



THE MUSIC PARTNERSHIP

Newsletter - Autumn 2023

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

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Planning for Technical Progression

It is important that we have a well thought through rationale for our plans for the development of technical skills in our music curriculum.



Training Programme

New training opportunities in partnership with Music Education Solutions.



Stoke-on-Trent Young Musician 2024

We have listed some helpful questions and answers, which we hope will encourage you to take part in Young Musician 2024.

Events and CPD

Discover our extensive range of events, workshops and CPD opportunities throughout the year at various venues throughout the county.

Ensembles

Our established music groups give young people the chance to further develop their instrumental and vocal skills.

In Harmony

In Harmony Telford and Stoke-on-Trent had an exciting performance week at the start of July, with end of year performances at all 4 schools.

Supported using public funding by



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Inspiring Futures

Welcome to the autumn term edition of The Music Partnership's newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2023-24 from The Music Partnership (TMP). We had a fantastic end to 2022-23 with thousands of children taking in part in concerts, events, and performance activities before the end of term. The partnership collectively ran just over 40 events at the end of term, culminating in a Summer Live Sing-Along which was viewed by over 9,000 children.

Thanks to every school that got involved in these activities. We know it takes time and effort at a busy point in the year, but these are the experiences that last with young people throughout their lives and your attendance is what makes this possible for them.

In previous editions I have written about the changes on the national landscape for music education and this is something we now know a great deal more about. We have a new Local Plan for Music Education for the 2023-24, which focuses on delivering [The Power of Music to Change Lives, A National Plan for Music Education](#). You can find our Local Plan in full on our website, www.themusicpartnership.org.uk, but below is a short summary of the expected aims and functions of Music Hubs in their plans:

Aims

- To support schools and other education settings to deliver high-quality music education.
- To support young people to develop their musical interests and talent further, including into employment.
- To support all children and young people to engage with a range of musical opportunities in and out of school.

Strategic Functions

- **Partnership** – taking a leading role in building a sustainable local music infrastructure across schools, organisations, and the community.
- **Schools** – supporting all state funded schools in the area to help them deliver a high-quality music education.
- **Progression and Musical Development** – supporting children and young people to develop and make progress in music.
- **Inclusion** – driving broad access to music education.
- **Sustainability** – supporting the workforce, leverage funding, being accountable, and acting on environmental responsibility.

The word 'support' jumps out in both the National Plan and the above summary. TMP exists to support all state funded schools so our big 'ask' is to please get in contact, whether for support with arranging lessons for your pupils, with your music curriculum, for individual teachers in school or for assistance in writing your Music Development Plan. Contact your local music service, get in touch with me directly, or please [contact us](#) through the website.

Thinking about our local priorities for improvement, there are some important points that I would like to make as we start the new year:

1. Please help us to improve Musical Inclusion across the region. Visiting teams often 'don't know what they don't know' so please highlight any children with additional needs to your visiting staff and get in contact with us if you have pupils that could miss out on music provision without bespoke intervention. We have funding to support these pupils but need your help in identifying the need.
2. TMP has a ten-point 'Progression Strategy' designed to help children make musical progress to high levels of attainment. You can find the Progression Strategy on our website but can help by considering the pathways and options that children have in your school to make music long term. For example, is your whole class programme giving a good start for children but with no option to then take this further? Does your provision relate to transition - what has come before or will come after for pupils? Are all children able to access lessons or just those who can afford it?
3. I've mentioned Music Development Plans above. The DfE have asked all schools to have an MDP in place by this September (2023). If you haven't considered this yet then please get in touch, book a Music Audit discussion with one of the team and look at our MDP template on the website. A successful MDP reflects on the success of the current offer in school and then sets out achievable steps to improve provision across the setting.
4. If you do nothing else, then please look at page eighteen in the new National Plan. It shows a simple diagram that asks schools to consider the health and quality of three parts of music in school: the curriculum, instrumental & vocal work, and musical events and opportunities. This is the best place to start when considering your Music Development Plan and how partners can help support you.
5. Please book onto our new training programme for school music leads, details can be found in this newsletter and on the website. Training dates for 2023-24 are available in full and there is a mix of online, face to face and blended sessions covering a wide range of content for all school phases.

In October we will submit our bid for The Music Partnership to continue as the Music Hub from September 2024. Our new region from that point will expand to include Shropshire, in addition to Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, and Telford & Wrekin. We're hugely excited about the new partnership opportunities this will bring to the region, and we will know the outcome of the bid by April 2024. In the interim, we continue to support our schools and young people through the year ahead. Please look through the content within this edition and I look forward to seeing many of you at events or on training sessions in the months ahead. Best wishes for a successful and musically rewarding 2023-24!



