

29/04/2025

Once Upon a Christmas

Walsall Music Education Service's Christmas Choir Celebration 2025

25th – 27th November

Dear Head Teacher / Music Co-ordinator / Head of Music

Walsall Music Education Service (WMES) is pleased to announce our School Choirs' Christmas Celebrations for 2025 – "Once Upon a Christmas" – will take place in the Walsall Arena and Arts Centre's A3 Arena over a 3-day period: 25th - 27th November.

Each day school choirs will take part in an intensive afternoon workshop/rehearsal and evening performance. This is also a CPD opportunity for staff observing high quality choral directing. On each evening a massed choir of approximately 200 young voices will be supported by a live band.

Ula Weber returns for a fourth year directing all CPD sessions, workshops and performances. Ula is a highly experienced choral director for children's, youth and adult choirs with an outstanding reputation of high-quality training for staff, not just in vocal delivery, but also in conducting. For more information visit Ula's website: <https://www.ulaweber.org.uk>

In preparation for the event, WMES will provide:

- A 'Meet the Music' session with Ula Weber will be held for school teachers and choir leaders at Walsall Arena and Arts Centre on **Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 4pm – 6pm**. This will be a vital CPD session for all staff leading or accompanying children in schools.
- All the music and resources will be provided including backing tracks.
- The resources will be suitable for use in your own school's Christmas performances.
- One workshop of up to 1 hour, will be held in school with a vocal teacher from WMES. Times/dates to be shared/agreed at the Meet the Music session in September.
- The performances will be accompanied by a professional live band.

To take part in the performance, including the educational workshop, CPD opportunities, in-school workshop and access to the resources (which can be used in schools) you will need pay a non-refundable fee of £220. For schools with SLAs with the Music Service from September 2025, this is reduced by 10%, therefore £197.

If you would like your school choir or class to be involved in this exciting event, please complete the form attached or visit our website to sign up: www.walmused.org.uk/schools

Payment can be made by card over the phone to our Music Administrator (details on booking form) or by invoice providing a purchase order number is submitted. We are unable to accept bookings without payment or a valid purchase order number. Full details are on our website sign up page (and below). Places are limited so early booking is recommended.

Any questions please contact me on steph.duffy@walsall.gov.uk

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steph Duffy', with a stylized, cursive script.

Steph Duffy

Music Education Manager

Walsall Music Education Service