

Music House News

Hello Friends! Welcome to our newly resurrected newsletter. There is so much happening in our music hub that we want to share with you all. So make a cuppa and read on.



Having a good team in place to focus on the future sustainability of Music House is top priority. Joining Sheila Sispal, Marketing & PR Officer - Christella Litras and Nekela Alleyn came on board in February.



Christella is a successful singer, songwriter with her vast connections in the music and arts sector, we are thrilled she accepted a relationships and business development manager role.

Nekela works alongside Stella on business development and she manages our social channels - putting her love of content creation into motion. Together, Sheila, Stella and Nekela play to their individual strengths. As a team they complement one another and Dagmar, our administrator takes

care of all the back office systems and processes. It also has to be said that our trustees go above and beyond supporting the team with their business knowledge and hands-on approach and support.

We have a clear focus on making music accessible to everyone especially disadvantaged and minority groups. The creative ideas we are working on will help generate funds to fulfil our charitable aims.

Grant funding is key to everything we do because it will allow us to work with likeminded organisations and initiate projects that are central to future-proofing Music House as a music hub for everyone in our communities. Watch this space.

Reggae Roots - the UK's first young people's reggae choir

A year ago, we sat round a table at Music House with Sheila Howarth - teacher, community ambassador and key instigator for the Leeds West Indian Carnival. Sheila is one of our community's influential, black female ambassadors - her passion to help young people thrive in a creative, safe and self-empowering way is her life's work.



Sheila had a vision to create the first young people's reggae choir. The more she shared, the more we wanted to help. Rehearsal space was easy - our building would be offered freely. We just needed some money! Sheila is a trustee for the [Geraldine Connor Foundation](#) (GCF) so we quickly set up a meeting with CEO, Selina McGonagle. It made perfect sense for our two charities to partner because of the synergy in

our aims and ambitions. Selina drew up an action plan, identified a potential funding stream via [The World Reimagined](#) - which coincidentally was offering grants for projects of this kind. Selina secured £3,000. We were on our way!

We approached singer songwriter **Annette Judah Morris** whose reggae music career spans over 40 years as part of the duo, Royal Blood. Christella Litras was also asked to work alongside Annette to share musical directorship.

Reggae Roots is for 8-19 year olds, from diverse backgrounds. The choir aims to provide young people with space outside of school to be creative, perform and improve their mental health and wellbeing through music.

Want to be part of Reggae Roots? [Sign up today](#) and please share with your friends.

Reggae Roots ... by royal appointment

Reggae Roots, the UK's first youth reggae choir, were selected to perform for King Charles III at his coronation concert.



Reggae Roots formed part of the 300-strong Coronation Choir which kicked off the musical extravaganza on the eve of 7 May. A once-in-a-lifetime experience, we are hugely proud of our young people. As well as representing our great city, this was an unforgettable experience. If you missed the concert [watch it here](#). You'll see Reggae Roots front of stage on the left, in bright red hoodies, absorbing every magical moment.

Reggae Roots also featured in the BBC documentary [Sing For The King: The Search for the Coronation Choir](#) – a *behind the scenes* look at how the 300 strong choir was mentored for their starring performance.

We believe great things are going to happen and we're excited to see these unfold. You can be part of it too...all you need to do is [sign up](#).

Tim Knight's masterpiece nominated for Classic FM award

Tim was nominated again in the Classic FM Hall of Fame for another of his masterpieces. His eight minute orchestral piece 'Elegy for an English summer' recorded by Czech Philharmonic, illustrates the end of the English summer. It features the oboe (a very English instrument) and the piece tells the story of how a summer's day fades away as the season changes to another.



It's pretty amazing to be nominated and we were delighted for Tim - he really is a world-class composer.

Although he didn't win the award in March, we are glad! Why say that? Simply because if you're a living, breathing composer it's almost impossible to win. In years to come, we are certain Tim's legacy will live on, but for now, he has much work to do composing, conducting, creating and enriching lives.

[Click this link](#) to hear Tim talking about his piece on our Instagram feed.

