



HELLO!

A packed summer term kicks off with our 50th Anniversary Gala Concert at Sage Gateshead on Sunday 5th May. The current orchestra will be joined by previous conductors, pupils and VIP guests. David Kendall and Chris Ouvry-Johns will take up the baton as guests alongside current conductor Nicholas Nowicki. The programme includes Mussorgsky: Night on Bare Mountain, Wagner: Prelude to Die Meistersinger, Borodin: Polovtsian dances, Elgar: Pomp and Circumstance March no.4 and Mahler: Symphony no.1 in D major. The orchestra will then concentrate on the preparations for the trip to the USA and performance at Carnegie Hall.

The third of our “Snappy” series of events for 2018/19 takes place in June. Snappy Proms brings the spirit of the Royal Albert Hall to Tees Valley with around 2000 primary school children performing songs from Elgar to The Beatles over three events. Hartlepool Borough Hall, Thornaby Pavilion and Eston Sports Centre host these most anticipated *Big Sing* events once again.

I will be heading off with the Tees Valley Youth Choir to the Llangollen International Eisteddfod for the third successive year this July. I’m pleased to say that Nikki Lycett-Findlay will also be making the trip following the birth of her daughter Margot. This festival is a joy to be involved with and our young people from Tees Valley will be competing, and once again making friends, with the top choirs from all over the world. Look out for us on the Channel Four TV coverage.

On top of all that dozens of our pupils will be taking exams this summer and we wish them all the best.

Susan Robertson, Service Manager



Watch out for a special edition of Notes in July as the Youth Orchestra return from New York.

The Music Hub Newsletter for Tees Valley.

New Teachers’ Choir Dates

Fresh rehearsal dates have been revealed for the Durham & Tees Valley Teachers’ Choir. New members are always welcome throughout the year!

Details on Page 3.

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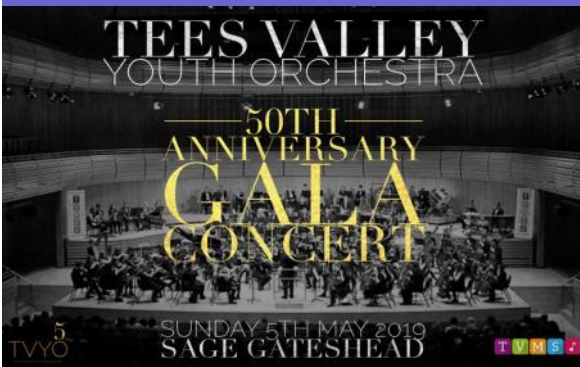
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Did You Know?

The number of recorded CDs and blank CDs sold are said to be about equal.

TVYO 50th Anniversary Gala Concert

Tees Valley Youth Orchestra are to perform at the Sage Gateshead to celebrate 50 years of high-quality orchestral playing with a celebratory Gala Concert. Featuring the current Carnegie Hall-bound orchestra and plenty of former members alongside guest conductors, this is an evening not to be missed. The concert will take place on Sunday 5th May and will start promptly at 7:30pm. Tickets are priced at £10 for adults, £5 for seniors and free entry is granted for under 18s. These can be purchased in advance from the Sage Gateshead website.



Middlesbrough Rock Vox

TVMS ensemble 'Rock Vox' performed a 20 minute set of cover songs at Middlesbrough Town Hall on Friday 12th April, along with bands from Musinc. The performance started at 6pm and they were greeted by a sold out audience. The group are also performing original material at Shine Festival on Saturday 11th May from 5pm in a 30 minute concert with the newly formed Undevine Telephone Line.

Rock Vox is a new pop ensemble



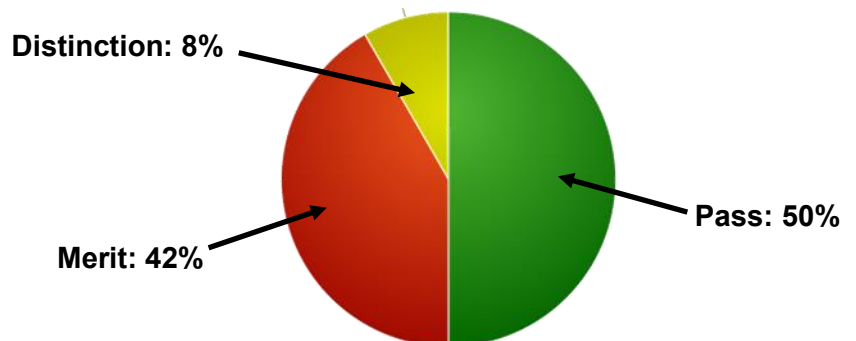
Cleveland Philharmonic Choir Concert

Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra would like to welcome everyone to their next concert entitled "Homeward Bound! A tour of the British Isles in song" and will take place on Friday 28th June 2019 at 7:30pm. The venue will be St Mary's Cathedral in Coulby Newham.



