



# Abingdon Music Centre

Music for Everyone



Newsletter December 2020

To all our members,

Thank you ever so much for all your support during 2020, from your donations to your kind words to trying out new-format online sessions. We are so lucky to have such a warm Abingdon Music Centre family and we look forward to being able to make music with you in person again in 2021.

Until then, stay safe and well over the Christmas break.

Take care,

Helen & all at Abingdon Music Centre

## Mini Music Makers (Baby & Pre-school Classes)

Mini Music Makers sessions have been taking place online. Everyone taking part has had a specially made bag of instruments delivered to their home, including sets for grown-ups to join in. Families have been wonderfully creative with finding or making their own props to help make the songs come alive, for example these wonderful birds from Sally's pre-school classes.



### FREE ZOOM PARTY!

There will be an online Musical Christmas Zoom Party for our Mini Music Makers on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 10am – this is FREE for all current MMM class members or £4.40 per family for friends/visitors. Please click [here](#) for further details.

## Abingdon Music Centre: Musical Advent Calendar

In lieu of our annual Christmas Concert in St Helen's Church we have created a musical advent calendar for you to enjoy each day: [View AMC Advent Calendar](#)

This features favourite recordings from our recent Christmas concerts as well as Abingdon Community Orchestra's recent Scarborough Fair recording.

## Abingdon Community Orchestra

Abingdon Community Orchestra have been very busy this term. The group have been rehearsing online via Zoom and then recording their parts at home, to be mixed together. In this way they have created a virtual concert for you to enjoy:

[View Community Orchestra virtual concert](#)

In recent weeks the sessions have incorporated an Oxfordshire Adult Learning course on Virtual Ensemble Technique, focusing on creating parts for Scarborough Fair and the process by which these are edited and mixed together. The end result is very atmospheric and Ben plans to involve some other AMC groups creating additional layers in the New Year.

## Further information

Please click on these links to view all our classes and hosted activities for the [very young](#), [school-age children](#) and [adults](#)

View our [Directory of Teachers/Musicians](#)

07934 364940

Mon-Fri 9am-1pm

[www.abingdonmusic.org.uk](http://www.abingdonmusic.org.uk)



Charity No. 309181

## Mini Music Makers (School-age)

Ben's Mini Music Makers classes for children in Reception-Year 1 re-started online in early November, with a lively set of songs including a particularly memorable one about Porridge! All class members have a special bag of instruments so that they can join in with the songs and activities at home.



## Recorder & Musicianship

Classes have been taking place over Zoom. The children have been able to play along to backing tracks which we have created.

## Guitar Club

Some of our Guitar Club groups have been able to continue on Zoom. Steve has been particularly impressed with the children's focus during the sessions. The groups are now getting into the festive spirit, working on *Jingle Bell Rock*.

## Adult Recorders

Rehearsals have continued over Zoom. By working with composite backing tracks, members have been able to maintain the sense of playing in a group.

## Adult Guitar / Ukulele Classes

Some of our Adult classes have continued learning with Steve online. Steve has been creating demo videos and also recording the classes to help with practice at home – there are some benefits to learning online!

## ACCord (Abingdon Community Choir)

ACCord has been rehearsing online this term, working on *They Long To Be Close to You* by The Carpenters (the title somewhat fitting the current situation), *True Colours* and also *How Can I Keep From Singing* (again a sentiment which a lot of us feel at the moment). Some members have been recording their own parts at home and sending them in, to create layered tracks containing all the parts to use in rehearsals and practise with at home.

ACCord has also been working on a collaboration with Healthy Abingdon that had been planned for March 2020 but was then postponed, recording parts for a music video.

## Ladies' Choirs

The Ladies' Choirs have combined forces for online Zoom rehearsals this term, broadcast by Mary and Rob from our main room at Larkmead School. Members have enjoyed revisiting old favourites as well as learning *Poor Wayfaring Stranger* (as featured in the film *1917*) and *I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel To Be Free* (which also resonates with current circumstances). The Ladies' Choir have also been learning and recording parts for the Healthy Abingdon music video.

## Singing for Pleasure

Members of Singing for Pleasure have met for some outdoor rehearsals with Sally and Oliver in the gardens of St Ethelwold's House this term. Songs have been on the theme of the Moon plus some favourites from *The Sound of Music*. It has been lovely to meet and sing in person whilst working within Covid-safe guidelines.

We hope to start sessions again in the New Year, initially as a course in partnership with Oxfordshire Adult Learning.

