

Hello,

In this issue, Walsall Music Education Service events take centre stage.

Coming right up this next week are the WYMS (music competition) heats, with the final at the end of March (27th).

Rock meets Jazz is a new venture for us, but with a partnership with the award winning Walsall Jazz Orchestra, what's not to like about that!

National Music Day (June 21st) is something we dipped our toes into last year. The feedback was excellent, so we we're doing it bigger and better this year.

Our Summer Singing Festival (June) filled the best part of a week last year, no doubt in response to Rock Choir *Rock Stars* taking the lead. No point in fixing something that isn't broken so it'll be more of the same this year!

Tuesday Night Music Centre and Rock Stars Walsall (Rock Choir) need your support in encouraging new members. Details for all the above can be found in the articles below.

Finally, another first for us - our very own Nick Dewhurst gave a hugely well received talk on *Careers in Music* at Lower Farm. If this appeals to you, please get in touch.

With best wishes

National Music Day

June 21st marks the national day of music. Last year we trialled 3 Little Birds by Bob Marley, and spurred on by the success of this we would like all schools to get involved.

This years song is Firework by Katy Perry; an uplifting and inspirational song addressed to anyone and everyone who has ever felt fragile and insignificant. Perry encourages these people to discover (or rediscover) that 'spark' within themselves which is their true spirit or essence, the thing which will bring them alive and show the world what they are capable of.

All the music, backing tracks, help files etc are available NOW on our [website](#).

We're so looking forward to hearing your recordings.

Marriage of Figaro in Short

Schools are invited to attend this Welsh National Opera performance for free (KS3 & 4). In return, they ask that all groups complete a short, anonymous survey online to provide feedback on the performance.

Friday 9 May 2025, Birmingham Hippodrome

Please book your tickets via 0121 689 3010. For further information, please contact michael.graham@wno.org.uk

Early Years Music Conference

[Soundpots](#) have co-ordinated and delivered quality music-making sessions with thousands of children for the Soundpots programme. They have provided mentoring, training and CPD to Early Years Practitioners both locally and nationwide.

Guest speaker: [Rosie Rushton](#)

Friday 4 April 2025 9am-4pm: The Bridge Centre, Birches Head Road, Birches Head Stoke-on-Trent ST2 8DD

£50pp. Includes lunch

Contact the organisers for more [here](#)

Summer Singing Festival

Last years [Summer Singing Festival](#) week was a huge triumph.

Working in partnership with Rock Choir-Rock Stars, leader Sonia Eyre offered great insights into schools' prepared performances and led the massed schools choir in an afternoons workshop, learning three news songs and performing them to an invited audience.

Booking is now open. You can [download the booking form here](#)

For more information, click [here](#)

Music Mark launch new Podcast

'Make Your Mark: Notes on Music Education' is Music Mark's new podcast. With a new episode to be released each month, the podcast will showcase diverse experiences and perspectives from across the music education sector.

Find out more and [Listen here](#)

WYMS competition final

Calendar this event NOW to see the wealth of talent on offer in our small corner of the country.

The final of this event over the last few years has seen some fantastic young musicians vie for the coveted title (and of course the winners cheque!).

Thursday 27th March 7pm in Auditorium 1. Please note this is **Free** to watch

[Gallery photos of previous winners](#)

A new magazine from and for Music Services

[Music Education Solutions](#) are delighted to announce the launch of their brand new publication.

Published twice a year, this magazine provides inspiration for and showcasing of the work of Music Hubs and Services across the UK. The first issue features Norfolk & Suffolk Music Hub, Severn Arts, The Music Partnership, Arts Council England, and a whole host of other contributors.

You can read the first issue [here](#)

Live Music! - Booking forms out now

At the end of each year, our staff go on tour, visiting schools with a dazzling and interactive show. Aimed primarily at KS2, the show lasts under an hour and offers children a great insight into instrumental playing in a fun environment.

Book [here](#)

Over the Digital Horizon

With all the [Over The Digital Horizon](#) resources now available on the Music Mark website, their curator, Ben Sellers, explains the programming of the webinars and offers three principles to consider as we move forward into an ever more digital world.

Utterly fascinating, yet scary (for oldies like me!)

Read [more](#)

Tuesday Night Music Centre wants You!

Tuesday Night Music Centre is looking for new players to join the junior (grade 1-2) and Intermediate (grade 3-5) groups. Apollo Strings (Junior) and Phoenix (Intermediate) strings, and Junior wind band and Intermediate wind band.

Please promote this at your school.

Times and other info is available [here](#)

Rock Stars Walsall (Rock Choir)

Meeting on Wednesday evenings, 4:30-5:30 at the Arts Centre, Rock Stars Walsall numbers are steadily growing; but they could always do with more!

Run by Sonia Eyre, the group rehearses songs relevant to young people and with fantastic backing tracks.

Their first performance is on the 9th April as part of the Music Centre concert series.

Or why not come along to the concert on 9th April to hear them perform. Tickets available from the box office [here](#)

Enquiries to centre manager [Matt Firkins](#)

Careers Talk

Our very own Music Educator Nick Dewhurst gave inspiring talks on possible futures for Walsall's young musicians at Lower Farm Primary, with both KS1 and 2 assemblies. Here's some wonderful quotes from a few of the children:

"The assembly was very interesting and it made me want to become a musician in the future. I would like to play the clarinet."

"It made me want to play in a band, playing the drums, as my job in the future."

I found it really interesting learning about lots of different possible careers in music."

If you might be interested in this please [get in touch](#)

Rock 'n' Pop meets Jazz

A new event by Walsall Music Education Service on Weds March 12th, combining both Rock 'n' Pop and Jazz. This will include a selection of Rock 'n' Pop bands and the Jazz Combo from Walsall Music Education Service.

They will be joined by the professional and award winning group, Walsall Jazz Orchestra.

[Book now](#)

Rock 'n' Pop Open Evening

Fancy joining our Rock 'n' Pop programme? To give you a taste, we're holding an **Open Evening** on Wednesday 20th March here at the [Centre](#).

For more full details please email [Matt Firkins](#)

Sources for selected items in this Newsletter include:

[Walsall Music Education Service](#)

[Soundpots](#)

[Music Mark](#)

[Music Education Solutions](#)

[Over The Digital Horizon](#)

Email addresses:

[Steph Dufty](#)

[Monica Hollins](#)

[Glen Taylor](#)

[Nick Dewhurst](#)

[Helen Miller](#)

[Matt Firkins](#)

[Ruth Crowson](#)

[Kathryn Hopson](#)

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Dates for your diaries

Full details and more: <https://walmused.co.uk/upcoming-dates/>

Thurs 27th Mar [WYMS Live Final](#) - Auditorium 1, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre, 7pm

Tues 1st April Music Centres Spring Concert for Beginner & Junior Groups

Tues 8th April Music Centres Spring Concert for Intermediate Groups & Senior Strings