



# 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 2023



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# Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year and welcome to The Music Partnership's first newsletter for 2023. A huge thank you for all the support shown by schools across our region to keep making quality music throughout 2022, much of which was showcased in superb, high-quality, events that took place before Christmas.

2023 will be a busy year, and there are many developments for Music Education on the horizon. In June 2022, the DfE and Arts Council published the new National Plan for Music Education, The Power of Music to Change Lives. The Music Partnership provided briefings and training for schools on the steps that can be made to transition to meet the aims of the new plan. Both national plans were designed to give the opportunity for all children to be able to play, sing and perform with others alongside having an excellent music curriculum offer in school.

Our advice continues to be to keep moving development for music forward in school and to please make use of our training and support visits to improve and widen the offer for your pupils. Through 2023, there will be a competitive bid process for Music Education Hubs ahead of lead organisations being in place from September 2024 for the years ahead. The DfE will be mandating the geographic regions for Music Hubs, but our intention is very much to bid as 'The Music Partnership' for this new iteration of funding. At this stage there is no guarantee that Staffordshire, Stoke and Telford will all sit together in the DfE's new 'hub-regions', but we very much hope this will be the case so we can build on our partnership work from over the past decade.

Once we have more information on structures and regions, and any potential changes, we will of course be in touch with all of our schools and families. In the interim, we continue to work together in the current format for this, and next, academic year to ensure services and partnerships are well placed to support schools into the future, regardless of how national funding is distributed. Within this newsletter you will find a link to our events and training on the website, partner updates, curriculum thinking and opportunities for your pupils.

## A few further points, which I hope are helpful:

- The new National Plan for Music Education asks all schools to create a 'Music Development Plan' (MDP). We have been supporting teachers, schools, and their leaders for many years with our Music Audit Tool and documents such as 'progression maps' and 'assessment frameworks'. We would advise using the Music Audit as a starting point for your MDP and to contact your local music service to book in a visit, if you haven't had one for some time.
- All schools with EYFS, KS1 and KS2 should have received a copy of our 'Primary Songbook'. If this hasn't come to you then you can download a digital copy by visiting the resources page of The Music Partnership's website.
- We are constantly updating our events, training and networking opportunities and try to keep everyone informed of new sessions via email. If you are a Music Lead, and would like to be kept informed, then please email your contact details to your local music service so we can keep you on the mailing list. Also keep an eye on our 'Events' page on the website as this is kept updated as things change.

Very best wishes for 2023 and please do contact us for any support with Music in school.

## John Callister

Head of Service, Entrust Music Service Staffordshire  
Email: [john.callister@entrust-ed.co.uk](mailto:john.callister@entrust-ed.co.uk)



## In this issue

- 3 Events, Workshops and CPD Opportunities
- 4 Ensembles, Recorder Festival 2023
- 5 In Harmony: Telford & Stoke-on-Trent
- 6 Awards for Young Musicians
- 7 Madula News
- 8 Art Brasil, Create with Camerata
- 9 Curriculum Music Conference
- 10 Curriculum Development
- 12 Music Share: Primary Song Book Resource
- 13 Staffordshire Young Musician 2023, FOSYM



# Events, workshops and CPD opportunities



To view all of our upcoming events please visit [www.themusicpartnership.org.uk/events](http://www.themusicpartnership.org.uk/events)



**JOIN OUR  
MAILING LIST**

Remember to join the mailing list for up to date event information [www.themusicpartnership.org.uk](http://www.themusicpartnership.org.uk)



## 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).

### 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](mailto:musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk) or visit our website [www.entrustmusic.co.uk](http://www.entrustmusic.co.uk) for details of times, or call 0333 300 1900.

### Stoke-on-Trent

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

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

Our Music Centres are all **FREE** of charge to musicians living or studying in Stoke-on-Trent. Registration To register for our Music Centre groups email [citymusicservice@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:citymusicservice@stoke.gov.uk) or call 01782 233796.

