

CLYTO PLANS UP TO EASTER AND 'MR BLUE SKY'

Dear Parents, Carers and Members,

We hope you had a good half-term and that the children are refreshed and back in the swing of learning again. This week it has been confirmed that all schools will return to face-to-face teaching for all from 8th March. It is obviously great news that the children can go back. We have received confirmation today that ArtForms City of Leeds Youth Music (CLYM) groups will not be able to meet in person yet, but we're not too far behind. Our rehearsals fall under 'out of school indoor activities', which will be allowed to resume on 12th April under the current guidance. What that means for CLYTO is that provided that this guidance remains in place, we will be able to meet up again at the **start of the summer term.**

In the meantime, we have two exciting projects to keep us busy whilst we rehearse online. With this email, you will find the finalised string parts for our arrangement of 'Mr Blue Sky'. Please print off the music only for your child. This piece will form part of our programme for a virtual concert with a film music theme, that we will be putting on for the evening of **Friday, 26th March**. This date is doubly significant as it will also be the deadline for submitting videos for our virtual recording of Mr Blue Sky.

If you are new to the orchestra you may not have seen the virtual video for 'I Want to Break Free' that we made in collaboration with the Leeds Schools' Brass Ensemble (LSBE) and Leeds Schools' String Orchestra (LSSO). A YouTube link to the video is below:

<https://youtu.be/Ts7S47VEzcY>

The videos for 'I want to Break Free' were all taken on smartphones, which provide very good quality. If your child is submitting a video, please could you take the videos in landscape rather than portrait as this works much better when putting the video together. We will again be collaborating with other City of Leeds Youth Music (CLYM) groups.

'Mr Blue Sky' is such a joyful, upbeat tune which I hope will go well with the mood of positivity as the restrictions start to be lifted and we return to a life more in keeping with the normality we knew before the pandemic. We'd love this mood to come across in the video if possible and it would be great to see the children's love of playing come through and lots of bright colours on show. We would like to stress that this opportunity is open to **all** CLYTO members, whether they are attending online rehearsals or not. If you haven't already let us know and your child would like to submit a video, please email Ralph.

In the coming days we will be working on backing tracks and will share these as soon as they are ready. Your child will receive a backing track made with piano and a click track. They will also receive a backing track with their part highlighted on it. The recording can be made using either backing track. Your child will need to wear headphones whilst making the recording, to ensure that only their playing comes through on the video. If your child isn't taking part in the virtual recording we hope that the backing tracks will still be very useful in their preparations for the end of term concert.



If your child is having any difficulty with any part of the music then please let us know. We are only too happy to help and we can offer suggestions and adapt parts if necessary.

Obviously tuning is something we need to consider, as we can't all take a virtual A! There are lots of tuning apps on smartphones which will tell you how to adjust the pitch. There are also links below for tuning notes so please make sure to tune up before making the recording:

Violin strings - <https://www.violinonline.com/tuning.html>

Viola strings - <https://www.violaonline.com/tuning-viola.htm>

Cello strings - <https://www.celloonline.com/tuning-cello.htm>

Double Bass strings - <https://www.stringbassonline.com//tuning.htm>

Once you have finished recording the video we'd like you to send it to us using wetransfer, rather than emailing it. This is because the file size will likely be too much for our email accounts. If you have any difficulty doing this then let us know. It's free and very simple to use. Here is a step by step guide:

For a reminder of the WeTransfer details please contact Ralph at ralph.tong@leeds.gov.uk.

Please submit the video no later than **Friday, 26th March**.

Please let us know if you have any questions about any of the process. In some cases we may need to ask for a short consent statement to be emailed to the ArtForms office, particularly if your child is new to the orchestra this year. We'll be in touch about this.

Kind regards,
Ralph Tong and Megan Swinchin

CLYTO Facebook page: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/CityOfLeedsYouthTrainingOrchestra/>

