

VIVO



The winning band – Uncontrollable Walrus



Our first Battle of the Bands

By Santino Petrillo, Joseph Atkin and Cain Newell

We first decided to sign up for battle because Mr Beckwith told lead guitarist Joe and backing singer Ben that Battle of the Bands was coming up. The next day Joe told drummer Santino about it and he was all for it. That same day we brought Cain in (the lead singer) into the band.

The following day we spent most of our art lesson thinking of band names such as Queen Reborn, Unknown, The Grass Hoppers but in the end we settled on King! The next day we started practicing. We made up a song called out in the wind with Joes guitar riff, Santino's drumming and Cain's lyrics. Then we learnt a song called 'Green Day Time of your Life' which sounded really good. We practiced almost every lunch time until the night finally came.


The atmosphere was great and it felt like we were famous! The tension rose as it was earing closer and closer till our turn... We walked onto the stage, unknown and unheard.

After we had finished we had a massive clap. A couple of hours later the scores were in. In the end we came fourth and were very pleased as it was our first time in Battle of the Bands! (more pictures centre spread)

“ I felt quite chilled out and didn't feel pressured.



“ I was quite sceptical about the evening but I really enjoyed myself.



Angie Radcliffe

Teacher of Piano, Keyboards & Voice



When did you start learning to play a musical instrument?

- 6 years old – I was the excuse as it was my dad that wanted lessons!

Who taught you how to play your instrument?

- Firstly a fantastic organist called Harold Mitchell from Wigan.
- I soon progressed and at the age of 7 was playing things way beyond my years like Spanish Gypsy Dance! He recommended I learn classical piano and sent me to an amazing piano teacher, John S Benson.
- At 10 I ventured into technology and started to get into synthesizers, so I found a teacher who could help turn me into a female Rick Wakeman! His name was Martin Walker (I incidentally teach his grand daughter at another school now!) I stopped having lessons at 15 as I was practically a professional haha (or so I thought!) and had been earning mega bucks entertaining on various circuits, so decided I didn't need to do any more studying! Fool!!
- I went back to my classical piano studies aged 19 with Stephen Hopwood and gained my Performance Diploma.

If applicable where did you study Music?

- I studied all my ABRSM grades privately but eventually took a music and technology degree with the Open University.

Which musical ensembles have you performed with?

- I have always worked either solo/duo and never had the opportunity to work with classical ensembles. I have however worked as part of an ensemble on various cruise liners.

What is your favourite food?

Tapas – I love lots of bits and pieces as I can never make my mind up on one dish!

Who are your favorite bands or artists?

- Gaga is one of my favourites – some people have no idea the talent behind the image! I also love Toto – for the quality of their musicianship, The Script is a definite fave – but hey – who doesn't fancy Danny? (especially at my age??) Coldplay – and Maroon 5 (love Adam Levine too)

What 3 things could you not live without?

- A gig, my hubby and my dogs!

What 3 CD's or albums would you take to a desert island?

- Coldplay – Live 2012
- Toto – The Seventh One
- Maroon 5 – Songs About Jane

Favourite Holiday destination?

- Eek – Love Beverly Hills (I have a friend who lives just off Rodeo Drive)
- Cornwall – I'd like to live there!

Favourite Concert venue?

- Don't really have a fave! I like the Lowry.

Tea or Coffee?

- Tea

Interesting fact about yourself?

- I was known as the female Rick Wakeman as I used to play 6 keyboards on stage!

The Hallé orchestra

By Maisie Reece and Leah Tissington 7T

On the 6th February 2015, a group of 26 year 7 pupils got the chance to see the world famous Halle orchestra at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester.

We were lucky enough to sit on the front row so that we could really experience the amazing performance. The pieces included a Night Ride and Sunrise by Sibelius and the very famous Firebird Suite by Stravinsky. This was definitely our favourite of all the pieces played.

The theatre performance included a scratch and sniff card so when the chosen pieces were about to be played we could scratch the card and we would smell a scent that connected to the performance.

The performance was the second the school has seen although our teacher, Mr Beckwith played with the band frequently before joining Saddleworth School.

This trip inspired all of the year 7's to continue enjoying and playing music. Maybe one day we will get the chance to play in an orchestra of our own!

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GCSE Music Concert

By Alice Griffiths (10Y) and Megan Loughlin (10Y)

The GCSE Music Concert showed a wide range talent from both year 10 and 11 GCSE students. There was 21 acts and each student either played an individual performance or in a group ensemble.



The purpose of the concert was to prepare the year 11 students for their exam the following week, and for year 10 students to experience what it will be like for them next year.