John Callister

Head of Service

Entrust Music Service Staffordshire
on behalf of The Music Partnership
Email: john.callister@entrust-ed.co.uk

Events, workshops and CPD opportunities

To view all of our upcoming
events please visit:

www.themusicpartnership.org.uk/events



City **MUSIC** Service
STOKE - ON - TRENT

telford&wrekin
MUSIC

Remember to join the mailing list for up to date
event information www.themusicpartnership.org.uk

Help us to improve musical inclusion

The Music Partnership works across Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Telford and Wrekin.

- ✓ Help us to find and work with school children that could benefit from music education but whose circumstances mean they might miss out.
- ✓ Help our visiting practitioners adapt lessons to achieve the best outcomes by sharing information (eg SEND details).
- ✓ Get in touch with your local music service if you're unsure how to support a child's musical needs.



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Music
Lessons



FREE
Instrument
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Contact us to find out more

Email: musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk Tel: 0333 300 1900 www.themusicpartnership.org.uk



The Music Partnership

The Music Partnership is a group of the region's leading music education providers, committed to working together to ensure all young people have the opportunity to sing, learn an instrument and perform as part of an ensemble or choir.

We receive funding from the Department of Education via Arts Council England to deliver the 'National Plan for Music Education'. We also depend on the continued financial contribution, and investment of time, made by our education partners, including schools, parents, pupils and charitable supporters. We cover the local authority areas of Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent and Telford & Wrekin and work with the three music services in these regions alongside around thirty other music partners.

Our Music Services are: Entrust Music Service Staffordshire, The City Music Service Stoke-on-Trent and Telford & Wrekin Music.

By working collaboratively and pooling our resources we are able to stage large scale events throughout the year giving students the chance to perform with world-class musicians, orchestras, and ensembles. We deliver quality CPD opportunities, conferences and create resources that are available for teachers to enhance the delivery of their work.

There are a number of ways we can work to bring music and singing into education settings:

Teaching, resources, support, CPD and training:

- Funded and part-funded Teaching and Wider School Projects
- Subsidised Whole Class Ensemble Teaching (WCET)
- Subsidised 'Progression' Teaching
- Fully funded School Transition and Open Evening support
- Part-funded 'In Harmony' Programme
- Fully funded Music Share Workshops and Concerts
- Fully funded 'Create with Camerata': Song-writing Workshops and Performance
- Subsidised Charanga licenses (online music resource to support teaching and learning)
- Funded lessons for Looked after Children (LAC) via partnership with local Virtual Schools
- Bursary support for individual families (upon application) www.fosym.org.uk
- Bursary support for children with identified musical talent <https://www.a-y-m.org.uk/how-we-help/furtheringtalent/>

Concerts and events:

- A huge range of local events throughout the year:
- Annual Recorder Festival
- MusicShare Concerts
- 'Create' with Camerata
- Christmas and Summer Livestream massed events.
- Festival of Christmas
- WCET Celebration

CPD, support and resources:

- Musical Progression Maps (Key Stages 1-5)
- Assessing Musical Progress Framework (Instrumental and Vocal work)
- What a Good One Looks Like (WAGOLL) guides for senior leaders
- Music Network sessions
- A Music and SEND network
- A programme of annual Musical Training
- Fully funded support visits for Music Leads
- Fully funded Music Audits and the opportunity to access Excellence in Music Provision Awards
- Subsidised Early Years 'Soundpots' Music Conference
- Fully-funded membership of Music Mark – The National Association for Music Education (following audit)

Ensembles

Do you play an instrument or sing at school and want to join an established group to further develop your playing? Do you want to learn to play an instrument or sing?

Staffordshire

Our Music Centres run on weekdays or Saturday mornings at venues across Staffordshire: Burton, Cannock, Lichfield, Moorlands, Newcastle, Stafford, and Tamworth. We also run a group 'Blast Off' which runs online every Tuesday for all beginner instrumentalists. All ages are welcome, from KS1 to adult helpers. We have something for everyone, from fun beginner groups to advanced ensembles, covering all styles and levels of experience.

Our Music Centres are all **FREE** of charge to musicians living or studying in Staffordshire. Want to try out a new instrument? We can provide a free-of-charge instrument for all members (subject to availability).

Stoke-on-Trent

Get expert tuition and friendly support at our Music Centre in Stoke-on-Trent.

- Monday - Brass and Choir
- Tuesday - Strings and Recorders
- Wednesday - Wind and Brass
- Thursday - Rock and Pop / Contemporary and Theory Lessons

Our Music Centres run on weekdays Monday to Thursday from 5.45-7.15pm at The Bridge Centre in Birches Head. All ages are welcome. We have something for everyone, from fun beginner groups to advanced ensembles, covering all styles and levels of experience.