ABRSM Spring Exam Results

The results have been released from the ABRSM Exam Board for the Spring examinations held at the TVMS centre. As presented in the pie chart, 18 pupils received a Pass, 15 pupils achieved a Merit and 3 students were awarded a Distinction. There were no fails recorded. Candidates who have not yet received their qualification should expect to receive their certificate in the coming weeks from their TVMS music teacher. Congratulations to all exam pupils!



Did You Know?

The harmonica is the world's best selling musical instrument, according all-known recorded sales data.

Brahms' Requiem

Tees Valley Youth Choir joined Stokesley Choral Society, the Angrove Singers, Nunthorpe Singers and Vox on Saturday 27th April at Stockton Parish Church. Starting promptly at 7:30pm, the concert featured music such as Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Handel's *Zadok the Priest*.

Conducted by Jeremy Harbottle, the performance featured solo performances by Meike Wanjek, Rohan Hill and Ben Findlay. Pictures and a full recap of the event is available on TVMS website.

Upcoming Teachers' Choir Rehearsals

The Durham & Tees Valley Teachers' Choir continues with new rehearsals going into the Spring term. The first took place on Thursday 25th April and the second will be on Thursday 16th May. Rehearsals will take place at the Bishopton Village Hall (TS21 1HB), and will start at 5pm and finish at 6:30pm. New members are always welcome! We are also encouraging teaching assistants to get involved with the choir.

Speed Admin Update

The new TVMS administrative software is now nearing its full implementation stage as teachers will soon be issued TVMS iPods to use Speed Admin to record lesson attendance and plan lessons. Parents should have already received log in details to access their account where they can make payments, check lesson details and monitor lesson attendance.

Last month, members of TVMS Support travelled down to Reading for a Speed Admin conference where service users were able to speak directly with the software developers on what's been successful, what hasn't, what features are useful and what features we would like to see going forward. Representatives of TVMS were joined by other Music Hubs across the country who are also using Speed Admin to streamline their systems.

It was extremely beneficial to hear how other music services were using the software and the advice received would be invaluable going forward. This was also true with the Speed Admin developers as problems we had encountered were swiftly resolved and plans were put in place to further development.

The developers also highlighted some upcoming additions to the software including a new Speed Admin app for mobile devices. Parents and teachers can expect more news on this and much more in the coming months.

Snappy CDs Available Now!

The Snappy Music Big Sing events have been a tremendous success, with thousands of children and dozens of schools across the Tees Valley taking part in the recent Snappy Christmas and Snappy Spring showcases. As well as singing and dancing to well known music, the events also comprise a handful of original compositions including *Starlight* and *Bad Dog*. These songs and 9 other catchy tunes are now available to buy for only £5.

All profits will go to funding Tees Valley Youth Orchestra's once-in-a-lifetime tour to New York in July. Snappy Music CDs are available from the TVMS Office. Call 01642 603600 or email tvms@tvms.org.uk to order your copy now!



DURHAM MUSIC CENTRE **TVMS**
Durham & Tees Valley Teachers' Choir
A brand new choir for teachers of all abilities
Teaching Assistants are welcome!

Led By
Susan Robertson (TVMS)
Kate Hibbard (DMS)

Thursday 25th April
5pm - 6:30pm

Bishopton Village Hall
Church View, Bishopton, TS21 1HB

The choir rehearses monthly to allow teachers to join without too much of a time commitment.

Need more information?
TVSRobertson@tvms.org.uk
k.hibbard22@durham.gov.uk

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Music Education At Risk of Failing Young Musicians

Music education must evolve to fit the needs of the 21st century or risk failing generations of young talent, a new report has warned.

There are “huge disparities” in provision of music lessons between schools and a failure to recognise how young people engage with music, according to The Music Commission who published the report. The report, entitled ‘Returning our Ambitions for Music Learning’, comes as a result of an 18-month inquiry chaired by Sir Nicholas Kenyon, who is the managing director of arts centre the Barbican and a former controller of the BBC Proms.



It argues that young people from all backgrounds can achieve their musical potential by forging better connections between schools, music teachers and publically funded music organisations in the community. Other recommendations include universal free school-based music tuition, a stipulation that schools can only be classed as ‘outstanding’ if they have a broad cultural programme, and initiatives to get young people involved in the planning of music organisations’ work.

