

CENTRE STAGE 2012

Martin House
children's hospice

READING
2012

LEEDS
2012

West Yorkshire's most prestigious musical talent competition



CENTRE STAGE 2012
YOUNG PEOPLE HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE

Celebrating 10 years of our teenage unit at Martin House

Our service is founded on a belief in the sanctity of life and respect of the dignity of every person. We value the understanding, visions and attitudes to life and death of all the children and families who allow us the privilege of being alongside them, at what can seem an impossible time in their lives, through their times of stress, pain and confusion.

Martin House Children's Hospice – who we support

Martin House is a lifeline to so many people. Since opening our doors in 1987, we have cared for over 2000 families both in the Hospice and in the community, completely free of charge to everyone. We care not only for children and young people with life limiting illnesses, but for their families, too. The support we offer is so very personal and can vary dramatically, depending on people's individual needs.

We support new born babies who may only have a week to live. The family would come to Martin House following the birth and stay for the duration of their baby's, short life, and often until the funeral.

We support young adults, who may have been coming to Martin House since childhood and who would see us as a social community of friends, support, independence and social activity.

We support parents and grandparents, helping to relieve their burden through offering respite, for both themselves and their child within the Hospice, or through our community team visiting them at home. We would also fully support them in their bereavement for as long as, and in whatever way, they needed us.

We support siblings, who have sleepovers here with their brother or sister, whilst receiving individual support and having fun. Also, respite care allows the siblings to spend exclusive, and often much needed, time with their parents who are often too busy or stressed to be able to manage this as often as they would like. We also provide comprehensive bereavement support, before and after they have lost their brother or sister, which proves extremely effective and is a fantastic channel for communication, especially through art and music.

Essentially, we provide a path for families, which begins when their child is diagnosed and ends when the family no longer feels they need our support in their bereavement, even then, it does not really end – the connection and relationship always remains. We are able to identify along the way where and when we will be able to lift the burden from them.

Without Martin House, the lives of our families would be radically different. It is impossible to imagine how, less than thirty years ago, the UK, and indeed the whole world, existed without 'Children's Hospices' and the unique services that we offer.

Our running costs increase annually, and currently stand at £4.6 million, of which less than 12% comes to us from statutory sources. Since the launch of the first capital appeal in 1984, through to the opening of the House in 1987 and subsequently Whitby Lodge, our facility for young adults, in 2002, the people of Yorkshire have unstintingly supported the work of the Hospice by raising the necessary funds to firstly build, then equip and run the service.

In 2012 not only do we celebrate twenty-five years of Martin House, but we are also marking the tenth anniversary of Whitby Lodge, for our teenagers and young adults. Be a part of our double celebration.

"I was able to implicitly trust another with the most delicate and precious thing in my life - my daughter. I was overwhelmed by the empathy, commitment and specialised skills the nurses showed and I can't imagine how we would otherwise have coped".

A Martin House Dad



"What is it like to have a child with a life limiting illness? It's like being blindfolded and then made to walk a gangplank, never knowing when the end might be. There are plenty of wobbles along the way."

A Martin House Parent



WHO YOU ARE HELPING

Haydn

Here is Haydn from East Yorkshire and he is 19 years old. As a young teenager he started to experience double vision and in 2001, after collapsing at school, learned that he had a brain tumour. He has had lots of scans and surgery and comes to Martin House for several short breaks a year, staying in Whitby Lodge. Haydn says, "Martin House is the best place in the world. I love cooking my special chillies for everyone in the Lodge. Making music in the music technology room is great."



Joshua

Now 16, Joshua who lives in West Yorkshire has been coming to Martin House since he was 7 and mum Jane really looks forward to the family visits where she has every confidence in the care given to her son. With his complex medical needs, looking after Joshua is very demanding and over the years Martin House has been a great support to Joshua's older brother. "When he was small, Tom couldn't understand why his brother was so poorly and when we started to come to Martin House, meeting other well brothers and sisters helped him to feel less isolated."

Thomas

"Martin House is an absolute godsend to me!" says Rachael from West Yorkshire, mother to Thomas, aged 11 years. Thomas is very disabled through his condition and Rachael has to cope with many difficult and distressing symptoms that accompany his severe cerebral palsy. "Thomas is a very happy child despite his problems and we really enjoy our respite visits to Martin House. I feel completely at ease here and it is the only chance I get to relax and get some rest."



CENTRE STAGE OVERVIEW

The aim of Centre Stage is to raise over £150,000 in three years for Martin House Children's Hospice, as well as to give young, talented musicians the chance to live their dream and perform at the world famous Leeds & Reading Festivals.

