

Music Centre News and Views

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2010

Dates for The Diary

Important dates for your diaries

Saturday 24 April 2010

‘Hands-on’, Merton Music Centre, Chaucer Centre, Canterbury Road, Morden
2.00 – 4.00pm

Saturday 24 April 2010

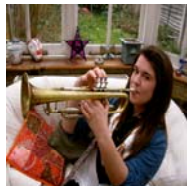
Peter Woodings

Memorial Concert

In Memoriam PW

A celebration of the life and work of Peter Woodings at Wimbledon College, Edge Hill, Wimbledon 7.30pm
Groups: MYGE
MYGO Alumni Guitar Ensemble

Recently MYJO have been taking part in Music For Youth Regional Festival. This is Zoe’s account of what life at the MMF has been like during her 9 years with Music Centre.



Hi, my name is Zoe Mackenzie and I have attended MMF for 9 years. I am the principal trumpet player in Merton Youth Concert Band and Merton Youth Jazz Orchestra and I also attend the London Schools Symphony Orchestra. I hope to study



Maths at York University next year and look forward to continuing with my playing as much as I can. Now that the boring details are over, I can tell you that MMF has always been a huge part of my life, from the legendary sweet trolley on a Saturday morning to playing at the Montreux Jazz Festival. With the help of the ensembles I’ve played in, and of course my teacher Norma, my playing has improved significantly over this time and I was able to take my grade 8 in July 2008. My Saturday mornings were always fun, whether it was sitting in front of the bass drum whilst playing Lord of The Rings or making faces at my friends across the band – still keeping full attention on the music of course! The senior bands are even more fulfilling; The highlight of my year is playing at Wimbledon Tennis and then spending the rest of the day on Henman Hill enjoying watching the tennis and being with my friends. It’s hard to sum up 9 years of my life in a short space, so all I can say is that I wouldn’t have changed my experience for the world. It has made me the player I am today and I believe that without playing in ensembles from a young age I would not know how to work as a team (in a section) with my peers. Through this, I have made so many great friends along the way and coming to the MMF every week feels like seeing my family. Hopefully this encourages you to get more involved, have a great time and as much fun as I’ve had!

Zoe Mackenzie

MYSE and The Orchestra of The Age of Enlightenment



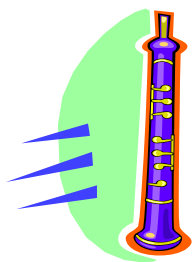
Merton Youth String Ensemble has been working alongside the Orchestra of the Age of enlightenment, and will continue to do so throughout this year. This is what one of the members Alexander, aged 9, had to say about one of the events.

On the 29th of January Merton Youth String Ensemble went to Kings Place in London to play in a concert with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. There were lots of schools there and it was like a workshop. I have gained so much from this musically by learning first hand from professional musicians. I also had so much fun and enjoyed a day off school. Overall the other string players and I really enjoyed it and it was a fantastic experience.



Alexander Lee

“Strictly Oboes!”



An exciting development is being planned for Saturday mornings at the Chaucer Centre – the new “Strictly” series. After the Easter break there will be an opportunity for a small number of children to learn the oboe as part of a group lesson for one term only. Lessons will run from 11-12 noon in Room B. The lessons will be free of charge, but parents will need to pay for the hire of the instrument (£32) and for the cost of reeds (currently £8 each). These free lessons will give a good introduction to playing the oboe, and we hope that some children will wish to continue and eventually start playing with the MMF bands and orchestras. If you are interested in applying for these group oboe lessons, please contact Sara Grint on sara.grint@mmf.org.uk. Future plans hope to include a “Strictly Trombones” in September.

Spotlight on staff... Introducing Flavio Livigni Head of Percussion at MMF.



Although originally from Italy, I studied jazz drums with Ralph Peterson and Howen Hart Junior at The Prince Claus Conservatory in the Netherlands where I also studied with jazz greats Conrad Erwig, David Berkman, Don Braden, Brian Lynch.

Recently I obtained a Masters in jazz drumming from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London with a Leverhulme Trust Scholarship. I have performed at jazz festivals throughout Europe, and I have now decided to work here with the young people of Merton

I will be working alongside Manuel Arciniega a talented and experienced percussionist who recently obtained a Master in classical percussions from the Royal Academy of Music. Manny and I are working towards reaching even higher standards in percussion playing at MMF. As part of this programme we have created a percussion development programme. This course is designed to prepare a new generation of percussionists to join our flagship ensembles such as the Merton Youth Jazz Orchestra and the Merton Youth Concert Band.

We also have new senior and junior percussion ensembles. Please contact flavio.li-vigni@mmf.org.uk for more details.

More important dates for your diaries

Term starts Saturday 24 April 2010

Stop Press

Advanced orders for Music is for Life CD and see web site for pictures of the event.

Peter Woodings memorial CD now available to order

In Memoriam PW - MYGE and MYGO's new professional recording to celebrate the life and contribution of Peter Woodings

Featuring the Merton Youth Guitar Ensemble and Merton Young Guitarists' Orchestra, this digital production has been recorded over several recording sessions at Crown Lane Studios.

This CD has been recorded and produced to celebrate the life and contribution of Peter Woodings, who set up the two guitar ensembles and taught guitar to many young musicians in the borough. The proceeds from selling this CD will be put towards Peter's fund; a new fund which has been set up to help young guitarists in the borough.

Digitally recorded by John Merriman at Crown Lane Studios, the recording has been manufactured to professional standards.

Due for general release on Saturday 10th April 2010*.