

King Edward Musical Society of Macclesfield (KEMS) Concert Band Playing Day – Development Grant Award

On Saturday 1st November 2008, sixteen members of the saxophone, flute and oboe sections of KEMS Concert Band (KCB) met together for an ensemble playing day. As Tony Houghton, the conductor of the KCB, and I are both clarinet and saxophone specialists, we wanted to be able to ask a flute specialist, Selina Slater, from Sheffield, to join us. The development grant from MMNW enabled us to do this in addition to allowing us to hire a venue that would accommodate the different groupings of the



players - saxophone quartets, flute quartets, a saxophone choir and a massed 'play together' at the end of the day.

One aim of the playing day was to provide an opportunity for the players to be able to work together in small ensembles and gain more musical experience in terms of

learning new repertoire which ranged from Pachelbel's Canon, Bach's chorales, a ragtime arrangement of Fur Elise and the Pink Panther to name but a few! As tutors, our aim was also to focus on aspects of instrumental technique and musical skills that could be improved in players' personal practice time - details that we cannot always incorporate into our weekly rehearsals. The friendly atmosphere was enhanced by having a 'bring and share' lunch and everybody got chance to know each other a little better. The feedback we have had so far indicates that everybody enjoyed the day and 'took something away' in terms of improving their instrumental and musical skills.

Julia Harding - KEMS Concert Band

Editor – Andy Humphreys - rahumphreys@yahoo.co.uk 07902 230855

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Making Music Newsletter December 2008 Issue 47

NEW MMNW WEBSITE GOES LIVE



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Well, it's finally here and I hope you have had a chance to take a look at the new website for Making Music North West.....

www.makingmusicnorthwest.org.uk

The website features lots of useful information, regional news, contact details and links, as well as a **Member Area** offering the Making Music Representatives in the NW the opportunity to input events into the **online calendar (with a clash diary feature)** and **profile your own groups**.

The site will help raise the profile of voluntary music making in the North West and we will be promoting it as a vital source of information to regional agencies, local authorities, music services, teachers... and anyone and everyone with a genuine interest. We would therefore appreciate your help in making it a success.

This booklet can be made available in larger format and is available to view online on the Making Music website at

<http://www.makingmusicnorthwest.org.uk/>

We know it will take time to develop and we know there'll be lots of questions from you, so I hope you'll bear with us and support us whilst we make it work the best way for you that we can.

What information about my group can I put on the website?

- You can log-in and put up images and information about your group to appear in the Find A Group section
- You can log-in and input events into the online calendar
- You can log-in and input unconfirmed events into the clash calendar (only seen in the Members Area)
- You can provide us with an address for your rehearsal venue so we can represent your group on our map.

How can I access the Member Only Area?

You should have received a letter from me inviting you to request a password. If not, don't worry, contact me and I can send you one. Details of how to log-in and use the Member Only Area will be sent with the password.

What if I don't use the internet?

All the information on the website can be available on paper as well. Don't worry if you're not on the internet, if you have information that you would like us to add to the website on your behalf please let me know, this may include vacancies you want to advertise, workshop days, concerts and a profile for your group.

What if my group doesn't have a website?

You can include information about your group on our site. Please contact us if you would like advice or help in developing a website for your group.

Will a printed concert list still be produced and distributed?

Victor Sumpter will continue to compile and print a concert list which is sent out with this newsletter 3 times a year, so please continue to send him your concert details as well as putting them on the website. vsumpter@onetel.com Thanks!

Finally...

The site will develop over time and we have exciting additions, such as forums, music, video and blogs to add in the coming months. We

North West Region Committee members

You are very welcome to contact regional committee members if you have a query or want advice, or wish to know more about Making Music and its services. The committee members and their key responsibilities are set out below. All committee members are volunteers (except RDO).

Anne Shepherd	01253 737244	Chair
Graham Crompton	0161 928 6498	Vice-Chair
Una Talbot	01257 253689	Secretary
Alan Cantor	01253 724472	Treasurer
Sheena Williams	01978 752800	National Vice Chair
Sally Smith	01204 480528	RDO sally@makingmusic.org.uk

Michael Bonsall	01257 463646	
Ian Coomber	0161 973 5018	
Nancy Dale	01606 42641	
John Fisher	01946 692185	Responsibility for Cumbria
Ken Griffin	01829 771533	
Andy Humphreys	01772 742307	Newsletter Editor *
Shirley Jarvis	01625 611594	
Hugh Malkin	01606 833023	
Shirley Mitchell	01706 655655	
John Perrin	01524 701500	
Bas Perrins	01477 537769	Liaison for hire of our Grand Piano with NW Pianos - 0161 225 4110

Mike Porter	01624 832143	
Berkeley Ranby	01244 381995	Chair Strategy Committee & New Member Contact

Clive Walkley	01539 723482	
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Victor Sumpter	victor@sumpter.freemove.co.uk	- keeps concert list.
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* denotes co-opted to Committee at committee meeting 11 Oct 2008.

