

# NOTES NEWSLETTER

## A Message from Susan

*Hello everyone!*



We'd like to let you know what the TVMS team has been doing while we're all in 'lockdown'. We've put together lots of resources to support you and your families at home and to support our schools too.

If you need any further information or any help with anything please email us at [tvms@tvms.org.uk](mailto:tvms@tvms.org.uk) and we'll point you in the right direction.

Thank you for your continued support and for the lovely messages you've sent us - it really means a lot to us to know you're missing us!

Stay safe everyone and we hope to see you soon.

Susan Robertson

Manager, Tees Valley Music Service

## Lockdown Rockdown! - Fun for the whole family!

Phil McFarlane, aka Mr Drum, has been very busy making videos to show you how you can make your own Samba percussion instruments at home from anything you've got lying around. He also shows you how your family or your group in school can get involved in practising and performing as part of your very own Samba Band!

Why not have a go and send us the videos of you playing on a Thursday night in tribute to the NHS and Key Workers? Instead of 'Clapping for Carers' why don't you have a go at performing your Samba outside your house or in your school playground? You'll be the envy of your neighbourhood I'm sure!

Phil has also made some videos to show you how can play along to your favourite pop tracks with his Bucket Drumming videos - all you need is an upside-down bucket and a couple of sticks or wooden spoons. All of the techniques Phil shows you in his videos are exactly what you need to do to be able to learn to play the drums, with the top and sides of the bucket being substituted as the snare and toms of a drum-kit. If you've got your own drum-kit you can practise these patterns on that too.

Find our video play-along links to bucket drumming, samba, taiko, armchair drumming, hand rhythms, drum-kit exercises and more, at our [YouTube channel 'Drumming At Tees Valley Music Service'](#). Subscribe for new content updates. Who knew that the lockdown might inspire you to form your own Samba Band or Rock Group?

## TVMS Lessons - update for Parents and Students

TVMS teachers and support staff have been really busy over the past couple of weeks developing, videoing and uploading online lessons for our one-to-one and small group instrumental students. These lessons contain video clips of their teacher modelling the lesson content and other fun resources such as games and quizzes linked to music theory. You can also have fun exploring Charanga Music World, where you have to complete various levels to gain rewards for your Avatar.

For the older, more advanced students as well as the teacher videos we have also given you access to a new feature in our TVMS cloud-based system SpeedAdmin. Using this link parents can have a two-way dialogue with their child's teacher and receive feedback about how they're getting on.

We are currently unable to provide live streamed lessons due to availability of equipment in some settings, demand on equipment among isolated families and the many safeguarding issues this entails. However, we are working with colleagues at Stockton Borough Council and our IT provider to explore the possibility of limited provision of this kind in the short-term and how we can use some of this technology longer-term.

## Tees Valley Youth Choir Leads the Way in Tribute to the NHS and Key Workers

In week one of lockdown, Tees Valley Youth Choir's 'virtual choir' version of Labbi Siffre's "Something Inside So Strong" (a tribute to the NHS and Key Workers) went viral on social media and has been shared with many, many people across the world. At the last count it had reached 134,439 people, had been viewed almost 53,000 times and the original video had been shared 606 times. Producer/promoter and former Tees Valley Youth Choir member Tom Powell helped us put it all together from his home in London. [Check out the video here](#). And watch out for more projects, including some fun 'singalongs' for our local care homes. Also watch [TVYC's recent virtual concert here](#). Tees Valley Youth Choir members are also going to support us with our Summer Snappy Spectaculars...so schools missing your singing...watch this space!!



## Music for Schools

Our TVMS teachers have been working hard to provide whole-class activities that can take place in schools or in the family home. For the many instrumental packages that have been bought in by schools, instruments are being delivered for children of essential workers who are in school so they can play along to lessons led by their favourite TVMS Teachers. While it cannot replace face-to-face teaching, it will allow pupils to access to the kind of lesson activities their music education needs and the chance for those in school and at home to experience the fun of music making that may never have happened before as a family. For schools taking part in the First Thing Music programme, special online content has been provided by the FTM team. This is distributed by the teachers taking part through the school platform so that children and families who are out of school can share the fun at home. Additionally, a selection of song and musical activities are being offered for every Key Stage free of charge to all schools.



### Stuck for Practice Motivation?

Give a bit of extra challenge to your practice routine by joining in with our VIRTUAL RACE. You can do this at your own pace and log your progress with the pack provided. Twenty minutes of practice equals one 'virtual mile'. You keep track of your progress through the practice diary and activity tick sheet included in the pack and receive a certificate and place on the 'Wall of Honour' on completion. PDF packs are now available on [tvms.org.uk/run](https://tvms.org.uk/run).

## More Singing Projects Coming Soon

TVYC is recording a new 5-part choral piece written by Welsh composer and conductor Dr Edward Rhys-Harry (<https://www.edwardrhysrharry.com>). TVYC members will be joined by TVMS staff in the recording. The words are taken from the Queen's recent address to the nation and she has kindly given her permission for her words to be used.