Registration

To register for our Music Centre groups, please scan the QR* code or follow this link:
<https://paritorliveparentv4.azurewebsites.net/17>



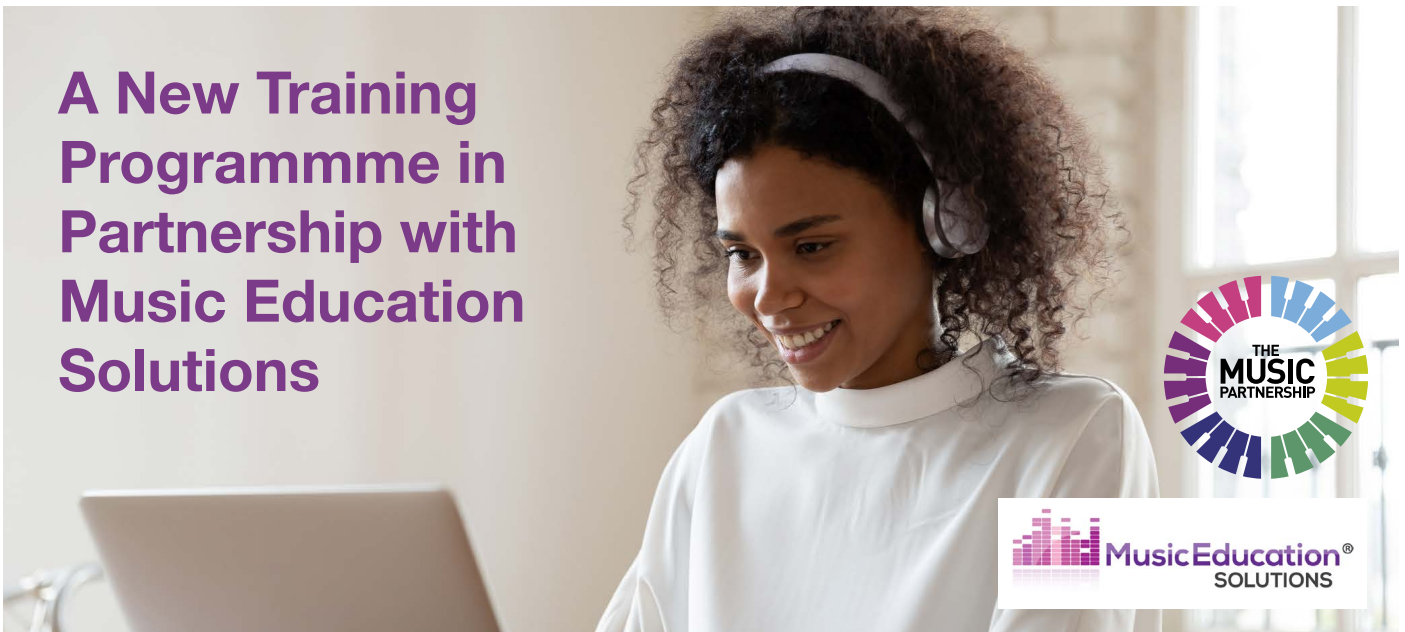
Please email us on musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk or visit our website www.entrustmusic.co.uk for details of times, or call 0333 300 1900.

Registration

Our Music Centres are all FREE of charge to musicians living or studying in Stoke-on-Trent.

To register for our Music Centre groups email citymusicservice@stoke.gov.uk or call 01782 233796.





A New Training Programme in Partnership with Music Education Solutions

Please register for our new training programme by emailing musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk. All training sessions and the conference are free to attend. The primary and secondary leadership programmes are charged at £100 per delegate for the course. This new programme is in addition to the briefings, training sessions and network meetings, details of which can be found on the website.

Webinar: Kapow Primary

Phase: Primary

28/09/23 and 09/02/24

In-person: Improvisation Project CPD Session (if ACE bid successful)

Phase: All phases

01/02/24

Webinar series: Developing Core Skills in Primary Music Primary

Phase: Primary

04/10/23 - S1: Performing
 18/10/23 - S2: Composing & Improvising
 08/11/23 - S3: Listening
 22/11/23 - S4: Notation
 06/12/23 - S5: History of Music

Webinar: Development & Progression in Primary Music

Phase: Primary

25/04/24

Blended: Secondary Music Leadership Certificate - £100

Phase: Secondary

03/10/23 - S1: Strategic Leadership of Music in Your School
 14/11/23 - S2: Leading Inclusive Progression Pathways
 05/12/23 - S3: Assessing & Tracking Progress in Your School

22/01/24 - S1: Strategic Leadership of Music in Your School
 19/02/24 - S2: Leading Inclusive Progression Pathways
 18/03/24 - S3: Assessing & Tracking Progress in Your School

Blended: Primary Music Leadership Certificate - £100

Phase: Primary

22/01/24 - S1: Leading Music in Your School
 19/02/24 - S2: Planning & Assessing Music in Your School
 18/03/24 - S3: Delivering Music in Your School

Webinar: Teaching Music Inclusively

Phase: All phases

16/05/24

Webinar: Curriculum Design in Music

Phase: All phases

13/06/24

In-person: Curriculum Music Conference 2024

Phase: All phases

18/01/24

Webinar: Assessment in Music

Phase: All phases

02/07/24

Planning for Technical Progression

by Graham Rudland, Secondary Curriculum Consultant

It is important that we have a well thought through rationale for our plans for the development of technical skills in our music curriculum.

