



# Newsletter June 2018

**HOLIDAY COURSE**  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

The Sheffield Music Hub is offering a special music group holiday course. I would love to see lots of my students attending this course. It is a fabulous opportunity to improve on your instrument, learn new techniques and enjoy music making as part of a large group. We will have lots of fun playing musical games, learning new pieces, experiencing music making with different groups of people and making new friends with other young musicians from across the city.

The cost of the course is £60 for 3 days. A limited number of bursaries at £30 are available and we also offer free places for Looked After Children and students who attend Forge Valley School. If you think you are eligible or for further information please contact the Hub. Wrap around care is available from 8:00am to 5:30pm at an additional cost of £30 for all 3 days.

The groups which would be suitable for violinists and violists are:

Sheffield Children's Orchestra - Beginners to Grade 3 (Y3 to Y6)  
Sheffield Young Sinfonia - Grade 3 and above (Y7 to Y11)

The young musicians do not need to already attend one of the above groups as this is a chance to try a new or different group.

To apply, please visit [www.sheffieldmusicclub.org](http://www.sheffieldmusicclub.org).

## **Congratulations to Sheffield Children's Orchestra**

Well done to the young violinists and violists from the Sheffield Children's Orchestra for a super performance at The Gala Concert at The Octagon in April. They played Mission To Mars and Star Wars - with lightsaber bows!

If you would like to join this orchestra, we rehearse on Wednesdays from 4:45 to 5:45 at Ecclesfield School. All string players from beginners to grade 3 are welcome. You are welcome any week to give it a go, just let me know when to expect you. The last rehearsal this term is on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **Summer Concerts and Exams**

I have arranged a number of concerts for my students this term, at school fairs, assemblies or recital evenings. Please check your email for details.

The students involved know when they will be performing and which pieces they will be playing. Please ensure they are practicing hard.

I have 4 students taking ABRSM exams this term. Good luck to you all!

As well as teaching, I like to perform regularly. This summer, I will be performing with The Guild of Strings at the Folk Forest and with The Woodfield String Quartet at Whirlow Spirituality Centre. Details on my website.

## Contact Details

I like to keep in contact with the parents / carers of my students. I believe that it is essential to help the young musicians gain the best experience and make the most progress. I am happy to communicate via email, text, phone or in person.

I have a lot of new students this term, but I do not have the contact details for many of you because schools are not allowed to give me your details. If you would like to receive communications from me and are happy to provide me with your contact details, please could you email or text me, letting me know who you are and who your son/daughter is. Many thanks.

## How do I practice? When do I practice? Do I have to?

The main issue I hear from parents and carers is about practice. Sadly some students give up because they don't think they're doing enough practice when actually they are making good progress and could do very well in music. So, let's be realistic. It is hard to make time to practice. It is hard to find the motivation to practice. It is hard to practice when you are starting out on the instrument or on a new technique or more challenging piece. Many students struggle especially when they are starting to read music.

However, it is very rewarding to progress and to achieve. When children work out that practicing means they do better, learn quicker, play more pieces, find it easier, play in more concerts, join more ensembles, be admired for their talent and most importantly have more fun, then they practice even more.

The key is to learn how to practice effectively. By using good practice methods, you can learn twice as much in half the time.

I recommend trying to practice at least 3 times a week. For beginners they need to do 5 to 10 minutes only, but making sure this is well used is essential. Check their notebooks for what I would like them to do and ask them to concentrate on using the best technique, making their best sound and working on the bits they can't play yet - there's no point in practicing the easy bits!

They don't have to play everything every session. Just work on a note, or a bar, or a line, or a passage. It's much more effective than simply playing through. Finally, joining an ensemble or practicing with others helps enormously too as they get to practice in a fun learning environment with friends and don't forget those performances in the lounge to family and friends – a great way to show off!

## Academic Year 2018 - 2019

Please look out for an email in the next few months from the Sheffield Music Hub regarding payment for lessons next academic year.

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