The end of an era as Tim Knight steps down as Principal

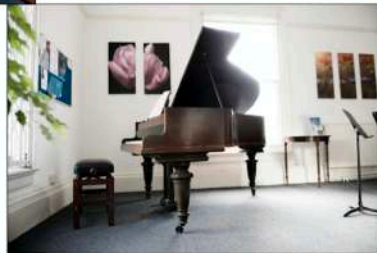
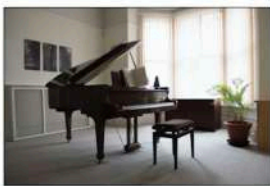
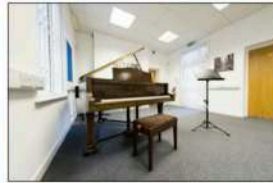
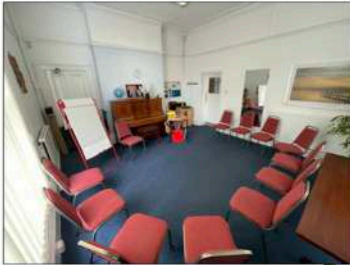
At the end of this month, Tim Knight will be stepping down from his role as Principal of Music House. In his own words - which sums it up perfectly...

"Life moves on and after 22 years at the Yorkshire College of Music and Drama (now Music House) other exciting projects have come on the horizon for me. To take advantage of these and knowing that Music House is on an exciting future path, I am stepping down as Principal. It has been a fantastic time creating opportunities for pupils, teaching - I would guess - probably around 500 pupils over the years. Some of whom are now composers and singers in the classical music industry, sourcing the new building, returning after Covid and the general ups and downs of a musical establishment. But now, onwards and upwards for both Music House and myself."



Rooms for hire 24/7, 365 days

Our eight music rooms provide the perfect space for our students to learn and develop their music and singing as individuals or in small groups. Did you know we also have a number of teacher-led ensembles that meet weekly so likeminded musicians can play together and explore various repertoires... get in touch if you would like to join.



Our rooms are ideal for music and non-music related activities and we've seen a diverse surge in bookings:

- private tutors looking to teach students in a dedicated music hub rather than their front room
- drama groups and musicians looking for rehearsal space to hold workshops
- disability charities holding community and member consultations
- bible groups, church meetings and religious gatherings
- Every Saturday, New Vision

Education Chinese School teach young children Chinese languages and cultural lessons including calligraphy, singing and dancing. If your youngster would like to join, please email headteacher Joyce or call her on 07926 658820.

We are pleased to see a range of choirs hiring our rooms on a weekly basis. Our rehearsal rooms are well-equipped for choirs of up to 50 people who can position themselves in their vocal sections... and with a piano in every room, it's easy to see why Voices Choir, Space2Sing, Leeds Youth Choir, Reggae Roots Choir, Male Voice Choir (to name but a few), choose Music House.

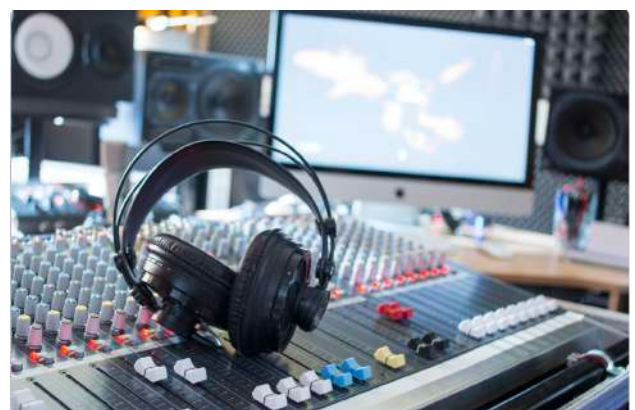
Oh and not forgetting...for decades, our music hub has been the regional centre for all ABRSM, London College of Music and Trinity College London practical music exams.

Looking for a room to hire? Please email or call 0113 243 1605 and we'll be happy to work with you on your requirements.

Basement transformation ***Recording Studio*** alert

Stella and Nekela have been working on a fantastic project that's set to transform our basement from an under-utilised room to a fully functioning recording space.

With her endless list of music contacts, Stella has secured professionals to sound-proof the room to ensure the best acoustics. The space will include a digital audio workstation, PA system complete with microphones, stands and headphones, mixing area, cables and equipment store.



Our studio will be perfect for audio recording, voiceovers, podcasts and webinars.

Affordable recording space is not easy to find in Leeds. Our research and talking to local music industry professionals has informed us well. Helping our communities (young and old) to have access to a recording studio for an hour or two, to get creative ticks all our charitable aims.

Masterclasses, workshops and holiday camps

Our team at MH HQ have got their thinking caps on! The wheels are in motion and the drawing board is full of ideas.



As well as 'audience with' type masterclasses featuring musical royalty and up and coming artists, there will be opportunities to create content; we're also working on a seniors coffee morning; a toddlers club; menopause support group and a men's support group; music workshops; activities for kids and young people, craft fairs and much more.

As soon as our *'calendar of events'* is ready, we'll share on our [website events page](#) and socials along

with full details including how to book, prices and early bird offers.

