

Thirty six MANCHESTER – CHETHAM’S SCHOOL, LIBRARY & LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Situated quietly in a bustling corner of Manchester, Chetham’s occupies late medieval buildings and has a library that was established in the 17th century. The school educates some of the finest young musicians in the United Kingdom.

Take the train from Eccles and alight at Manchester Victoria. Cross the road outside the station concourse and go left. Turn right onto Long Millgate and proceed along the side of Chetham’s School to the porter’s lodge on your right. *The buildings were originally part of the collegiate church but in 1547 such colleges were dissolved (Henry VIII). Eventually they were bought by the trustees of the wealthy Manchester merchant Humphrey Chetham to establish a hospital school for forty poor boys and a free library ‘for the use of scholars and others well affected’.*

Lunchtime concerts.

These classical music concerts take place Monday to Friday during term time and last about 45 min. They are usually in the ‘baronial hall’. Students of Chetham’s Music School perform the music to a very high standard. Tea & biscuits are served afterwards. *A very pleasant way to pass a lunchtime. There is no charge to attend these concerts – an essential aspect of learning to be a professional musician. Report to the porter’s lodge at about 13 .25 for a concert that starts about 10 or 15 minutes later.*

Chetham’s Library.

This is still a working library (where Karl Marx did much of his work). *The ancient rooms and books are well worth a visit – but there are modern books too! Report to the porter’s lodge stating that you wish to visit the library. The library is open Monday to Friday 09.00 –12.30 & 13.30 – 16.30. There is no charge for the visit. Guided tours are available by appointment.*

Wednesday – combined lunchtime concert & library tour. *

These take place on Wednesdays during term time. *There is no charge. *This combined visit is probably the best thing for a first time visitor to Chetham’s. Report to the porter’s lodge at about 13 .25 for a concert that starts about 10 or 15 minutes later.*

More information (and term time dates) can be had from:

Chethams, Long Millgate, Manchester M3 1SB
Tel 0161 834 7961 or www.chethams.org.uk.

CLASSIFICATION: A DODDLE.
 ARCHITECTURE, MUSIC.

RAIL FARE: category one.