This needs to take into account a number of individual factors:

- The cultural context of the pupils we teach
- The instruments that the school has, and their age appropriateness
- The expertise and confidence of staff
- The resources for learning that we have available (schemes, music etc)
- The availability (or otherwise) of opportunities to continue beyond classroom lessons
- The learning needs of pupils who are taking lessons outside of the classroom, whether in or beyond school
- The need for continuity between phases of education

It has been suggested that for pupils to experience only one instrument across a key stage can be demotivational for those who do not naturally take to it, whereas the introduction of a different instrument each year, or even each term, is equally unhelpful in that progress in technical skill will be very limited when one has to start from scratch with every new instrumental encounter. "Just doing music is not enough" as the Music Research Review¹ says. Our rationale for the choice of instruments should also link to the wider learning of pupils in developing their ability to be more musical. For example the line of progression from glockenspiels to keyboards to ICT (where the keyboard is the inputting instrument) has something to commend it as it builds similar skills (one is not starting from scratch when moving from glocks to keyboards) and to an extent the same can be said of the move from ukeleles to guitars. Similarly, some will move from single line instruments to chord based instruments to support a deepening understanding of how the musical elements work together and the associated devices (melodic devices moving to chords and chord progressions).

The question of giving pupils a choice is one which presents challenges but might usefully be considered. My own experience of leading class band sessions in a Primary School context was that pupils don't always select the right instrument for themselves (the flute might be visually attractive but is more challenging to get a note out of than a xylophone!), and the value of taster sessions or even extended experiences before that choice becomes available cannot be underestimated. Adapting the curriculum for pupils who really cannot get a musical sound out of a recorder, or who find the coordination of fingers on holes too complex, might involve allowing them to play the same materials and develop the same musical understanding on the glockenspiel where the notes are visible to access. However providing musical opportunities for pupils to select an instrument that they feel that they can really progress with has led to some interesting curriculum initiatives over the years where by the end of Key Stage 3 pupils are performing musically in mixed instrumental bands. Such work has much to commend it if it is planned and resourced carefully.



An additional consideration when refreshing stocks of instruments (if of course we have the budget to do so) is that if we are moving to being more musical, we need to embrace a wider range of pitches than available on 30 Percussion Plus PP920 Glockenspiels. Investment in one or two lower pitched instruments could transform the impact of our efforts and lift the quality of the outcome to a new level. Provision of music with a bass part would be an essential part of this.

Finally please, whatever instruments we use, we must keep in mind the fact that they are vehicles for becoming more musical. Correct technique is therefore a prerequisite. Just allowing pupils to find a way through a tune somehow is simply not good enough. If you have developed a scheme which addresses any of the dilemmas posed in this article and would be interested in sharing it with others, please get in touch. Similarly if you are in the process of developing or reviewing your plans and want to use someone as a sounding board, we would be happy to set up an online or face to face meeting at no cost.

¹Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-music>

Challenge!

Lesson by lesson we need to carefully build pupils' musical development. Careful planning, and scaffolding of new learning is integral to this. Challenge is sometimes seen as a necessity to demonstrate learning.

The question "What have the children learned that is new today?" is one frequently posed by visitors following lesson visits or learning walks. Sometimes however, repetition and reinforcement to consolidate learning is necessary before it is appropriate for pupils to move on. We need to be explicit about this in our planning and able to justify the improvement in quality and fluency as an important part of progression before setting more demanding challenges.

What satisfaction is there for a pupil in struggling to sing or play a piece that is too hard, or requires too many new things to be assimilated at once, causing cognitive overload?

We only have to think about our most positive musical memories to realise that these will have been when the quality of the experience was at its best. So let's make sure pupils first and foremost engage in musical activities in which they can succeed, and plan for our steps of progression not to be too demanding as to produce poor quality un-motivational outcomes.



Snakes and Ladders

A recent phenomenon in schools is the A4 overview curriculum plan which sits proudly on school websites or on classroom walls showing a snake-like line which is annotated with stopping off points along the way, with the intention of showing progression across Key Stages.

The presentation may look impressive from a distance, but like any plan if the ladder of progression is not evident, its only value is to inform interested parties of a list of topics that are undertaken. It may demonstrate intended knowledge about music, but it needs also to demonstrate developing musicality, or knowledge of music.



Perhaps in the past we have planned our curriculum in topics with a view to age appropriateness, then looked for ways of delivering these topics at the next level which the children need to move to musically. This might work, but progression is sometimes considered of secondary importance by the nature of the process. It would be more logical to set out the progression pathway (and in music this is not one simple straight line as we know) and from that to select the musical styles and repertoire which will best support it. The Music Partnership has model progression maps¹ across all key stages freely available. Similarly the Model Music Curriculum² can be used to illustrate what progression towards becoming more musical might look like.

