



THE MUSIC PARTNERSHIP

"Ensuring all young people have the opportunity to sing, learn an instrument and perform as part of an ensemble or choir."

Newsletter - Spring 2021

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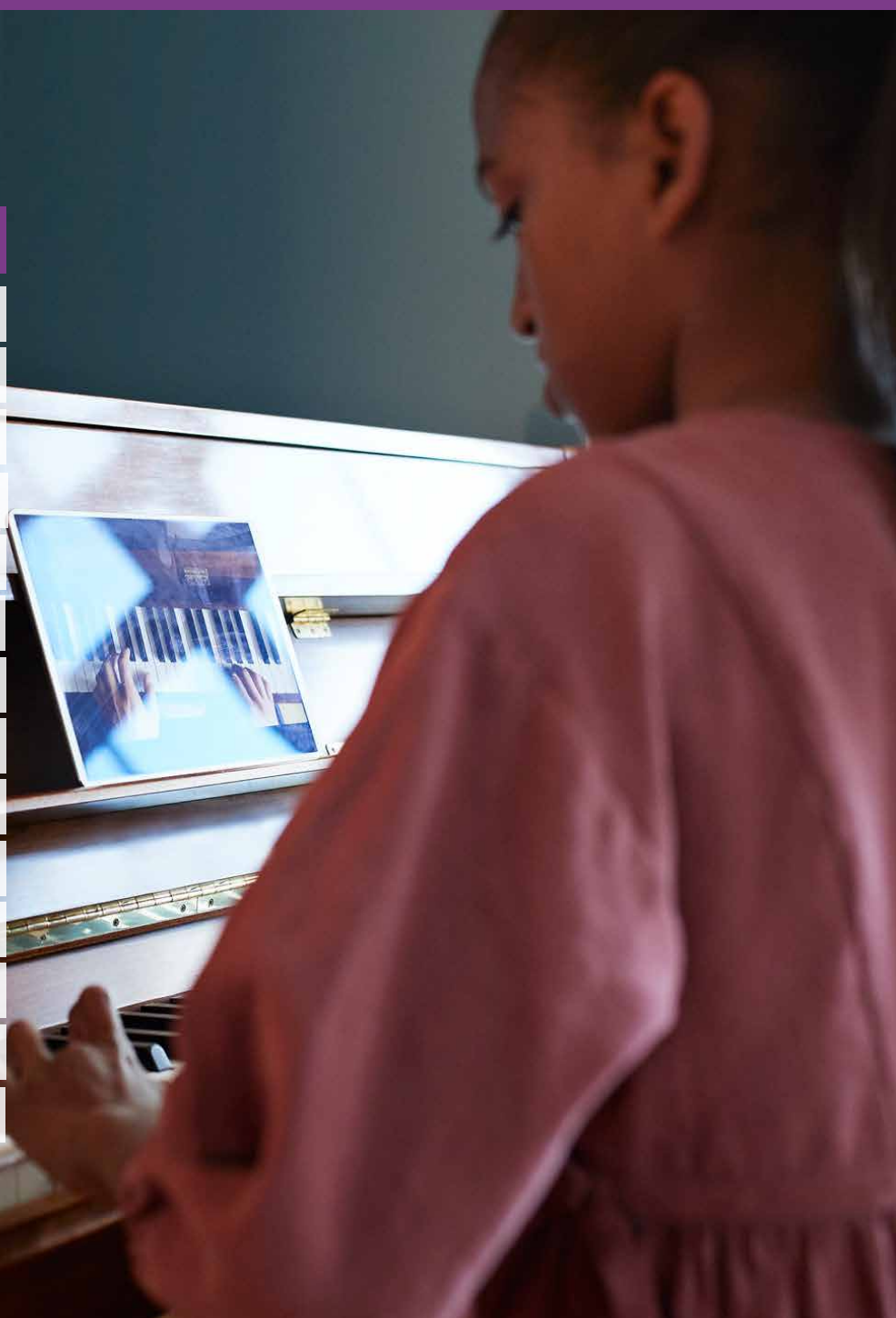
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Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

2021 may not have started the way we had all wished but I hope, by the time you are reading this, that your school has settled into a new way of working, balancing those who remain on site and those who are remote learning.

In September, our newsletter was packed with the positives from the first lockdown period and, for Music Education, despite all the disruption to our regular activity, there were clearly many families valuing music lessons as the key highlight in the week. There was an increase in training attendance, a growing community of online music leaders and closer connections with teachers and pupils. Above all, the passion from our sector that music lessons (curriculum and elective) would continue in some format despite any disruption.

The autumn term focused on re-establishing provision for schools and families, where this was possible, alongside ensuring we had the best processes and risk assessments for the safe delivery of our subject. I would like to thank all the school and subject leaders from across our region who took time to restart activities and ensure music education remained an important part of the curriculum offer.

This means we all approach this new period of disruption far better prepared. The DfE are clear that music education should continue to be part of school and home life and Mark Phillips, lead HMI for Music, has reaffirmed that this is also their position.

Clearly, some schools may need to pause activities in the short term to prioritise essential safety for pupils and their school site. In this instance, we hope the offer from partners within **The Music Partnership** has reached you in digital format and continues to be a useful resource to share widely with your families.

One of the key messages from Ofsted this January focused on progression within subjects and how "doing less but doing it better", has never seemed more relevant to our current circumstances. Our partners will continue to run fully-funded training programmes and one-to-one support for schools who need to design programmes that make sense musically and lead to better outcomes for their pupils. **The Music Partnership** is committed to inclusion so individual children are not left behind through circumstances and can access provision where they would otherwise miss out. Please don't hesitate to let our partners know if you have families or children stranded without a music teacher so we can arrange a solution.

