



**Calderdale
Music**

End Of Year Newsletter

We've had a wonderfully festive few weeks filled with joy and music! Here's a recap of our recent events:

- **Carols at Halifax Minster:** Our wind bands and string players filled the Minster with beautiful carols as part of the Christmas tree festival



- **Hebden Bridge's Christmas Light Switch-On:** A magical evening with our talented musicians from Valley Strings.
- **Supporting Calderdale College's Live Stream Event:** We helped young bands to perform, showcasing their incredible talent.



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- **Carols at Halifax Borough Market:** Our wind bands and string groups spread Christmas cheer in the heart of the market.
- **End of Term Concert at The Old Courthouse:** A fantastic performance from Debut Keys, Saturday Rocks and Funk & Soul Band to wrap up the term.
- **Senior Citizens' Orchestra Annual Christmas Concert:** A heartwarming event enjoyed by all.

Unfortunately, our planned performance at The Piece Hall Christmas market for our Rock Band and Funk & Soul Band was cancelled due to the weather. We hope to have another opportunity lined up soon!

A huge thank you to all the parents, friends, and family who have supported these events. Your presence means the world to us, and we truly appreciate your continued support.



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Highlights Of 2024

As we reflect on 2024, we are filled with pride and joy over the many wonderful moments we've shared. Here are some of our highlights:

“Beat The January Blues” Offer: This initiative helped children and adults access music groups for free, leading to the formation of 18 ensembles and groups for children and 7 for adults!

Choir Competition with Rotary Club of Halifax: Another successful event showcasing the incredible talent of our local school choirs.

Band Of The Royal Yorkshire Regiment Workshop: Young woodwind, brass and percussion players experienced the challenge and excitement of life as an army musician with a workshop at The Old Courthouse.

The first Calderdale Music Conference: In February we hosted our very first conference at The Old Courthouse for music educators in Calderdale.

Heritage Weekend: We opened our beautiful building to the public for musical workshops and tours.

Work Experience at Piece Hall Summer Gigs: Thanks to Roland and The Piece Hall, teens gained valuable behind-the-scenes experience at some of the summer concerts this year.



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Highlights Of 2024

IDEA Champion: We completed a year-long Inclusion Diversity Equity and Access (IDEA) learning programme

Masterclass with LA producer Erik “Blu2th” Griggs: Our students had the opportunity to work with this renowned producer, which has also strengthened our partnership with Calderdale College.

Voices Together Event: Our second year of Voices Together was a massive success, involving 42 schools and 1300 students over three nights!

We've also delivered small group/1-1 lessons to over 1000 people this year and had over 400 people take part in our groups and bands. Not to mention the thousands of children we teach weekly as part of the music curriculum in schools. A huge thank you to our dedicated Music Leaders, our brilliant administrators, our buildings staff and the leadership team for all their hard work this year.

We are excited about the events and opportunities that 2025 will bring. Keep an eye on our newsletters and social media for more information!



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Changes To Staff

As the new year approaches, we'd like to extend our thanks and best wishes to Fotios Kalantzis and Tracey Whitaker, who are leaving Calderdale Music at the end of this month. We wish them all the best in their new roles!

We are also excited to welcome Katie Durrans to Calderdale Music as our new Receptionist at The Old Courthouse. If you have a lesson with us during an evening or Saturday morning, please do come and say hello to Katie!

School Holiday Closure

Calderdale Music will close at 1pm on Saturday, 21st December, and reopen at 8am on Monday, 6th January. Our emails will be monitored over the holidays if anyone needs to get in touch.

All that's left is to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Enjoy the festive season, and we look forward to seeing you in 2025!

The Calderdale Music Team



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