In 2009, a new Martin House fundraising initiative was conceived: a musical talent competition, later to be christened 'Centre Stage', which would invite all secondary schools and colleges in West Yorkshire to take part and ultimately enter their most gifted musical talent. Once we had decided to go ahead with this project, we needed to secure an amazing prize. With the Leeds Festival on our doorstep, we contacted Melvin Benn, Managing Director of Festival Republic and a long time supporter of Martin House, who gave us the fantastic prize of the winner performing at the Leeds Festival. He surprised us at the launch of Leeds Festival 2010 by announcing that our winner would not only play at Leeds, but at Reading Festival, too! Melvin also agreed that he would judge at the final and would offer us the same prize the following year.

Officially launched by The Pigeon Detectives in September 2009, the competition attracted interest from a wide range of schools, individuals and media. Thirty three schools registered and April 2010 saw the competition host three fantastic nights of Heat Finals at Batley Frontier, which would decide our thirteen, very talented finalists.



The first Centre Stage Final, which took place at O2 Academy, Leeds on 19th July 2010, was a huge success. Attracting a crowd of over a thousand, this Martin House event was bigger and better than we could ever have anticipated. Playing for the first prize of performing at the Festivals, all the acts were overcome with excitement as this proved to be the biggest gig of their lives, playing on the same stage as their musical heroes at such an acclaimed venue! The event was judged by top industry professionals, including Melvin Benn and Mike Heaton (Embrace), and it attracted the interest of the Yorkshire music scene, and beyond. Our winners of 2010, Penguin, absolutely loved their festival experience and saw a huge increase in their popularity. Later that year, they went on to support The Pigeon Detectives at The Cockpit and more recently Matt, their front man, has toured various countries with 30 Seconds to Mars!



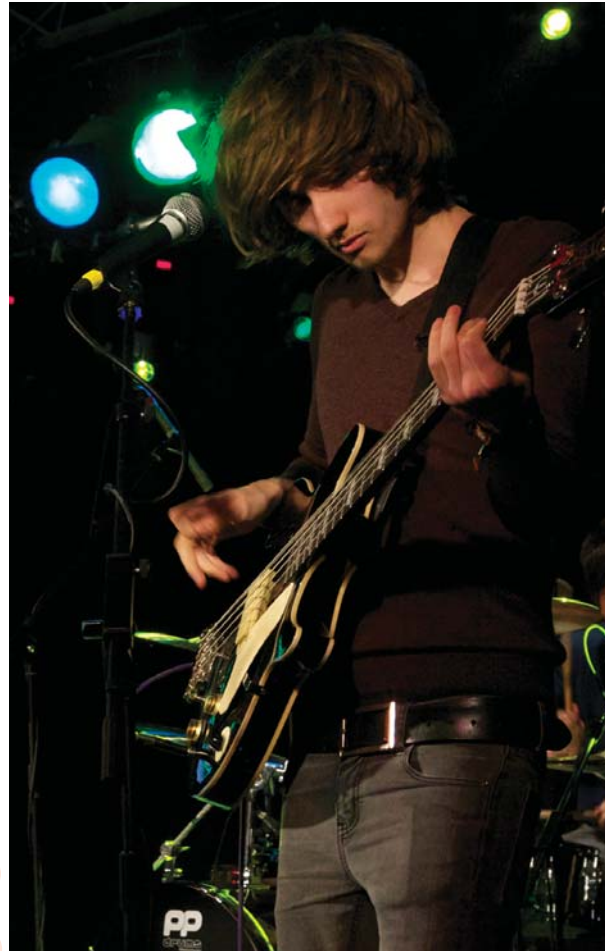
We launched 'Centre Stage 2011' in November 2010. Our launch was attended by Embrace, The Klaxons and The Cribs, all recognising that this competition really is such an amazing opportunity for young musicians and bands as well as being a fantastic way of raising money for Martin House.



Our second year began with an established profile and we welcomed the surge of interest. We received fantastic reviews, features and hype from the likes of The Leeds Guide, Calendar, BBC Leeds, Radio Aire, The Yorkshire Evening Post and Bang The Drum.

Forty bands, duets and soloists took part in our Heats at Leeds Irish Centre on 4th – 7th April 2011 and were judged by a prestigious panel from the Yorkshire music scene. Twelve finalists were chosen and competed at O2 Academy, Leeds, on 19th July, once again for slots at both Leeds and Reading, and also £1000 worth of musical equipment and an endorsement deal with JHS Ltd. Building on the success of the first year's Final, we attracted a crowd of over twelve hundred, including West Yorkshire's music industry and press, and our judges included Matt Bowman (The Pigeon Detectives) and Neil Pengelly (Leeds/Reading Promoter). The Mexanines, an exciting band from Halifax, won and had the most amazing weekend playing the festivals. Like Penguin, they are continuing their relationship with Martin House and are helping us launch Centre Stage 2012.

The Pigeon Detectives are set to help us launch 2012's Competition this November, at O2 Academy, Leeds, before their gig at the venue that evening, and The Mexanines will support them! We have confirmed The Wardrobe, Leeds, for 2012's Heats on 16th – 19th April, and O2 Academy, Leeds, for the Final on 17th July – all eagerly anticipated and set to bring local, young talent into the limelight.