Sir Nicholas said: “There is a host of pressures we understand on schools to meet targets and achieve results. But there’s a growing understanding that this is not enough. Part of this is about funding and connecting young people with the opportunities there are to progress, but we have got to do more to move music education into the 21st century.”

The report also argues that music is “central for creating skills for a modern economy and society “, according to a statement from The Music Commission. The music industry generates “significant economic value” but education in the art form also improves confidence and broader academic attainment among pupils”, it added. Sir Nicholas Kenyon said: “Every young person should be supported to achieve their musical potential, whatever their background. The problem is that too often we are failing them – by ourselves - by not supporting them to progress and realise the personal, creative and economic benefits of the initial investment that we all make.”

A spokesman for the Department of Education (Dfe) said they are currently working with music groups to “refresh” the approach to music education, adding “We want all pupils to have the opportunity to study music at school.”



He continued: “This is why the subject is compulsory in the National Curriculum from the age five up to 14. We are also putting more money into arts education programmes than any subject other than PE - nearly half a billion pounds to fund a range of music and cultural programmes between 2016 and 2020.”

Tees Valley Youth Orchestra’s Spring Concert - Recap

St Baranabas Church in Middlesbrough saw hundreds of concert goers attend the latest Tees Valley Youth Orchestra concert on Saturday 30th March. The Youth Orchestra performed their annual Spring Concert to a crowded audience. Highlights from the concert included a rousing performance of Mahler’s *Symphony No 1* and the impressive encore of Dvorak’s *Slavonic Dance No 8*. Special mention should be given to Megan and Alex for captivating and virtuosic brilliance in their solos. Megan tackled the challenging piece of *Carnival of Venice* from Briccialdi while Alex performed *Czardas* from Italian composer Vittorio Monti. The concert closed with an encore followed by a round of cheers and applause from the audience. TVYO will next perform at the Sage Gateshead in May with a very special 50th Anniversary concert.



National Youth Choir & Fellowship Auditions Now Open

National Youth Choir of Great Britain auditions are now open for the 2019/2020 season (with the application deadline on Monday 29th April). The NYCGB Fellowship Programme are now also open (with deadline on Friday 10th May). Auditions of Junior Choirs will take place in the Autumn, and dates are available on the NYCGB website.

NYCGB strongly believe that every talented singer in the UK is entitled to go for an NYCGB audition, wherever they come from, and whatever their musical background. If you have a passion for singing with others and want to take to the highest level, and if you've got talent and readiness to learn, then an NYCGB audition really can be the start of something amazing.

Full audition dates and further information can be found at www.nycgb.org.uk/audition.



Did You Know?

In 1996, Ringo Starr appeared in a Japanese advertisement for apple sauce which is what "Ringo" means in Japanese.

The Big Music Project!

The Big Music Project enables young people to engage in positive activities within a wide range of creative industries. Over the past 4 years Tuned In, the organisation behind The Big Music Project, have engaged over 100 young people in this project in the form of a youth committee who have helped to organise three successful music events at Tuned In! With over 1200 people from the community collectively in attendance over all music events hosted.

Young people who have engaged with the project also develop employability skills and have the opportunity to attend nationwide visits to meet with inspiring industry professionals and engage with young people from all over the UK who are part of the same project. The project is back for a final time at Tuned In, as part of a Legacy continuation fund.



This project will look at forming a youth committee to organise a music event for the community of Redcar & Cleveland. The Big Music Project also involves some music-making and confidence building activities through team work and group tasks. Young people will be able to experience running their own music event and have the chance to work with industry professionals including in-house sound technicians, musicians and event managers.

Social interaction, decision making and empowerment tasks through leadership and responsibilities in creative job roles will help shape the project. Transferable skills such as handling money and problem solving tasks will enhance young people's employability skills and the ability to understand a working environment by organising an event.

Young people aged 13 to 18 and who love music are eligible to take part in this event. Starting Monday 29th April, 6pm - 8pm. To join contact James Lilly from Tuned In by emailing James.Lilly@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk.



Snappy Spring 2019 - Recap

Tees Valley Music Service returned to The Borough Hall in Hartlepool, Thornaby Pavilion in Stockton and Eston Leisure Centre in Middlesbrough for a series of Snappy Spring Big Sing events. Following on from the success of Snappy Christmas the previous year, we were eager to raise the bar for our spring showcases and this certainly did not disappoint. With over 40 schools participating in Snappy Spring 2019, totalling more than 2500 pupils, we certainly made an impact on the friends and family who attended.

