



Ensembles

# News

AUTUMN 2018

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## Into the Festive Spirit

In September we welcomed new players to the fold, joining our seasoned musicians as they set about rehearsing new programmes of music for the Christmas concerts. Audiences will be able to hear the product of all of that hard work when Nemco's **String** orchestras perform at Holy Cross church, Fenham on Monday 3rd December, and **Windbands** showcase their talents at Trinity Church, Gosforth on Tuesday 4th December. Both concerts will start at 7pm, and tickets are priced at £4/adult £1/child.

## Daft at the City Hall...

In October Regional charity Daft As A Brush staged their second Schools' Prom with choirs and bands from across the region. The City Hall once again opened their doors to the all-day event allowing musicians from Newcastle and South Tyneside to rehearse and to perform in this prestigious concert venue with the dual purposes of working together to make a great music event and to raise funds for founder Brian Burnie's Cancer care charity. Musicians from Nemco's **Intermediate** and **Senior** Windbands had the privilege of opening this Sunday afternoon Gala concert, and performed in massed band and choir items with a polished rendition of Abba's Thank You For The Music to bring DAAB 2018 to a rousing close. A big thank you to all those who took part and to those who supported the event.

## A gift from Norway...

**Brass players** have again been invited to provide the musical back-drop to the Norwegian gifting of the tree which is displayed annually at the Haymarket, Newcastle. Parents are welcome to attend the Carol Service on Thursday 6th December held inside the Civic Centre and around the tree as the Mayor of Bergen switches the lights on. Musicians will be rehearsing from 4.15pm, with the Service starting at 5.30pm.

## Festive Cheer!

McCracken Park will again play host to local charity Children North East for another exciting musical event to raise money for the regions disadvantaged young people. On Friday 7th December, back by popular demand, our **Senior String** players and woodwind ensemble **Simply Clarinets** will entertain audiences with well-known film tunes and seasonal favourites in the hope that this year's **Festive Cheer!** evening will repeat the success of 2017, where the event was able to raise over £500 for this worthwhile cause.

Come along and try your luck at the Tombola, join in with the carols, test your knowledge with the seasonal quiz! Doors open at 7pm. Contact the Nemco office to buy or reserve your place. Raffle prizes gratefully received.

## Ensemble fees: It's all down to money....

Nemco has always been committed to encouraging all of our young musicians to embrace the *playing together experience*, and to do so at the earliest opportunity, offering a range of different ability groups to make that access focussed on keeping our bands and orchestras inclusive, available to all, and as affordable as realistically possible. However, it is with regret that we are needing to increase ensemble fees again in the New Year to cope with a very significant increase in rehearsal venue fees which have been phased in since April 2017, a factor which is unfortunately out of our control. We can assure parents that we have an obligation to investigate other options in order that we can continue to keep our ensembles inclusive and affordable. We would welcome any suggestions from parents as to other suitable venues, or funding solutions.

## What's new in 2019...

In keeping with previous years, we will be running a series of timely workshops throughout 2019 to suit the needs of musicians we currently have. The popular **Spring String & Swing workshops** will be back. We're hoping that we'll also be able to offer **String Quartet** sessions and the opportunity to experience a **Junior Jazz taster**. Check our website for details in the New Year.