Our care home project sees members of our TVYC community (present and past members...including families) recording songs that can be distributed to care homes for residents to enjoy a singalong. We are collating the recordings and distributing to the care homes over the next couple weeks so they can enjoy some music making together. It's a lovely opportunity for our pupils who have family members in care homes to have some form of contact with them and to bring some joy to the residents.

The Durham and Tees Valley Teachers' Choir will soon have some video recordings to practise with and these will be rolled out to our respective community choirs. The videos will be shared on our social media so anyone who would like to can join in with our pieces. TVMS and Durham Music Service staff will be involved in producing the recordings. First up is 'Whistle Down the Wind'.

**MUSIC PRACTICE VIRTUAL MARATHON  
RACE FOR THE OLYMPIC RINGS**



## TVMS Student is University Challenge Winner

Former TVMS student Richard Brooks played a key role in his team's University Challenge Final Victory last week. His outstanding contribution helped Imperial College London to a resounding 275 to 105 point victory over Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

Both teams had made their way to the final without conceding any defeats, with

Corpus Christi accumulating 1,075 points throughout the competition to Imperial's 1,170.

Richard (top left) also made a great contribution to TVMS in his time as a pupil at Ingleby Mill Primary School and later at Egglecliffe School. Over that period he played trumpet in the school ensembles, Tees Valley Youth Brass Band and Tees Valley Youth Orchestra. He also played a leading role in the Yangchin Group. All at TVMS would like to congratulate Richard on this great achievement.



## Superheroes (NHS version) by The Script, performed by TVMS MIDDLESBROUGH ROCKVOX

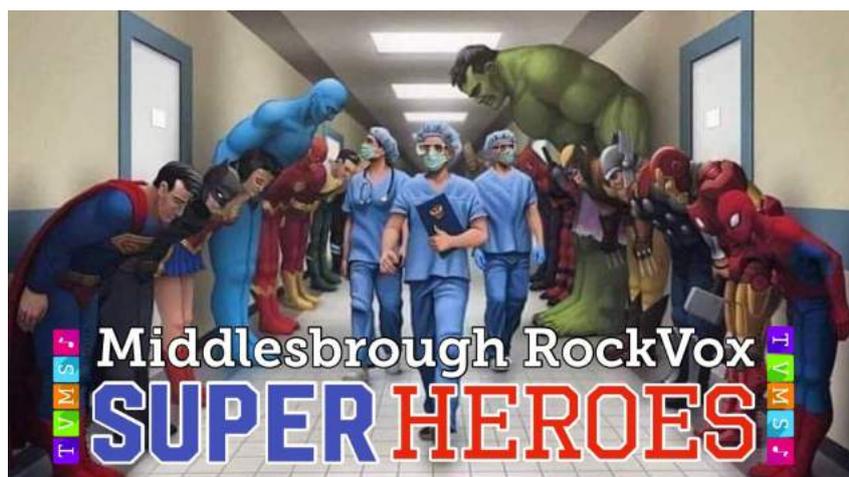
Did you know Tuesday 28th April was NATIONAL SUPERHERO DAY?

From weekly band rehearsals, the Rockvox students recorded 'Superheroes' by The Script the week before lockdown.

We thought it fitting to put this video together for the NHS, Carers and key workers and share it on National Superhero Day!

Watch this video here: <https://youtu.be/RBEsf-BxZhs>

Please like, share and subscribe to our YouTube channel, to receive up-to-date videos and information.



## Covid-19 Update from MUSINC

We are keen to continue to inspire young people to make music throughout lockdown! If you are in contact with young people who have already been part of musinc's groups or activities please do get in touch as we have created a closed Facebook group for the young people to use to keep in touch and keep making music! Get in touch with us to request to join.

Even if young people haven't been part of a MUSINC activity previously, they can still access opportunities via our website and open social media pages.

### Online Tuition

If you are looking for an online instrumental or vocal music tutor whilst the schools are closed, we can help to signpost you to a suitable tutor. Our tutors cover a variety of areas including guitar, bass, drums, vocals, piano, violin, ukulele, music technology/production and DJ-ing. Visit [MUSINC's website](https://www.musinc.org.uk) to find out whether you are eligible to access this tuition.



### Music Videos and Tutorials

We have created a brand new section on our website for music tutorials and videos to engage and inspire young people while they are at home. Visit [www.musinc.org.uk/online-resources](https://www.musinc.org.uk/online-resources) for more information.

### Music Theory

Do you want to use this 'down' time to 'up' skill your music theory knowledge? We can offer bespoke tuition to take you through any level of music theory via resources and a mentor.

### Live Q&A sessions with local industry professionals

Join us on our Facebook page (musinctees) for live sessions which take you on your musical journey from songwriting through to publishing and everything in between!

- 4th May - MUSINC LIVE: Songwriting with Ste Allen (Be Quiet. Shout Loud!)
- 6th May - MUSINC LIVE: Getting gigs with Simon Shaw (KU Promotions)
- 11th May - MUSINC LIVE: In the recording studio with Jamie Donnelly
- 13th May - MUSINC LIVE: Streaming music with Henry Carden (Quiet Crown)
- 20th May - MUSINC LIVE: Media with Claire Dupree (NARC Magazine)
- 22nd May - MUSINC LIVE: Music publishing with John Esplen (Wipeout Music)