We have developed a music recovery plan for our schools for when we can return more widely to classrooms. More to follow later this term, but when the time comes, I encourage you to please take advantage of any initiatives to help restart activities where pupils have missed out. I hope the content within this newsletter demonstrates the positive impact of our work whilst highlighting the opportunities for you and your school to engage with. If you feel you have a music provision need that is being missed then please don't hesitate to contact us for a bespoke solution.

Thank you for all you are doing for music education across our region in these continuing challenging times.

John Callister

Head of Service, Entrust Music Service Staffordshire
Email: john.callister@entrust-ed.co.uk

We continue to support young people through the pandemic...



Delivering live digital lessons and online music groups.



Face-to-face music lessons for vulnerable children and the children of key workers.



A growing bank of online resources and support for schools, young people and families.



Events Workshops and CPD Opportunities

Spring and Summer Term 2021

Performance times and rehearsal times may be subject to change, please check the events section of our website, www.themusicpartnership.org.uk to confirm.



Entrust Music Service Staffordshire Events

City Music Stoke-on-Trent Events

Telford & Wrekin Music Service Events

Music Partnership Events

Spring 2021

February 2021

City Music Stoke-on-Trent Events

To book your place contact: citymusic@stoke.gov.uk

Stoke-on-Trent Young Musician of the Year Preliminary Rounds Deadline for Video Recordings - 5 February 2021

Time: N/A Rehearsal: N/A Participants: Instrumentalists/Singers Beginners to Advanced Venue: Digital Rounds - Deadline for Video Recordings

Music Partnership Events

To book your place contact: musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk

Secondary Music Network Meeting - 9 February 2021

Time: 4:30pm-5:30pm Rehearsal: N/A Participants: Secondary Teachers and Music Leads Venue: Digital on Teams

March 2021

Music Partnership Events

To book your place contact: musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk

Singing Training - The Basics of the Kodaly Method - 9 March 2021

Time: 4:00pm-5:00pm Rehearsal: TBC Participants: Teachers and Music Leads Venue: Online

Singing Training - The Basics of the Kodaly Method - 11 March 2021

Time: 4:00pm-5:00pm Rehearsal: TBC Participants: Teachers and Music Leads Venue: Online

Entrust Music Service Staffordshire Events

To book your place contact: musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk

Staffordshire Young Musician 2021 - Application Form Deadline - 5 March 2021

Time: All day Rehearsal: NA Participants: Instrumentalists and Singers off all ages and abilities Venue: Online

Digital Rehearsals Finish - 11 March 2021

Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm Rehearsal: TBC Participants: Cross-County Pupils Venue: Online on Zoom

Young Musician + Singer Competition 2021 - 27 March 2021

Time: 4:00pm-5:00pm Rehearsal: All day Participants: Instrumentalists and Singers Beginners to Advanced Venue: Online on Zoom

April 2021

Entrust Music Service Staffordshire Events

To book your place contact: musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk

Digital Ensembles Concert - 1 April 2021

Time: 5:00pm-5:30pm Rehearsal: N/A Participants: Cross-County Pupils Venue: Online - Entrust YouTube Channel

Staffordshire Young Musician 2021 - Recordings Deadline - 1 April 2021

Time: All day Rehearsal: N/A Participants: Instrumentalists and Singers off all ages and abilities Venue: Online

Summer 2021

June 2021

Music Partnership Events

To book your place contact: musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk

Soundpots Early Years Music Conference - 17 June 2021

Time: 9:00am-4:00pm Rehearsal: N/A Participants: Early Years Practitioners/Music Teachers Venue: Online

July 2021

Entrust Music Service Staffordshire Events

To book your place contact: musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk

EMSS Staffordshire Young Musician 2021 FINAL - 4 July 2021

Time: TBC Rehearsal: N/A Participants: Instrumentalists and Singers off all ages and abilities Venue: TBC

We will be issuing a full programme of digital networking and events for the summer term at a later date.

Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for more details...

[@tmpartnership](https://www.facebook.com/tmpartnership) [@tmpartnership](https://www.instagram.com/tmpartnership)
www.themusicpartnership.org.uk



SAVE THE DATE!
3 MARCH 2021

Staffordshire's
 Virtual Spring Festival

To book your place contact: musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk

Entrust Music Service Staffordshire's Digital Rehearsals

Following on from our successful Autumn Term provision, Entrust Music Service Staffordshire are now offering Digital Rehearsals in the Spring Term and will be commencing them from week beginning Mon 18th January 2021. There will be a total of 7 consecutive rehearsals during the term and we have allocated Tue 30th March for a Virtual Spring Festival to celebrate our progress; again all of this is **FREE** of charge to any pupil who lives or studies within Staffordshire.

If you would like to join us or have pupils learning a musical instrument or singing in school, where they can't participate in rehearsals / musical sessions as normal, please contact the Music Service (musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk), so we can register them. Currently we have about 424 young people signed up from across Staffordshire and have 7 different ensembles on offer;

- Blast of Rock Band - beginner instrumentalists for any instrument
- Rock It Band – all abilities
- Voices Together Choir – all ages
- Senior Wind Band
- Training Wind Band
- Senior String Orchestra
- Training String Orchestra

As we are following all of the latest Government Guidelines for COVID-19, having this digital offer will help keep our Staffordshire musicians making music together during these unprecedented times.



Please rest assured,
when it is safe to do
so, we will be resuming
our face-to-face
rehearsals.



Staffordshire

Young Musician 2021

Our Staffordshire Young Musician 2021 will be an online event this year. As with previous Young Musician events, the rounds will be run to a similar format; Preliminary Rounds and a Live Final; face-to-face or via Zoom.

