

MYMS – Maidstone Youth Music Society

16 Sycamore Crescent, Allington, Maidstone, ME16 0AG
Centre Manager's Mobile: 07802-425022

23rd November 2012

Dear Parents and Players

Christmas Concert – Friday 7th December 2012 – 7.30 p.m. - Invicta Grammar School

We are writing to confirm the arrangements for the MYMS Christmas Concert and our Annual General Meeting, which on this occasion will be held before the concert at 7:00 p.m.

Concert - The concert is at 7.30 p.m. and **all parents** [plus grandparents and friends] are invited to attend. As you know, there are no tickets and no admission charge but – beware - that remains a decoy..... there will again be a raffle and an opportunity to contribute a donation on the way out.

Rehearsals on Friday 30th November 2012 for all ensembles will be at our usual times.

Rehearsals in the Hall on Friday 7th December are as follows: [* Please arrive promptly]

4.30 – 4.50	Maidstone Youth Wind Orchestra (MYWO)
4.50 – 5.10	Omega Band
5.10 – 5.30	Alpha Band
5.30 - 5.50	Concert Band
5.50 – 6.10	Strictly Strings
6.10 – 6.30	Maidstone Youth String Orchestra (MYSO)
6.30 – 6.50	Maidstone Youth Orchestra (MYO)

All seven of our current ensembles will be performing. So, do come to hear many of the pieces that they have been working on during the Autumn Term and also to hear the other MYMS ensembles playing. We shall again be using the 'prism' arrangement of having the first three ensembles all ready to play at the beginning of the concert and hopefully speeding up the logistics of the concert.

We are hoping that there will be a treat this year during the interval with mulled wine and mince pies available – but, if your son or daughter has played in the first half, do stay for an even bigger treat with the Senior Strings, Youth Orchestra and MYWO to round off the evening.

Concert Dress

MYWO, MYO and String Orchestra (MYSO)

Men: black long-sleeved shirts – sleeves rolled down please, trousers, socks and shoes, MYMS tie (£10 each – from MYMS Centre Manager)

Ladies: black sleeved top and trousers, or skirt (knee-length or longer), or similar black dress with black tights and black shoes

Concert, Alpha and Omega Bands and Strictly Strings

Men: white long-sleeved shirts, black trousers, socks and shoes, MYMS tie (£10 each – from MYMS Centre Manager)

Ladies: white sleeved top, black trousers or skirt (knee-length or longer), black tights and black shoes

AGM – There is a separate letter about the AGM and other related documents, which will be posted on the MYMS website early next week. We will be experimenting this year by holding the AGM before the concert starting at 7:00 p.m. Please read the reports at your leisure before the meeting. If you have any questions or items of Any Other Business, please contact Richard on chair@myms.org.uk or on grettonr@gmail.com

Refreshments and Tuck Shop – please contact Richard if you are prepared to help with refreshments either on the Concert night or on any Friday evening.

MYMS Committee – We are always looking for more volunteers to join the MYMS Committee, especially parents of children in the junior ensembles. Again, please contact Richard if you are interested.

Car Parking - as many of you will know, Invicta GS now have barriers to their car parks. They will be raised on the concert evening in both the bottom car park and the top one at the side of the school hall that heads down to Valley Park School.

Subscriptions – The majority of you have paid your subs already - either by cheque or by internet banking – for which, thank you. We do still have a number to come in. Just in case it has slipped your memory, we are repeating the information from the September Newsletter.

Parents agreed at the latest Second General Meeting in July that Membership Fees for this year should only be discounted up until 31st October 2012. So, any outstanding fees are now £110 for individual membership and £175 for family membership. To ease our cashflow, could we ask that these are paid as soon as possible and ideally no later than 31st December 2012, please?

Payment of Subs – Electronically – Again, this year, we are able to offer parents the facility of paying the MYMS subscriptions by electronic bank transfer. If you wish to pay this way, the details you require are:

Sort Code: 089299 Account Number: 65370937 Reference: Please remember to add your child's name in the reference box so that we know from whom the transfer has come.

By cheque – Alternatively, fees may be paid by cheque and handed in – in an envelope addressed to Kay Gretton, Membership Secretary - on Friday evenings. **Please write the student's name and ensemble(s) on the back of the cheque and send it in with the reply slip on the front page of the September Newsletter [also on the website].** If you are likely to have any difficulty paying the membership fee, please contact Kay [on 01622-683303] who will be able to discuss alternative arrangements. If you have not previously completed a Gift Aid form and are willing to do so, please contact Richard, Acting Centre Manager, or download one from the MYMS website in the section called 'Join Us'.

Future Dates for your Diary

- **Fridays 14th December 2012 to 4th January 2013** – MYMS closed
- **Friday 11th January 2013** at 4.30 p.m. - Spring Term 2013 for MYMS restarts
- **Friday 22nd February 2013** – MYMS closed for half term
- **Friday 22nd March 2013** – 7.30 p.m. – MYMS Spring Concert at Invicta GS for all groups
- **Fridays 29th March to 12th April 2013** – No MYMS
- **Friday 19th April 2013** – MYMS reopens for Summer Term.
- **Sunday 23rd June 2013** – Probable date for Bandstand Concert at Brenchley Gardens – date yet to be confirmed by Maidstone Borough Council
- **Friday 28th June 2013** - Summer Concert for senior ensembles at Invicta Grammar School, plus Second General Meeting

Much is continuing to happen at MYMS at the moment. Please read the Chair's and Music Director's Reports for an update of what has happened in the past year and some of the major changes that will be occurring in 2013.

If you want to discuss any aspect of MYMS' activities at any time or you wish to get more actively involved yourself, please feel free to contact any of us. Our contact details are all on the MYMS website – www.myms.org.uk

Yours faithfully

Richard Gretton
Chair and Acting Centre Manager

Steve Migden
Music Director