

Civic Mayor praises the “Outstanding commitment” of the recipients of the William Appleby Trust Awards



Matthew Cotterhill, Kate Crossland, Emily Drake, Samantha Eyre, Samantha Finegold, Naomi Fitzpatrick, Stephen Foy, Nicholas Frost, Catherine Gregory, Katherine Hall, Amy Harrop, Leanne Job, Hannah Johnson, Charlie King, Zoe Le Gray-Wise, Sarah McDonnell, Sally McKenzie, Rebecca Mulligan, Alice

Councillor Paul Coddington was the guest speaker at the presentation of William Appleby Trust Awards last December.

Needham, Hannah Ranson, Judith Roberts, Daniel Shenton, Torryn Smith, Frances Smith, Heather Yates

In recognising that the awards are given for loyal membership of the Music Centre and musical participation at school, he thanked the ex-pupils praising the “*Outstanding commitment of the pupils*”

Although not able to be present, Frances Smith was awarded the Moray Hughes Cup for the best performance in the Grade 8 examinations during the past year.

Pupils receiving awards were: Amy Anderson, Jonathan Andrews, Sarah Baker, Catherine Bateson, Joseph Beggs, Sophie Bidmead, Andrew Blair, Shannon Carberry,

Councillor Coddington commented that we should be “*Rightly proud of the Music Service in Doncaster*” and acknowledged the fight that had been made to keep the Service safe.

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He finished by thanking the teaching staff of the Music Service with:

“I’d like to thank all the professionals who work hard supporting the pupils of Doncaster. This town owes you all a great debt of gratitude”.

Doncaster Schools Symphonic Band directed by Andrew Gurnhill and David Tonkin played a short programme at the beginning and conclusion of the event.

One point from perfection!

Although it is not unusual for pupils taking Theory of music examinations to achieve close to full marks, it is extraordinarily rare that pupils taking practical examinations get really close to a perfect score. Therefore it is

especially pleasing to report that **Megan Mahoney** was awarded 99 marks out of 100 after taking her Trinity Guildhall initial guitar examination during the December examinations at the William Appleby Music Centre. Megan is a pupil of Mrs Lesley Kenyon, one of the Music Service guitar specialists. We believe this is the highest mark achieved in our practical examinations, so many congratulations to Megan for this outstanding result.

The Minster Psalms

One of those ambitions was realised recently when he handed over the score of *The Minster Psalms* to Canon Christopher Smith at the end of the year marking Doncaster Minster's 150th Anniversary. It was composed for choir and organ and is a setting of psalms 8, 131 and (appropriately for the occasion) psalm 150.

The work was written by James on behalf of the William Appleby Music Centre as a gift to the Minster (where Music Centre groups often perform), and as a contribution towards its Anniversary celebrations.

The Minster's Canon Christopher Smith being presented with a new composition for the Minster choir by James Belbin-Wood during the recent William Appleby Trust Award ceremony.



When James Belbin-Wood wrote *Celebration* for the finale of the Music Service's 75th Anniversary concerts in 2007, he mentioned in his biographical notes that it was his ambition to write music for every type of ensemble.

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.

Destination Doncaster

Venue - The Dome
Dates - 24th and 25th March
Time - 7.00 - 8.30pm

Do you fancy a trip around the world, avoiding airline surcharges and without seriously compromising your Carbon footprint?

Then Destination Doncaster is just what you need to sample the joys of travel without leaving the shores of Doncaster!

Supported by Hothouse and Sing Up!, thirty-three primary schools around Doncaster will be taking part in a performance which celebrates travelling from Doncaster all around the world. Local composer David Lane has composed a series of songs which will be performed with dances from around the world, all brought together by our narrator, a seasoned traveller and commentator on life! The performance is supported by a live band and different schools are singing on each night.

Groups of instrumentalists from the Music Service are also taking part in the performances.

Tickets will be available to buy from the Music Centre Office, through the schools involved and from the Dome, prices are:

Adult -	£6
Child/concessions -	£4
Family	£12

(Includes 2 adults and 2 children)

Opportunities Widen Further

Schools have been telling us how delighted they have been to be involved in the ever-growing whole class instrumental tuition projects (often referred to as 'Wider Opportunities').

The scheme in Doncaster began two years ago with just four teachers working in six primary schools, developing last year to 22 projects run by 15 teachers.

A welcome Government grant has

this year allowed the provision to be developed further and currently 52 projects are running in 37 schools.