¹Available on the Resources page of The Music Partnership's Website: <https://themusicpartnership.org.uk/>

²Available online at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974366/Model_Music_Curriculum_Full.pdf

The 'what' and the 'how'

The recent drive in schools to develop progressive curriculum plans has caused a lot of thought to go into what we need to teach in all subjects. Essential knowledge and its application has been mapped out, and evidence of progression in small steps identified. Words and phrases such as components and composites, sequencing and sticky knowledge or variants of these, are probably now familiar terms. But beyond the plans, (or the intent as OfSTED has called it), the implementation – how it is achieved may be less securely embedded in our practice. Published resources provide materials for use and the wonders of the internet enable access to and sharing of a wealth of materials for teachers to use. As has always been said, the success of learning will rely on the skill of the teacher to effectively deliver any materials that they have. So if our ambition is that children become more musical, then how can we set about achieving this?

Here are a few ideas for consideration:

Becoming more Musical

Recall task which involves sound (e.g. recap a song or recap of a tricky corner in a performance piece: recognise or practice a compositional device)

Music playing as the children arrive

Musical plenary to celebrate learning

Scaffolding to meet individual needs

Instructional verbal feedback to individuals

Challenges which are achievable musically

Mini – plenaries to refocus in practical

Musical modelling from teacher and/or mini plenaries to refocus in practical activity

Musical modelling from teacher and/or peers



Young Musician 2024

Stoke-on-Trent Young Musician of the Year

The Stoke-on-Trent Young Musician of the Year 2024 is organised by the City Music Service. We have listed some questions and answers below, which we hope will encourage you to take part. Young Musician events in Staffordshire and Telford take place later in 2024 with details to follow in future editions.



When is it?

- Application forms must be received by Fri 1 Dec 2023.
- The preliminary rounds will be held at The Bridge Centre Mon 29, Tues 30 and Weds 31 Jan 2024.
- The final will be held on Fri 19 Apr 2024.

What do I have to do?

Ask your teachers advice about taking part and plan what you would like to play or sing. You will need to complete the online entry form and email a copy of your music and any accompaniment (for example the piano part) to citymusicservice@stoke.gov.uk

Am I eligible to take part?

Yes, 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 to apply

Decide with your teacher what to play and discuss whether you will use a backing track, an accompanist or whether you will play/sing alone. Any of these options are acceptable. Complete the online entry form [here](#) or scan the QR code and email a clear copy of your music and any accompaniment or MP3 backing track to citymusicservice@stoke.gov.uk



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 2023/24 academic year
- Senior – Year 9 to Year 13 in the 2023/24 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 in Summer 2024
- 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

Recorder Festival 2024

Invitation to take part

The Place, Telford

Dates to be confirmed, 12:30pm

The Victoria Hall, Hanley

Wednesday 6th March, 2024. 12:30pm

Thursday 7th March, 2024. 12:30pm

The Coton Centre, Tamworth

Tuesday 19th March, 2024

Thursday 21st March, 2024



Soundpots - Early Years Music Network Meeting

Our network meetings are fun, friendly and supportive, and always full of ideas to take away and try out immediately. Why not come along and join us? Suitable for everyone working with 2 to 5 year olds, and Key Stage 1 staff too.

Thursday 19 October, 2023 via Teams, 4-5pm

- Welcome & Introductions
- News – Soundpots update – successful in securing Youth Music Funding. Feedback from staff who have already had new projects in place.
- Seasonal activities to Share – bonfire night, Autumn activities, Christmas, other seasonal activities
- AOB

Next meeting: Tues 19 March 2024

Bookings: citymusicservice@stoke.gov.uk



Partners in Creative Learning (PiCL) and the Stoke on Trent Creative Education Partnership (CEP)



Partners in Creative Learning (PiCL) and the Stoke on Trent Creative Education Partnership (CEP) have merged and have been successful in securing funding from Arts Council England, as part of their National Portfolio, for activity working with schools in the Stoke on Trent and North Staffordshire area for the next 3 years.

The three main strands of our programme are:

Creative Freedom

Creative Freedom is our new creative and cultural offer to schools in Stoke and North Staffordshire. 10 schools will join us to co-design bespoke creative activity to happen in the academic year 2023/24. They will have an opportunity to work long term with a local artist/creative practitioner who can help deliver creative activity. The programme will be flexible and designed to suit the schools needs and put creativity at the heart of the classroom. Priority was given to schools/students with significantly lower levels of cultural engagement.

