

Hello,

With Easter a distant memory, we embark on one of the shortest terms!

Highlights for this first half term are recordings for the National Music Day (June 21st) and a call out to all our young students studying to play an instrument, or enjoy singing, to come along to Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday night Music Centres and enjoy playing/singing music with other like minded individuals.

Aurora Classroom introduces young pupils to orchestral music through their award-winning creative learning programme, encompassing free digital resources for schools, training for teachers, and a world-class programme of live activity for children and young people. See below for more details.

Discover creative approaches to music education at the MEHEM Conference for Music Education (Nottingham). Where you'll be able to explore new ideas on inclusivity, innovation and stretching the boundaries of creativity within the school curriculum, including YolanDa Brown (OBE) exploring 'Do we teach our creative arts creatively?'.

I hope there's something to whet your appetite in this issue.

## 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 year's 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.

Look out on the day for our YouTube release.

Closing date for submissions: end of May. Please send to [Glen Taylor](#)

Full backing tracks and sheet music can be found [here](#)

## Musician of the Month - magazine

Musician of the Month fits perfectly alongside your music scheme and is aimed at creating a culture of musical appreciation and understanding within your school. They focus on a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music, carefully drawn from different traditions, composers and musicians.

Their 6-year cycle covers classical composers, popular music and musical traditions, with links to the wider curriculum and the Protected Characteristics. Each month their resources include display posters, assemblies, knowledge organisers, quizzes, videos, activities, extra learning opportunities and book suggestions.

*"Here at Manic Street Teachers, we are passionate about giving children access to a broad and balanced music curriculum. Part of this is in the appreciation and understanding of a range of music styles and traditions from around the world. We believe in the value of letting children explore the world of music and therefore the world itself."* Matt Dix (Founder of Musician of the Month).

For free samples, blog posts, newsletter and more, go to: [www.musicianofthemonth.co.uk](http://www.musicianofthemonth.co.uk)

There is also a free 24/25 programme which is downloadable from the site with more info [here](#)

## South Asian After-school Clubs

[South Asian afterschool clubs](#): taking bookings for Summer 2!

### Are you looking for ways to enhance and diversify your extra-curricular offer?

Sonia Sabri Company can provide after-school programme in either South Asian Music or Dance. Open to everyone, our clubs can be tailored to either Primary or Secondary!

No experience necessary and students don't need to perform, just come along have lots of being creative together!

Classes are taught by experienced, practicing dance artists with Enhanced DBS Checks.

Please email Mary Ryder on [mary@ssco.org.uk](mailto:mary@ssco.org.uk) for more information.

## A National Centre for Arts and Music Education

On Tuesday 18th March 2025, the Government announced their plans for the development of a National Centre for Arts and Music Education. The National Centre will allow young people across England to have greater access to high-quality arts education. Music Mark welcomes this announcement from the Education Secretary, and are pleased to see Government Ministers recognising music education as an important focus, giving it a platform within the broader education landscape.

[Read more from Music Mark](#)

## How to make your website more sustainable

According to the Eco-Friendly Web Alliance, the 'Internet contributes to 3.7% of global carbon emissions, more than aviation.' With the average person visiting up to 130 web pages per day (Digital Silk), reducing the carbon emissions produced by each of those web pages has the potential to reduce global emissions.

[Read our latest article](#) to find out what changes you can make to your website to reduce its impact.

## Helping to create equal access to music education

The [Piano Equals](#) scheme by Millers Music is a sustainable initiative designed to improve accessibility to music education and instruments in schools, by repairing donated pianos and providing them to schools at a low cost. Simon Pollard, Managing Director, shares more about why Piano Equals was created and how the scheme works.

[Find out more here](#)

## Tuesday & Thursday Night Music Centre wants You!

Calling all young players.

Tuesday and Thursday night Music Centres are vibrant evenings of young bands, orchestras and ensembles. We'd love to welcome young players into all our groups. Click on the link below to find out about times and standards/grades.

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

## Rock Stars Walsall (Rock Choir)

After the success of their first public performance, Rock Choir Rock Stars (the junior wing of the Nationally acclaimed community choir *Rock Choir*) are eager to welcome new members into their ranks. Singing and dancing to popular songs of the moment, leader Sonia Eyre provides great energy and direction encouraging the youngsters to higher and higher standards.

