the birthplace of renowned Russian playwright, Anton Chekov, and there is a beautiful concert hall named after him in the town. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for some lucky young musicians.

The prize winners will travel out to Taganrog at Easter, as part of a cultural student exchange, with Russian players returning to Doncaster to perform during the summer. We hope that this exchange will eventually form a regular feature of our Music Centre calendar.

Pictures from the trip will be put on the website and in the next copy of *OPUS*, and further details of concerts by the Russian players will be circulated when they are finalised.

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## New Government funding for music

You may have seen exciting news in the press just before Christmas about a massive injection of funding to encourage playing and singing and the take up of instrumental lessons, especially in primary schools. Part of this is the allocation of £30 million for each of the next three years for the purchase of new musical instruments.

At the end of November, 2007, Secretary of State, Ed Balls, said "Every child from all backgrounds should have the chance to perform, play an instrument or sing and I want every school to become a musical school. Every

parent knows how much it means to their child to be involved in a school performance and the pride and inspiration it offers the whole family."

The government hopes that the funding and resources announced will see at least half of all primary children continuing to learn an instrument beyond the early years.

Culture Secretary James Purnell welcomed the additional funding: "Learning about the arts is part of a good education. We want all children to have the chance to develop their creativity and today's announcement on music marks a

step change in our ability to do so."

This positive support is something that all Music Services will welcome, and shows a real commitment to music education from the highest quarters. It will give us the opportunity to invest in resources for the future, and to replace old and worn out instruments with those that are better suited for our beginners.

We are still waiting to see how the 'Wider Opportunities' initiative will influence the take up of instrumental tuition in Doncaster schools, but at least this funding will allow us to ensure that we shall have enough instruments to cope with any demands made upon the Service.

*The OPUS letters are available in colour from our website:*

**[www.doncastermusicservice.org.uk](http://www.doncastermusicservice.org.uk)** by selecting the News link. The diary page of the website will give you details of all events and important dates (closures etc.) during the current term.

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### ARE YOU AN OUTSTANDING YOUNG MUSICIAN? ARE YOU IN NEED OF HELP WITH YOUR MUSIC COSTS?

Awards for Young Musicians is pleased to announce that applications are now invited for its 2008 Awards. The organisation supports young instrumentalists, making music in any genre, who can clearly show: that they are really talented and committed and that they need financial help with their music expenses.

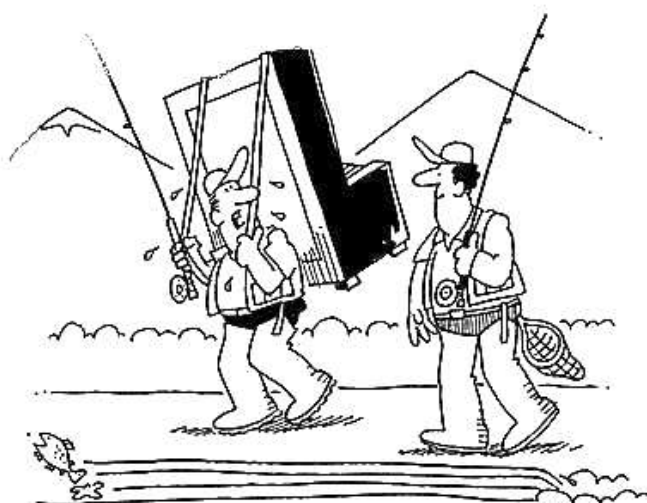
Open to 5 to 18 year olds, Awards range from £200 to £2000. For application forms or further information email [awards@a-y-m.org.uk](mailto:awards@a-y-m.org.uk), visit [www.a-y-m.org.uk](http://www.a-y-m.org.uk) or call 0117 9049906 - Closing date for applications Friday

4 April 2008

## PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT (but only if you do it in the correct way)

Here are some top tips for practising your instrument from the Associated board.

- ⇒ Always work to a plan
- ⇒ Know what needs to be achieved in each practice time
- ⇒ Small sections practised slowly and thoroughly are always more successful than longer passages given less care
- ⇒ Sometimes begin with the 'difficult bits' rather than starting at the beginning
- ⇒ Vary the work to avoid boredom, having other, perhaps easier, pieces to hand
- ⇒ Make sure the all-important 'finger memory' is in place before moving on
- ⇒ Sometimes practise playing straight through, noticing the trouble spots and returning to them later
- ⇒ Be aware of the pulse - it's dangerously easy to slow up for awkward corners
- ⇒ Know when to stop. Focused work for a short period is better than playing through for longer
- ⇒ Perfect practice makes perfect!
- ⇒ Practise in small chunks
- ⇒ What you can't play slowly you can't play fast
- ⇒ The only way to learn to sight read is to sight read
- ⇒ Pedal with your ears! (Generally applies to pianists only for obvious reasons)
- ⇒ Enjoy what you play - a varied diet is essential
- ⇒ When you've finished listening - listen some more!
- ⇒ If you get stuck - stop - come back again later and try again
- ⇒ Fill every minute's practice with 60 seconds of concentration
  - ⇒ Practise the whole performance experience - play your exam pieces to friends and family so you experience a few nerves and learn how to cope with them
- ⇒ Stop practising if you feel any physical discomfort or pain
- ⇒ Don't practise when you're tired



"MY MOTHER WOULD BE REALLY MAD AT ME IF I DIDN'T PRACTISE THE PIANO EVERY DAY!"

