

January, 2019

Dear Headteacher,

ROYAL ALBERT HALL - 'LIQUID HISTORY' CONCERT - WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH, 2019
PERMISSION FOR PUPIL AUTHORISED ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

On Wednesday 20th March, over 1,500 children will be taking part in *Liquid History* at the Royal Albert Hall. The concert will be the culmination of over six months' hard work for musicians from Merton Music Foundation's bands, orchestras and Merton school choirs.

Merton Youth Music members have been actively involved in rehearsals for the Royal Albert Hall concert with our musicians performing as part of a combined band, jazz orchestra, strings, percussion and marching band ensembles, and a 1,200 strong choir. The concert will include the world premiere of *Rhythm of Rivers*, a work specially commissioned by MMF and funded by Arts Council England from Tony Haynes of the Grand Union Orchestra.

The second half of the concert features a massed primary and secondary choir and MMF musicians presenting *Thames Tales*, another original composition by Pete Churchill and Adam Saunders and with a script from Andy Alty.

This concert forms part of MMF's well established strategy, as directed by the National Plan for Music Education, of enabling young people to access the highest standards of live performance and outstanding musical opportunities in an iconic venue with world class musicians.

I am, of course, aware that this would involve pupils being given permission to be absent from school on the day of the concert for a rehearsal at the RAH. I would like to ask that on this occasion you are able to consider the educational benefits for the young people to be part of this event and grant authorised absence. I know that opportunities like this can be life-changing and want to ensure that this concert is a highlight of your pupils' lives and that of their families.

The parent presenting this letter to you is probably the best advocate for music education – their children play and sing and are involved in our activities and understand what significance this has for their children. I hope you will be able to consider this an approved off-site activity.

With thanks and best wishes,
Yours sincerely,



Elisabeth Wigley
Chief Executive
Merton Music Foundation

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