



MK Music Centre Bulletin - May 2024

Welcome

We have another busy term end to the academic year. Many thanks as always for supporting your child in their music making with us! Here's what's going on over the next few weeks.

Giles Liddiard

Instrumental Leader



Term Dates

Remaining Music Centre dates this term are:

- Fridays – May 17 / June 7, 14, 21, 28 / July 5
- Saturdays – May 18 / June 8, 15, 22, 29 / July 6 (Summer Fiesta!)

Half Term Break : No Music Centre on Friday 24 May or Saturday 25 May

([Visit our website](#) for a full overview of term dates for all groups)

Auditions

Students of Grade 5 standard and above wishing to move up to the senior groups, Youth Orchestra, String Orchestra and Wind Orchestra, are required to do a short, informal audition.

We will be holding auditions during the w/c 8th July at Newport Pagnell library after school time. We will contact you to give you an audition slot. Students should be prepared to play a piece that best reflects their current standard. They will be asked to play a short extract from a piece that they are currently playing with their current Music Centre group and will also be given a short piece of sight reading.

Applications should be made on the Music Hub web site: <https://miltonkeynesmusichub.co.uk/audition-form-youth-orchestra-string-orchestra-wind-orchestra/>

Music for Youth



Well done to all the Music Centre groups that performed at the MFY regional festivals in March. We are delighted with the news that the Youth Orchestra have been invited to play at Symphony Hall in Birmingham as part of the National Festival. They will be performing on the morning of Saturday July 6th. This clashes directly with the Fiesta so unfortunately does mean that the String Orchestra and Wind Orchestra will be unable to perform during the morning.

Steel Pan Workshop

Saturday 11th March saw a morning of workshops given on Steel Pans by 'Steel Pans in Motion!' A good time was had by all, and I would like to thank the Fanfare Coffee shop, who organised and funded the event.

Milton Keynes Music Hub

W: www.miltonkeynesmusichub.co.uk

E: music@milton-keynes.gov.uk

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End of Term Concert and Summer Fiesta

Summer Fiesta

For those of you new to the Music Centre, on the final Saturday morning of the term, July 6th, we hold the 'Summer Fiesta'. The event is free and friends, family and supporters are welcome to attend.



No ticket is required. Most groups will give an informal performance during the morning and a full timetable is available here: <https://miltonkeynesmusicclub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Summer-Fiesta-6-July-2024-Timetable.pdf>

End of Term Concert

The Wind Orchestra, Youth Orchestra and String Orchestra will be performing on Friday 12th July. Details about the day and tickets will be emailed directly to parents of those groups.

Chamber Music

After some difficult years thrown at us by the Pandemic, the Music Centre is now in a much healthier place. Therefore, we are now able to think about facilitating some 'extension' activities from our core ensembles/groups.

Activities would be provided by our main partner, the MK Music Co-operative. This would typically be something like a string quartet, brass quintet or flute/clarinet group. I have been asked by some Co-op members to gauge interest in such classes. The Co-op cannot guarantee what activities can be offered but the Music Centre would be able to provide rehearsal spaces on a Saturday morning. If your child would be interested in this, please express your interest by completing this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/y6MeiarPqC>



France Tour 2025

We are continuing to make plans for the Wind Orchestra/Youth Orchestra tour to the Loire region of France for summer 2025. The tour dates are July 24th – 29th July 2025 with a day's rehearsal on July 23rd. If your child is currently in intermediate strings/wind band and intend to audition for one of these groups, you may wish to take note of these dates.

Moving Groups

By far the best time for your child to move groups, if they are going to, is September as, on the whole, we like to keep the groups static for an academic year. Here's a quick guide:



- Beginner Choir: Suitable for children in Years 3, 4 & 5.
- Junior Choir: Suitable for children in Year 6 and above
- Beginner groups: Grades 0 – 1
- Junior Groups: Grades 1 – 3
- Intermediate Groups: Grades 3 – 5
- Senior Groups (Wind Orchestra, String Orchestra and Youth Orchestra) – Grade 5 and above. Auditions are required for students wishing to join String Orchestra, Youth Orchestra and Wind Orchestra.

If you aren't sure, now would be a good time to speak to your child's group conductor.

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