The evenings programme may include:-

- practice of last week's new song with its further development,
- a sectional practice where each of the four sections go to their own practice room/area to sort out any problems within their section, led by their leader.
- a period of 'seated' learning of a new song with music in hand,
- quartetting - this is a system of singing in sectional rows, ie, all four sections line up facing the CD. A well known song is chosen and the four singers nearest the CD sing until he indicates the next four and so on, (some singers such as tenors have to sing several times),
- some twinning of parts are sung to iron out an occasional pitch inaccuracy,
- tag singing - the MD will teach all four parts of a tag (tags are the brilliant end bits of a song tagged on to the end, to embellish the finale of the song),
- singing of repertoire in readiness for a pending sing-out event,
- viewing of our videoed performance of a contest,
- at approx. 9:00pm there is a comfort break for 10 mins. Weekly subs can be paid, then the pitchpipe calls all singers to reassemble, visitors are given a performance of a special reception song, and all singers queue to shake their hand.

Just before the final song, our Chairman has a word to the singers, with an opportunity for other officers to pass on information - sing-outs etc, the closing numbers are sung, "Let's get together again" and "Keep the whole World Singing". The time is now about 10:15pm. Risers are now collapsed and returned to their trailer. From then until closing time, is chatting, gang singing (a circle of singers with no-one stood next to a singer of the same part), maybe a meeting of the music committee, etc.

Most of the members, some with wives or partners, have gone home by 11:00pm unless a visiting quartet is demonstrating their latest song! Occasionally we have a get-together with another club within our association which may last another half an hour.

Bernard Davis - PBHS

would welcome your questions and comments, but really hope this resource will become something you will find extremely useful and enjoyable.

Sally Smith MMNW RDO

Good Practice

"Yes we can" is a current political sound-bite and it also applies to many music organisations who may be amateur and voluntary but still professional in the way they do things.

The NW Committee has a cunning (development) plan that includes finding case studies of good management practice and passing them on to others. The sort of thing may be quite simple, as are all the best ideas, but make a big difference to how the group manages itself efficiently. We often do things in just the same way as many other societies, but on the other hand, it is always good to learn from others, especially for the newcomers to music administration. Some ideas you might like to consider are:

- A list of key dates for the year – this can include for example, when to start preparing the budget (and when it is due); copy date, proof date and publication date for the brochure; when to have booked the concert hall, artists, orchestra etc. Then review this list at relevant meetings.
- Get the publicity officer to prepare a promotional email that is sent to your members who can then top and tail it onto their friends.
- How does the choir go on to the stage? Does it line up off-stage in the same format as it will appear on-stage then peel off from the back and enter in an orderly manner?
- Newspaper advertising is often regarded as useless and un-measurable, but if you advertise "Two for the price of one" tickets on production of the advert, then collect names and addresses, you can build up a mailing list as well as find out which paper gives the best results.

One of the key strengths of Making Music is the exchange of good practice, **so if you have any particular things that you have found to be useful please send a brief summary to the editor so that others can also try them out.**

Berkeley Ranby - Chester Music Society

Development Grants 2008/9

The purpose of this award scheme is to encourage societies affiliated to Making Music and irrespective of genre, to undertake an event or project that falls outside, or is in addition to their normal programme. This latest scheme attracted more than twice the number of entries received last season, a factor that is very important when the Regional Committee seeks funding to support these grants. This year we were able to make fourteen awards, with the successful applicants receiving between £100 and £300.

All the award winning events were considered to be a challenge, requiring time, dedication and effort by those who submitted the successful applications. There were of course many applications, that whilst worthy in their own right, did not meet the high aims of those receiving awards.

The range of events and projects for which awards were given, was both wide and varied and included; a joint event in the North West Region with a choir from Europe; educational workshops for children in African drumming and wind instrument playing; a scheme to increase audiences by offering free tickets to first time attendees; an a cappella concert programme taken to small rural venues; a free outdoor concert to publicise a series of mid-day concerts; a series of singing workshops for young people.

It is hoped that all member societies, whether successful or unsuccessful in the past and in particular those who have not so far submitted a proposal will do so for the grants that will be available for use in the 2009/2010 season. Application forms will be sent to all member societies in the New Year and these will be even easier to complete! Do make sure that your society's committee is aware of

this scheme and look out for the Application forms that will be sent to individual secretaries.

G.Crompton – Vice Chair Northwest Region

An example of how one group has made use of their grant is given later.

Preston Barbershop Harmony Singers - A typical Thursday night.

The BNFL Social Club at Salwick is open from 7-00pm and our singers start to arrive by 7:15pm. Our assistant treasurer sets up his collecting table with subscriptions book and cash float.

When enough strong men have arrived, the polished floor is covered with a large swatch of material and the risers are wheeled from their storage trailer outside and positioned. The back safety rails are finally slotted in position.

Our Musical Director is busy writing up the programme for the evening on a large white display board. The bookings man, secretary and PRO are similarly displaying their notices for all the singers to see.

At 7:45pm our chorus Manager blows a pitch pipe to summon all singers to the risers. The Chorus Director asks for any apologies for absence, then conducts the singers through the opening song, 'The Old Songs'. A period of physical exercise takes place to free the neck and shoulder muscles and to improve blood circulation. Vocal exercises follow to prepare the vocal instrument. The time elapsed is approx. 20 minutes. This preparation time for the voice is vital in order that all the singers are able to produce their best performance.

Late comers are not allowed on the risers as this would interfere with singers' progress and stacking. At a suitable break they are invited to join the chorus, on the risers, by the CD.