

## Recent email feedback

### Email feedback, Headteachers

Hi Alastair,

It has been great to work with everyone at MfL. You all have such a professional and child-centred approach to all you do and every aspect of your work is clearly driven by a burning passion for music and musicians. There are many young people in the Crewe community who have much to thank you for and who as a result of your work will always have music and performance as a rich part of their lives. I have been thrilled to be a part of the Crewe music initiative and know that if anyone can make a musical difference in the lives of young people it is you, Ashley and your tremendously talented and committed team of teachers. I wish you all great success and enjoyment in the future. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with you. I also hope our paths will cross again.

Very best wishes

Hello Alistair,

My response is one word 'outstanding'.

I was there both nights and it was wonderful to see and hear what the children had achieved. The opportunity to perform at a theatre and with professional musicians will stay with the children for the rest of their lives.

Thanks to all concerned but, as you say, Ashley is a diamond geezer!

Being a frustrated singer I could see the makings of a Crewe soul band..... you now a bit of Mustang Sally and Everybody Needs Somebody to Love, etc.

Thanks again and, as you can see, I seem to have moved beyond one word!

Thanks for giving our children such a fantastic opportunity.

Regards,

Hi

I would just like to pass on my thanks to everyone involved in the Lyceum concerts this week. The children were so thrilled to be playing there, and parents were absolutely delighted.

I felt it was organized exceptionally well, and Alastair was a star!

Thank you so much. I felt so proud watching our pupils.

Many thanks, once again

Kind regards

The Team,

May I take the opportunity in congratulating the entire Music for Lifer Team, for the fantastic concert last night at the Crewe Lyceum Theatre (17:30 – 18:30) and for the total dedication and encouragement to all the pupils that participated, from your teaching staff. It was a fantastic evening that deserves considerable recognition and praise.

To watch all the children perform, especially my own, made me feel extremely humble and proud.

May I also congratulate the partnership between Mabllins Lane and Music for Life, and last nights Concert was a true testament to the success of the ongoing partnership and long may this continue.

Wishing you continued success.

The concerts were a huge success and the planning and work that went into them was excellent. All of our children and parents thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it has been an inspiration to them all. Thanks for giving them the opportunity to take part in such a wonderful event.

Good Luck for the future.

Could you please pass on the message to the teacher who comes on Mon morning that we will have Ofsted next week. I'm dead chuffed it has fallen on a Monday so they can see the great music opportunity but just wanted to warn the tutor!! Will you please let me know you get this message. Thanks

Dear Mr. Lacey,

Just an email to say a great big thank you for responding in your holidays.

Mr. Lunt has emailed the missing tabs and we are now a happy, noisy household once again!

Can I take this opportunity to say how impressed we've been with Music for Life. Cavan is still enjoying his lessons with Mr. Lunt, and long may they continue.

Thank you again to yourself and Mr. Lunt.

Dear Alistair,

I am writing to confirm that Daniel will not be continuing with violin lessons at Neston High school. Daniel is undecided about wanting to continue playing much to my disappointment. I feel that it would be pointless trying to force Daniel to continue with lessons and I feel that this is just a teenage phase! I hope I can contact you in the future regarding any further lessons.

Thank you very much for the lovely report from Mrs Tickle. Daniel has enjoyed the lessons and I would like to thank you for your excellent organisation and quality of teaching.

Yours sincerely etc.

Alaister

I would like to thank you and all the tutors at Music for Life who have taught my four children over the past eight years. The experience has been invaluable, the concerts fantastic, the quality of teaching second to none and your support has been much appreciated.

I hope that we will be able to use the service of Music for Life again in the future.

Once again Many Many Thanks

Sue

Dear All

I just wanted to say a huge thank you for Monday night's concert. It is the first time Imogen has been involved and is now very keen to join the orchestra in September. She was so nervous entering the rehearsal on Saturday morning but emerged with a new sense of achievement and excitement.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the concert and could see how much the school children enjoyed their performance too. Could this be rolled out across Cheshire as I know that the children in and around our area would certainly benefit.

