



## Winter Newsletter, December 2017

### PLEASE NOTE – OUR EMAIL CONTACTS

Stratford studio is – [stratford.studio@themusicalbox.co.uk](mailto:stratford.studio@themusicalbox.co.uk)

Bicester studio is – [bicester.studio@themusicalbox.co.uk](mailto:bicester.studio@themusicalbox.co.uk)

School students – [emma.doupe@themusicalbox.co.uk](mailto:emma.doupe@themusicalbox.co.uk)

Happy Holiday Season Rockers,

We hope that all of you have been having a wonderful Autumn- enjoying the leaves falling from the trees. Heading into the Holiday Season is a rush of excitement (for the festivities), panic (the holidays are literally right around the corner), and great food (no explanation necessary.)

### **NEWS**

On a daily basis, we strive to create an environment that will inspire musicians of all ages to learn an instrument and the musicianship that goes along with it. We feel that we have achieved this with both the studios up and running and finally have enough confidence in what we do to state that TMB offers :-

***‘So much more than a music lesson’***

All of our teachers are excellent in their field of study, and we can fully back the material taught in lessons. Each of our teachers go through evaluations by students, parents and TMB staff, so that we can make sure that each student’s experience at TMB is one filled with growth, ambition and aim.

We love what we do and hope you all do too.

**Word of mouth** is by far the best advert for any business. So please chat about us to your friends and family and get that word around. We still find, even after 13 years of trading in Stratford, that people stumble across us and say that they never knew we were here.....! Let's make 2018 the year everyone hears about us in Warwickshire and Oxfordshire!! With your help we can do it!

### **TMB facts and news in brief**

- As of January 2018, all students at our Studios and Schools will be transitioned over to our Direct Debit System for easier payment.
- The Closing Date for registering for Rock School Grade Exams is on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December- don't forget to register for an exam if you and your teacher think it is time. The dates for exams are 1<sup>st</sup> of February-31<sup>st</sup> of March, 2018!
- TMB will be closing for two weeks starting on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> of December and reopening on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> of January- giving teachers and staff two weeks for holiday.
- We are still looking for members for Bands at both studios!
- And along with all that TMB remains a fun place to have lessons, enjoyment being of our highest priority.....!



## **New Payment scheme**

As of January 2018, TMB will be switching over to a Direct Debit payment system. Each student needs to be registered to our accounting system by DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> to be processed in time for the new term -starting January 2018. Reminder e-mails with the link to sign up have been sent to everyone's e-mail on a weekly basis so you should have a link but you can also sign up by filling in a form with Tim or another teacher at the studio.

Stratford link – <https://pay.gocardless.com/AL00012YV8B44C>

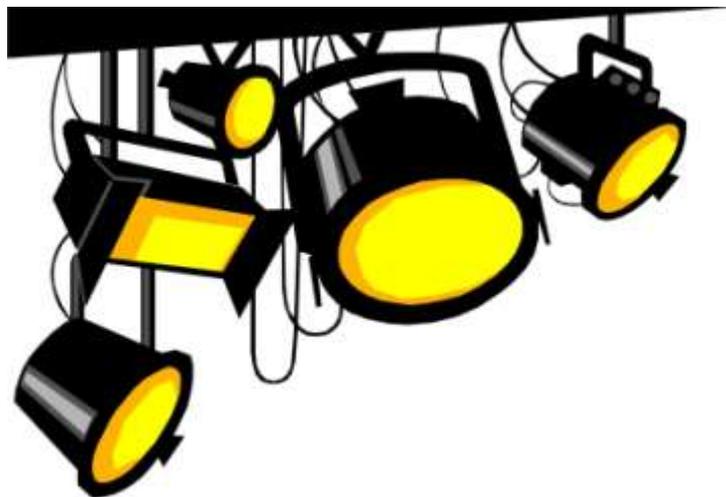
Bicester Link - <https://pay.gocardless.com/AL000130WDY9VC>

This Direct Debit scheme works out best for all. After tester e-mails to parents, we have had a very positive response to this new way of paying for lessons. Like all Direct Debit payments, TMB will be taking one smaller monthly total, over the course of 12 months, instead of you paying an invoice, up front, before the term starts.

