



Abingdon Music Centre

Music for Everyone



Newsletter March 2021

To all our members,

We appreciate the support we continue to receive from our members, whether through taking part in our online classes, making donations, choosing us as your [nominated AmazonSmile charity](#), keeping in touch with our team or by following our activities on Facebook – thank you all.

We were also delighted to be recognised as Local Heroes of the Month (March 2021) by the RoundandAbout Magazine!

Our members of all ages continue to enjoy music-making together, albeit online – do check out some of our recent virtual recordings (via links in this newsletter) that show what can still be achieved over Zoom. We look forward to being able to make music with you in person again before too long.

Take care, Helen & all at Abingdon Music Centre

ACCord: Abingdon Community Choir

We enjoyed a Covid-safe outdoor sing in December in the car park outside Music Centre. It was lovely to see members in person rather than on screen, including members who have been unable to join our Zoom sessions.



We hope that some outdoor sessions may be possible again after 17th May – we'll keep you posted!

Members of ACCord have continued to rehearse with Matt and Helen over Zoom this term. Songs this term include *From a Distance, One* (from 'A Chorus Line'), *Treat People With Kindness* (Harry Styles). We have also been learning some weather-related songs: *Here Comes the Sun* and *I Can See Clearly Now*, thinking ahead for when we may be able to rehearse or even perform outside again! Some members of ACCord have also recorded parts from *When Will We Sing Together Again*, a lockdown song composed by Dom Stitchbury of The Chaps Choir, London. As well as having a beautiful folk-like melody the words are very apt for members of any choir at this time. [Hear ACCord singing *When Will We Sing Together Again*.](#)

Abingdon Music Centre Summer Term Plans

Our summer term begins **19th April** on Zoom.

We are continuing to follow government guidance, as well as the risk assessments of our partner venues, as to when we will be allowed to return to in-person music-making. At present the earliest opportunity for any music groups to get together, including meeting outdoors, looks to be 17th May. We will update you next term once we know more.

Abingdon Community Orchestra

Abingdon Community Orchestra have continued to rehearse online via Zoom and have focused on working as a Virtual Ensemble. Under Ben's expert guidance, members have explored how music technology can help them to critique and improve their own playing as well as to consider how their own part fits within the whole ensemble.

Members have created 12 recordings in recent months, through recording their parts at home separately and then using technology to mix parts together. As a group they have selected their top 5 tracks to share with you. On listening the sense of 'togetherness' is impressive and you wouldn't guess that these recordings were all made individually.

[Hear Abingdon Community Orchestra's Top 5.](#)

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



AbingdonMusicCentre

Charity No. 309181

Mini Music Makers (School-age)

Ben's enthusiastic Mini Music Makers have been enjoying singing some favourite songs, such as *The Owl* and *Porridge*, as well as focusing on simple music reading activities.

Children are enjoying the opportunity to find home props in the scavenger-hunt Colour Wheel song and also playing a game for exploring different sounds, from percussion instruments in their MMM bags to making music from kitchen items!



Recorder & Musicianship

Beginners, intermediate and advanced players have continued learning over Zoom, with both ensemble and 1:1 sessions. The children have all made fantastic progress and have enjoyed using backing tracks, prepared at various speeds, to help their practice. They have certainly gained confidence in taking the lead in some tricky giges, bourrées and rigaudons this term.

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 whilst at home.

Ladies' Choirs

Zoom Choir has turned out to be a real joy and it has been great for us all to meet up every week with happy, smiling, friendly faces. We can sing out as loud as we like and nobody cares if we're not quite getting it right! It will be fun to see how it all sounds when we are no longer virtual... We have choral recordings to sing along with and Rob, our star accompanist, has also provided practice tracks. We've enjoyed singing a good mix of genres: *Poor Wayfaring Stranger*, *Honeysuckle Rose*, *Love Walked In* and *Gloria Patri*. We've also tackled new fun warmups.

Singing for Pleasure

Current restrictions have sadly put our outdoor rehearsals on hold. We hope to be able to resume once guidelines allow.

Mini Music Makers (Babies & Preschool)

Gillian's Monday class theme has been *The Gingerbread Man*, including lots of baking-related action songs. The children have also been learning about simple rhythm notation:

♪♪♪ = walking and ♪♪♪♪ = running.

Kat and Sally's classes have been exploring a transport theme, incorporating musical concepts such as stop and go, fast and slow. Children (and their parents!) have enjoyed contributing to the songs by bringing their own transport props to the session to inspire the words for each verse.

The use of home props is something that has worked really well in the Zoom sessions. Sally's groups are going to be creating their own butterflies and spiders to use as props for next term.



Guitar Club

Guitar Club have been focusing on their sense of timing and how to play from sheet music fluently in order to fit with a backing track. The classes (at various levels) have been learning famous songs from the *Trinity Rock & Pop* books and playing with the high quality backing tracks.

Adult Guitar Classes

Adult Guitarists have enjoyed contributing weekly ideas of songs to learn to fit their current mood and interests, including some complex Rolling Stones songs. The Wednesday morning group learned *Killeybeg's Jig* for St Patrick's Day and have also been rehearsing strumming patterns for *The Scientist* by Coldplay.

Electronic & Experimental Music Group

We are delighted to host this new group, run by local musician Guy Holford. Click [here](#) for more information.

CharityHikes 2000 Miles Challenge

Local resident Simon Coates is singlehandedly taking on the incredible challenge of walking 2000 miles over the next 8 months to raise money for 16 charities, including Abingdon Music Centre! We are delighted to be involved and hope you will join us in cheering on Simon throughout his fundraising mission. Click [here](#) to find out more about the CharityHikes fundraiser. To make a donation in support of Abingdon Music Centre, please visit our [fundraising page](#).

We are hugely grateful for any support you feel able to give.