



May 2007

Directorate of Neighbourhoods, Communities and Children's Services

# FESTIVAL 75

WHAT YOU  
THOUGHT SO FAR....

**"Keep up the good work -  
Doncaster's children need you." (S & TJ)**

**"After 75 years, Doncaster's Music  
Service goes from strength to  
strength, thanks to all your talent,  
team work and dedication."  
(SC)**

**"It was a joy to see so many impec-  
cably behaved young people giving  
performance after performance of  
high quality at the tap of a baton."  
(PB)**

**"Experiences like that are very rare, and  
listening to all the young people playing  
at one time was something that  
will stay with us for a long time."**

**"Every single pupil, not forgetting of course the teach-  
ers, conductors, organisers etc., pulled together to pro-  
duce a perfect presentation." (M & JB)**

**"We are lucky to have so many talented young  
people and they are very lucky to have the range of  
opportunities that your service offers."  
(T & DC)**

**"There was a great feeling of  
celebration and involvement,  
bringing together that great sea of young musicians, teachers  
and us in the audience for a very special occasion." (SR)**

## THIS ISSUE INCLUDES..

*Festival 75 report*  
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*All concert dates*  
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*Staff Concert*  
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*Festival review*  
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*"Singing Together"*  
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*Holiday and closure dates  
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**You can see Festival pictures and hear sound clips on the Music  
Service website - Go to [www.doncastermusicservice.org.uk/75/](http://www.doncastermusicservice.org.uk/75/)**

# FESTIVAL 75

STILL TO COME.....

The three concerts so far were all really well supported by parents and friends both in numbers (all three were sold out) and in enthusiasm and encouragement.

The next event in our Festival Year is a concert by staff of the Music Service to be held at Priory Place Methodist Church on Thursday 14 June and we hope the novelty of seeing their teachers performing will generate similar support and enthusiasm to the March concerts.

This will be the first time for many years that we have given a public concert featuring only the Music Service staff and nearly 40 of the staff are so far involved.

There is a lot of enthusiasm amongst the staff for this concert and we have had fun deciding on items for the programme and meeting together to rehearse. The aim is to make the concert a lighthearted and fun evening

with an opportunity to see some staff in unexpected roles. Teachers in the Music Service have, for many years, given weekly concerts in Doncaster's Infant, Junior and Primary schools and these groups, augmented with other staff, will form the central core of the concert with items from the brass group, string ensemble, guitar group, world music team, and the wind quartet will be nostalgically augmented into a larger windband, just as it used to be some 20 years ago. Some of the staff will be playing solos, notably Simon Corner on the superb Priory Organ and the Russian Pianist Valentina Davis (featured in last term's Opus)

One lively highlight is a Trad. Jazz band (complete with Sousaphone bass), and Jonathan Cook and Steve Merrett are busy working on arrangements to conclude the evening with some rousing blues numbers. Lest you should think we have left anyone out, the scoop find of the evening will

be our fantastic clerical support team Anne, Emma and Rona who will be putting their particular skills to use in a very novel way.

The concert starts at 7.00pm and tickets (priced £4 and £2) are now available from the Music Centre office.

## SINGING TOGETHER

All Junior and Primary schools have now been sent a copy of the two songs which were commissioned for the Festival and first performed at the Dome. These songs will feature in a Radio Sheffield recreation of SINGING TOGETHER, the long running BBC radio programme hosted by William Appleby. The broadcast is planned for 11.00am on Monday 25 June. BBC "Look North" have shown an interest in filming one or more schools participating in the sing.

You can download the songs and lyrics (and find how to get the sheet music) on our website. Follow the "Special Events" then "Singing Together" links from the home page of our website.

## WANTED - GOOD HOME FOR FESTIVAL BANNER



During this Festival year we have had two large banners made - proudly commemorating our 75 year existence. One of these is on permanent display at the Music Centre but we are moving the second one around to different venues. Do you know anyone who would be willing to display the banner in some prominent place for a few weeks during the remainder of our Festival year? It measures about 13 feet by 4½ feet and is very well behaved! Please let the Music Service know as soon as possible.

## SEARCHING THE INTERNET? Why not earn us a bonus as you click?



**.Everyclick.com** is a website that allows you to generate a small amount of money for your favourite charity every time you search using its own search engine. To support the William Appleby Trust in this way go to [www.everyclick.com/](http://www.everyclick.com/) and click "Select the charity you would like to support" - type "William Appleby Memorial Trust" into the box and follow the further instructions. Then every time you search with everyclick.com, you will help to support the work of the Music Centre and benefit your children.

*The OPUS letters are always available 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.