Thank you to all involved (especially Mr Henderson who does a fantastic job with Imogen) and Imogen is now looking forward to more rehearsals from September.

Dear Mr McWilliam,

I am writing to thank you and your staff for the lovely concert that you organised and performed at the Northgate arena on Monday. My daughter attends Oldfield Primary school and has been lucky enough to benefit from both the 10 weeks singing lessons and the 10 guitar sessions. Both of which she and her classmates have really enjoyed.

We as parents of two children at Oldfield, both of whom have now asked to learn an instrument, would fully support music for life and Oldfield school in any projects that enable children to learn and develop these new important skills. It is important that this sort of facility is available within schools.

Please pass on our appreciation to the staff of music for life.

Best Regards

I hear from other sources that the concert was a great success the other night, well done to all involved. Tom was sorry not to be part of it, due to ill health, but has enjoyed his time rehearsing for it all the same. Tom, like Ben previously, is going to have to cease his lessons with MFL. He is going to a school that unfortunately does not offer Music for Life. I want to thank you all for helping him discover his love of playing and listening to music. He has gone from strength to strength and Tomasz has encouraged him to fulfil his ambitions to gain grade 4 saxophone. Please pass on my Thanks to Tomasz and Ashley for their support. Both Tom and Ben really enjoyed their lessons and time in the MFL orchestra. Ben continues to play clarinet at his new school and is involved with anything musical so hopefully Tom will build on the start you have provided him with. Thanks again.

**Subject:** Magnificent Concert at the Northgate Arena

Congratulations on a magnificent concert at the Northgate Arena last night. Most parents if they are honest groan inwardly at having to sit through the parts of the concert when one own child is not performing. However I enjoyed the whole of last nights concert, the samba was great as were the Guitar and vocal groups and I was particularly impressed with the drum group doing the Beatles "Come together" number. The Junior orchestra were brilliant as usual and the whole concert was very enjoyable indeed. My son has studied Violin, Saxophone and Piano with Music for Life and as well as really enjoying his playing has made good progress and now has a grade exam under his belt for each instrument. He is also a member of the Junior Orchestra on Saxophone. The scheme is very well run and I cannot compliment the tutors enough who as well as providing excellent tuition also help to keep it fun. If music isn't fun then kids won't want to do it and it becomes a chore which they will discard in later life.

Music for Life exposes the joy of music making to many children who otherwise would not get a chance to take part. I believe that giving many children a chance to take part in these activities is a very good thing and that for some it could be an interest that will give them a pleasurable pastime for life. If this scheme were to be expanded nationally then I am sure that next generation of musical superstars would feature amongst those children involved with Music for Life. It's brilliant that last night all those kids got to experience music making for the performers side instead of being a passive viewer of the X Factor etc.

Hopefully my son will continue to enjoy his music and Music for Life has given him a great kick start. Long live Music for Life !

hi,

I have just come home from your concert at northgate arena and was so impressed. It was great fun, and wonderful to see so many kids taking part and really getting into it. My son especially enjoyed it and wants to play in an orchestra now! He's been learning sax for 6 months and is loving it. Please let me know if you start something in the chester area.

many thanks, and keep up the inspirational work.

Dear Alistair,

This is to inform you that Jenny will not be continuing her music lesson with MfL as she will be receiving tuition through her new secondary school. Many thanks for the provision of the excellent teaching she has received from your organisation. We have been impressed with the care and attention you have provided and we would definitely recommend MfL for any children looking for music lessons.

Dear Neville,

Thanks for your email and for putting Heidi on your waiting list for Sept. 2010, it will come round before we know it!! Thanks also for your response to my comment regarding a separate space for piano lessons. I agree with you it is more a matter for the school than Music For Life. I will certainly express my opinion and I am sure if there is any feasible alternative the school will do their best to accommodate. Thanks again for a great year of lessons, Olivia really has enjoyed them which has been lovely as neither my husband or myself have a musical background. She is teaching us!!