Our Cancellation and Make Up Policies still stand. If you wish to stop lessons at any point, we require notice in the term prior to leaving- out of respect for our teachers. And as for Make Up Lessons - teachers require a 48 Hour (Working days) notice if a student will not be in a lesson.

## **What New At The Studio:**

Our SPOTLIGHT AWARDS seem to be going off well with students at both studios. Each week, we are able to happily post photos of students receiving recognition for Rocking behaviour!

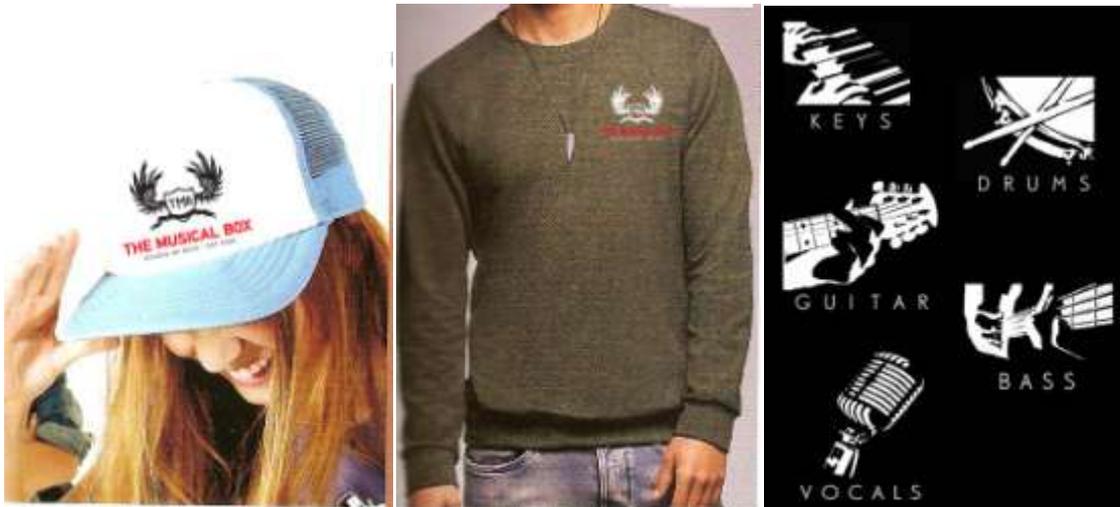


TMB want to recognise students when they wear TMB gear, showing support of our studio, or when they show extra initiative in lessons, possibly learned something new, etc. When a student has done any of these things, their teacher will give them a plastic chip, with which to write their name, and all chips are then deposited into the special drum in either studio. At the end of each block, we will be drawing names out of our Spotlight Drum to receive a special prize.

Prizes and names are drawn at random and range anywhere from sweet snacks and treat bundles to string sets/drum sticks, new TMB merch, and even a FREE lesson!

Students are not limited on the number of times they may enter into this, as we want to encourage participation in as much fun TMB stuff as possible!

## **TMB Merchandise – What a perfect gift!!**



TMB loves to see our students in some of our totally awesome TMB Merch! There have always been books at the studio where students and parents can search for an item that they would want a design put on to.

TMB have a few different designs available for students:

\*TMB Embroidered Wing Logo on the left chest

\*TMB Instrument Pop Art Logo on the left chest as well as TMB dates on back OR Large Pop Art Logo across the chest.

There are laminated, bound booklets with colour coded examples which you can find in the giant Slant-Riggs books (You should find these next to each other at the studio- we hope.)

These examples are for the TMB Wings Logo on the left chest pocket, which can be printed on any of the items you desire!

## **Band sessions at TMB**

Our Kid's Band at Stratford has finally come up with their name! Please meet –

### **The Irrelevants**



These 5 have been working together since this summer and should have some fun and exciting new things to share with the TMB world soon! We've got George Burch, Cameron Ames-Rook, Zackary Wainwright, Christopher Wainwright and Ollie McClenaghan all coming together, trying new things and making great music!

This group meets on a weekly basis, putting together songs that they choose together. Each of them bring something special to the table and they will all be learning how to work well together to get things done and music made, all while having fun with friends!