## PARENTS EVENINGS

These will take place on Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 March at the Music Centre. Please bear in mind that it is not possible for instrumental teachers to see the parents of every pupil they teach, so a targeting system will be in operation.

If your child's teacher wishes to see you, a letter will be given to your child for you to indicate which day and approximate time you prefer, and an appointment time, (10 minutes per family) will be sent to you via your child.

## INSTRUMENT PURCHASE SCHEME

The Music Service is able to offer parents or guardians the opportunity to purchase new musical instruments at a discounted price and without the addition of VAT. If you are interested in the scheme please ask your son/daughter to contact his/her Peripatetic Music Teacher or collect a form from the Music Centre reception or visit: [www.doncastermusicservice.org.uk/faq](http://www.doncastermusicservice.org.uk/faq)

The Music Centre has a shop for the sale of a wide range of accessories. We are able to sell at an educational discount. The shop is open from 9.00am - 1.00pm on Saturdays in our Reception upstairs.

### Music Makers

These classes are for pre-school children with their carers. The sessions are fun and include singing, dancing, instrumental playing and play-acting. Classes take place on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. Each session costs £3.50, and £2.50 for subsequent children, payable each half term in advance.

# SAMBA WORKSHOP

At the end of November 2007, the Music Service, in partnership with PJS Music, Barnsley, invited primary teachers to attend a free samba workshop, hosted at McAuley School.

The teachers had a hands-on session learning how to play the instruments, and how they might be able to introduce some of the activities in their own classrooms. They each had a turn playing the large surdo drums, agogo bells, shakers and smaller drums, much to the amusement of the McAuley students passing through the music room!

Samba is something that is very accessible to pupils of all ages and abilities, as well as being great fun for participants, and we look forward to seeing it growing in

schools over the next few years. The teachers that were involved in this workshop certainly went away with lots of ideas to develop.



## WHO'S WHO in the Music Service

Featuring Senior Instrumental Tutor for Strings

- ROBERT WHITE



Robert began to learn the violin with the local peripatetic teacher in 1964. This was under the auspices of the then West Riding County Council and the teacher was Nigel Middleton, later to become a member of DMS upon metropolitan re organisation (1974) and who is a personal friend to this day. During 1970 and 71 Robert studied with Harvey Marsden in Wakefield, before going to a full time course at the Northern School of Music, which was to amalgamate with the Royal Manchester College of Music in 1972, becoming the Royal

Northern College of Music. Here he followed the Graduate course, studying the violin with Maurice Clare. Upon completion of the course Robert went on to do PGCE at Bretton Hall and from there into instrumental teaching (always his aim) initially for the Sheffield Music Service, where he remained for 13 years.

1988 saw a move to Barnsley ...short lived because the whole service was made redundant in 1990! Robert was indeed fortunate to gain employment with Doncaster Music Service, upon the retirement of his own old teacher, Nigel Middleton! It is, indeed, a small world!. He has remained here ever since, and was appointed in 2007 to the post of Senior Instrumental Tutor, responsible for String teaching within the Music Service.

Robert is a long time, keen

golfer...whose skills are vanishing with the passing of years! He still enjoys the game, however.

He enjoys travel in Northern Spain when the opportunity presents itself, typically travelling through the Basque country, through Asturias and Galicia and returning home via the Rioja. He has visited many of the interesting cities of that region including the pilgrim destination of Santiago de Compostela and Cape Finisterre, the most Westerly point of Europe.

Robert enjoys cooking at home and amongst his specialities are recipes from that Northern Spanish region.

Robert lives in the village of Thorpe Hesley, close by the Fitzwilliams' old seat at Wentworth Woodhouse. He has a wife, Virginia, and one son, Alex.

### HOLIDAYS, CLOSURE AND RESTARTING IN APRIL

- Half term -

The Music Centre will be open on **Saturday 9 February**, and closed from **Monday 11 to Saturday 16 February inclusive**. It will re-open on **Monday 18 February**.

- Easter -

The Music Centre will close on **Thursday 20 March** at 4.00pm and will re-open on **Monday 7 April**.

- May Day Bank Holiday Weekend -

The Music Centre will be closed on **Saturday 3 May** and **Monday 5 May**.