## CONCERTGOER FESTIVAL 75 REVIEW

by Philip Scowcroft

The first of the three 75th Anniversary concerts took place at Priory Methodist Church on 13 March. This was a cunning mixture of some of the Centre's least experienced ensembles and some of the more experienced smaller ensembles. The playing of the two beginner groups of guitarists (conducted by James Belbin-Wood and Martin Nockalls respectively) and one each of woodwind (Chris Moore) and Brass (Andrew Gurnhill) showed their sense of occasion, some of the groups in music composed or arranged for them by their conductors. The senior ensembles heard were; the Senior Percussion Ensemble directed by Kevin Edwards, in *Paradoodles*, almost totally improvised, and - a real find this - the *Concert Piece for Percussion and Piano* by Malcolm Arnold, thoroughly characteristic of him; the Senior Brass Group (conducted by Paul Stubbs) whose two slots embraced two Banchieri Fantasias (17th Century), popular tunes by Bizet and Handel, well worked arrangements of folk melodies and three numbers in popular styles by Don Blakeson; and the William Appleby Chamber Orchestra (conductor, Bob White) whose programme included Mozart, Robert Washburn's *Serenade for Strings* and, with Emma Stockdale a very assured soloist, three movements from Bach's *Suite in B Minor for flute and strings*. Generally excellent performances suited to the "festival" billing.

The Second event of the Festival 75 took place at the Dome on 17 March, an event awesome in its scale with two junior orchestras, two concert bands, the steel pans, two guitar groups, all recorder groups, the electric guitars (good planning to have the gentle sound of the recorders succeeded immediately by the harsher sound of the "electrics"), the Doncaster Schools Senior Orchestra and the Symphonic Band, whose rousing rendition of Sousa's *Stars and Stripes* march with Emma Stockdale's breathtaking piccolo playing dominant, was one of the outstanding memories (of many good ones). Again it was good to see so many of the teachers composing or arranging music especially for their ensembles. One past teacher, Ray Woodfield (who was in the audience), continues to write prolifically for the recorders and their performance of his

*Curtain Up* was very attractive. Two junior school choirs (from Scawsby Saltersgate, and Balby Central) sounded very well prepared in Douglas Coombes' specially commissioned *The Song Makers*. The evening was enhanced by the presence of the author and raconteur Gervase Phinn, a great admirer of the Music Service, who gave a "history lesson" on its 75 years with musical illustrations from most of the ensembles on view. These illustrations included two more specially commissioned pieces - *Singing Together* by Kevin Edwards, another highly agreeable song for the junior choirs, recalling William Appleby's popular radio programme, and, involving all ensembles simultaneously, *Celebration* by James Belbin-Wood, an attractive, eclectic piece exploring brilliantly all the varied tone colours available to him. This brought things full circle as all performers began the evening with Parry's *Jerusalem* and appropriately so as this was a magnificent celebration, firstly for its music, as a feat of administration and as something for the hundreds of pupils to look back on with pride and enjoyment.

The third Festival concert (18 March), also at the Dome was a similar structure to the previous evening but with mainly different ensembles. Again it was a wonderful occasion, a worthy celebration of something worth marking and holding on to for the future. The outstanding moments - of many - were Beechfield Youth Orchestra's sprightly performance of Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* overture with highly creditable extended solos for clarinet, cello and violin, Vermuyden Concert Band's contribution - film music by Ron Goodwin and Howard Shore - the attractive guitar ensembles by Martin Nockalls and Steve Merrett, two more outstanding examples of compositions by teachers in the Music Service. And last, but far from least, there was another welcome opportunity to hear James Belbin-Wood's *Celebration*, this time with its first section in the custody of Beechfield Youth Orchestra. And does the fact that the Dome was filled to the rafters both nights running indicate the force of schools' music within the town? Astonishingly, three festivals, all with a substantial musical input (the others were HotHouse and the Don Valley Competitive Festival) all took place simultaneously in the Doncaster Metropolitan Borough area. The Music Service's Festival 75 was probably the biggest audience puller of the three; perhaps in view of school music's popularity since the days of William Appleby and even before, we should not be too surprised at that.

### 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.

### ALMOST 100% SUCCESS!

Following last term's 100% examination success, we almost achieved it again this term, but not quite. Students entering for practical and theory examinations (ABRSM and Trinity Guildhall) once again did extraordinarily well with a success rate of 97.4%. We are very proud of this achievement, particularly as the Trinity Guildhall syllabus was brand new from this session.

## 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 by telephoning 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.

## BEECHFIELD YOUTH ORCHESTRA AUDITIONS

Auditions for our most senior orchestra will take place on Friday 29 June and Friday 6 July between 6pm and 8pm. Applications are invited from players of all orchestral instruments of Grade 6 or above in ability. To maintain the very high standard of this orchestra, applicants should be available to attend all rehearsals (which take place every Friday evening during term-time) and all concerts as arranged. Application forms will be available from the Music Centre office from 24 May, and should be returned by Saturday 16 June.