Unlike Snappy Christmas, two days' worth of activity were blended into one which understandably led to a very quick turnaround. The sessions involved a handful of seasonal songs including *Spring Chicken* and *I'd like to teach the world to sing* and *Good Dog*, a favourite amongst the performers. Each rehearsal lasted just under an hour as the Key Stage 1 pupils sang and danced to the songs. Towards the end of the rehearsals, the doors were opened as parents were admitted into the concert/sports hall. The number of attendees was extremely high and it's likely that the Middlesbrough and Stockton concerts attracted the highest turnout we have ever received for a Snappy Music event.



Over 3000 parents, friends and relatives collectively watched a Snappy Spring concert throughout the week. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive: one attendee commented that it was "a great way to get children involved in music" and applauded the schools and event organisers for making this opportunity happen. Another parent stated: "Snappy Spring is such a breath of fresh air. Nowadays when schools are so concerned with Ofsted and league tables it's really refreshing that children are still able to experience the joy of music with their friends."

The Snappy Music events continue this summer with the newly rejuvenated Snappy Proms. Expect more details shortly.

Did You Know?

Meat Loaf supports English football team Hartlepool United.



Events for Spring 2019

Saturday 27th April - Tuesday 7th May, Shine Festival, Venues TBC

Saturday 27th April, TVYC Angrove Singers & Stokesley Choral Society

Thursday 2nd May, TVYJC at the Rotary Club, 8PM - 10PM, Parkmore Hotel, 636 Yarm Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS16 0DH

Sunday 5th May, TVYO 50th Anniversary Concert, 7:30PM- 10PM, Sage Gateshead, St Marys Square, Gateshead, NE8 2JR

More Events Coming Summer 2019

How Can Babies And Toddlers Benefit From Music?

Parents want to give their children the best life that they can. There are all sort of things that you can do to help ensure that your baby thrives. Spending a lot of quality time together can be a big help. Making sure that they eat well goes a long way as well. A lot of parents already know these things. But, what you might not know is that exposing your baby or toddler to music has huge benefits as well.

Many people are aware that exposure to music is linked to mathematical ability. In fact, this connection has been termed *The Mozart Effect*. While this connection is named after Mozart, the benefits of music are not restricted to his compositions. Indeed, exposure to all kinds of classical music have been shown to boost mathematical ability.

Less well known is the connection between music and literacy. Part of the benefit here is derived from the fact that listening to a lot of music is likely to boost a young child's vocabulary. After all, songs include all sorts of different lyrics. What's more, these lyrics tend to be memorable. Just think about all those times you have had a song stuck in your head. Listening to, and remembering a wide range of words provide a nice vocabulary boost that pays huge dividends even years down the road.



Music can also enhance motor skills in a variety of ways. If your child plays with a toddler piano, xylophone or triangle, they will be working on their fine motors skills as well. While the sounds coming from the instrument might not exactly resemble music, there is a benefit nonetheless. Toddlers can work on their motor skills by dancing along whenever you're playing something catchy . This can be good exercise and a whole lot of fun!

Music is a natural mood elevator. Listening to upbeat songs will bring a smile to your little one's face, just like it does for you. So, whenever your baby or toddler looks a little down or just bored, throw on some tunes. Of course, you aren't always looking to elevate their mood; sometimes you might prefer to play a soft lullaby to help your little one drift off to sleep.

There are all sorts of different ways to make music a part of your life. You might put on something classical while you're eating dinner. Or, you might play nursery rhymes when you're driving with your kids, instead of playing Herat Radio.

To conclude, there are lots of things that provide benefits. The great thing about music though, is that in addition to providing academic and social benefits, it also happens to be really enjoyable. For that reason, it is highly recommended to make music a part of your child's life.

Author Bio: Ryan Howard runs [SmartParentAdvice](#), a site that provides parenting advice for mums and dads. Ryan writes about all the different ups and downs of parenting and provides solutions to common challenges.

Snappy Proms

A brand new and exciting Snappy Music event is coming to Stockton, Middlesbrough and Hartlepool in June as schools and pupils will join TVMS for a joyous, feel-good concert with a heavy patriotic theme. Schools are busy rehearsing the songs and the choreography in preparation for the June concerts. More details on the dates and times of the performances will be released soon although Thornaby Pavilion, Hartlepool Borough Hall and Eston Leisure Centre will remain the venues for the big sing extravaganzas!