Empowering Educators – CPD for Teachers

Empowering Educators is our new accessible, informed and impactful CPD programme for teachers that seeks to strengthen the quality of the arts offer across the education sector. Sessions will equip participants with sector leading knowledge and skills focused on improving and enhancing the arts provision for children and young people. Our programme will facilitate strong partnerships between arts and cultural professionals and educators, connecting leading practices directly with the classroom. Through a programme that is collaborative, moving and responsive, we will continually work with educators to identify and fill gaps in provision. The programme will consist of practical CPD sessions led by a variety of sector leading professionals, alongside networking opportunities. There will be three sub-strands of the programme including a Primary Art, Secondary Performing Arts and a Secondary Visual Art working group.

Creative Careers

Our Creative Careers programme that spotlights, advocates and cements the creative sector as a real potential future career pathway for young people. We will provide meaningful experiences that nurture the potential of young people through active, engaging encounters. The programme will facilitate strong partnerships between educational settings and leading cultural organisations, in line with the eight Gatsby Benchmarks of Good Career Guidance, to open doors for young people, empowering them to have autonomy in their future decision making. Through a programme that is exciting and collaborative, we will utilise the peer support network of a group of young people to give them the confidence to step into the unknown and explore options together.

Telford & Wrekin Music

Well done to the pupils who took to the stage at Telford Theatre to sing a few of the 'Telford Sings' songs as part of the 10 by 10 celebration event. Thanks to our TWM band for accompanying them and for playing us some well-known tunes!



Advaith attends Hollinswood Primary School, which is part of the In Harmony programme, an immersive school and community programme aimed at increasing access to, and inclusion in, musical learning. Advaith has made a lot of progress in his In Harmony instrumental lessons and orchestra sessions since he began playing clarinet in September. The orchestra team have also noticed how he has been getting involved more in the sessions. Not only does he apply his instrumental skills to the pieces he has been learning, but has also joins in increasingly with any singing and actions. When asked whether he enjoys his In Harmony music sessions,



Congratulations to Trystan for passing his Grade 1 Acoustic Guitar Exam!

He gained a Merit - an excellent result. He is the first student ever from Southall SEN school to pass a music grade exam. Thanks to his TWM guitar teacher Dan, and to the Southall staff for their support. Everyone is really proud of you Trystan, well done!

Talented Guitarist creates musical piece

Talented young guitarist Issy created this piece by learning all the parts by ear and layering them up using a multitrack recording device.

Well done Issy, it sounds great! We particularly love the guitar harmony towards the end of the piece!



Listen to Issy's musical guitar piece [here](#)

In Harmony

Jeremy Clay, Project Manager, In Harmony Telford and Stoke-on-Trent

In Harmony Telford and Stoke-on-Trent had an exciting performance week at the start of July, with end of year performances at all 4 schools. Over the course of the week families were able to watch their children perform in orchestral performances at each school, some seeing their children perform for the first time. Over 1000 children participated through instrumental and orchestral concerts as well as singing and dancing.

St Maria Goretti Catholic Academy had its first ever performance day since joining the In Harmony programme fully in September 2022. Children from Year 1 to Year 6 enjoyed performing music to their families that they had learnt during their first year of In Harmony, demonstrating their developing ensemble skills. From Nursery through to Year 6, the entire school of St Augustine's Catholic Academy came together on the school field for "A Musical Picnic". Children sang and performed in their instrumental groups and orchestras. Children from Years 2 and 3 also attended The Music Partnership's WCET concert at the County Showground in June where they performed on their instruments and sang as part of a massed ensemble with many other children from across the county.

Hollinswood Primary put 'rainy day' plans into action and enabled all children to perform in their various orchestras in a logistically challenging but musically exciting afternoon of performances. One parent commented: "Wow! Truly inspirational! So lovely to see everyone taking part and, most importantly, being part of something very special. Thank you In Harmony for making this possible." Old Park Primary School's Folk Festival finished the week complete with outdoor stage and professional ceilidh band Juniper supporting the 7 orchestras who performed. They also sang a specially composed song to say goodbye to headteacher Mandie Haywood who is retiring. Mandie has been instrumental in supporting and developing the In Harmony programme over the last 11 years.

Telford In Harmony Youth Orchestra (TIHYO) and Youth Ensemble performed a special concert for the community at St Leonard's Church in Malinslee. This 90 minute packed-out performance was the first in a series which will take place at the venue over the coming years. Students from 7 local schools currently participate in the orchestra which is free to attend for any young orchestral musician from Year 4 to Year 13 across Telford.

OFSTED have appeared a lot in the media this year for a variety of reasons. We were pleased however, with this comment from a deep dive into music at Old Park Primary School: "*Orchestra lessons are a joyful experience, where pupils develop personal resilience and collaborative skills, as well as practise playing their instruments.*" This encapsulates some of the aims of the programme and it was excellent to see this recognised.



Visit www.inharmonytelfordstoke.org for more information about the programme and how you could get involved.



MusicShare reflects on another year of exciting singing and looks forward to its 20th anniversary celebrations...