We have slightly adjusted the arrangements for this year, meaning that a winner and/or selected participants from each category will be shortlisted for the final; therefore, one from each of the 6 categories of instrumentalists and 4 categories for the singers will be represented in the finals. We will still segment the competition into Junior and Senior sections;

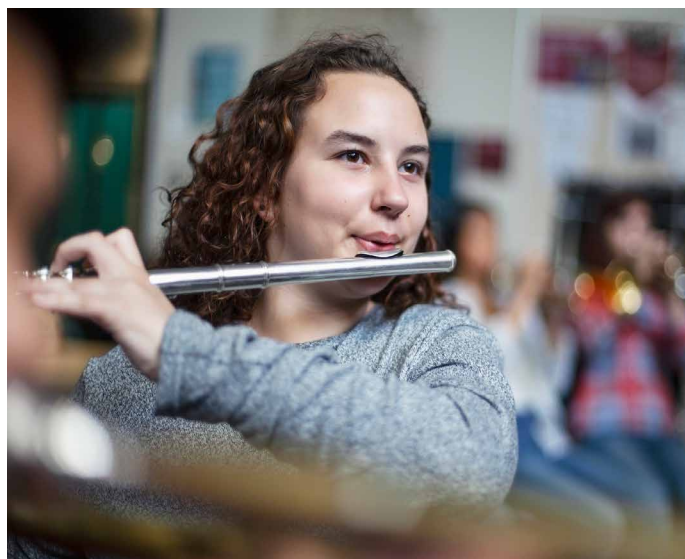
Junior Competition Instrumentalists - up to and including Year 9.

Singers - ages 7 to 12 years old. Performance Time: maximum of 5 minutes.

Senior Competition Instrumentalists - Year 10 or above in full time education. **Singers** - ages 13 to 18 years old. Performance Time: maximum of 7 minutes.

Key dates for the Staffordshire Young Musician 2021 are as follows;

- Preliminary Round application form deadline – Fri 5th March
- Preliminary Round recordings deadline – Thu 1st April
- Final - Sun 4th July



Any young person who lives or studies within Staffordshire can take part, so please contact us on musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk for an application form.

The event is sponsored and supported by The Friends of Staffordshire's Young Musicians (FOSYM), who are a registered charity supporting the young people of Staffordshire and one of our valued The Music Partnership members.

My Experience as a Staffordshire Young Musician 2019

by Noa Dewally

I'm Noa, a second-year music student at the University of Birmingham, primarily studying percussion performance, and I was the winner of Staffordshire Young Musician 2019.

My experiences of playing in multiple years of the competition have inspired me to continue exploring my passion for music, giving me the space to develop the performance skills and the self-confidence to continue studying music at degree level. Playing alongside musicians of such a high quality in both the heats and final of this competition always pushed me as a musician. With the competitive element between performers (many of whom were my friends from music service ensembles) encouraged me to always endeavour to create performances of a high standard. Putting this competitive aspect aside, I always remembered Staffordshire Young Musician events as having a friendly and welcoming atmosphere, from both the competitors and the judges, that allowed me to use it as a platform to take musical risks in my playing.

I also remember how the feedback given in performance sessions enabled me to continue developing as a musician. From these constructive comments I was able to see my performance through an external set of eyes and ears, and as a result, I discovered ways of improving my music that I had never considered before! I always remember that regardless of your ability, the judges would always be supportive of you as a performer, highlighting your successes whilst encouraging further constructive development.



The overall experience of participating and winning Staffordshire Young Musician 2019 has shown me how the support and encouragement of FOSYM through this event has been essential in my development as a musician. Since winning the competition I have been involved in various musical projects including working for the Music for Youth National Festival and being part of the CBSO Youth Ambassador scheme for the academic year 2019-20. Without the confidence boost that came from participating in and winning Staffordshire Young Musician 2019, I would have never even tried to apply for incredible opportunities such as these.



Stoke-on-Trent

Young Musician 2021

The Stoke-on-Trent Young Musician 2021 is organised by the City Music Service (CMS). We feel it's important to continue to celebrate the talented performers we have in Stoke-on-Trent despite the restrictions of the pandemic.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation we are planning that the preliminary rounds will be held digitally. We hope that the final will be held as a live event in the Summer Term but if this is not possible, we will have a digital back-up plan.

We have listed some frequently asked questions and supplied the answers below, which we hope will encourage you to take part. The closing date for this year has passed but you might find this useful for next time round. If you have your application in then it will also tell you what to do next.

When is it?

- The closing date for this year's competition applications has now passed. If you have already applied for this year the deadline for the recordings to be received for the preliminary rounds is 5 February 2021
- The final will be held on 18 June 2021 (TBC)
- If you have missed this year's event, keep your eyes open for the 2022 competition details

What do I have to do next?

Ask for your teacher's advice about what you would like to play or sing. You will need to film your entry and send it to us via Facebook Messenger Stoke-on-Trent City Music Service or email it to citymusicservice@stoke.gov.uk using WeTransfer. The deadline for this is the 5th February 2021. This should be clearly labelled with your name and the title of the piece and composer.

You should have completed and returned the entry form and photo permission form to your CMS teacher along with a copy of your music and any accompaniment (for example the piano part) or email direct to citymusicservice@stoke.gov.uk. Without the photo permission form we will not be able to use your film.

How much does it cost?

It is free to enter.

Who is eligible to take part in our competition?

You can apply to compete if you meet at least one of the following categories:

- You are a resident of Stoke-on-Trent
- You are in full time education within the City boundaries
- You are a member of one of the City Music Service ensembles



What preliminary rounds are there?

There are six classes split into junior and senior:

1. Strings (orchestral)
2. Woodwind (orchestral and band)
3. Brass (orchestral and band)
4. Piano
5. Voice
6. Open (percussion, keyboard, guitar, recorder etc.)

How old do I have to be?