Susan Robertson—Manager of TVMS. Susan is the Manager of the Tees Valley Music Service and a qualified teacher with over 25 years of experience in the classroom. She was part of the very successful Curriculum Team at TVMS who introduced Snappy Music CPD training sessions for teachers, the very popular series of half-day courses for teachers, and Snappy Big Sings for schools. Susan has been carrying out Ofsted's 'Inspirational Conversations' with schools and can support you to get 'Ofsted-Ready.' Susan loves to get out and meet people, so if you have anything you'd like to discuss about your music provision she'd be only too happy to help.



Chris Lewis—Assistant Manager of TVMS. Chris oversees our provision in Redcar and Cleveland and Middlesbrough, our CPD programme and our events. He is a qualified teacher with over 30 years of experience in the classroom and he previously managed the Curriculum Faculty at TVMS. Chris has overall responsibility for all our orchestras and ensembles at TVMS and is the leader of our very successful Yangchin ensemble which takes its influences from music of different parts of the world.



Jeff Sawdon - Assistant Manager of TVMS. Jeff oversees our provision in Stockton and Hartlepool and is our Music Technology specialist. He has over 15 years experience teaching music and delivering workshops. Prior to that he taught at Middlesbrough College and was a professional musician. He was part of the Curriculum Team who set up the very successful "Snappy Music" workshops for teachers and he can give you advice about your IT provision in school and all matters to do with recording, PA equipment etc. Jeff is also your first-line contact if you'd like to become a Partner of TVMS. He also oversees our website



Anthony Ingledeew—Hartlepool Coordinator TVMS. Anthony is affectionately known as 'Mr I' by the children he works with. He has over 30 years experience as a professional musician and teacher. He specialises in Guitar and Ukulele and has also delivered a number of projects with Hartlepool Youth Service and with Music developing strategies to engage children who find conventional learning difficult to cope with. Anthony has worked on a number of projects with Early Years children too. Please contact tvaingledeew@tvms.org.uk if you'd like some advice or support with your music in Hartlepool.



Phil McFarlane—Middlesbrough Coordinator for TVMS. Phil is known as the 'Mr Drum' of Tees Valley Music Service due to the fantastic drumming and percussion projects and performances he has organized over the years. Phil is a published author of music teaching resources and our resident expert on all things you tap, scrape and shake! He has worked with colleagues to revamp our Snappy Workshop offer for schools and has linked them to the Cornerstones Curriculum too. Please contact tvpmcFarlane@tvms.org.uk if you'd like some advice or support with your music in Middlesbrough.



Penny Ferguson—Redcar & Cleveland Coordinator for TVMS. Penny has taught cello & double bass for the last 12 years at TVMS and been in charge of Redcar & Cleveland for the past six. Over the past few years she has developed, with colleagues, a great tradition of large scale string workshops, enabling literally hundreds of beginner pupils to have their first experience of orchestral playing very early in their musical development. The concept has grown to include special themes, mixed ability groups, mixed instruments and summer schools. Please contact tvpferguson@tvms.org.uk if you'd like some advice or support with your music in Redcar & Cleveland.



Jud Down—Stockton on Tees Coordinator for TVMS. Jud brings a vast experience of leadership having organised and led hard working bands on many top cruise liners across the world. Now he applies that expertise to running the Stockton Area for TVMS and has been instrumental in the development of new working relationships with partners in the area. Still playing trumpet in professional shows orchestras and bands, Jud teaches Brass instruments in both small groups and whole classes and is an avid advocate of music technology in this context. Please contact tvjdown@tvms.org.uk if you'd like some advice or support with your music in Stockton on Tees.



Alan Rutter—Support Services Manager for TVMS. During his time as a Royal Marine bandsman Alan learned to play most instruments known to man. He puts that skill to good use now as he is in charge of the TVMS instrumental stock, issuing and retrieving, logging and storing and even repairing them. After many years of management experience with the Royal Mail, Alan came to TVMS in 2002 and oversees the busy support team. Last but not least he is the logistical force behind the many concerts by our bands and orchestras across the county and the region.



Janice Frazer— Support Service Coordinator for TVMS Janice has been with TVMS for over 16 years and has been Support Service Coordinator for most of those years. She organises the team of TVMS Support staff and ensures all day to day operations run as smoothly as possible. Janice also arranges all aspects of our external exam board programme including ABRSM and Trinity. Always cheerful in the face of many challenges, Janice or one of her team will very likely be your first-line contact at TVMS when you get in touch with us.

Contact Us

Contact us via the TVMS website:

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