The first act was year 10 student Connor Dalloway doing his solo performance singing 'Afire Love' by Ed Sheeran, accompanied by Jack Dunning on piano. Connor did the very difficult task of going first and set the bar very high.

Next up was year 11 student Alana McDermott, who performed 'Wherever you will go', which is a very difficult song to sing and she undertook the challenge very well.

Thirdly was Will Bartley who not only performed his piece very well, he also arranged the piano accompaniment part, which was played by Jack Dunning. He performed 'La Belle Americane' on his Euphonium. On fourth was Jason Smethurst, who sang 'Songbird' by Fleetwood Mac. He performed the song well and did his own interpretation of it. Jacob Lamb altered himself very well because he was supposed to be playing his duet but his partner fell ill so he played us a solo instead. His piece was called 'Kolombina Zpiva'.

Megan Loughlin played 'Chanson de Matin' by Edward Elgar on her Tenor horn and was accompanied by Mrs Pickett on piano. She performed it very well and harmonised well with the piano.

Seventh was Jasmine Woodward who sang 'All that Jazz' from the musical Chicago. She sang it clearly and with great expression. After that it was Ella Chalk performing her group performance of 'Not the Only One' by Sam Smith. She was accompanied by Jason Smethurst and Daniel Gaunt and together they harmonised well and made a good interpretation of the song.

The ninth performer was Freya Barass who did her solo of 'For Lydia'. She performed it with great ease and seemed very prepared. Sinead Simpson was next singing 'I See the Light' from Tangled; she not only sang really well she did expressions and acting throughout as well. Next was Tom Bradburn performing 'All day and All of the Night' on his guitar by The Kinks. He sounded like he had potential to do well in his exams. Twelfth was Alice Griffiths who played 'Passion Fruit Samba' on her tenor horn. She showed that she can play strong and loud without an accompaniment with confidence throughout.

Annie Fearnough and Lizzy Wragg, stayed in time together and sang very well. Leon Hurley was next playing 'Big Love' by Fleetwood Mac. He played the guitar brilliantly and sang very well too. Fifteenth was Ellie Whatmough playing a flute duet and it was very good and in time and there were a lot of good dynamic changes. Joe Ridyard played 'Smoke on the Water' with a CD backing track and he stayed in time with it very well.

Jessica Dickinson sang 'Good Morning Baltimore' from Hairspray. She had good tone in her voice and was very consistent throughout her performance.

Eighteenth was Charlie Lawless, he played guitar and sang at the same time which is very hard but he did it well. Next was Tessa King singing 'Part of this World' from The Little Mermaid. She was good and did her own interpretation of the song. Twentieth was Daniel Gaunt playing 'Blackbird' by the Beatles, he was very good and showed good techniques throughout. Last was Will Marshall playing drums in his group performance of 'Pyro' by Kings of Leon. He was very good and changed his dynamics so you could hear the singer get louder.

Overall, the night was very successful and everyone seemed prepared enough to do well in their exams.



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The purpose of the concert was to prepare the year 10 & 11 students for their exams.



Battle of the Bands





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A good experience.



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It showcased an eclectic amount of talent in all years.



Top Brass at Saddleworth School

Workshop with Yorkshire Youth Brass Band

By Bridget Atkin (8Y) and Connie Guttridge (8Y)



On Saturday 7th February 2015 the Yorkshire Youth Band congregated at Saddleworth School for the very first time. As the many young brass players from all over Yorkshire arrived we were introduced to members of the World Famous Black Dyke Band and the fantastic instrumental tutors who would be holding an hour long smaller sectional rehearsal with their instrumental groups throughout the day. At this point it would be useful to explain that Black Dyke are the National Champion Band of Great Britain and the British Open Champions of Great Britain – the UK double champions the best in Britain if not the world... the Brass Band world equivalent of Barcelona or Real Madrid!

The day started with a full band rehearsal sight reading the four chosen pieces: "Doyen", "Citius: Altius: Fortius", "Jubilation" and "Prismatic light". The YYBB are working on these pieces in preparation for a Gala concert to be held at the stunning Leeds Town Hall in May.

During the next segment of the day the entire band split up into our sections (different instruments groups: Cornets, Horns, Euphoniums & Baritones, Trombones, Basses and Percussion), we went through the selected pieces with our tutors and picked up handy hints about playing brass instruments from some of the best in the business. After the lunch break we got the chance to ask questions and picked up tips on how to play, practice and develop our instrumental skills. The day finished off with one last practise together as a full brass band before performing a mini concert for our parents.

For a few of us who only play in school bands, playing in this big band with lots of different standard instrumentalists was a great opportunity and was also immense fun. It was a great inspiration to consider taking banding beyond school!

