Dear Parents, Carers & Students,

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter which is packed with information about all our performances & activities this term and some news of recent achievements.

Well done to all the Year 12 students who entered the Peter Lambourne Bursary & the Sue Cracknell Singing Competition, supported and sponsored by Hitchin Priory Rotary Club. Congratulations to the Lambourne Bursary winners: 1st was ‘Cellist & trombonist Archie Blackaby, 2nd Pianist Carmen Gilbert, 3rd Saxophonist & Guitarist James Luk and 4th Sam Hnaituk. The Sue Cracknell Singing Competition was won by Felix Shaw and Agnes Leonowicz was the runner up.

Staff: at the end of term, after many, many happy years of association at North Herts Music School, Miss Tara Guram will be leaving us. Tara not only came to NHMS as a student, but has latterly taught here. Originally she was particularly inspired by Stuart & Annabel Ford who retired 7 years ago, but has become the aspirational teacher, string orchestra and quartets mentor, passing on her own inspirational teaching to many hundreds of students over the years. We will miss her terribly and wish her well. Also to let you know that Maureen Roche will be stepping down from taking choirs and Tim Parkinson will no longer be working with our Midweek band. Mr Robinson will continue with this band as a Junior Brass Band.

Our two Recital evenings, were once again well-attended with some excellent solo performances. NH Y Jazz Big Band, along with some of our senior string players, benefitted from a super Session Orchestra Weekend (4th & 5th March) with Andy Stott (Head of Pop music from the RNCM) at Stevenage Music Centre with our counterpart Jazz Band from St Albans. North Herts Youth Orchestra excelled themselves at their concert at the end of term at Farnhill School; all three pieces went very well and included the first and last movements of Tchaikovsky’s 5th Symphony; a mighty challenge which they rose to magnificently! Both Saturday Morning Music School Concerts were well attended and received; this was the first time that the String Stars and Singing Stars performed in the big hall. There were some outstanding performances; Leroy Anderson’s “The Typewriter" has to get a special mention!

Our training jazz bands: Launch Pad & Blast Off! joined the Midweek Band for their end of term concert. To mark the performance of “Watermelon Man” Aaron cleverly carved a mascot especially for the concert!

The Intermediate String Orchestra also played a beautiful joint concert with Hitchin Chamber Orchestra in St Mary’s Church following some excellent publicity in the Comet.

As you know we are celebrating our 50th Birthday this year! We are looking forward to a recording engineer coming in to the Music School after Half Term to record our CD for ALL music School groups. This will culminate in a recording of our newly commissioned piece by Mark Lockheart in our Gala Concert next term. I am pleased to report to you that the Friends of North Herts Music School have agreed to us including the first and last movements of Tchaikovsky’s 5th Symphony; a mighty challenge which they rose to magnificently! Both Saturday Morning Music School Concerts were well attended and received; this was the first time that the String Stars and Singing Stars performed in the big hall. There were some outstanding performances; Leroy Anderson’s “The Typewriter” has to get a special mention!

Last term once again saw many highlights: The first concert was very special being a joint concert with Hitchin Girls’ School called “Remembering Mary" in Memory of Mary Bacon who died last year. Chamber Strings Orchestra played movements from the Peter Warlock’s Capriol Suite as well as playing together with string players & choir from Hitchin Girls’ School in a finale of “Can You Feel the Love Tonight?” We were able to present Phase with a cheque for £626 from Friends of NHMS, collected at our Autumn Term concerts, added together with the £546 raised on the evening.

CONCERTS AND MUSIC SCHOOL NEWS

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Follow us on Twitter@HMSNorthHerts

Hertfordshire Music Service
www.hertsmusicservice.org.uk

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Head of Centre
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Hitchin Highbury Road
SG4 9RU
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that your son/daughter can be included in this momentous activity.

We have a raft of performances coming up this term including a major concert at the Gordon Craig Theatre in Stevenage which gives our young band players the opportunity to experience playing in a large professional venue as part of the Stevenage Arts Festival.