## GIFT AID - HELP SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE MUSIC CENTRE

Many of you will have already received a copy of the letter inviting you to make a charitable donation to the work of the Music Centre by means of a regular voluntary contribution. An amount of £5 per month has been suggested, which means a visit on a Saturday or evening session (or both!) costs about £1.80. Pretty good value we think.

All donations will be used to enhance the work of the Centre and develop it further, are independent of council funding, and are held by the William Appleby Memorial Trustees who will oversee how the money is spent. Please take this opportunity to help benefit not only your own children, but the future of music in Doncaster for the generations to come in the next 75 years. If you have not received a Gift Aid letter, or would like further information, please contact the Music Service.

## WHO's WHO in the Music Service

This term a woodwind teacher with many diverse interests -

### CHRISTOPHER HOPKINSON



best woodwind player and joined his regiment "The 13th/18th Royal Hussars" as principal clarinet at age 18.

For the next 8 years he played in 28 different countries around the world and also fought in the 1st Gulf War as a medic obtaining three Gulf War Medals.

Born in Nottinghamshire in 1967, Chris is married to Helen McDermott, an embryologist.

He started playing the clarinet at age 9 and saxophone at age 10.

Chris joined the Army at age 16 and trained at the Junior Leaders regiment at Bovington camp, Dorset and at Kneller Hall, the Army school of Music. He passed out from there as

Since leaving the Army in 1994 Chris has taught mainly in Nottinghamshire schools. He joined Doncaster Music Service in May 2006.

His hobbies include fish keeping, dog training and cycling. Chris is a multiple time trial National long distance champion and in 2005 became the Ultra Marathon Cycling Association (UMCA) 12 hour world champion. Also in that year he became the first

ever Briton to complete the gruelling 3051 mile Race Across America in 11 days 23 hours and 5 mins. He currently holds various National and World Records for cycling.

### HOLIDAYS, CLOSURE AND RESTARTING IN SEPTEMBER

#### Half term

The Music Centre will be closed from **Saturday 26 May to Sunday 3 June inclusive**, and will re-open on **Monday 4 June**.

#### Summer Holiday

The Music Centre will close on **Friday 20 July** at 4.00pm and will re-open on **Monday 3 September**.

Saturday ensembles will begin on Saturday 8 September, and evening ensembles from Tuesday 11 September.

# DONCASTER MUSIC SERVICE

## Concerts - Dates for your Diary - May 2007

**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.

### FESTIVAL 75 CONCERTS

#### **Saturday 26 May 2007**

*St Peter's Church, Bentley Road, Bentley at 7.30pm*

#### **Doncaster Schools Symphonic Band.**

Admission payable on the door £3 (and £2).

#### **Wednesday 20 June**

*Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery, Chequer Road at 1.00pm.*

#### **William Appleby Chamber Orchestra.**

The Museum makes a small charge for admission on the door.

#### **Sunday 24 June**

*Hall Cross Lower School at 3.00pm.*

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

#### **Wednesday 27 June**

*Music Centre Hall at 7.00pm.*

#### **The Percussion Ensemble, Senior Brass Group, and the Steel Pan Ensemble.**

#### **Friday 6 July**

*Hall Cross Lower School at 7.00pm.*

#### **Vermuyden Concert Band.**

#### **Saturday 7 July**

*Music Centre Hall at 11.00am.*

#### **Guitar Groups. (Mr Belbin-Wood) (Rehearsal at 10.00am.)**

#### **Saturday 7 July**

*Hall Cross Lower School.*

#### **The Beginner Wind Group and Beginner Brass Group at 9.00am.**

**10.00 Band at 10.00am.**

**11.00 Band at 11.00am.**

**12.00 Band at 12.00pm.**

**1.00 Concert Band at 1.00pm.**

#### **Tuesday 10 July**

*Music Centre Hall at 7.00pm.*

#### **Electric Guitar Groups.**

#### **Wednesday 11 July**

*Music Centre Hall at 7.00pm.*

#### **Guitar Groups. (Mr Nockalls)**

#### **Thursday 12 July**

*Music Centre Hall at 7.00pm.*

#### **Recorder Groups.**

#### **Saturday 14 July**

*Hall Cross Lower School*

**9.30 Beginner Strings at 9.30am**

**10.30 Transitional Strings at 10.30am.**

**11.30 Progressive Strings at 11.30am.**

**Saturday Afternoon Orchestra at 12.30pm.**

**Doncaster Schools Senior Orchestra at 1.30pm.**

## **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.**

Last rehearsal dates and theory classes this term.

As a general guide, most ensembles do not have any more rehearsals after their end of term concert, until the start of the next term. Exceptions to this are listed below.

### **Last sessions**

Theory Classes -Tuesday 10 July.  
DSSB - Tuesday 10 July  
Steel Pans - Thursday 12 July  
Senior Brass Group - Friday 13 July

***Doncaster Music Service  
William Appleby Music Centre  
Danum Road  
Doncaster  
DN4 5HE  
01302 734810***