###  **North Herts Music School**

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Dear Parents, Carers, NHYO members,

Welcome back! We hope you enjoyed the concert at the beautiful Spirella Ballroom last term as much as we did: the elegant French music certainly suited our surroundings. Daniel Taylor’s performance of the Haydn trumpet concerto was very assured – congratulations to him – and if anyone is preparing any concertos in the future do come and have a chat, as we are starting to think about programmes for next year. This term there are two concerts and a workshop. Please put the dates in your diary now and of course, let us know as soon as you can about any clashes:

Sunday 29 June – Workshop at Stevenage Music Centre, 10 am-5 pm. A chance to polish repertoire for our forthcoming performances. The day counts as part of our rehearsal schedule for the term and full attendance is expected. **There is no rehearsal on Monday 30th June**.

Sunday 6 July – Priory Picnic, Hitchin Priory, 6 pm onwards. Weather permitting! We will have a John Williams film music theme this year.

Monday 14 July – Summer Concert, St. Mary’s Church, Hitchin, 7.30 pm. Featuring two of our senior orchestra members, Rachel Newbold (cello) and Ben Goldscheider (French horn), the concert will include Elgar’s Cello Concerto, Mozart Horn Concerto no. 4, in addition to Rossini’s *Barber of Seville* overture. There will be excerpts from Holst’s *The Planets* and Grieg’s *Peer Gynt* as well.

As it’s the last term of the year, can you let the North Herts Music School office know if you are in your final year of school? We will be starting to audition for new members soon and it would be good to have a clear idea of the spaces within the orchestra. Plus we would like to say goodbye to you properly! Likewise, if you know of anyone who you think might like to join the orchestra, send them our way… The audition date is **Wednesday 16 July** at NHMS. We will also audition for the new orchestra leader at this session – any interested violinists please come and have a chat with us.

The last concert reminded us how important it is that everyone has the correct equipment for their instrument at all times. String players should have a spare set of strings, in addition to a mute and lower strings, a floor-stop. Woodwind players need extra reeds, cork grease, pad papers and brass players any relevant mutes and valve oil. Do talk to your teacher if you are unsure what brands suit your instrument best, or if you think you may need other items but as advanced orchestral players, it is essential to be prepared and professional.

Lastly, as exam season approaches, Justin and I would really like to encourage as full attendance as possible this term. We know that it is a stressful time of year but sometimes a break from the books can be refreshing, not to mention having a lounge in the lovely Benslow gardens in all the sunshine we’re going to have!

Good luck with whatever challenges you have over the next few months and looking forward to a fun term of music-making ahead.

Diane and Justin