



St John Fisher Catholic High School Music Department Newsletter - February 2016

BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT!

On Thursday 18th February, their Royal Highnesses Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall visited the Royal Hall to celebrate the 50th Birthday of the Harrogate International Festivals. As the partner school of the Festivals, St. John Fisher were invited to perform as part of the 'mini festival in a day', with the Jazz Orchestra and Senior Choir providing music. The Jazz Orchestra provided music throughout the VIP reception with Prince Charles specifically asking to hear the band again after their slot had finished! The 82 strong combined choirs performed beautifully from the balcony of the Royal Hall as Charles and Camilla arrived on stage. Every student got to meet the special guests and we were delighted to be asked to perform. Happy Birthday Harrogate International Festivals! Photos from the event are available to view at <https://katemallenderphotography.smugmug.com/Harrogate-International-Festiv> using the password 'royal' to view.



MUSIC FOR YOUTH REGIONAL FESTIVAL



The music for Youth Regional Festival is quickly approaching and rehearsals are well under way. Please can all students make sure that they attend all rehearsals as we approach the event. Senior Choir are rehearsing as normal on a Tuesday and Thursday morning with an extra rehearsal on Thursday lunch in G14 at 12.45pm. If you are unable to make the festival, you must let Mr Ratcliffe know on music@sjfchs.org.uk. A coach will be taking the ensembles from SJF at 7.45am for a 9.30am start in Halifax. Parents are more than welcome to attend the session which will be at The Brooksbank

School, Halifax. We expect to be back at school for around 2.00pm for parents to collect. Uniform is all black with purple tie. Please do your very best to be there as this is one of our most important gigs of the year!

ENGAGEMENT LIST

Thurs 25th Feb	Sixth Form Information Evening, St Aidan's	Arrive 6.00pm	SJO
Sun 20th Mar	Music for Youth Regional Festival-Halifax	Leave SJF 7.45am	SJO/SC/CB
Sat 26th Mar	Harrogate International Youth Festival Parade, Montpelier Hill	Arrive 10.00am	CB
Sun 27th Mar	Harrogate International Youth Festival Jazz Night, Venue TBC	Arrive 6.30pm	SJO
Sat 4th June	Yorkshire Air Ambulance Fundraiser, West Park Church	Arrive 6.30pm	SJO
Thurs 30th June	Senior Concert 2016, Venue TBC	Arrive 6.30pm	CB/SJO/SC

CB-Concert Band, SJO-Senior Jazz Orchestra, SC-Senior Choir, JC-Junior Choir, JB-Junior Band, FJ-Fisher Jazz, SFC-Sixth Form Choir, PE-Percussion Ensemble, WB-Worship Band, FB-Function Band

SIMON BOLIVAR QUARTET

On Saturday 12th March, the internationally acclaimed string quartet, the Simon Bolivar quartet are appearing at the Royal Hall in Harrogate at 7.30pm. As a partner of HIF, we are able to offer tickets to all students at £1 and £5 to parents. Please email music@sjfchs.org.uk if you would like a ticket. They really are an ensemble not to be missed and represent all of the amazing work happening with Venezuela's young musicians. We highly recommend this concert to all A Level Musicians who are about to start work on their string quartet compositions!



TWITTER

Do you follow us on twitter? You can tweet us on [@sjfchsmusic](https://twitter.com/sjfchsmusic) and follow our



activities. We try to post as much as possible on a regular basis. Why not tweet us with your musical activities?

NEW BRASS TEACHER

We're delighted to welcome Mr Owen James as our new brass teacher as Mr Bond has left us to pursue his career as a professional trumpet player. Owen is well known in the local area as a teacher and as Principal Cornet player of the Ripon City Brass Band. Owen is also a brilliant guitarist and fronts one of the countries leading Police Tribute Bands 'The Rozzers'. You can check out Owens's work at www.owenjames.co.uk. Welcome to the team!



NEWSLETTER

As a busy music department with so many students involved in music, we do sometimes find it hard to communicate all the details of what we're up to to parents. We're hoping to produce a newsletter at the beginning of every half term so please let us know any feedback and if you would like anything publishing. We'd particularly like to know about students who have recently passed any grade exams so we can let everyone know! Thank you for your continued support of all we do in the department.

JUNIOR RESIDENTIAL

In early February we went on our Junior Residential, taking 42 students to the popular racecourse centre for a weekend of music making, team building and other activities. Although we got really wet in the bad weather on Saturday, students



collaborated for a final concert on the Sunday afternoon with over 80 parents attending. We really love going away with our young musicians and developing their music making skills whilst building friendships too.

Contact Us

By telephone on 01423 818444, by email on music@sjfchs.org.uk. Please direct all instrumental lesson enquiries to Mrs Gaertner on lgaertner@sjfchs.org.uk

Staff: Mr C Ratcliffe (Head of Music), Mr N Beetles, Mrs L Gaertner (Music Teachers), Mr E Dennis, Mr M Sweeting (Department Technicians), Mr M McGuffie (Woodwind and Piano), Mrs J Bryan (Flute), Mrs T Crick (Strings), Mr E Dennis (Percussion), Mr A Henfry (Guitars), Mr O James (Brass), Mr S Forster (Voice)