**THE GORDON CRAIG THEATRE**
**THE BIG BAND CONCERT**
**WEDNESDAY 21ST JUNE, 2017, 7.00PM**
Tickets are available from the Box Office: 01438 363200 or book online:
http://www.gordon-craig.co.uk/book-big-band-sound-53802
Please see letter to bands regarding the final details:

Rehearsal on Saturday 17th June
@ Stevenage Music Centre

| Junior Wind Bands | 9.15am – 9.55am |
| Senior Wind Bands | 9.55am – 10.35am |
| BREAK             | 10.35am – 10.50am |
| Intermediate & Senior Wind Bands | 10.50am – 11.50am |
| Intermediate Wind Band | 10.50am – 12.30pm |

**Wednesday 21st June – Rehearsals**
@ Gordon Craig Theatre

| Junior Wind Bands | 4.00pm - 4.30 pm |
| Senior Wind Bands | 4.35pm – 5.00pm |
| Intermediate & Senior Wind Bands | 5.05pm - 5.30pm |
| Intermediate Wind Band | 5.35pm - 6.00pm |

**Auditions for Youth Orchestra for new players and a new leader are on Monday 10th July, we are particularly looking to swell the ranks of woodwind, brass and percussionists. Application forms are available from your teachers or from reception.**

**Our 50th birthday celebrations continue with our very own special**

**STRICTLY NORTH HERTS MUSIC & DANCE CONCERT**
**SUNDAY 9TH JULY 2017, 7.30 P.M.**
**HITCHIN TOWN HALL, HITCHIN, SG5 1JE**

**NORTH HERTS YOUTH ORCHESTRA, NORTH HERTS YOUTH JAZZ BIG BAND, STUDIO-CT, STEP CHANGE STUDIOS & IMPULSE YOUTH DANCE COMPANY**

**Rehearsals for Dancers and Musicians**
**Saturday 1st July:**
Rehearsal at Stevenage Music Centre
2.00 – 5.15pm
North Herts Youth Orchestra
& North Herts Youth Jazz Big Band members

**On the day (9th July) at Hitchin Town Hall**
Youth Orchestra 1.30pm – 4.45pm
Jazz Band 3.15 – 6.30pm
Tickets will be available from NHMS and Hitchin Initiative
Office in the town centre:
Adults: £8.00
Concessions: £5.00
Family Ticket: £20.00 (up to 5 family members)

**NORTH HERTS MUSIC SCHOOL**
**SATURDAY MORNING MUSIC SCHOOL CONCERTS**

| 30th June | Chamber Strings Concert at 7.30pm, with rehearsals from 6.00pm at NHMS |
| Sat 1st July | Strings & Choirs at 11.00 Hitchin Girls’ School, Main Hall |

Please see separate notices that have been issued to these groups.

**Instrumental Workshop Days the term:**

**Guitar Day** is on 13th June, at Stevenage Music Centre 9.00 – 2.45pm

**Percussion Day** is on 27th June, at Stevenage Music Centre 9.00 – 2.45pm

**Junior String Day** is on 10th July, At Fearnhill School in Letchworth 9.00 – 2.45pm

Flyers and application forms for all three days are available at Reception or on our website.

What children have said about our workshop days:

“I had the best day of playing and fun in my life!”

Auditions for Youth Orchestra for new players and a new leader are on Monday 10th July, we are particularly looking to swell the ranks of woodwind, brass and percussionists. Application forms are available from your teachers or from reception.

**CONTINUING ACTIVITIES**

“Launch Pad” - our latest junior jazz project has lifted off! This project, aimed at Years 5, 6 & 7 has now become a weekly session on a Monday at North Herts Music School from 4.45 – 5.30pm. Every member is thriving on a diet of performance and improvisation! If you have been playing for a year or more, on any instrument and want to gain confidence in improvisation skills, this is for you!

From September we hope to be starting the second cohort of **String Stars** a gateway activity for younger children aged 5 – 7 who want to learn either the violin or the ’cello in a group. This runs from 9.00 – 9.30am on a Saturday morning for a whole year and our first cohort has been very successful.
We are pleased to announce that we are launching a new Family Ukulele activity on a Saturday morning for an hour with Jimi Day from 11.30am – 12.30pm. For further information about this, please contact reception.