MusicShare is thrilled to be a funded partner of The Music Partnership. MusicShare is a project coordinated between Lichfield Cathedral School and Lichfield Cathedral, running a Schools Singing Programme that will be 20 years old in November.

We will be performing the brilliant community opera 'Noye's Fludde' by Benjamin Britten to kick off our celebrations and this will involve many elements of the programme including members of our choirs (Young Voices & Youth Voices) plus lots of school children singing the role of the animals.

Over the years, MusicShare, as a Chorister Outreach Programme has been supported by Sing Up via the government's initiative which saw a huge expansion of similar programmes across cathedrals working alongside the Choir Schools' Association. During that time it was compulsory to work with the local authority and I am so glad that we have managed to continue to work so closely, benefitting hugely from Arts' Council funding and enjoying the ability to be heavily involved in the singing strategy of the hub. What a year it has been with involvement in the two amazing virtual big sings coordinated by Entrust, which saw us stream live to 10,000 children for both the Christmas and the Summer events. We have run many concerts at Lichfield Cathedral, in various secondary sessions with their feeder primaries and in the Victoria Hall for a very special secondary MusicShare concert (which we will be repeating this coming academic year). We are delighted to have been commissioned to create a resource for secondary schools much along the lines of our Primary Songbook [The-Music-Partnership-Primary-Song-resource-book-1.pdf](#) (themusicpartnership.org.uk) so watch this space for that!



Online resources

Don't forget to continue to use our online resources at www.lichfieldmusicshare.org.uk with the password ShareMusic747 – there is something for everyone in terms of songs, CPD and resource suggestions and it is all free and do look at our offer for 2023-2024 – we are trialing a different method this year so read on for more information.

MusicShare offer Academic Year 2023-2024

MusicShare is a Singing Schools Programme which is a partnership between Lichfield Cathedral School & Lichfield Cathedral, with significant funding from Arts' Council England via The Music Partnership.

Our exciting singing projects for schools are now available and include:

- Five one-hour in-school rehearsals, across five weeks, from a MusicShare animateur.
- All the songs will be taught in these sessions.
- Provision of all the songs and backing tracks, in a broad range of styles.
- A concert, either in Lichfield Cathedral or at The Victoria Hall, Hanley, accompanied by the MusicShare live professional band.

For those schools with a Music Service Level Agreement (SLA) with either Entrust or City Music Service, the in-school sessions are fully funded for 1 project (schools can apply for further projects but they will be charged £500 for each further project). The only cost to schools is to organize their own transport to the final concert, to which parents are invited, free of charge. For those without a Music Service Level agreement with either Entrust or City Music, the charge for each project/concert is £500, payable to MusicShare, plus the cost of organizing their own transport to the final concert. There are limited spaces available for each project/concert so apply soon to reserve your place and to coordinate your rehearsal visits.

Lichfield Cathedral

Concert for year groups 3-6: Tues 14 & Weds 15 Nov 2023, Weds 6 March 2024, Tues 25 & Weds 26 June 2024. Concert aimed at SEND schools, of any age from year 3 to secondary, in Stafford and Stoke on Trent: Tues 5 March 2024. Each school may bring up to 50 pupils.

Format: 2.30pm Arrival and seating, 3pm Rehearsal, 4.30pm Break (bring own supper), 5.30pm Attend Choral evensong service in the Cathedral sung by the Choristers, 6pm Break – all groups will be accommodated within the Cathedral Close during this period, 7 – 8pm Concert (free attendance for parents).

The Victoria Hall, Hanley

Concert for Secondary School pupils: Thurs 7 March, 2024 (up to 50 students).

Concert for year groups 3 – 6: Thurs 20 & Fri 21 June, 2024 (up to 30 students).

Format: 3.45pm Arrival and seating, 4pm Rehearsal, 6pm Break (bring own supper), 6.45-8pm Concert (free attendance for parents).



MusicShare

A free website resource exclusively for you! **EXCLUSIVE & FREE** song and training resources for schools in Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Telford & Wrekin.

Are you looking for new songs for your school? Look no further! We have a new and ever-growing song resource, with songs ranging from Early Years to KS5 - handily divided into the relevant sections. Each song includes a teaching video with the MusicShare band, full sheet music, lyric sheets, backing and performance tracks. It encompasses a wide range of styles including some songs that match topics – all carefully written for the voices in each key stage.

Also see our free resources, exclusive to schools in this area, which includes a full set of CPD videos for non-specialists related to The Music Partnership's music curriculum document; videos about vocal health and what to expect at the different stages of vocal development.

PLUS, a full list of recommend repertoire and a whole host of links to other excellent resources to help you with your singing in school!

Visit: www.lichfieldmusicshare.org.uk

(Password for schools in The Music Partnership area is ShareMusic747!)