There are two age categories for the preliminary rounds and the final:

- Junior – up to and including Year 8 in the 2020/21 academic year
- Senior – Year 9 to Year 13 in the 2020/21 academic year

What should I play?

Ask your teacher to suggest something that you will feel comfortable performing in public and that will show off your musicianship. Consider a piece you are currently preparing for an important exam; it could be a good opportunity to perform it for an adjudicator. The maximum performance time is five minutes for the preliminary rounds.

What is the prize for the final?

- Invitation to perform at the Victoria Hall
- Music Token
- Certificate of Achievement
- Individual Trophy
- All entrants will receive a certificate for taking part

Why should I enter?

- To improve your self confidence
- An opportunity to hear other pupils perform
- A chance to 'try out' an examination piece

We wish all of our 2021 competitor's good luck!



CASE STUDY



A music teacher from Telford & Wrekin Music Service shares their experience of teaching through lockdown during the pandemic...

I consider myself very lucky. When the pandemic hit and lockdown came, music teachers were forced to rethink how to deliver lessons.

Fortunately, I already had some experience teaching lessons online with some private students. I was also having my own violin lessons online. My teacher is brilliant and happens to be in South Africa!

So, by the time the lockdown came, not only had I experienced teaching online myself, but importantly my students knew about my remote violin lessons, remote by choice, and trusted that I had faith in the quality of these lessons.

Whats different about online learning?

There's definitely more planning involved. I have always kept extensive lesson notes for each lesson so I can plan for the next one. But whereas before I would print out some music or have a handout ready, I now have to ensure it's with the student well in advance via email so it can be printed ahead of the lesson.

Having the online lessons during lockdown meant much greater communication with parents which I really enjoyed. Most would say hello at the start of the lesson and often at the end, and I could let them know what we had done in the lesson. Some parents have been very involved with their child's learning and this has really helped, so they can understand and help with practise between lessons.

It has also been really helpful to see the instruments the students are using. My main instrument is piano and it's been interesting to see the variety of instruments. Many on keyboards, a few digital pianos, some acoustics in various states. I even have one student using a Pianola!

I've been able to make some helpful recommendations to improve set-ups. It's amazing how many dining room chairs are used, creating the wrong height/posture. I've even been able to diagnose sticking piano keys and talking parents through a bit of maintenance!

Teaching online also threw up some interesting surprises. My aural skills have stepped up a lot, even though I hadn't thought they were too bad before. Students often had their phone or iPad on the music stand so I could only hear, and not see their fingers. I saw some very surprised faces when a student made an error, and looked at me for help and I'd say something like 'I think you need a sharp there' and they were asking how I could possibly know without me seeing them playing a natural. I have to confess to telling a few pupils that I actually have a superpower!

There were of course a few downsides. Some internet connections were better than others, I missed performing duets (although occasionally we did manage it online), sometimes the parents just forgot about the lesson and would be out taking a walk instead.

Expect the Unexpected

I had quite a few performances wrecked by over enthusiastic pets. I now realise that a lot of Labradors like to pull their owners hands off the keyboard. And more than one cat has made a leap up onto the keyboard mid-performance!

My most memorable moment of lockdown teaching must be this: I had a student who couldn't figure out how to turn his piano on (someone had unplugged it) so he asked his mum for help. Mum had just come out of the shower and was in a towel so she said she would switch off the camera at their end. Just as she exclaimed 'We have become friends, but if this towel falls when I get the plug you will know me better than I'd like'. As the camera went off, I heard some rustling, then the sound of a few piano notes and then a scream...The towel had indeed fallen....Just as her Tesco delivery driver had appeared at the window!

I hope that other teachers had some similar light-hearted moments to get them through this very difficult year. As I said at the start, I feel lucky that I had everything in place to make the switch to online teaching very easily. I hope my colleagues in the wider hubs managed the same.

Secondary Curriculum Matters

By Graeme Rudland



A big thank you is due to all of you teachers of music for your resourcefulness and resilience in maintaining as much teaching of music as you can through extremely challenging times.

Last term, each school approached government guidance in different ways and whilst some were able to continue to use resources and undertake modified practical work, others were not. The playing field has become even less level than before, and added to this is the fact that some of us have found it easier to learn and implement the IT skills needed to engage pupils in online learning and performances than others.

There must be no personal recriminations – we have all done what we can, and no one is alone. Ofsted visited schools in a supportive capacity throughout the term and their regular reports have confirmed the damaging impacts of COVID-19 on music learning. Reports of these visits from colleagues within *The Music Partnership* and beyond, reflect that HMI are concerned to know (but not judge) whether schools are able to continue to teach Foundation Subjects.

On the one hand it is good that HMI have given recognition to music as a valuable curriculum subject, although the reporting of decreased practical work during the autumn affecting pupils' learning in music confirms the current situation. Nevertheless, it was heartening to see that one picture in Ofsted's annual report was of a Key Stage 1 music lesson, and that they have recently reinstated the role of lead for music by reappointing Mark Phillips (HMI), himself an ex-music teacher.

Now we face at least half a term of online learning. Some teachers reported that even though music learning in the autumn was limited to non-practical activity, the engagement with music through listening was still a welcome change for pupils from the type of learning that other subjects had been forced to adopt. The same applies to learning remotely – the more we can engage

pupils with the medium of music the better, both for music education and for pupils' well-being. To this end, sharing of resources amongst colleagues will be a lifesaver. Some colleagues are contributing resources to our Facebook page and we would encourage you to engage with it (The Music Partnership Secondary Music Teachers). The "KS3 Music - Hints and Tips" Facebook page is also highly recommended and now stores a wealth of files containing worksheets, PowerPoint presentations, links to videos and practical activities that can be undertaken online. We will continue to offer the opportunity for teachers to talk and share strategies through network meetings this next term.

