



MusicShare is a singing outreach project involving Lichfield Cathedral Choristers/Young Singing Leaders supported by a partnership between Lichfield Cathedral School and Lichfield Cathedral and substantially funded by Arts' Council England via The Music Partnership.



Welcome from the Director, Cathy Lamb

A very warm welcome to **MusicShare's** first e-newsletter.

This is something which has been in the planning for several years but has finally come to fruition due to the Covid-19 crisis. I do hope it will be of help in terms of ideas for how you might sing at school and the kind of songs you could use.

If you are not familiar with it The MusicShare programme has existed in various forms since 2003 and has worked with over 15,000 children and 100s of schools. The focus of the programme in a nutshell is encouraging everyone to enjoy singing and the many benefits that come with it.

Supported using public funding by



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Singing in the time of Covid 19

The science about singing at this time is young and we are not able to offer advice until more research has been done. You will be aware the government guidance that came out this week included suggestions for enabling singing in schools and stated that the DfE will be publishing a more detailed document shortly.

We can, however, point you in the direction of some of the research that is starting to emerge, which may help define your planning.

What is clear from these articles is that every situation is different and a detailed risk assessment should be in place before you undertake any singing. Some suggestions of things to take into account in your risk assessment:

- social distancing guidelines from the government in place at the time
- the space you are using – e.g. can you sing outside, can you use the hall space
- can you work with smaller groups
- ventilation if using an indoor space
- singing without the need for printed resources – use whiteboard if possible
- if you have somebody leading from the front make sure that they are well away from potential aerosols
- use of technology where live singing is still not possible – e.g. by sending resources to sing at home, setting up a virtual choir or class etc

Links to research and guidance are as follows:

Various documents (including Risk Assessment templates) from **Music Mark** – these are regularly being updated:

<https://www.musicmark.org.uk/resources/types/guides/>

Posted 3rd June from the **Association of British Choral Directors**:

https://www.abcd.org.uk/news/2020/06/abcd_publishes_research_paper_on_the_impact_of_COVID19

MusicShare Virtual Singing Assemblies

Singing has enormous benefits mentally and educationally – we are passionate that it could help so many of the potential issues created by this period in lockdown.

To support this we are now recording a weekly 10-minute singing assembly appropriate for primary-aged children.

Here are links to the first five videos, which are released on Entrust Music Service & City Music Service You Tube channels each week.

Virtual Assembly 1:

<https://youtu.be/zA7ATLHjIX4>

Virtual Assembly 2:

https://youtu.be/oJM_QBLij0

Virtual Assembly 3:

<https://youtu.be/UzKJesgKHdw>

Virtual Assembly 4:

<https://youtu.be/3GyQaaTBezo>

Virtual Assembly 5:

<https://youtu.be/elpKyGqFtt4>

‘The New Normal’ A new song for the times

As part of our Virtual Singing Assembly 1 we performed a brand-new song called ‘The New Normal’ written by **MusicShare** Director Cathy Lamb. This is the perfect upbeat song to encourage your pupils to be positive in these strange times. Please do feel free to use the full set of resources for this which includes lyric sheet, vocal line sheet music, piano sheet music – we will soon be adding a performance track and backing track but for the minute if you click the link below and scroll to the bottom of the page you will find the PDFs. If you wish for a recording immediately then find the link for Virtual Assembly 1 above and you will find the song is taught and performed. We do hope you enjoy it!

<https://www.lichfieldcathedralschool.com/music-share/461298.html>

Our virtual plans going forward

Normally MusicShare would be sending our team of animateurs out to run workshops that culminate in large-scale concerts either in Lichfield Cathedral or other venues such as secondaries with their primary feeders. It is very clear that this is not going to be possible for a while, so we are currently developing our online offer, which will include a course of videos for each of the different key stages, with the potential for us to piece together online performances.

If you are interested in finding out more about this and would like to put your school on the list to be involved in these projects then please contact us at musicshare@lichfieldcathedralschool.com.

Teachers' Friday night MusicShare Song Share

Another opportunity in the planning is a Friday evening sing and share, led by various members of our team. The original intention was to do this in a pub – but, for now, we are pleased to be able to offer this on Friday evenings from 8-9pm (see a list of dates below) and this will be organised via Zoom.

If you would like to sign up for this then please contact musicshare@lichfieldcathedralschool.com stating which session/sessions and you will receive a zoom link – the idea will be that one of the MusicShare team will lead 15 minutes of fun songs (whilst muting everyone else) and then everyone should bring a song that they would like to share with everyone else (if you don't yet have the confidence to lead your own song then send a copy to Cathy and the session leader will lead it for you!) We will open this up to all Key Stages for now – it is always amazing how songs can work for many ages at different levels.

Friday 4th September, Friday 2nd October, Friday 6th November, Friday 4th December (with more to be planned in the Spring Term)

Our plans for this newsletter

We intend to release a half-termly newsletter, which will aim to update you on the scientific progress being made about singing in school, steer you in the direction of great repertoire, celebrate schools that are taking part and inspire you to sing as much as possible with your pupils and students!

We look forward to supporting you.

Contact us!

Director of MusicShare: Mrs Cathy Lamb - musicshare@lichfieldcathedralschool.com

The Music Partnership (Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent and Telford & Wrekin) – c/o - musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk

And finally...

Stay safe and take care!

The MusicShare Team

For info: Ensembles run by MusicShare:

Mini Voices (0-5 year olds) plus their carers – we are currently sending weekly videos out to our members so if you know of anybody you think may like to join, please get them to email us at the address above!

Young Voices (6-12 year olds) – again, we are currently sending weekly videos out to our members so if you know of anybody you think may like to join, please get them to email us at the address above!

Youth Voices (13-18 year olds) - we are currently sending weekly videos out to our members so if you know of anybody you think may like to join, please get them to email us at the address above!