Enquiries to [Matt Firkins](#)

## Access free courses and educational materials from The Open University

As well as offering flexible and accessible degrees in a wide range of subjects, including undergraduate and postgraduate Music degrees, The Open University has hundreds of short courses and educational materials available for free. Dr. Naomi J. Barker, Senior Lecturer and Head of Discipline for Music, explains how their musical resources can support music educators in their teaching or to develop their own skills.

[Read more](#)

## In The Making

**In the Making** is the UK's only year-long artist development programme for talented young music creators and composers aged 14–18. It supports those passionate about making music in any form and is open to all, regardless of instrument, musical interests, creative goals, background, or location.

[Read more](#)

## Prayer for Ukraine

[Copies of 'Prayer for Ukraine' motet available to raise funds for UNICEF-Ukraine](#)

Chris Wiggins has composed a short motet to raise funds for UNICEF-Ukraine, available in an [SSAA arrangement](#) and an [SATB version](#). Sales of the score will trigger a donation from Chris at 50p per copy sold – he also pays the shipping costs of all orders of this piece. He will email confirmation from UNICEF that a donation has been made to each person who orders scores. Minimum order: 5 copies (either hard copies or digital download requests).

[Get in touch to order your copies.](#)

## Aurora Classroom goes free!

Aurora believes that every child should have access to a high-quality and inspiring music education – Aurora Classroom is your chance to make that a reality with free resources for schools, training for teachers, and a world-class programme of live activity for children.

[Join today](#)

## MEHEM Conference 2025: Cultivating Creativity through Music

**27th June, 9.30am - 4.15pm**

Discover creative approaches to music education at the MEHEM Conference for Music Education at The Albert Hall, Nottingham. Explore new ideas on inclusivity, innovation and stretching the boundaries of creativity within the school curriculum. Hear from a variety of speakers, including a keynote from YolanDa Brown OBE exploring 'Do we teach our creative arts creatively?'

[Book now](#)

## BIMM Under Graduate Open Days

If you are looking to join a community of creatives, their campus open days give you a behind-the-scenes look at what BIMM Music Institute is like day to day and what life at the leading creative institution is really like!

This is a great opportunity to meet expert lecturers, tour their state-of-the-art facilities, network with music industry professionals, gain insight into course content and ask your questions.

[Read more](#)

## £160m “black hole” in music education funding

In May 2024, Music Mark commissioned an independent think tank, Demos, to cost the English National Plan for Music Education. This research would allow us to understand the full costs associated with the government's National Plan and therefore the real level of support needed for providers to deliver the plan.

Demos has revealed that the government has inherited a “black hole” in its budget for music education amounting to a £161.4m shortfall. Researchers found that the National Plan for Music Education was short of £32.3m per year to cover the costs of regional Music Hubs – partnerships of music services, music departments, venues, clubs and other organisations. A total of £161.4m in new and hidden costs is needed over the next five years to ensure the future of music education.

[Read the full article here](#) (4 min read)

Sources for selected items in this Newsletter include:

[Walsall Music Education Service](#)

[Piano Equals](#)

[Music Mark](#)

[GOV.UK](#)

[www.musicianofthemonth.co.uk](http://www.musicianofthemonth.co.uk)

[Sound and Music](#)

[Aurora Classroom](#)

[BIMM Music Institute](#)

[Music Education Solutions](#)

Email addresses:

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## Dates for your diaries

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

- **w/b Mon 19th May** [Mini MusE Music Educators Meeting](#)
- **Tues 20th May** [Music Companions Meetings](#) at Tuesday Music Centre, 5.30 & 7pm
- **w/b Mon 16th June** [Singing Festival 2025](#)
- **Wed 18th June** [Writing Your Development Plan](#) CPD Session
- **Sat 28th June** Bandstand Bonanza, Walsall Arboretum (all day)
- **Tues 8th July** [Introducing Part Singing in the Classroom and Beyond with Ula Webber](#) CPD Session
- **w/b Mon 14th July** [Live Music](#) Staff Band performing at schools across Walsall
- **Wed 16th July** Rock n Pop Bands live at the Robin 2, Bilston