It was good to see many colleagues engaging with network meetings during the autumn. The willingness of examining group representatives to join with us was appreciated even though all that was planned for now appears to have come to nought. As one exam board rep said on social media following the PM's message to the nation on 4th January:

Please know that at exam boards we all want to do our very best for you and your students, almost all of us are ex-teachers, and we will communicate what we can as soon as we can.

Even though there will not be an examination or formal assessment at the end of it we should continue to teach as much of the course content as we can and keep in touch with the relevant exam group through their updates. Remember that the courses are designed to develop pupils' musicianship and any formal assessment is merely a mechanism for recognising that.

Keeping an eye on the future and the hoped for return to normality, there will be things to be done to make up for lost learning and to refocus our curriculum to ensure our pupils make the progress in musical understanding of which they are capable. In the meantime, we all need do what we can to:

- Keep promoting the value of music as a subject in itself and for the benefit of pupil's well-being.
- Maintain a positive approach to encourage pupils to engage with music in whatever way we can, however frustrated we feel.
- Keep in touch with others through networks, and by regularly checking and contributing to social media sites to get ideas and strategies.
- Protect ourselves and not lose heart, remembering that we are not alone.

The secondary curriculum team at *The Music Partnership* will continue to be available to talk to teachers and to update you with information and guidance as it becomes available, through both network meetings, and *The Music Partnership Secondary Music Teachers' Facebook page* which we would encourage you all to join.

Do please keep in contact. We can be emailed at
graeme.rudland@entrust-music.co.uk
rachel.hayes@entrust-music.co.uk





Handa's Surprise

Family Learning Music Workshops for
Stoke-on-Trent Schools, Foundation Stage
FS1/2 parents/carers with their child.

DELIVERED BY STOKE-ON-TRENT CITY
MUSIC SERVICE ON BEHALF OF ADULT AND
COMMUNITY LEARNING

Explore beat, rhythm and music with an African flavour as we use instruments, movement and voices to accompany Handa in this lovely story which encompasses many wonderful elements – friendship, thoughtfulness, some cheeky animals and a surprise at the end!

Aim

To share musical activities to enhance a well-known story and explore how this can support many aspects of your child's development

Objectives

By the end of the workshop learners will be able to:

- List at least 3 musical skills practised together in the group
- Name 3 ways in which sharing musical activities can help with children's overall development
- Create a musical composition using percussion instruments to enhance the story

Information for parents/carers

What will we be doing?

Workshop participants and their children will be able to join in with some African songs and games; they will have the opportunity to explore and play percussion instruments and add sound effects to enhance the story of *Handa's Surprise*, and will be able to discuss how sharing musical activities together can help their children's development in many different ways.

Adults should come prepared to join in with singing, playing and movement activities alongside their children and to encourage and support their child during the workshop.

What if I'm I'm not very musical?

No experience is needed – just come prepared to join in with the group and encourage your child as we sing, move, listen and play instruments together.

What will happen at the workshop?

This is a two-hour workshop. Adults will complete registration paperwork with a representative from Stoke-on-Trent Adult & Community Learning, who receive government funding to provide workshops and courses. Certain information is required for data/funding purposes but personal information will not be shared.

The tutor will then introduce the workshop and the group will do a short introductory activity before the children come and join in. The children will return to their classrooms at the end and adults will complete paperwork and feedback.

Requirements for schools

- 10 - 12 (max) parents/carers plus their children
- A large space such as a hall for 2 hours
- Chairs for adults (and children if possible)
- A drink and cups for refreshment during the workshop

Please ensure that adults have received information about the workshop before the day (see information for parents above).

Bookings/Enquiries

Bookings can be made through to the summer term. Please note that places are limited.

Please contact penny.barfield@stoke.gov.uk or call 01782 233796



Madula News

Madula wishes everyone a very Happy New Year! We hope 2021 quickly sees the end of the pandemic and its devastating effects. Over the last few months, we've been adapting to this new landscape and developing Madula's Online Learning Portal, with over 100 young people across North Staffordshire starting their arts award qualifications, through a blended approach of live and distanced-learning.

In Telford, we have been working with young people who are at risk, vulnerable or in care, who have also been completing arts awards online through our portal. A big thank you to the Virtual Head, the leaving care team & participation officers for their support through these challenging times!

We are hoping to stage live performances & celebration events during Easter 2021, in addition to our Telford Summer School and annual Showcase Event in July, but we have to remain flexible with regard to the pandemic and government guidance/rules, to offer the best quality experiences we can while keeping everyone safe.

In the meantime, please see our young people's celebratory Christmas Video by clicking this link https://fb.watch/2Qo7_Gh9hK/ or follow us on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/maduladrums/> - we will be posting new tutorials and releasing content regularly during the next period of lockdown, to support learning at home and keep you inspired.

SOUNDPOTS

Across Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent and Telford & Wrekin

Early Years Music Network Meeting
Wednesday 3rd February 2021 4-5.15pm

FULLY FUNDED

Book your place :-

Sarah@make-some-noise.com

Working with:



THE MUSIC PARTNERSHIP



Music Education Solutions CPD News

Join Music Education Solutions® for their series of Teacher CPD webinars this term, which cover a wide variety of interesting topics.

On Thu 11th February Dr Elizabeth Stafford runs a 'Dive Deeper into Music Ofsted' -focused session for primary colleagues, and finally on Thu 4th March psychologist Dannielle Haig leads a session on 'Music & Mental Health in Schools'.