The exposure bands, and indeed Martin House, have received from Centre Stage is just phenomenal and the platform that they have been given has resulted in increased popularity and ongoing relationships with local media, venues and the music scene and industry. We have received amazing help and generosity from some of West Yorkshire's most revered and respected bands and professionals, without whom we would not have achieved such a profile and credibility. We look forward to strengthening these exciting relationships, which will continue to further raise the profile of Centre Stage to even dizzy heights!



DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT...

"This will be the third year Leeds Festival has worked with Martin House Hospice on Centre Stage and if the first two years are anything to go by I cannot wait. Genuinely local bands offering genuine talent being given the chance through Centre Stage to come through to play at Leeds and Reading festivals. I am very pleased to be working as part of it again."

MELVIN BENN – MD FESTIVAL REPUBLIC

"It's very hard for new bands to get known. To play at Leeds and Reading Festival is a once in a lifetime dream opportunity. It is also heartening to know that these kids are raising money to help terminally ill children and young people, at Martin House."

MATT BOWMAN - PIGEON DETECTIVES

"Winning Centre Stage was a very overwhelming experience, especially when you have to take in the fact that you'll be playing one of the UK's biggest festivals. Although the best part about winning for me was the reassurance that you are on the right tracks – it gives you more faith in what you are doing. As winners of Centre Stage 2010, it is our pleasure to remain involved and to help Martin House promote Centre Stage and we wish the future winners the best of luck!"

MATT CORNISH - PENGUIN – WINNERS OF CENTRE STAGE 2010

"The most credible battle of the bands competition is back for its third year and it looks like it's going to be bigger and better, with the same incredible first prize of a place at The Leeds and Reading festivals. The standard of the bands entering this year, even at this early stage is so high I personally can't wait to see them perform at the Heats in April. The Final is again to be held at O2 Academy, Leeds where the finalists will get a chance to play at one of the most respected touring venues in the country. Of course what must not be forgotten is why this competition came into existence in the first place - to raise money to support the running of Martin House Children's Hospice, which costs over £4.5 million a year to run. Since becoming involved with Martin House, three years ago, I have seen more and more first hand of what the staff do to help the lives of children with life limiting illnesses and the love and support given by the Hospice is nothing short of incredible."

MIKE HEATON - EMBRACE

"Entering Centre Stage 2011 and playing Leeds Festival was a massive thing for us – it opened so many doors for us to reach that next step. It's a brilliant cause and we would urge every band to enter."

ELLIOT ROPER - THE MEXANINES – WINNERS OF CENTRE STAGE 2011

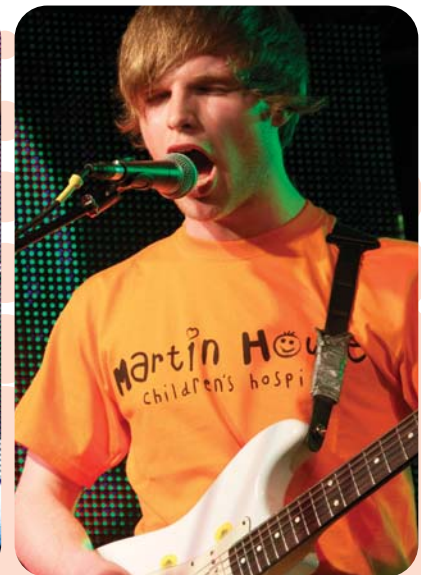
"I came to the Centre Stage 2011 Final and I really liked all the local bands. It was a great atmosphere - really vibrant and exciting. I had a great seat on the balcony and had a really good view. Everyone seemed so excited and really enjoyed themselves whilst raising money for us."

HAYDN EBLET - MARTIN HOUSE TEENAGER

"This is one of the most exciting fundraising projects Martin House has ever undertaken. Not only is it raising money for us, but it's raising our profile within younger generations and helping to secure future support. We are thrilled at its success and the credibility it has achieved due to the kindness and backing of West Yorkshire's music scene. This competition is about young people supporting young people."

SARAH SMITH - MARTIN HOUSE FUNDRAISER

CENTRE STAGE 2011



SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

REGISTRATION OPEN

October 2011 – February 2012

THE PRESS LAUNCH

24th November 2011

O2 Academy, Leeds, with The Pigeon Detectives



THE HEATS

16th – 19th April 2012 – The Wardrobe, Leeds

The Wardrobe

THE FINAL

17th July 2012 – O2 Academy, Leeds



THE PRIZE

August Bank Holiday 2012
Leeds and Reading Festivals



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Join the 'Centre Stage Competition' Facebook group to keep up to date and follow us on Twitter @centrestage2012 Martin House Children's Hospice, Grove Road, Clifford, West Yorkshire, LS23 6TX.



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