

September '08

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to another year of music making at Queen Mary's. Below are listed this term's public concerts to which I hope you will be able to come. Further details of the weekly musical activities that your daughter can become involved in are to be found in the Parents' Handbook. All events can also be found in the Blue Book and on the website, with any updates.

### **Concerts**

To demonstrate that your daughter's musical education is in safe hands (!) the Music Staff will put on one of its infrequent but very entertaining concerts on **Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>** at 7.00 p.m. As many of you know, we try to encourage the girls to perform as regularly as possible and *at least* twice during the year on each instrument studied, as an aid to building confidence. In addition to the weekly lunchtime concerts that help this process (no parents allowed) the first of the girls' public Evening Concerts is on **Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**, starting at 7.00 p.m. in the Great Hall, at which all the Music Award Holders and those who get free lessons (amongst others) will be expected to demonstrate their skills; a second one is on **Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup>** at 7.00 p.m. These concerts are always very enjoyable affairs and a good opportunity to meet other parents as well as a chance to hear some memorable performances. Your daughter should inform you in reasonable time if she is to be a performer though, if past experience is anything to go by, it might be worth your asking her yourself whether she is involved. Even if your daughter is not a performer, or even currently a musician, we will be very pleased to see you. These concerts are preceded by drinks/nibbles at 6.30 in the Outer Hall.

**Senior Choir** will take part in the annual RSCM Schools' Festival Service on **Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** at 4.30 p.m. in Ripon Cathedral. The service will end at about 5.15. The first major instrumental ensemble concert of the year is on **Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>** at 2.30 p.m. in the Great Hall when the performers, including choirs, celebrate (**Almost**) **St Cecilia's Day** – your daughter should be able to tell you why it is so-called nearer the time! The leave-out begins after this concert, though there is a Christmas Fair to tempt you to stay a little longer. Tickets are not required for any of the above events.

Following a successful debut outside school last year **Years 5 & 6**, under the baton of Miss Shepherdson, will give a concert in Felixkirk church on **Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>** at 7.00 p.m. – further details regarding this will be sent nearer the time. The **Rock Band Christmas concert** is now a fixture; there will be another one on **Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** at 7.00pm in the Great Hall, with a retiring collection. **The Chapel Choir's** annual Christmas Charity concert will be on **Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** at 7.00 p.m. in Baldersby St James' Church. Tickets for this concert will be available in advance from the Office after half term – please use the enclosed form to reserve them – and also at the door. On **Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** KS2 will perform their Christmas Production. The final music of the term is the Carol Service, held in Ripon Cathedral on the last day of term, **Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** at 10.30 a.m. We hope to see you at some, if not all, of these events; your support is, as always, greatly appreciated.

## **Music Practice**

Learning an instrument is a wonderful and rewarding activity but requires great commitment on the part of the learner. In order to gain the most enjoyment and fun from her lessons your daughter needs to organise her time to practise *daily*. As is stated in the Parents' Handbook, Years 3 to 8 boarders are allotted practice times every morning; Senior School girls are expected to find their own time during the day or in the evenings. However if your daughter is a daygirl please can I encourage you to listen to her practising each day? Her teacher will write down practice requirements in the music notebook – don't let your daughter kid you that she does not have one. We appreciate that the girls (and you) lead busy lives and that practice is sometimes seen as something to do the night before a lesson but the famous Japanese teacher Suzuki said 'practice should only not be done on the days you do not eat!' These efforts are rewarded not only by hearing individual progress but also by music points and accolades/potential prizes at the end of term, including the Ryan Effort prize (for gaining an average effort mark of at least 1.5 over the term). Daygirls can of course practise in the Music Block whenever they are free during the day, particularly if practice at home is impractical. Many of the girls aim for music exams as targets and our last exam session saw another 100% exam success. (More advanced pupils should remember that success at Grades 6-8 can be used to help University Entrance.) When your daughter is ready for an exam her teacher will enter her – she should know of the possibility before the end of the previous term (it may also be on her report) and she will know definitely if this is to happen by the 3rd week of the current term at the latest, by which time I will have given her a test on scales, prior to entry. Fees for this will be put on the bill. You will receive written notification of the entry from Miss Shepherdson. The next exam date is November 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **Music Lessons**

If your daughter has individual music lessons may I remind you that the peripatetic teachers would appreciate settlement of their accounts within *one month* of receipt of the bill? Charges are currently based on £175 for 10 lessons, with 30 lessons to be taught during the year. As the teachers are self-employed, and the Autumn term is particularly long, some of them may choose to charge for the actual number of lessons arranged rather than £175 each term. If this is the case adjustments will be made to subsequent bills. The teachers are very happy to speak to you either on the phone or in person at a suitable time, should the need arise. If necessary you can contact me by phone or email to arrange this. One term's notice, *in writing*, is required if your daughter is to stop having lessons. Would you please also let the teacher know if your address changes?

Should you wish your daughter to *start* lessons, (providing she understands the content of the previous paragraph on practice!) or have a trial lesson, this can easily and quickly be arranged. Please you drop me an email at [ncarter@queenmarys.org](mailto:ncarter@queenmarys.org) or ring my office phone - 575012. We are currently short of violinists, cellists and brass players should anyone be interested!

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Carter  
Director of Music

To Nicholas Carter (Please return by **Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**)

Please reserve .....seats @ £7.00 (cash/to be put on the bill; please delete)

Please reserve .....seats @ £5.00 concessions (Senior Citizens and Under 16s)

for the Chapel Choir Christmas Charity concert on **Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** at 7.00 p.m. at Baldersby St James' Church. Refreshments (donations) will follow the concert.

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Address -----

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