The projects include samba bands, brass bands, woodwind groups, string ensembles and guitar groups.

It is hoped that from September the funding will allow even greater expansion of the scheme, and plans are currently being made to run up to 95 projects in 83 schools.

The government's intention is that nationally, by 2011, over 2 million pupils (80% of key stage 2) will have had the opportunity to learn a musical instrument, initially for free. By 2011, programmes should be in place so that every child will have this opportunity during their time at primary school.

The government also expects that, after these one-year starter projects, 50% of children should choose to continue to learn an instrument.

But their aspirations for the programme are about much more than playing an instrument, and they are convinced that the results will create happier, more musical, successful and self assured young people.

How are we doing...?

During the Autumn term schools were asked to complete a questionnaire about the quality of provision by the Music Service in their schools.

They were asked:

1. How satisfied are you with lessons overall?
2. Do you consider the music that is studied appropriate for pupils?
3. Do you consider pupils make appropriate progress?
4. Do you consider exam preparation appropriate?

They were also asked to make comments to qualify their response and list any further activities they thought DMS could provide. 53 schools responded to the survey and the results were very pleasing, showing a wide appreciation of the value and quality of the Music Service provision.

The results of question one were:

Outstanding	24.5%
Good	62.5%
Satisfactory	13%
Unsatisfactory	0%

Question two:

Outstanding	23.2%
Good	73%
Satisfactory	3.8%
Unsatisfactory	0%

Question three:

Outstanding	23.2%
Good	57.6%
Satisfactory	19.2%
Unsatisfactory	0%

Question four:

Outstanding	24.4%
Good	67.5%
Satisfactory	8.1%
Unsatisfactory	0%

Suggestions for extending provision in school and improvements schools would like to see included greater opportunities for help with singing and vocal music within the school, an opportunity to develop last year's funded Parents and Pre-School children workshops (which Edlington Victoria classed as outstanding) and better systems of cover when staff are absent through illness.

Singled out by schools in their comments as outstanding during the 2007-08 school year were Martin Chadwick's work at Tranmoor, the wider opportunities projects on guitar at Hatfield Crookesbroom and on samba and violin at Edlington Victoria, and the quality of examination preparation at McAuley.

A number of schools referred to excellent provision, Shaw Wood commented particularly on its "Excellent teachers, enthusiastic and always willing to help/support". Other schools mentioned that where there had been any problems with staff they had been dealt with by the Music Service.

In terms of general progress of pupils, most schools who commented felt this was understandably dependent on the amount of practice that pupils did out of school, so therefore highlighting the value of family support.

A satisfaction survey for pupils and parents is planned for the Summer term and further details will be available on the website in the near future.

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

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.

PARENTS EVENINGS

These will take place on Tuesday 31 March and Wednesday 1 April 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.

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

Comings and Goings

Last year we said goodbye to a number of staff but welcomed four new teachers.

Alison Goffin, who became head of the Service in January 2007 left to return to York - initially leading their Music Service as interim manager, but ultimately intending to return to the classroom full-time.

Martin Chadwick was, for many years, the driving force behind Rossington Pheasant Bank's highly successful music department and we were delighted that, although in his early retirement, he was able to do a range of work for the Music Service including classroom support, keyboard teaching and choir training. He also worked on the well received Early Years Project last year, training parents and teachers how to develop language and listening skills through music. His calming, relaxed manner will be missed greatly.

Ellen Brookes taught violin in a small number of schools for us but found the demands of having a young one in the family, coupled with the work with her string quartet, meant something has to give.

Finally, Jonathan Cook has taken the most pro-active means to avoid working for us - he has moved with his family to New Zealand.

Jonathan joined the Music Service in 2002 to teach brass and keyboards, but also became co-conductor of Doncaster Schools Symphonic Band. He proved to be a highly sought after member of staff with great adaptability and versatility (catch him singing blues in the video of the

staff concert during the 2007 Festival year on www.doncastermusicservice.org.uk/75). In his updates from 'down under' he keeps us aware of how things are going and we are pleased to report that the family are settling very well into their new exciting lifestyle.

We said hello to Helen Baines who teaches woodwind for us. Helen has taught in Hull previously and, besides teaching, plays in a folk band and clarinet trio.

Joining the guitar team at DMS is David Newey who will also be working in the developing Wider Opportunities programme of whole class instrumental tuition. David comes to us from West Sussex Music Service and, besides his wide experience as a teacher, he is an active performer particularly in the area of Folk music.