Our Bicester Studio is still trying to set up Band rehearsals for those interested! We have a few *very keen* musicians wanting to start but need more, so if you are interested and in Bicester, get in touch and we will try and get groups made!

## Secret Piano Recital:



Bicester Piano teacher, Nikos has taken it upon himself to set up a Secret Performance, arranged at the studio, as another performance opportunity for his students- after BoxFest. Teachers at TMB understand that performance is part of the process when it comes to learning an instrument. We become more comfortable with the whole situation once we are more familiar with what to expect.

Nikos has made this concert a secret, so that the piano students can use it as a private learning tool, amongst just their friends and family.

Such events can be very difficult to arrange- students and space for all, but we are looking into expanding this idea for other instruments within each studio.

We want to send a special **Thank you** out to Nikos for making this happen!

### TMB Blogs:

TMB publish a regular blog to help keep students and parents connected to what we feel would be useful information to musicians. They vary from technical blogs about how to use instruments, to funny blogs from some of our favourite famous artists, as well as upcoming musicians or events to look for.

Here are just some of the things we have blogged about recently –

- Vocal chords - What you need to know and why you should look after them.
- BOXFEST 17 - TMB Summer party and Student Showcase
- September 2017 Newsletter
- Back to School
- 1000 musicians for charity
- Rockschoool Exam blog
- Loop lessons
- Get TMB to complete your music department
- TMB Merchandise is here.....
- The 80's - It wasn't ALL bad

We want to help our students reach out into the world of music to help them discover new things, new artists, new techniques. Our blog is used as an aide for all students to use and learn from.

TMB are always welcome to new ideas for blogs, or even material, should any of you be interested in offering up some!

Our blogs are posted weekly on our website <http://www.themusicalbox.co.uk/blog> as well as to our social media outlets. (Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus)



**RECOMMEND US TO YOUR SCHOOL**

*BOTH TMB BICESTER AND TMB STRATFORD WOULD LIKE TO TEACH IN TWO MORE SCHOOLS IN THE AREA – IT COULD BE YOUR SCHOOL !!!*

*IF YOU CAN ARRANGE FOR US TO MEET YOUR HEAD TEACHER/ HEAD OF MUSIC THERE IS A FREE LESSON IN IT FOR YOU!!! (AND SOME EXTRA BISCUITS!!!)*

*WE'D LOVE YOUR REFERRALS – WORD OF MOUTH IS THE BEST WAY FORWARD!*

*Thanks for the help xxx 😊*

## **SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS AGAIN**

**Please follow us on [FB](#), [TW](#), [Google+ Strat](#), [Google+ Bic](#)**

**It came to light in a recent survey that some students 'wished we were on FB etc.....! WE ARE and have been for years!!! So here are the links to help you to find us –**

- Our website - <http://www.themusicalbox.co.uk/>
- Our weekly blog - <http://www.themusicalbox.co.uk/blog>
- Facebook - [www.facebook.com/themusicalboxltd](http://www.facebook.com/themusicalboxltd)
- Twitter - <https://twitter.com/Musicalboxltd>
- Google+ - [www.plus.google.com/+ThemusicalboxCoUk](http://www.plus.google.com/+ThemusicalboxCoUk)
- Google+ - [www.plus.google.com/+ThemusicalboxCoUkfritwell](http://www.plus.google.com/+ThemusicalboxCoUkfritwell)
- YouTube - [www.youtube.com/user/MusicalBoxltd](http://www.youtube.com/user/MusicalBoxltd)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>, Deadline for RockSchool Entry for Grade Exams**
- **FEBRUARY 1<sup>st</sup> - MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018: Exam Block Dates**
- **DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>- Deadline to sign up to Direct Debit for January Term payment.**
- **DECEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>- JANUARY 3<sup>rd</sup>: Christmas Holiday Studio Close** (Please note this close happens from a Thursday- Wednesday. If you have questions about when to return to lessons, please message us.)

Kind Regards

The image shows a handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Tim" followed by a stylized drawing of a drum with two drumsticks resting on it. The drawing is simple and sketchy, with some motion lines around the sticks.

Tim and the TMB staff