

**EDUCATION DIRECTORATE  
CURRICULUM & MANAGEMENT  
ADVISORY SERVICES UNIT  
COUNTY MUSIC SERVICE  
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May 2002

Dear Parents/Music Centre Member

I can now give further details of our concert arrangements later this term.

**Saturday, June 22**

Extended morning for the choir and those players involved in 'Joseph And His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. We will rehearse from 12.30 until 2.15. Please bring a packed lunch. Morning rehearsals for other groups as normal, including choir. Lunch break will be 12.00 to 12.30.

**Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**

There will be a concert at 11 am given by the **Junior Strings, Junior Band and Guitar ensemble**. Members of these groups should arrive at Music Centre at the normal time. Concert dress [black and white]please.

Both **jazz ensembles** are playing at the Nidderdale Festival in Pateley Bridge. A coach will leave Aireville school at 12.15 in time for you to set up and play from 2pm until 4.30. The coach will return to Aireville school for 5.40. You will need uniform and some money for refreshments as well as your instruments.

There will be an evening concert at Aireville School given by the **wind band, chamber ensembles, orchestra and jazz groups** at 7.30pm. There will be no morning rehearsal for any of these groups. Rehearsal times are: 5.00 -wind chamber group, 5.30 -string chamber group, 6.00 - orchestra. Jazz groups should arrive at 7.00 please. Concert dress.

**Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup> 7pm**

Band rehearsal for 'Joseph'. [Only the small number involved] This is likely to be at Glusburn Institute but will be confirmed later.

**Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup> Performance of 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at Glusburn Institute at 7.15 and Jazz Orchestras, 9pm to 10.30**

Music Centre will be as normal between 9.15 and 10.45 except for the Wind Band, which will not rehearse on this day. There will be no Chamber ensembles after break.

The Choir and all those involved in 'Joseph' should meet at Glusburn Institute at 2.00 for a final rehearsal that will start at 2.15. This should finish at 4.30 in time for all performers to go home for rest and relaxation before returning to the Institute for 6.45. Concert dress please [black and white]

Jazz ensembles should arrive at the Institute no later than 8pm for setting up and sound check etc.

Ticket information is enclosed with this letter.  
Yours sincerely

J.Shardlow

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The Buskaid Soweto String Project

Christine Dittman will be spending five weeks during this summer working in South Africa with an organisation called Buskaid. It is a music school set up by Rosemary Nalden who when in London plays viola with John Eliot Gardiner, and is based in the black township of Soweto, home to over a million black people, but considered to be a suburb of Johannesburg.

The standard of music-making Rosemary has achieved with the 60 youngsters at present in the school is utterly remarkable. She uses methods and teaching aids similar to those many of our pupils also use, and the children learn in the same way as ours, but there are two main differences. The first is that the children of Soweto have nothing else in their lives; no toys, no computers, no singing, dancing, riding or other diversionary lessons, and are often from fractured or broken family backgrounds. Therefore they devote themselves to their music-making activities to the exclusion of almost everything else, and one young man has recently been accepted as a student at the RNCM with a view to returning as the first pupil to become a teacher.

The second difference is that these children are African, with their own very distinctive cultural traditions. In the same way that we might describe ourselves as Yorkshire folk, as opposed to Cockney or Scottish and understand what we mean by that, so these children may have a heritage of for instance Xsosa or Zulu, and understand those differences too. The children have the freedom, imagination and ability to use our instruments, our ways of teaching and learning and our music-making for their own unique style, and a fantastic sound it is too.

If you are interested in this and would like to support this wonderful organisation, you will be able to buy a CD which will be on sale at the concert on June 29th; you will hear remarkable and inspirational music-making.

" You may be poor, you may only have a ramshackle house, you may have lost your job, but that song gives you hope..... Politics can be strengthened by music, but music has a potency that defies politics."  
Nelson Mandela

Website: [www.buskaid.org.za](http://www.buskaid.org.za)

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