Hi,

Many thanks for the reminder. I have discussed with Oliver the option of continuing with his keyboard lessons in September at Tarporley High School.

We have decided to stop his lessons as his dedication has definitely waned!

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of you at Music for life. Both my children have had a wonderful introduction to music - you provide a wonderful service and opportunity. In particular, I would like you to thank Becky, who currently teaches Oli keyboard. She is absolutely wonderful with the children and everyone at school loves her lessons.

Many thanks,

Dear Mr Mc William,

My daughter Lucy has been learning to play the saxophone at Gawsorth Primary for two years thanks to the music For Life Scheme. She has really enjoyed her lessons, so much so that, when she goes to High School in September, she wants to continue to learn the saxophone and hopes one day to join their jazz band!

So thank you Music For Life for your inspiration.

We attended the concert at Bishop Heber last night as our 2 sons took part in the workshops. We really enjoyed the event and were so impressed by how much the young people had achieved in such a short time! Please pass on our thanks to all who were involved and worked so hard.

The boys had a great day and were proud of what they had done, which is great. Thank you very much!

**Sent:** 21 August 2009 19:58

**To:** Neville Lacey

**Subject:**

Dear Alistair Mc William,

Just to say thank you for the years of tuition that Music for Life has given my son.

He is now a confident guitar player, that really has enjoyed his lessons with you, although having many different tutors, he has got on with them all.

Thank you again for the great tuition, Felix enjoyed every minute of it!

Yours Sincerely,

Dear Mr McWilliam,

I am writing following the excellent concert on July 13<sup>th</sup> in which my daughter Evie played trumpet in the junior orchestra for the first time. We thoroughly enjoyed the concert and Evie really enjoyed playing.

Evie has said that she would like to join the orchestra on a regular basis. She passed her Grade 3 in May and will be continuing lessons with Mr Norbury next term.

I would be grateful if you could let me know if this will be possible, and dates and times of rehearsals etc and what we need to do next. I look forward to hearing from you in respect of Junior Orchestra.

Kind Regards,

Dear Sir/Madam

My son has just left year 6 at the above school, whilst there my son had the opportunity to undertake music lessons with yourselves and has received guitar lessons from Mr Millar.

I understand that unfortunately Music for Life lessons are not available at the high school that Kyle will attend from September (Christleton High School); however the school do offer a continuation of some description.

I would like to thank Music for Life and Mr Millar for all of his effort and good teaching. Without this, my son would not have the enthusiasm or confidence to continue his learning. He enjoyed every session and has made impressive progress with his guitar playing.

Thank you.

Best wishes.

Hi

Please could you pass on to ....guitar teacher - Mr Rodrigez a great big thank you. My son has really enjoyed this years lessons and his playing has come on fantastically. He brought home a CD yesterday of him playing a couple of cover songs and also a song he had written himself (music and words) - we are very proud.

Once again thank you for keeping him excited about playing the guitar - eventhough the house rocks to power chords on the electric guitar!

Dear All

I just wanted to say a huge thank you for Monday night's concert. It is the first time Imogen has been involved and is now very keen to join the orchestra in September. She was so nervous entering the rehearsal on Saturday morning but emerged with a new sense of achievement and excitement.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the concert and could see how much the school children enjoyed their performance too. Could this be rolled out across Cheshire as I know that the children in and around our area would certainly benefit.

Thank you to all involved (especially Mr Henderson who does a fantastic job with my daughter) and she is now looking forward to more rehearsals from September.

Kind regards

Dear Mr McWilliam,

I am writing to thank you and your staff for the lovely concert that you organised and performed at the Northgate arena on Monday. My daughter attends Oldfield Primary school and has been lucky enough to benefit from both the 10 weeks singing lessons and the 10 guitar sessions. Both of which she and her classmates have really enjoyed.

We as parents of two children at Oldfield, both of whom have now asked to learn an instrument, would fully support music for life and Oldfield school in any projects that enable children to learn and develop these new important skills. It is important that this sort of facility is available within schools.

