



Douglas Academy is the new rehearsal venue



Bearsden and Milngavie Youth Orchestra

Session 2006–07

Welcome

Welcome back – hope you had an enjoyable summer. Unfortunately, due to smoke damage, Craigdhu Primary is unavailable for rehearsals; however the council has offered **Douglas Academy** as an alternative venue. BMYO will start as usual in the second week of the new school year. Please come along at the normal start time of 7:00pm to the main entrance of Douglas Academy, accessed either off Craighton Road or Falloch Road. Please ensure you hand in to the committee a completed copy of the application form (enclosed) *before leaving your child* at BMYO. If your child is a member of the Senior Orchestra and is able to perform on Sunday, 17 Sept., 2:00pm, at Mugdock Country Park, please also hand in the tear-off consent form (attached).

As before we have tried to provide as much information about BMYO dates in this introductory note, including concert dates, so please make a provisional note of the dates.

Rehearsals

BMYO meets during the first two terms of the school year. There are weekly rehearsals on Thursdays in Douglas Academy, which lead up to a concert at the end of each term in St Luke's Church. Please arrive promptly by 7:00pm for all rehearsals so the instruments can be tuned. The Junior and Senior 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. Please advise your child accordingly.

Orchestras & Conductors

String Orchestra	19:00 – 20:00	Conductor Marj Partridge (for those just starting to play in a group)
Junior Orchestra	19:00 – 20:15	Conductor Suzi Watson & Kenny Letham (for players around grades 2–4)
Senior Orchestra	19:00 – 20:30	Conductor Alan Pash (for those at grade 4 and above).

The conductors place children in the most appropriate group.

Organising Committee & Duty System

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

Chairperson:	Sue Laverge	956 3435	sue@laverge.demon.co.uk
Membership:	Karen McIlvaney	563 9916	www.bmyo.org.uk
Treasurer:	John Davies	956 5821	davies@waitrose.com

Secretary: Julie Lambie, Concerts: Fiona Berlouis; Making Music: Carol Gibson,

Publicity and web: Kate Nimmo, Further publicity: Evelyn Tingle

New members are always welcome and may be necessary so please consider joining the committee – the duties are not arduous and you do not have to be musical. The more people there are on the committee, the less we each have to do. We typically meet once just before school starts in August and about twice a term during rehearsals.

Due to Douglas Academy being a larger venue three parents are now required to do duty each week. This is likely to result in one duty per parent per year. A duty rota list will be distributed shortly. Please arrive at 6:45pm 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. Please inform a committee member if you find you are unable to do the day assigned to you. (If you cannot do a duty per say please drop a note for the attention of the duty secretary to this effect.)

Subscriptions & Gift Aid Declaration

As before: £40 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 cheques payable to the *Bearsden and Milngavie Youth Orchestra* with your child's name on the back of the cheque and leave them with the parent on duty at rehearsals. We prefer cheques but if you wish to pay using 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 contact information form if you are a taxpayer? We are a charity and this enables us to recover basic rate income tax on subscriptions, which makes your £40 worth £51 and gives our finances a big boost!

If you have difficulty in paying the subscription, please contact the Chairperson. The Committee will consider applications for financial aid in confidence and will require supporting evidence such as entitlement to free school meals. We do not wish anybody 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 2006–07

Here are *tentative* dates for the planned BMYO activities during the coming school year.

Thursday 31 August 2006	Rehearsals start, Douglas Academy
Sunday 17 September 2006	Mugdock Summer Festival (Senior Orchestra)
Thursday 5 October 2006	Open Evening and Annual General Meeting
Thursday 19 October 2006	<i>No rehearsal</i> (October week)
Thursday 30 November 2006	Last rehearsal of term in Douglas Academy
Thursday 7 December 2006	Final rehearsal, St Luke's Church – <i>check times</i>
Friday 8 December 2006	Christmas Concert, St Luke's Church, 1930

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Thursday 11 January 2007	Rehearsals restart, Douglas Academy
Thursday 15 March 2007	Last rehearsal of term in Douglas Academy, 1900
Thursday 22 March 2007	Final rehearsal, St Luke's Church – <i>check times</i>
Friday 23 March 2007	Easter Concert, St Luke's Church, 1930

We have tried to avoid clashes with events run by schools and by East Dunbartonshire. However, there is so much going on that we may have missed something! Please let the committee know if there are problems with any of these dates and we'll try to find a solution.

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. Miss Moffat 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 Craighdu Primary School in 1999. 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.

**Parents of Senior Orchestra Members *only*:
please detach the consent form below, complete
and submit at the start of rehearsals.**

Bearsden and Milngavie Youth Orchestra

Parental Consent Form:-

I, _____, give consent for my child, _____, to perform on Sunday 17 September 2006 (1:30pm for 2:00pm start) at the Mugdock Country Park Walled Garden Summer Music Festival as part of the Senior Orchestra of BMYO.

Date signed:- _____ .

Child protection policy – Parent checklist for youth activities

You may have received a 'Parent checklist for youth activities' from the Scottish Executive. It sets out a list of 15 questions that you might ask about the status and credentials of the club and its leaders. Here is a summary of the questions and the position of BMYO.

Is the club affiliated to a larger organisation?

We are affiliated to *Making Music*, the National Federation of Music Societies.

Can the club give a named contact within the local council?

The school let is managed by the Community Support group of East Dunbartonshire Council. Alastair Ewen is the Community Development Team Leader. The Council's Performance and Development Officer, George Kelly, is also well aware of BMYO.

Is the club subject to regulation and inspection by an outside body?

Making Music's official Visitor is Karine Davison, who comes at least once a year.

Is there a leaflet which gives basic information about the club?

This is provided at the beginning of each school year (this checklist is part of it).

Is it established practice that parental consent is sought for outside visits etc?

This will be sought if we arrange any such visits.

Does the club have procedures for recruitment and training on protecting children?

We obtain 'disclosures' for the conductors through *Making Music*. We will also seek references for new conductors.

Are there adequate numbers of adult staff, with a minimum of two for safety?

There are always the conductors, a parent on duty, and a member of staff from the school: a minimum of three.

Are there clear procedures for staff in respect of behaviour towards children?

We follow the policy suggested by *Making Music*. In particular, adults are not normally permitted to be alone with a single child, with the exception of brief, annual auditions.

Does the club have a formal constitution?

Our constitution has met the requirements for charitable status in Scotland. Please ask for a copy if you would like to read it.

Are parents encouraged to visit the club?

Definitely! There is an annual Open Evening in conjunction with the AGM. You are also welcome to discuss the workings of BMYO at any time with any of the committee or conductors. Better still, join the committee and help run BMYO!

Does the club have a health and safety policy? Is it insured?

The school has First Aid equipment but we do not have a trained First Aider available. BMYO carries property and public liability insurance through *Making Music*. However, *this does not cover the members' instruments*. Please insure these yourselves. Also, we can be responsible for children only while they are in school, during rehearsals.

Does the club have a policy to ensure the protection of young people?

There is almost no one-to-one contact between adults and children in normal circumstances. The only staff in regular contact with the children are the conductors, for whom 'disclosures' are obtained. The adults on duty are parents of participating children and are typically called upon only once annually. One of their duties is to check that children do not leave until they are collected by a parent.

Does the organisation have established procedures to handle complaints?

Please approach any member of the committee. There is at present no independent party nominated.

Is this complaints procedure made clear to club members?

This information is circulated at the beginning of each school year.

Have you asked other parents about the club and its leaders?

Please do! – and encourage your friends as well!