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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



Create with Camerata

Do you want to work with professional musicians and composers from a world-renowned orchestra? Do you want to help embed music in the curriculum and make KS2 learning fun? Do you want to have free class workshops and learn how to write a song? Do you want your class to have the opportunity to perform the song in a professional concert?

Then Manchester Camerata wants to hear from you!

Create with Camerata is BACK in Spring 2024 and we're looking for 14 primary schools (The Music Partnership/Entrust) across Stoke/Stuffs/Telford to take part. There'll be class workshops plus free teacher drop-in sessions with easy-to-use tips and ideas for your own classroom music-making. We'll be looking at the KS2 reading lists for inspiration!

Watch recent projects [here](#) and [here](#).



Register your interest...

To register your interest, please send an email titled 'CWC 2024' to info@manchestercamerata.com by Tuesday 31 October 2023, explaining why you'd like to take part and which book you'd like to bring to life using Manchester Camerata magic! Shortlisted schools will be contacted by a member of the Camerata team in November.



Awards for Young Musicians

Furthering Talent

Furthering Talent is designed to help musical young people from low-income families from the moment the first sparks of potential appear. We support their instrumental learning beyond initial state-funded lessons, so they can keep on playing music well into their teens and beyond.

The key strands for students of the Furthering Talent programme consist of:

- Individual weekly instrumental tuition.
- A termly Individual Learning Plan (ILP). The Charanga Online ILP supports young musicians who are learning an instrument by giving them ownership of what they want to achieve musically.
- An annual personal progressions bursary of £50 per student to support their ILP learning goals.
- Student Get Together events. These are collective opportunities for our young people and their families to come together, share new musical experiences, and enables family members to become more involved in their child's musical journey.
- Free Entrust Music Centre ensemble membership.
- Signposting to new musical opportunities and experiences.

The Key strands for teachers of the Furthering Talent programme consist of:

- Termly Teachers' Forums in each area for those music teachers working with Furthering Talent students. Teachers are paid to attend, and their input plays a vital part in the development of the programme.
- Support young musicians who are learning an instrument by giving them ownership of what they want to achieve musically through termly Individual Learning Plans (ILP's).

These elements, with continuing support from the Local Connector, aims to deliver high-quality support for participants, developing an excellent musical progression model.

The programme specifically targets young people from lower income families who may not be able to continue music tuition without support. For this reason, we set the following eligibility criteria:

- They demonstrate potential on their instrument and a keenness to progress.
- This current academic year we are only able to consider young musicians whose total gross family income is £32,728 or less (once £2,264 has been deducted for each dependent in the family, including the young person being funded).

AYM Student Get Together feedback:

You can read more about Furthering Talent [here](#). If you feel you have a student that meets the AYM criteria and you wish to nominate them for the AYM Furthering Talent programme, please email me: chris.stringer@entrust-ed.co.uk

“ Daisy had a wonderful time at the panto in Birmingham. Her responsible adult was her older sister, Katie, who was a previous AYM award student and is now in her final year at University of Birmingham studying music. They both really enjoyed the performance. The music was exciting and complimented the show. They had a great time and are very thankful for the opportunity. ”

– Autumn term get together 22/23

“ I was surprised to do team building activities before we started playing. I enjoyed the performance at the end. I was nervous but it made me feel proud afterwards. ”

– Spring term get together 22/23

Stafford Gotta Sing

Delighted to announce SSPA Events will be hosting Stafford Gotta Sing show on Monday 26th February, 2024 at Stafford's Gatehouse Theatre. Gotta Sing is a choir show for schools where each school is given 15 minutes on stage to perform songs of their own choice and watch others do theirs in a professional environment.

The Last few places remain. Please get in touch if you wish to have your school participate.

(Please note all other nights are currently full.) Cost is £1.80 per student which includes certificate, video and photo download of performance and a seat for Half the show. ! BARGAIN! To find out more information please email admin@sspa-events.com or call 07793891029.

We are a totally inclusive show with fantastic feedback. Check out our Facebook page for photos and feedback from our shows this year. www.facebook.com/GottaSingGottaDance

www.sspa-events.com

Please note that Stoke Gotta Sing 2024 and Cannock Gotta Sing 2024 are all full at this present time. We would also like to hear from any Lichfield Schools as we hope to establish a Lichfield Gotta Sing Show at the Garrick Theatre, Lichfield in late 2024.

Primary Music Leader's Handbook

In order to support music subject leaders in primary schools with their role Dr Liz Stafford of Music Education Solutions® wrote the Primary Music Leader's Handbook, which has received fantastic reviews since it was published in November 2021.

With sections on essential musical knowledge, whole-school music planning, curriculum design, supporting your colleagues, extra-curricular activities, and resourcing, this book provides something for everyone! Whether you are a generalist or specialist teacher, and new to or experienced in the role, this book is essential reading.

You can purchase it at all the online book retailers including Amazon at this link: <https://amzn.eu/d/gFc0IL9>





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.

Our Partners

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Awards for Young Musicians
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