Please pass on our appreciation to the staff of music for life.

Best Regards

## **Other Feedback about MfL**

### **Headteacher Comments about Music for Life**

"High and reliable quality of instrumental tuition. Many and varied performance opportunities. A good relationship with school/MFL which includes MFL taking on the admin. and communication burden and virtually no hassle for school. Pupil enjoyment and consequent commitment and achievement. Partnership (MFL/school) in helping disadvantaged families. As LEA's shrink and more money is devolved I wonder if MFL could be a model for LFL - Learning for Life." **Cheshire Secondary School Headteacher**

"The quality of teaching has been excellent and, as a small school Headteacher, I have been delighted to offer our children a range of instruments which would be impossible without MFL. The performance opportunities have been a great asset as well as very enjoyable. No paperwork and payment headaches for me!! " **Cheshire Primary School Headteacher**

"The MFL scheme has provided children with the opportunity to receive lessons from top quality teachers who are reliable and have an excellent rapport with their pupils. They encourage their pupils to perform in public, in front of a variety of audiences. Some of our pupils attend a Saturday Music Club and parents have spoken to me about the excellent standard of playing they hear at the end of a practice session. Pupils who start with the scheme stay with it throughout their primary school. The admin. side is very well managed by MFL and not school." **Cheshire Primary School Headteacher**

"The quality of teaching is of the highest order and pupils are well motivated; parents are fully involved in the teaching process. The teachers have been very helpful in preparation for school concerts. MFL staff contribute much to the overall development of music in the school. It would be impossible for the school to provide this standard and quality of provision, using own resources - eg. organisation of tutor payments. It would be difficult to suggest improvements when service provided is already good." **Cheshire Primary School Headteacher**

"I have been particularly pleased with 'hassle free' organisation. Teachers have been excellent - very adaptable to a variety of situations. Parents/children are very happy with arrangements. I cannot think of any improvements - on our part we have not been very good at letting teachers know if pupils are on school visits etc. - so apologies for that!" **Cheshire Primary School Headteacher**

"MFL provides a very valuable service. It is efficiently organised, with reliable and prompt teachers. The minimum of disruption is caused by the withdrawal of children from class. The lessons seem to run themselves with very little work needed from school staff." **Cheshire Primary School Headteacher**

"Principally MFL provides a comprehensive access to instrumental lessons. The service enables the Music Curriculum to be strengthened within the school. Individuals can have their musical talents and skills strengthened. Administration is excellent and efficient. Retention rates high. I would like to see MFL activities being incorporated into the mainstream of our school's calendar of activities to celebrate our youngsters. I wish for MFL to receive community support and will continue to offer the school facilities for any ensemble/concert rehearsal or presentations." **Cheshire Secondary School Headteacher**

"The quality of music since MFL became involved in the school has been excellent. It is a pleasure to have such teachers in school and relationships with pupils and parents are excellent. The events that Music for Life has organised for many pupils have been outstanding. Liaison with school is good. There have been no problems for me or the office to deal with over the last three years and the system seems to run itself! Continuity of teachers is excellent with no changes so far" **Cheshire Primary School Headteacher**

Speaking as a teacher who has, for the last fifteen years, encouraged specialist music teachers to come into school, I can honestly say that Music for Life is the best organisation I have ever known" **Cheshire Primary School Headteacher.**

### **What Others Think**

"Many congratulations for the terrific Music for Life event in Crewe. It is a pleasure to work with such motivated people .... Hopefully "Music for Life" has many such events to come! All the best to your future and future projects" **Baldur Bronnimann, Junior Conductor of Northern Sinfonia, who led one of MFL's orchestral workshops.**

"My family attended the Grand Concert on 17 February and I write to say what an excellent evening it turned out to be. The young musicians and performers showed skills way beyond their years and, if you closed your eyes and just listened to the music, you would have gained no greater pleasure from any professional orchestra or band." **Parent, Malpas.**

