



# November Newsletter

*Making Music accessible to all*

## Introduction

Welcome everyone to our third and final newsletter of 2018, the year has flown by and we all can't believe it is nearly Christmas. There has been a lot of exciting things happening at JT Music including the very popular summer activities, our August exam session and the opening of our new studio in Hamilton.

## Summer Activities

The summer holidays saw the return of our highly successful summer activities starting with our musical themed days run by Morgan. Everyone had a great time performing Hairspray and Matilda. In our second week we ran our Adventure Through Music classes which were a great success teaching primary children about the different aspects of music. Just before the schools went back Morgan revisited Stage! The Musical for the second year and the kids got the opportunity to write and film their own musical. We ended up with a great film from the kids!

## August Exams

We would like to congratulate all our pupils who sat exams this term. We had our biggest exam session yet with **64** pupils sitting exams in various instruments and singing. The examiner was very impressed and said this is the highest standard of exams he has seen in his six years of being an examiner. Our pupils obtained **58 Distinctions** and **6 Merits**. This exam block was a full three days long and we managed to get our best results ever! Well done everyone!

## Kirkland Park Fun Day

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September JT Music had a very successful time at Kirklandpark primary schools first ever fun day. Sandra, Jen G and Gregg all helped at our stand where they were on hand to provide information, and give the kids balloons with a special treat attached. We took hand bells along with us which some of the kids at the fun day were very excited to try.

## RGT Guitar Exams

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 7 of our guitar and ukulele pupils sat their RGT exams. We are delighted to announce another **5 Distinction and 2 Merit** passes. Well done!

## Rhythm Rascals

Every Wednesday morning, we have our Rhythm Rascals classes at 10-10.45, 12-12.45 and 1.30-2.15, where we teach music to toddlers and preschoolers using the Kodaly method. They learn about rhythm and music through games and singing and have a lot of fun while doing it. This is great way to introduce kids to the joy of music at a young age and they get to make new friends whilst doing so. There are still spaces available so please contact us if you would like to book your child in.

## JT Music Choirs

We have 5 choirs at JT Music which meet on the first Sunday of every month if you are interested in joining us come along, it's lots of fun.

Quavers	12.30-2.00
Unison	1.00-3.00
Harmony	2.00-4.00
Vivace	4.00-5.00
Adults	7.30-9.00

From January Unison and Harmony choir practice will be held in our new Hamilton studios from 2.30-4.30 to enable both choirs to practice together.

## JT Rocks

JT Rocks is our class for all of our budding rock stars and is held on the second and fourth Sunday of the month, if you play, guitar, drums, piano or sing and are interested in learning to play in a band, contact the studios and we will arrange for you to come along.

## Duets and Trios

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month Morgan runs our Duets and Trios class. This is a great opportunity for budding singers to sing their favourite duets and trios from musicals and have a great time working together with other vocalists. For more information or to sign up please feel free to contact the studios



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## Staffing Changes

Over the past few months we have had a few changes to our staffing. We were very sad to say goodbye to 3 of our teachers Jamie Allan, Holly Naismith and Amanda Holden we wish them all the best in their studies. Between them they had over 70 pupils which has led to a large shake up in our timetables, we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

We have also had a number of new members of staff join us recently. Catherine Duncan is one of our new piano teachers, Catherine was a pupil of Jen's for many years before the opening of the studios. She is teaching piano and violin in both our Strathaven and Hamilton studios. Taylor Payne is one of our new drum and guitar teachers and Susie Dunn is our new flute teacher. Both Taylor and Susie will be splitting their time between the Strathaven and Hamilton Studios.

Ross Millar also joined the team as a senior teacher prior to the opening of the Hamilton studio and has a number of years teaching experience in drums, guitar, bass, ukulele and piano, Ross will be teaching at both of our studios. We have a number of our YMTT graduates who have completed their training and are now teaching their own pupils, Lucy Wilkie, Charlotte Smith, Abbie Neely, Aofie Danskin, Sammy Blore and Hannah Waitzmann congratulations we are so proud of you all.

You may also have noticed our new reception staff if you are in on a Saturday or a Wednesday night, Alexander Smith and Millie McAuley who are doing a great job of making everyone feel welcome. I'm sure you will join us in welcoming everyone to our team.

Finally we are also delighted to announce that our senior teacher, Katie Baker, has joined our management team and we wish her well in her new role.

## Hamilton Studios

We are delighted to announce the opening of our second studios in Hamilton on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2018. Opening our second studio is such a huge achievement, from teaching in Jen's front room to opening the Strathaven studio in October 2016, JT Music is going from strength to strength and it's all thanks to our amazing pupils and their parents that bring them. The new studios are located at 4 Barrack Street, Hamilton and has five teaching rooms which includes a large performance space, which will allow us to expand our teaching capacity and free up some teaching space at Strathaven. We are currently teaching in Hamilton on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and those days are filling up fast.

## Reindeer day 2018

This year we have been asked to perform at Reindeer day in Strathaven on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December. All of our choirs will be performing and some of our teachers too! We will be singing in the common green between 1:30-2:30pm. We hope to see you there!

## Choir Christmas Concert

Our choirs are holding their first ever Christmas concert on 16<sup>th</sup> December at the Town Mill theatre from 3pm-5pm. We will be serving tea, coffee and plenty of home baking. All the proceeds of the teas, coffees and cakes will go to Trust Jack Foundation. Come along and get into the Christmas Spirit by singing along to all of your favourite songs. Tickets are £6 for adults and £3 for Concessions and are available at reception in the Strathaven Studios.

## Staff and Senior Concert

On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at the Village theatre in East Kilbride we will be holding our staff and seniors concert. This is a first for JT Music and it is a great opportunity to come along and hear our amazing teachers and senior pupils perform and of course our choirs will be performing too. Tickets are available at the studios or via our website [www.jtmusic.co.uk](http://www.jtmusic.co.uk).



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*Making Music accessible and fun*

## February Exams

Our next exam session will take place in February. Everyone has been working so hard towards their exams and we wish them the best of luck!

## Studio Holidays 2019

The studios will reopen in the New Year on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Please see below for our scheduled holidays in 2019

**8<sup>th</sup> April – 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**1<sup>st</sup> July – 7<sup>th</sup> July**

**5<sup>th</sup> August – 11<sup>th</sup> August**

**14<sup>th</sup> October – 20<sup>th</sup> October**

**20<sup>th</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020**

## Our philosophy

JT Music studios isn't just about learning music but it's also about the **supportive and nurturing environment** we create which gives pupils **a sense of belonging** and somewhere they feel at home. We like to think we have allowed music to be **accessible** to all ages, levels, abilities and even to those who never thought they would ever be able to play! We inspire youngsters to take on new challenges and **encourage** them to write their own music. We believe in **building up confidence in every pupil** to allow them to achieve their full potential. Every pupil is good at something. Our philosophy is to teach pupils the way they like to be taught not expecting them to learn the way we would like them to learn. We have given pupils something no one can take away from them; music is a part of them now, and it's individual, special and important. Most of all, **lessons are fun!**

**Thank you for all your support in 2018**