Catherine Noble has joined the Music Service to teach singing and keyboards. Catherine came through the William Appleby Music Centre system and was a violinist in the Beechfield Youth Orchestra. In addition to her work for us, Catherine teaches for the Yamaha Music School and also trains the choristers at Wakefield Cathedral.

David Tonkin first taught brass for DMS about 20 years ago, leaving in 1994 to move into primary school class teaching. He has also taken an MA in History during the intervening time. It is a great pleasure to welcome David back to the Service this year and, besides his brass teaching in schools, he has taken over the co-conductorship of Doncaster Schools Symphonic Band and will be putting his highly sought after playing skills to use in the live concerts given to schools every Thursday afternoon.

The Music Service would like to welcome all our new members of staff and extend our best wishes to those leaving us.

Beginner Brass players, this is just for you.....

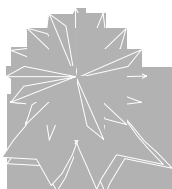
DONCASTER MUSIC SERVICE

Coming soon ...

BRASS BLAST !

15th June 2009

With : The Brass Team



*Miss C Daws, Mr R Dickinson,
Mr A Gurnhill, Mr J Stuart, Mr P Stubbs,
Ms E M Thomas, Mr D Tonkin*

This will take place at the Music Centre and is a group workshop from 12.45pm and will conclude with a short informal concert for parents and friends at 3.30pm. Your brass teacher will be able to give you further details nearer to the event.

HOLIDAYS AND CLOSURES

- Half term -

The Music Centre will be **open as normal on Saturday 14 February**. It will be closed from **Monday 16 to Saturday 21 February** inclusive, and will reopen on **Monday 23 February**.

- Easter Holiday -

The Music Centre will close at 5.00pm on **Friday 3 April**, and reopen on **Monday 20 April**.

- May Day Bank Holiday -

The Music Centre will be closed on **Saturday 2 May and Monday 4 May**.

MUSIC CENTRE MATTERS

Concerts - Dates for your Diary - March 2009

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.

Unless stated otherwise, admission to concerts is free, with a retiring collection for Music Centre funds.

Saturday 28 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 20 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 21 March.)

Saturday 21 March

Band Concerts and DSSO 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 Senior Orchestra at 2.15pm.
(Mr Eke and Mr Dickinson)

Doncaster Schools Symphonic Band and the
Beginner Brass Group at 7.00pm.
(The Beginner Brass Group will not have a re-
hearsal in the morning.)

Saturday 21 March

Classical Guitar Groups (Mr Belbin-Wood.)
Concert at WAMC in the Hall at 11.00am.
(Rehearsal for all performers at 10.00am.)

Tuesday 24 March

Electric Guitar Groups (Mr Merrett).
Concert at WAMC in the Hall at 7.00pm.

Wednesday 25 March

Classical Guitar Groups (Mr Nockalls).
Concert at WAMC in the Hall at 7.00pm.

Friday 27 March

Beechfield Youth Orchestra and the William
Appleby Chamber Orchestra.
Concert at WAMC in the Hall at 7.00pm.

Saturday 28 March

Orchestra Concerts at WAMC in the Hall.

9.30 Beginner Strings (Mrs Gange)

10.30 Transitional Strings (Mrs Roberts) at
10.30am.

11.30 Progressive Strings (Mrs Roberts) at
11.30am.

Saturday Afternoon Orchestra at 12.45pm. (Mrs
Gange)

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 Minute Cancellations to Music Centre Rehearsals

Please be aware that Doncaster Music Service makes every effort to provide cover for teacher illness, but there will be times when this will not be possible; for example, if a teacher is ill at short notice. We do attempt to contact parents by phone wherever possible (**please make sure you let us know if you change your phone number mid year**) and publish any last minute changes to rehearsals on the Music Service web-site (www.doncastermusicservice.org.uk), but we would advise that you wait a few moments when dropping off your child to ensure their ensemble is running.

Final rehearsals this term.

There will be NO rehearsals for any groups this term after their concert has taken place, with the exception of DSSB. This band will rehearse as normal on Tuesday 24 March, or DSSB may be taking part in Destination Doncaster at the Dome (to be confirmed).

Theory Classes

The last theory classes this term will take place on **Tuesday 17 March.**

Lost Property

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

Music Centre Attendance - Unexplained Absence

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 by telephoning the Music Centre office. A message can be left outside office hours.

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.**

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