All webinars cost £45 per person and can be booked via the Music Education Solutions website: <https://musiceducationsolutions.co.uk/products-page/>

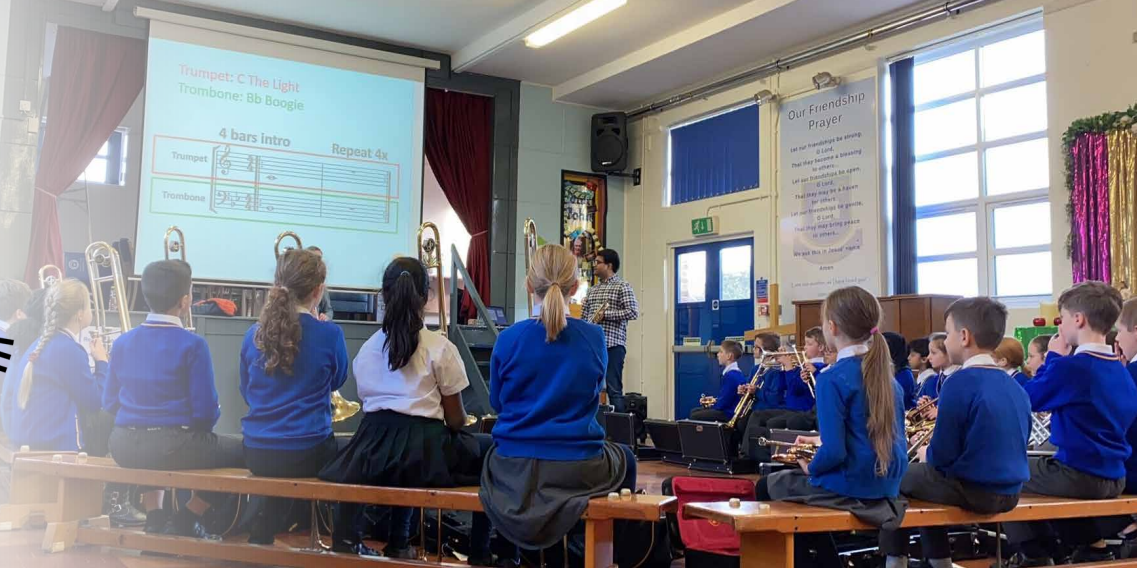


Why not come along to the FREE groups provided by City Music Service?

Monday - Thursday

For further details email citymusicservice@stoke.gov.uk
NOW BEING DELIVERED DIGITALLY





Determined to deliver music despite the challenges of COVID-19, In Harmony Telford & Stoke-on-Trent began delivering their programme in two new partner schools in November 2020. All children from St Augustine's Catholic Academy in Meir, Stoke-on-Trent and Hollinswood Primary School in Telford have begun receiving music provision.

Children in EYFS and Year 1 receive weekly music lessons and from Year 2 upwards children learn orchestral instruments and take part in orchestras each week. In Harmony has invested £40,000 in instruments for the two new schools in order for each child to have access to their own instrument. More than 600 children are now receiving music provision across the two new schools.

The schools and the delivery team have worked hard to accommodate the programme safely. The children in both schools have embraced the opportunity, even managing to create videos to share with parents after only 5 lessons on their instruments. You can view these on the *In Harmony* website (<http://www.inharmonytelfordstoke.org>). Feedback from both schools has been really positive from both staff and children.

Meanwhile over at Old Park Primary School, where the programme has been running for 8 years, children and staff were eager to share live performances with their families at home. In place of their ordinary end of term concert, they hosted a live stream concert which involved 8 separate class bubble orchestras, interviews with children, and pre-recorded video performances of music composed by children. This was all based on the story *Here We Are* by Oliver Jeffers, which was the story the whole school was reading last term.



Children in photo participating within their class bubble.



Provision for secondary age children continued as well, moving from face-to-face to online individual lessons in November, along with an online Youth Ensemble.

In 2021, despite this term's lockdown, provision we will continue to adapt in a variety of ways, including face-to-face, live online teaching via Microsoft Teams, and video and other resources. These are accessible to the children and their families via our resources website as well as the school's Class Dojo and Google Classrooms. As so many across the music education sector, we will continue to adapt and adjust to the circumstances.

Here are some comments from staff in the new schools:

'They've worked really hard to include him and he's made fantastic progress from initially refusing to pick up the violin to playing it at the front in front of his whole year group!' – Year 3 teacher

'Certain pupils who struggle to engage with the curriculum have shown a passion and enthusiasm for music which has been great to observe.' – Year 2 teacher

'It's been really good for their confidence. It's particularly helping their resilience to see adults learning the instruments alongside them.' – SEN Hub teacher

Useful links...

<https://inharmonytelfordstoke.org/>
<https://inharmonytelfordstoke.org/media/> for the videos

Here We Are video playlist:
<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3sRR5LPIS-r9uwdlqINOMoobH2VUclpz>

Awards for Young Musicians

FURTHERING TALENT



Lila is currently a Year 5 pupil at primary school in Staffordshire but she was spotted by Entrust Music Service teacher, Esther Allen, back when she was in year 3. Lila had been learning to make music on ukuleles, recorders and violins via Whole Class Ensemble Teaching, which is a programme to enable all young people in a class to learn a musical instrument for a year free of charge.

It was clear from these sessions that Lila had a talent and enthusiasm for music. She showed Mrs Allen the pink guitar that she had been teaching herself to play at home and said she was desperate to learn enough on an instrument to be able to join the school band. It was clear from the way she was always first into the class music lessons, sitting at the front, focused and committed, that Lila was passionate about music.

Mrs Allen said:

"Lila is a determined little girl who shows great interest and passion for music. Apart from the whole class music teaching she was also playing in a lunchtime school recorder club. When she heard we were having a school concert she sought me out to ask if she could play a solo on guitar. Although she was self-taught on guitar and a complete beginner she played like a professional, enjoying the opportunity to be seen and heard in a concert environment, showing superb confidence. She is an avid learner and works hard. Lila also enjoys singing in the school choir. She is diligent and showed that she would relish the opportunity of the Furthering Talent Programme."

