

South Eastern Music Centre

PERCUSSION DEPARTMENT

Currently percussion lessons are available, on a one to one basis, at District Music Centres in Bangor, Castlereagh, Lisburn and at the Music Centre in Ballynahinch, with ***obligatory membership*** in a three tier group activity scheme comprising concert bands and symphony orchestras. Further opportunities exist for the experienced student to play specialist music by participating, by invitation, in the department's percussion ensembles.

For educational purposes it is the policy of the Percussion Department to consider applications for membership from students wishing to take advantage of the opportunity to have lessons and participate in an appropriate group activity. This policy is exercised throughout each of the three levels until the student reaches the age of twenty one when he or she must withdraw their membership. The only concession to this policy may be granted at Junior level with admittance for group only membership for the maximum period of 6 months.

Course Work: Timpani, Mallet Keyboards and Orchestral Snare Drum are core elements in the teaching programme which is designed to deliver individual tuition within a standardised framework, incorporating established playing techniques and aligning with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music graded examination syllabus. These, together with Drum-Kit, Latin and ancillary percussion instruction provide a balanced programme of study, giving students the opportunity to develop as articulate and informed musicians. The course includes weekly classes in Theory of Music ***which are compulsory until grade 5 level is attained.***

Books, Sticks and Mallets: A set of three books, by Garwood Whaley, covering Timpani, Mallet Keyboards and Snare Drum is recommended for foundation training further studies. The Whaley methods along with ABRSM examination and other necessary text books can be purchased direct from David English at the Music Centre.

A selection of recommended sticks, brushes and mallets is held in stock for resale to Music Centre students at *privileged* prices. A Percussion Department stock sheet listing these, together with examination, course and study books, is updated bi-monthly and issued, with a quantity of order forms, to all percussion staff and students.

Instrument Hire: Tuned Percussion is an obligatory element in the ABRSM graded examinations and to ensure adequate practise opportunities the department maintains a stock of Glockenspiels and Xylophones for hire to percussion students receiving lessons on ATS. ***Allocation is compulsory unless students have permanent use of similar instruments at home.***

Examinations: It is the policy of the Percussion Department ***not*** to enter students for consecutive examination grades, as this practice is unnecessarily expensive and restrictive to the natural progression and development of the student. Instead, first year students will be entered for examination within three terms at an appropriate grade with subsequent entries for ***alternate or higher*** grades made in accordance with the ability and confidence of the student. The procedures for practical and theory examinations will be monitored continually to direct and encourage students to maximise on opportunities available to them during their time at the Music Centre.

Note: It is the responsibility of students to pay the total cost of all examination entry fees.

Instrument Stock: The Music Centre has an extensive range of percussion equipment for individual teaching, group activities, home practise and specialist ensemble work. The department, headed by Dave English, is justly proud of its stock of instruments for the quality, diversity of range and the unrivalled opportunity offered to students at all levels of ability.