Upcoming events:

- 4 day Gospel workshop: Tuesday 8 August - Friday 11 August: £25.
- Guitar masterclass with [Nick Svarc](#): September (date, time and ££ tbc).

Centre of Excellence for Music Theory

We believe Music House is *centre of excellence for music theory*. Why do we think this?

First of all, we have lost count of the hundred of students we have taught music theory to over the years with 100% success rate, which has meant they've secured a place at their chosen university. Secondly, we are the only music establishment in Leeds (that we know of) which offers music theory. We have developed our music theory lessons to a very high level and our tutors are highly skilled and qualified.



Over the years, our ever popular Grade 1-5 ABRSM music theory class has attracted a wide range of music students from our region who have either been sent to us by recommendation or by their private music tutors.

We champion small group learning - a maximum of six students per lesson. The benefits include:

- dedicated time to ask questions and discuss / debate and students can enrol at any time, they don't need to wait until a new term.

Due to popular demand, we've added another lesson to our timetable. Classes run every Wednesday and Thursday at 7-8pm. Newbies can join at any time.

To enquire and secure your place please call 0113 243 1605 or [send an email](#) and we'll help you to get theory under your belt.



Jam around the Table workshops

Jam Around The Table is a [GCF](#) funded project for 14-19 year olds. In a nutshell, this project runs a series of workshops which are fun opportunities for participants to express themselves while taking care of their mental health and wellbeing.

In under two years (correct at time of publishing), the project has run **three** sessions across **nine** days, attracting a very diverse group who have forged lasting friendships through their love of music, poetry, self-expression and personal development. Teens are encouraged to create their own songs, poems and forms of expression which they get to perform at a workshop finale celebration for friends and family.

'Don't ignore your own potential' Not only does Jam Around the Table empower young people, **this project is where we recruited many of the original members of Reggae Roots.**

FYI this is another project Music House is proud to be partnering with [GCF](#) on.

The next workshops are taking this month (July) at Music House. It's free to enrol so [sign up and find out more here](#)

Jam around the table hit centre stage at [Seven Arts](#)

Again, in partnership with [GCF](#), Jam Around the Table returned for a two-night extravaganza aptly named 'New Generation'.

On Friday 22 & Saturday 23 April - this vibrant group of talented, confident young adults put on a breath-taking show. Supported on the night by 'Caution Collective' - Leeds' best up upcoming singer/songwriters - created by Christella Litras.

Three hours of vocals, rapping, piano, flute, drums, poetry and much more provided a platform for the *next gen* of future stars to experience the spotlight.



See more clips from the night on our [YouTube channel](#). **Don't forget to subscribe.**

And briefly...

Donations

If you would like to support us we really appreciate this. It doesn't matter how small any gift you make is, every little helps. To make a donation please visit [our website](#).

Why not fundraise for us? Organise a cake-bake, sponsored walk, sports day or a dress down Friday at work, your fundraising efforts will mean so much to Music House. To discuss fundraising please [email us](#).



Young People Advisory Board

Are you aged 9-18? Would you like to have your say on the work that we do? Your views count because Music House is your music hub. With this in mind we want to make sure you're listened to.

As a member of our advisory board, we'll invite you to attend meetings, get your feedback on our work and be guided by your opinions to make sure we are meeting the needs of your demographic.

To register, please [email us](#) and we'll be in touch with further details.

Call out for Trustees

We are reaching out to professionals from the corporate, charity and public sector.

Help us achieve our charitable aims and objectives for the benefit of our target audiences including: disadvantages, disabled, excluded and refugees; we would love to hear from you.

We value a range of skills and backgrounds: legal; media; finance; mentoring and coaching; commercial property/leasing.



Please email our [Chair, David Hughes](#) to arrange a friendly chat and take the first steps to being involved with future-proofing Music House and shaping our future successes.

Look who dropped in...

Here's a little snapshot of some of the awesome artists who are regulars at Music House.

Please [follow us on Instagram](#) and click our [YouTube channel](#) link to see more of talent in motion... **and don't forget to subscribe.**



Scan the QR codes to see some of our #Insta highlights featuring many more AMAZING artistes who've dropped and 'Jam around the Table'



Introduce a friend

Share your love of music with friends and family. For every person you introduce to Music House who then goes on to book a term of lessons, you'll receive 2 x 30 minute free music lessons worth £36.

Get in touch

If you have any questions please call us on 0113 243 1605 or email admin@music-house.org.uk

Visit our website for more information about [Music House](https://www.music-house.org.uk)



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