As the end of the whole class lessons approached, Lila's family weren't in a position to fund individual one-to-one lessons, which meant that Lila's music-making would have to come to an end, so Mrs Allen told Lila's parents about the **Awards For Young Musicians (AYM) Furthering Talent** programme.

Furthering Talent is designed to help young people whose families aren't able to support one-to-one tuition by funding weekly tuition and a wider, holistic package of support.

So, in September 2019 Lila joined **Furthering Talent** and chose to learn the violin and she was soon proficient enough to join the school band.

She was so proud to have her own violin to take home and would race ahead, learning new challenging material to keep up with older players at her school. Lila also benefits from being in a school where music is valued and celebrated.

The Headteacher of Lila's school said:

"It was back in September 2019 that Lila began on her Furthering Talent journey. It has been so wonderful to see how Lila has grown in confidence, not only with her music but in other aspects of her world too. This is down to the opportunities she has been given to be part of this program. On the days that she has her 1:1 lesson, she has a spring in her step and a smile on her face – she certainly looks forward to these sessions. The Furthering Talent program is an important programme which opens the door to the amazing and important world that music creates. The opportunities on offer to support these young people are incredible and without the programme these young people would probably never be able to experience anything like this. It truly is life changing. There are so many potentially talented youngsters that miss out because of finance. This should never be the case. The Furthering Talent initiative is something that will impact on those pupils for the rest of their life. Lila goes from strength to strength with her music and it is a joy to be able to support her in this."



Despite part of Lila's first year of **Furthering Talent** music-making being during the coronavirus outbreak, Lila has shown flexibility and is making superb progress in lessons via video call! A bonus of having lessons online has meant that it has been easier for Lila's Mom, Dad and three siblings to be involved in Lila's music-making.

Lila's Mom said:

"Lila's music lessons have been a fantastic experience for her. It is wonderful watching her progress and develop her skill. It has increased her interest in music and given her a sense of achievement which is lovely to see."

Lila's weekly violin lesson is also her special time to receive personalised and tailored learning, when the stress of the outside world dissolves away. The financial bursary as part of the AYM programme has funded the essentials Lila needs for her lessons, such as books and a music stand. Lila's instrument is also provided free of charge through Entrust Music Service.

When Lila was asked about being part of the programme she said:

"My older brother learnt the violin when he was in Yr 3 and he brought it home and I wanted to play it. I also wanted to play in a band because I just love music. I like making different sounds on the violin with my bow and fingers, but I don't like rosinning the bow! When I am older, I would like to be able to play longer songs on the violin and guitar. If I hadn't been able to have instrument lessons, I would have been very disappointed."

It is clear that **Furthering Talent** is making a big impact on Lila's life, even in unprecedented times, putting Lila at the centre of her learning and removing any barriers to her musical success.

There are currently a few places available to join **Furthering Talent** in Staffordshire. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Local Coordinator chris.stringer@entrust-ed.co.uk



FRIENDS OF STAFFORDSHIRE'S YOUNG MUSICIANS (FOSYM)



FOSYM provides financial support to enable access to musical learning for children and young people from across the region.

Find out more

For more information, to donate or become a member or supporter, please visit www.fosym.org.uk or contact your local music service.

CASE STUDY



Telford & Wrekin Music Student, Issy Knight tells us what learning music with a top quality music teacher means to her...

Hi, I'm Issy, and I'm a 15-year-old pupil from Newport Girls' High School. For several years I have been learning to play guitar with Mr Rainbow from the Telford & Wrekin Music Service.

Music has always been something I enjoyed, and something my parents encouraged me to take up. Since I was little, I've had musical instruments, starting with plastic kazoos and drums and progressing to piano and guitars; I even played the clarinet in Junior school! My Dad has a very eclectic music taste and I have been exposed to many different genres from classical to Japanese punk and whilst I may not have always chosen to listen to these, my musical knowledge must have benefited.

Playing guitar is pretty cool and diverse. I can play classical Spanish, folk and country on my acoustic and rock on the electric. So, something for everyone really. It is also brilliant for helping me to relax and I can often be found strumming away in our kitchen, without really thinking about what I am playing. Whilst learning to play an instrument is a commitment, I have found that regular, short bursts of practice are easier to fit into daily life and around schoolwork than a couple of longer sessions each week. I have to admit that when it comes to practising new, more difficult pieces, I sometimes have to be encouraged to make a start but, with a concerted effort, the tricky bits don't stay tricky for too long.

Since Year 8 I have been writing my own songs and these have been quite varied in style, but I tend to be inspired by events that are happening around me at the time. I find that writing music helps to relieve stress and gives me original material to perform.

Performing is something that has grown on me. I used to be quite nervous when playing in front of other people but now I really enjoy it and I am missing the opportunities in our current situation. Mr Rainbow couldn't have been more awesome and supportive of my song writing.

He has encouraged me to develop different musical parts and think about how they work together in the whole piece. He has also recorded all the tracks and has spent his own time refining them for me. I can't thank him enough for the help and support he provides, alongside teaching me the next acoustic grade syllabus.

Whilst I can't imagine that I will be the next Billie Eilish, I can't imagine a time when I am not playing music. It is an important part of who I am, and I hope to be able to perform again sometime soon.



Create with Camerata Manchester Camerata

In January and February, Manchester Camerata orchestra are running their annual *Create with Camerata* songwriting project with Entrust Music Service Staffordshire and schools across the county.

This year we're working with composers Andy Smith and Anna Jewitt so that each class will create their own song based on a chapter of Roald Dahls' popular story 'George's Marvellous Medicine'! Each class's song will be accompanied by a Manchester Camerata ensemble and be used to create a film to be released at the end of March. Keep your eyes peeled for the release date nearer the time!

For more information, or to register your interest for next year's workshops, please email Emma on earnold@manchestercamerata.com.



