

Bearsden and Milngavie Youth Orchestra

Session 2014-2015

Welcome to BMYO. Rehearsals will be at Douglas Academy on Thursday evenings at 7pm. Please come along to the main entrance, accessed off Craigton Road.

A completed and signed copy of the registration form must be handed in to the committee before leaving your child at BMYO.

We have tried to provide as much information about BMYO as possible in this introduction, including concert dates, so please make a provisional note of them.

Rehearsals

BMYO meets during the first two terms of the school year. There are weekly rehearsals which lead up to a concert at the end of each term. **Please arrive in good time so that instruments can be tuned and we can start promptly at 7.00pm.** The Wind Band, Concert and Symphony Orchestras have a break during rehearsals when they are given a drink and biscuit. The String members are offered the same on finishing their rehearsal. Please note that whilst BMYO strives to maintain a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, there is always a need to adhere to health and safety guidelines; all members are required to respect the school and its property and to heed instructions from the conductors and parents on duty. In particular, children should refrain from climbing on wall bars or running around in the communal area, and must stay indoors at all times. At break time, they should remain in the communal area. Please remind your children of this.

Please Note: In accordance with Fire Regulations, ALL children must now be signed in and out of the building. Children aged 11 and under must be signed in by an adult; however, those aged 12 and over may sign themselves in.

Orchestras and Conductors

String Orchestra (for those who have completed their first year of lessons)	Conductor: Marj Partridge	7:00-8:30pm
Wind Band (for beginners, up to Grade 4)	Conductor: Andy ?	7:00-8.30pm
Concert Orchestra (for those at Grades 3-5)	Conductor: Mary-Lou Graham	7:00-8:30pm
Symphony Orchestra (for those at Grade 5 and above)	Conductor: Tom Smith	7:00-8:30pm

Organising Committee and Duty System

BMYO is run by a committee of parents appointed at the Annual General Meeting each year:

Chairman:	Kate O'Donnell	Secretary:	Susan McEwan
Treasurer:	Susanne Gibson	Making Music Rep:	Karen Kane
EDC Youth Music Rep:	Karen Kane	Publicity:	Tamara Kennedy, Karen Kane, Ken Grierson
Membership:	Ann Shields	Parent Rota:	Matthew Dalby
Child Protection:	Ann Shields	Refreshments:	Sandra Cahill
Website:	Ken Grierson	Newsletter:	vacant
Concert Programmes:	Anne Reid	Concert Management:	vacant
Concert Lets:	vacant		
Concert Management:	vacant	Hall Lets:	Tamara Kennedy
General:	Ian Vassie, Elise Whitley		

At present, eight parents are required to do a duty each week, and it is hoped that each family would have no more than two duties during the session. **Please arrive by 6:40pm** to help set up music stands, put out chairs, ensure all orchestra members are signed in and then stay and help supervise for the duration of the rehearsal. Parents on duty must remain in the building until all children are collected, or they are advised otherwise.

If you find you are no longer able to do the duty on the night designated, please make sure you arrange a swap with another parent. If you cannot do duty at all, please inform the parent rota secretary, Carol Gibson.

Subscriptions and Gift Aid Declaration

Annual Subscription remains unchanged at £55 for the first child and £30 for subsequent children in a family. You can either pay the full amount at the beginning, or half now and half in January. Please make cheque payable to ***Bearsden and Milngavie Youth Orchestra*** with your child's name on the back of the cheque and leave it with the committee member on duty at rehearsal. We prefer cheques, but if you wish to pay by cash, please seal it in an envelope with your and your child's name clearly marked. Note: new members are welcome to try out the orchestra for a few weeks before paying.

Please sign the Gift Aid declaration on the registration form if you are a taxpayer. We are a charity and this enables us to recover basic rate income tax on subscriptions, which gives our finances a big boost! If you have difficulty paying the subscription, please contact the Chairperson. The committee will consider applications for assistance in confidence, and will require supporting evidence such as entitlement to free school meals. We do not wish anyone to be put off attending BMYO for cost reasons, but we have no special funds and any assistance must therefore come from the general budget.

Calendar 2014-2015

Here are *provisional* dates for the planned BMYO activities during the coming year:

27th November – Winter Concert, Douglas Academy

8th January – Second term begins, Douglas Academy

27th March – Easter concert, Douglas Academy

Full details of times, venues, etc. will follow, upon confirmation.

Website, Facebook & Twitter

We would like to encourage parents to keep up to date with BMYO events by checking the website regularly. You will find lots more information, including concert photos, calendar of events, Frequently Asked Questions and our Child Protection Policy on our website: www.bmyo.org.uk Have a look!

Join us on Facebook and Twitter to keep you up to date with any last-minute news, for example changes to rehearsal times, etc. If you're unsure how this works, ask your kids! Our website coordinator, Ken Grierson, would also be very happy to help if you have any questions.

Also, to make it easier for us to get in touch with you, we need the parent's email address when registering your child with the orchestra.

A Little History

BMYO can trace its history back to 1969, when the Milngavie Symphony Orchestra was founded for adults. A junior section was started in 1975 by Anna Moffat, a local violin teacher. The adult orchestra was disbanded in 1979 but the Youth Orchestra went from strength to strength. Initially there were two ensembles, which expanded to three in 1992. In 2008, a fourth was formed, namely the Wind Band. Anna still takes a keen interest in BMYO and usually attends the concerts.

The orchestra has functioned in much the same way since it was founded: rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings during the autumn and spring school terms with a concert at the end of each term. For many years the rehearsals were held in Milngavie Primary School but we moved to Craigdhu Primary School in 1999, and then on to Douglas Academy. BMYO became a charity in 2004 and joined *Making Music*, the national federation of music societies. Several members of BMYO have gone on to pursue professional careers in music as teachers or performers.