Friends of North Herts Music School

The Friends of North Herts Music School are just like our PTA and we are always looking for some new volunteers to help out on the committee or to help with concerts with lifting and shifting, selling tickets or putting up posters.

You are warmly invited to attend the AGM, which is open to all our parents and carers, at 8pm on 28th June at the Music School. We very much appreciate the support from The Friends of North Herts Music School who pay for a lot of extra equipment & music, as well as hiring venues, paying for transportation and coach travel. This is an essential part of the music school and all of our children and young people benefit hugely from the funds they raise. We are grateful to many of you who support us at concerts in various ways. Please let Nicky Footer know if you are interested in getting involved.

Invoices & Admin

Could we take this opportunity to remind you that our Terms and Conditions will not allow pupils to leave at half term. You will have up to half term to give notice for the end of term. May we remind you that a full half term’s notice in writing is required to the Music School when giving any change in Instrumental/Vocal/Group Tuition. Students stopping because of leaving school also need to let us know, with the exception of this term due to the increase in fees. Please notify as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOR CHANGE TO TAKE PLACE</th>
<th>NOTIFICATION DEADLINE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>End of Summer Term</td>
<td>Fri 30th June 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of Autumn term</td>
<td>Fri 20th Oct 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of Spring term</td>
<td>Fri 19th Feb 2018</td>
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Please note that prices are increasing from September 2017, the details of which are in a separate letter posted to your home.

All payments are dealt with through Serco at County Hall. Payment options are shown on the reverse of the invoice. Please contact the above office with any queries. Your child’s lessons/activities could be in danger of being stopped if fees are unpaid.

Family Ukuleles - New for September

Music School Diary – Summer 2017

**MAY**
Sat 13th Open Afternoon NHMS 1.30 – 3.00pm
Half Term - No Teaching
29th May – 2nd June

**JUNE**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 13th</td>
<td>Recital Evening NHMS 7.00pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Guitar Day – Stevenage Music Centre, Nobel School, Stevenage 9-2.45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 14th</td>
<td>Recital Evening NHMS 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 21st</td>
<td>Big Big Band Concert - With Wind Bands from the whole area Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage, 7.00pm (Please see separate rehearsal schedule)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues 27th</td>
<td>Percussion Day – Stevenage Music Centre, Nobel School, Stevenage 9-3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 28th</td>
<td>AGM: Friends of North Herts Music School 8pm at NHMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 30th</td>
<td>Chamber Strings Concert North Herts Music School 7.30pm</td>
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**JULY**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 1st</td>
<td>Strings &amp; Choirs SMMS Concert</td>
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<td>Hitchin Girls’ School, Main Hall 11.00am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Strictly rehearsal at Stevenage Music Centre : 2.00 – 5.15pm for NHYO &amp; NHYJBB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 3rd</td>
<td>Guitar Ensembles Concert - NHMS, Walton Room 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 9th</td>
<td>Strictly North Herts Music &amp; Dance Concert: 7.30pm Hitchin Town Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10th</td>
<td>Junior String Day for children in Years 4, 5 &amp; 6 – Fearnhill School, 9am – 3pm NH Youth Orchestra Auditions 4.00pm onwards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weds 12th</td>
<td>Midweek Band Concert - NHMS 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 13th</td>
<td>Blast Off! &amp; Launch Pad Concert – NHMS 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 17th</td>
<td>Last teaching day at NHMS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 22nd</td>
<td>Last Day of Term</td>
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**SEPTEMBER - Autumn Term**

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<tr>
<td>Sat 10th</td>
<td>First teaching day for individual lessons</td>
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<td>(Saturday Morning Music School resumes 9th September)</td>
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**AND FINALLY**

Hertfordshire Music Service is undergoing a full review of all that we have to offer in terms of one to one tuition and group activities: we will consult with you whenever possible before making changes, to help us make informed decisions. I can assure you that we are keeping the best musical interests at heart for all our children whilst making everything financially viable for us and affordable for you.

Thank you for supporting all of our young musicians this year at North Herts Music School; we wish those well who are off to study in other places and (when we get there) wishing you all an enjoyable & relaxing summer!

Nicky Footer