How can we help you with homeschooling and keeping singing alive at this time?

It is scary to think that in many ways singing, which is such a natural and crucial life-right, has in many ways been branded unsafe and this is so sad for our children. It doesn't have to be unsafe if we do things carefully!

To that end, it has been heart-warming to see how many schools have managed to keep singing going – by finding outdoor spaces or by spreading out in the hall, dividing their classes. I was particularly proud of the 5 schools who took part in the online **Lichfield Cathedral Festival of Music** and their brilliant learning and singing, which was crafted into an online massed choir with orchestra! If you haven't seen the video, with some amazing ensemble work by Entrust Music Service Staffordshire then go to <https://youtu.be/TJTCKDPwEXI>. This concert was a hugely positive collaboration, which showed the strength in the joint working of **The Music Partnership**.

Like many organisations with singing at its heart we have had to find new and creative ways to function – but we will not give up! In lockdown 1 we focused on our core ensembles by sending out videos for their provision. In September, we worked hard to put in place the paperwork to enable us to return to live singing, be it socially distanced, well ventilated and with thorough professional cleaning in place. Sadly, it wasn't to be as lockdown 2 was announced the week before our start dates.

At this point we starting working live on Zoom rather than sending out videos and for three of our four choirs this has worked surprisingly well. Our Mini Voices stay unmuted, which enables the normal interactions we would have with our parents and 0-5 year olds, our Young Voices (6-11) are muted for the rehearsal (where I become a glorified children's entertainer – it is comedic to see the children copying my actions) but when it comes to the chat at the end – I cannot get a word in edgewise. One rehearsal even resulted in them all going to get their instruments and taking it in turns to play a Christmas carol – all entirely of their own doing!

The teenagers (12-18yrs), who sing in four parts, have perhaps been the hardest to rehearse due to the complexity of the music; we managed to get them back for three outdoor rehearsals just before Christmas, which, although freezing, were hugely worthwhile. Sadly lockdown 3 means they have to rehearse online again and we are trying to think of clever ways to make this easier for them. Our adult Ladies' choir has also been much like the Young Voices and I was hugely grateful for the new Popular Voiceworks at Christmas (Oxford University Press), which was an invaluable resource of funky new arrangements of Christmas favourites plus some other great new numbers such as the Brussel Sprout Song!

For schools, we have focused our efforts on creating some new resources. We have lots of new songs with all the necessary resources for each – teaching video (with live 3-piece band), performance track, backing track, full sheet music, melody sheet music with chords and lyric sheets. Along with the new songs are lesson plans and ideas for further suitable resources for these age groups.

At present we can provide FREE resource packs for EYFS, KS1 and KS2 and are working on the KS3 pack. In order to receive your free pack, all you need to do is drop us an email and sign-up by saying which packs you wish to receive and we will send you the digital pack but will personalise it with an introductory video specifically for your school. Please email musicshare@lichfieldcathedralschool.com.

We are hoping from these packs to also see if we can put together some virtual concerts and once you have received your pack, we will send you information in case your students would like to be involved – although there is no pressure, as we are all working in an evolving situation!

Can the packs be used for home learning?

Each pack has YouTube links to our teaching videos and these links can easily be sent home as part of your home learning resources. The teaching videos have subtitles (and occasionally sheet music) on screen where necessary so they can be a stand alone resource to send home.

Don't forget we have also produced nearly 20, 10-minute Singing Sessions, which are all free on the YouTube channels of Entrust Music Service Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent City Music Service. Again, these are great tools to help with home learning. A link to the first of these is as follows <https://youtu.be/zA7ATLHjIX4> and then you should be able to find the others in the related resources section.

We are also working on some CPD videos and hopefully we will send further information about these in the near future. If anybody would like specific advice regarding singing in their schools or online please do not hesitate to get in touch via musicshare@lichfieldcathedralschool.com.

WE WISH EVERY ONE WELL IN THESE STRANGE TIMES!

CASE STUDY



Virtual Performances and Lockdown Skills...

By Rachel Hayes, Head of Music, SMWCA
Secondary Consultant, The Music Partnership

When schools closed in March, life changed completely, and all rehearsals and extra-curricular activities suddenly stopped. People around the world soon began creating virtual performances and I took part in a number of them.

I posted the links on our social media pages and was asked by students when we were going to do one! The thought of taking this on scared me as I didn't have a clue where to start, but as the pressure mounted, I decided to bite the bullet and downloaded the trial version of Final Cut Pro. YouTube videos didn't really help but a chance encounter with a friend led to an online lesson with another friend and former student, who taught me how to use the software.

During lockdown, we created many virtual performances featuring our Orchestra, Jazz Orchestra, String Ensemble, Flute Choir and Choir. Creating the performances took hours and days of work from inputting the scores into Sibelius, to creating the audio files to record to, to the hours of video editing, and you also have the issue of storage! However, the final videos made it all worthwhile.

By October we were able to have year group bubble rehearsals after school, and to be honest, it was just amazing to play together again. These were stopped in November during the second lockdown, but we plan to resume them again in 2021. At some point I did think that we wouldn't still be performing in this way by Christmas, but that was definitely wishful thinking!

As a department, we decided to create a Virtual Christmas Concert featuring our Orchestra, Jazz Orchestra, vocalists and a special performance by the whole of Year 7, who learned "Do They Know It's Christmas?" in sign language. I can't begin to explain how much work it took to create but it was really worth it and has been well received by so many people. If you've been thinking about creating a virtual performance, then please just do it! If I can do it, you can - and if you need help then just get in touch. I would like to think that by the Summer we will be able to have a normal concert but as I write this, I'm now thinking about what we could do virtually for Easter!

For now, please enjoy our Concert by clicking the link or scanning the QR Code:

<https://youtu.be/S2zgm3DU7kk>



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