"Just a short note to say how much we enjoyed the concert at the Northgate arena. The performance of the students was terrific and they so obviously enjoyed themselves. Thanks again. The best one yet!" **Junior Orchestra member's parent, Nantwich**

"Thank you most sincerely for the Chester Music Festival. I did not think my idea would create such enthusiasm, and it would not have got off the ground without your support. I shall be forever grateful to you for the immense part you played. Thank you for giving a lot of people a night to remember!" **Cllr Eric Plenderleath, Former Lord Mayor Chester City Council.**

"... it is the many children and parents who experienced the wonderful "Millennium Concert" that owe you and your colleagues a great debt of gratitude.....I am sure many will cherish the memories "for life". **Junior Orchestra member's parent, Crewe.**

"May I take this opportunity to say how impressed I have been with Miss Higgins' teaching and her relationship with Hannah. Hannah has loved every minute of her lessons. Thank you for all Music for Life has done in offering children so many exciting opportunities!" **Parent, Farndon.**

"Anna has benefited greatly and enjoys her music which would not have been possible if Music for Life had not visited her school, and I know she is looking forward to carrying on with her tuition at High School." **Parent, Crewe.**

"Lucy really enjoys her lessons and I certainly feel it's money well spent and I am delighted with her progress." **Parent, Crewe.**

"We are very pleased with the services of "Music for Life", and think it's wonderful that children are being given so many opportunities to display and perform their talents at lots of different venues. Long may it continue!!" **Parent, Malpas.**

My nine year old has clearly enjoyed the flute lessons that she has taken over the last year and a half with Music for Life. But to offer her the opportunity to see how it all fits together in a REAL orchestra, in a REAL theatre was absolutely invaluable. You've taken a very self-conscious child, unconfident in her own abilities, and given her insight into what she can do, and a skill with which she can feel good about herself. Priceless. **Parent, Nantwich.**

I believe taking up this instrument was the beginning of my daughter's miraculous transformation from an impossibly timid child to one who is slowly building up self esteem and self worth. She has discovered something that enables her to express herself and at the same time gives her a sense of being someone. She has surprised herself and discovered an ability that but for your work could so easily have been missed. We shall be eternally grateful for this. **Parent, Tarporley**

My son has been playing clarinet for 6 years with [*two other music teaching organisations.*] I was very naive and had nothing to compare the quality of his tuition with. Since my son has been having tuition through Music for Life his passion, his enthusiasm, his enjoyment of playing has increased tenfold. He is being taught by passionate, dynamic teachers who are very well qualified and he has already had the opportunity to take part in workshops and concerts. I find it hard to believe you have no public funding. How can it be that for families like myself, who've just been widowed recently, you have been able to offer lessons for my child at a concessionary rate? **Parent, Macclesfield.**

From the smallest violinist to the tallest saxophonist, the young musicians were truly amazing. Your teachers are remarkable people, and we can't wait for the next event. **Parent, Runcorn**

The concerts were a triumph - ability and enthusiasm shone through. Long may Music for Life continue to provide such opportunities. **Parent, Whitchurch**

As a teacher in Shropshire, I am well aware that your service is the envy of many. **Parent, Audlem.**

Thank you for giving all these children a lifetime experience in such a magnificent theatre.  
**Parent, Crewe.**

Since becoming a member of Music for Life in April 2002, it is remarkable how much Rebecca has benefited in such a short time. **Parent, Crewe.**

What a wonderful concert! We were so impressed by the enthusiasm, joy and high standards of all the Music for Life students. Please congratulate all your music teachers - we have always been so impressed with Miss Bass but now realise how many talented teachers you have. **Parent, Tarpoley.**

The Music for Life team displayed great energy and love of the work they do during rehearsals and the concert. This rubbed off on the students and audience, and I am so pleased my daughter is part of such a worthwhile and rewarding group. **Parent, Crewe.**

The tuition is excellent and the groups available are just what young new musicians need. I can't praise Music for Life enough. **Parent, Malpas.**