# DONCASTER MUSIC SERVICE

## Concerts - Dates for your Diary - February/March 2008

**Please would the performers arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the concert.**

**Concert clothes:** dark coloured trousers/skirts and white shirts/blouses should be worn, except where directed otherwise.

Admission to concerts is free, with a retiring collection for Music Centre funds unless otherwise indicated.

### **Saturday 23 February**

*Doncaster Schools Symphonic Band.*

Concert at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Church Road, Barnby Dun, at 7.30pm.

Admission by ticket (available from the Music Centre office or on the door.) £5 adults, £2 under 16's.

### **Friday 7 March**

*Beechfield Youth Orchestra and the William Appleby Chamber Orchestra.*

Concert at Hall Cross Lower School at 7.00pm.

### **Saturday 8 March**

Orchestra Concerts at Hall Cross Lower School.

9.30 *Beginner Strings* (Mrs Gange) AND the  
10.30 *Transitional Strings* (Mrs Roberts) BOTH  
TOGETHER at 9.30am.

11.30 *Progressive Strings* (Mrs Roberts) at  
10.45am.

11.45 *Training Strings* (Mrs Gange) at 11.45am.

Saturday Afternoon Orchestra at 12.45pm. (Mrs Gange)

*Doncaster Schools Senior Orchestra* (Mr Eke and Mr Dickinson) at 1.45pm.

### *Percussion Ensemble*

Informal concert at 11.00 am - WAMC room 8

### **Tuesday 11 March**

*Electric Guitar Groups* (Mr Merrett).

Concert at WAMC in the Hall at 7.00pm.

### **Wednesday 12 March**

*Classical Guitar Groups* (Mr Nockalls).

Concert at WAMC in the Hall at 7.00pm.

### **Friday 14 March**

Vermuyden Concert Band and the Beginner Wind Group. Concert at Hall Cross Lower School at 7.00pm.

(Both these groups will not rehearse on Saturday 15 March.)

### **Saturday 15 March**

Band Concerts at Hall Cross Lower School.

10.00 Band at 10.00am.

11.00 Band at 11.00am.

12.00 Band at 12.00pm.

1.00 Band Concert at 1.00pm.

Doncaster Schools Symphonic Band and the Beginner Brass Group at 7.00pm.

(The Beginner Brass Group will not have a rehearsal in the morning.)

### **Saturday 15 March**

*Classical Guitar Groups* (Mr Belbin-Wood.)

Concert at WAMC in the Hall at 11.00am.

(Rehearsal for all performers at 10.00am.)

***Directions to Hall Cross Lower School,*** St. Michael's Road, Bessacarr, DN4 5LU.

From the south (Cantley and Bessacarr). After Cantley traffic lights take the first left turn into St. Augustine's Road. At the end of the road turn left. The school is on the right.

From the Race Course roundabout, proceed along Bawtry Road to Cantley traffic lights and U turn. Take the first left turn into St. Augustine's Road. At the end of the road turn left. The school is on the right.

***Last rehearsals / rehearsal changes this term, and re-opening arrangements for next term.***

There will be **NO rehearsals for any groups this term after their concert has taken place.**

**Tuesday 8 April** - This is a training day for Music Service staff and there will therefore be no rehearsals that evening for Doncaster Schools Symphonic band or the electric guitar group. There will also be no theory lessons on that evening.

## ***Theory Classes***

The last theory classes this term will take place on Tuesday 11 March. The first theory lesson after the

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## **MUSIC CENTRE ATTENDANCE Unexplained Absence procedure**

In order to maintain the high standards of all our ensembles, it is vitally important that all ensemble members attend rehearsals regularly, and are available to play in the concert each term. Full attendance is expected of all players in Senior Ensembles. If you know your child will not be able to attend a rehearsal or concert for any reason, please let the conductor of the ensemble know in advance or telephone the Music Centre office. A message can be left outside office hours. If a pupil has three consecutive unexplained absences from rehearsals we will send a letter home just to make sure you know of our concern. If you receive one of these, please help us to monitor attendance by returning the letter and letting us know when or if your child will be returning.

## **Car Parking**

In the interest of the safety of Music Centre pupils, please would parents ensure that they park only in the designated parking spaces and take the utmost care when driving away, especially at busy times such as Saturday mornings. Parents who are only dropping off their children may find it more convenient to do this at the front of the building. Please do not drop off or pick up your children around the rear door area, or outside the Hall.

## **Lost Property**

If your child has lost anything, please call at the Music Centre office. We will donate any unclaimed items to charity shops during the week before the Easter holiday.

***Doncaster Music Service, William Appleby Music Centre  
Danum Road, Doncaster DN4 5HE  
01302 734810 - wamc@doncaster.gov.uk***