We enjoyed the day and are attending future rehearsals and cannot wait to play in the concert on the 17th of May at Leeds town hall. This is a great experience not to be missed and if you are interested in attending the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band workshops, please ask Mr Beckwith (Head of the Music Department) for a form to fill in and more details.

If you are interested in joining the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band, please see Mr Beckwith in the Music Department.



Achievements

Congratulations go to Sinead Simpson 10D for gaining a place in the GMP Youth Show Choir.

Sinead was encouraged to audition by her singing teacher Mrs Radcliffe. The choir consists of 30 – 35 members from the Greater Manchester area and Sinead was the only member to be accepted from Oldham. She will be rehearsing at weekends with a performance to be given in June at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. This is a fantastic achievement, Sinead. Well done!

CHRISTMAS Concerts

By William Bartley 10V



December last year saw the Music Department show off it's full array of talented musicians in a variety of different concerts and performances.

On the 5th December the school Brass Band as part of the community liaison (conducted by Jonathan Leedale) toured several primary schools in the Saddleworth area playing an assortment of fun Christmas pieces that the children enjoyed, and were given the chance to interact with.

The 15th December was the first of the Christmas concerts, and took place at Saddleworth School. The day after, a second concert was held at the Civic Hall in Uppermill. Both concerts included a vast range of music, from Offenbach to Hendrix, and even featured an audience participation piece: 'The 12 Days of Christmas', which entertained everyone.

A party for the senior citizens of Saddleworth was held on the 15th, and was accompanied by the school's ten piece brass ensemble, Brass Xplosion. The performance included many Christmas pieces, including an arrangement of 'Santa Baby', with Year 8 soloist Spike Knight.

In the week preceding the holidays, the Brass Xplosion and the Brass Ensemble went out into Uppermill to perform in such areas as the Library, Java and the nursing home. Many people from around the community gathered to listen to the ensembles' carolling.

Overall, it was an encouraging month for the music department at a time of festivity.



Instrumental Exam Successes

Lucy Chapman

achieved a Level 3 Clarinet assessment with Commended.

Olivia Pate

achieved a Level 2 Flute assessment with Commended.

Kirsten Fletcher

achieved a Level 3 Oboe assessment with Highly Commended.



Spring Term Instrumental Lesson Awards

The following have been nominated for progress and effort awards in their instrumental lessons and names will go into a grand draw at the end of the year for a prize.

Progress

Annalise Kingston Taylor
Lusindy Liang
Adam Cartwright
Stuart Dobson
Joseph Atkin
Harvey Napier
Delphine Alsop Parsons

Effort

Katelyn Hanns
Cerys Gill
Ellie Whatmough
Jeremy Knight
Ben Wylie
Luke Jones
Delphine Alsop Parsons
Libby Collard

Music Extra Curricular Activities

Day	Ensemble	Time	Staff
Monday	Music Tech Club Coursework Support Sessions	12.45pm - 1.15pm 3.30pm - 4.30pm	Mr Beckwith Mr Beckwith/Mrs Pickett
Tuesday	Music Theory Club Percussion Ensemble	12.45pm - 1.15pm 3.30pm - 4.30pm	Mr Beckwith Mr Beckwith
Wednesday	Choir	From 1pm	Ms Radcliffe
Thursday	Concert Band Woodwind Ensemble Brass Xplosion	8.00am - 8.40am 12.45pm - 1.15pm 3.30pm - 4.30pm	Mrs Pickett Mrs Pickett Mr Beckwith
Friday	String Group Brass Band Brass Ensemble Open House	8.00am - 8.35am 8.00am - 8.40am 12.45pm - 1.15pm 3.30pm - 4.30pm	Mr Wadsworth Mr Leedale Mrs Pickett Mr Beckwith/Mrs Pickett

PLEASE CHECK INSTRUMENTAL LESSON TIMES ON THE NOTICEBOARD AND THE WEBSITE



Forthcoming Events

Thursday 21 May

Friday 22 May

Year 10 GCSE
Practical Exams

June

Oldham School's
Music Festival - TBC

Wednesday 1st July

Brass Band workshop with
Derek Broadbent followed
by a joint evening concert
with Boarshurst Brass
Band (all day)

Thursday 9th July

Summer Serenade



Ensemble audition notices

Auditions / applications for membership to the following ensembles will shortly be taking place:

- National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain
- National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain
- National Children's Wind Band of Great Britain
- National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain
- Yorkshire Youth Brass Band
- Hallé Youth Choir
- Hallé Youth Orchestra

If you would like more information and application packs please see Mr Beckwith in the Music Office.



Saddleshworth
School

High Street, Uppermill, Oldham OL3 6BU

T: 01457 872072 E: music@saddleshworthschool.org W: saddleshworth.oldham.sch.uk