## Recorder Festivals 2023

The 2023 Recorder Festivals will feature 1,500 players from across the region.

Aims:

- ✓ To inspire and raise standards of the young recorder players.
- ✓ To develop pupils' performance skills and to give them the opportunity to perform to an audience in a prestigious venue.
- ✓ To encourage membership of recorder ensembles.

### The Place, Telford

Tuesday 28 February 2023 - 12.30pm

### The Victoria Hall, Hanley

Tuesday 21 March 2023 - 12.30pm

Wednesday 22 March 2023 - 12.30pm

For more information please email [citymusicservice@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:citymusicservice@stoke.gov.uk)



## In Harmony: Telford & Stoke on Trent

In Harmony Telford & Stoke-on-Trent celebrated its 10th Anniversary this summer with a spectacular performance at Telford International Centre.

On Wednesday 13th July, children from the four In Harmony schools gathered together to perform music they had created in the culmination of a large-scale interdisciplinary arts project. Children and staff from Hollinswood Primary School and Old Park Primary School in Telford, and St Augustine's Catholic Academy and St Maria Goretti Catholic Academy in Stoke-on-Trent formed an orchestra of over 1000 members and performed to an audience of family and friends plus thousands more online.

The creative process began with a large youth voice consultation, where every child and their families were invited to complete an online questionnaire about the music they enjoy and experience outside of school. From this questionnaire a number of fascinating themes emerged, including 'Music and Media', 'Cultural Heritage', and 'Musical Identity'.

Through a series of creative workshops led by author Joey Walters and illustrator Ning-Ning Li, the children developed a narrative and illustrations around which the performance was structured. Musicians from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire visited the schools to support the children in creating music for the orchestras to play. The compositions linked to the themes mentioned above and varied from imaginative avant-garde film-score soundtracks, to explorations of Laotian, Balkan and Scottish music, to a mashup of pop music snippets of the last 30 years.

The only opportunity to rehearse all together was on the morning of the concert. The children gathered from 9am at Telford International Centre where a team of professionals, led by producer Richard Shrewsbury, had rigged up lighting, audio-visual equipment and had set-up a livestream for parents and families who couldn't attend in person. 1000 children from Year 1 to Year 6 participated in the concert, supported by secondary age young musicians who have continued learning with In Harmony since leaving primary school. For two of these musicians, this was their final concert before leaving to study music at University.

Due to COVID in preceding years, for many of the children this was their first ever performance opportunity, and the first opportunity for parents, carers and families to watch them perform. They were joined in the audience by Arts Council England CEO Darren Henley and the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent Faisal Hussain. The response to the performance was overwhelmingly positive, with children, staff and audience members all expressing delight, amazement and pride in their musical achievements.







Back in July 2022, 26 students from Staffordshire took part in a fantastic day of music making at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

The Music Partnership are part of Awards for Young Musicians (AYM) Furthering Talent programme and the 'Summer Blast' Get Together event saw us join forces with 3 other Furthering Talent Hubs – Nottinghamshire, Sheffield and Worcestershire. The event brought together over 60 young people in one amazing setting. The day started with some fun warm ups where everybody got to know each other, played some games and got rid of a few nerves. We then split into two groups and took part in some workshops where the young people learned about the origins of Gospel music and wrote their own piece, before trying some brilliant Samba rhythms and trying out lots of new instruments.

The grand finale saw all of the young people come together to compose, rehearse and perform a big ensemble piece. The piece was written live and in partnership with the young people and was designed to be inclusive of everyone, no matter on their level of playing ability. It sounded fantastic in the RBC studio and the parents who came in to see the performance were suitably impressed. The Music Partnership are part of Awards for Young Musicians (AYM) Furthering Talent programme and the 'Summer Blast' Get Together event saw us join forces with 3 other Furthering Talent Hubs – Nottinghamshire, Sheffield and Worcestershire. The event brought together over 60 young people in one amazing setting.

It was a fantastic day all round and we want to say a huge thank you to the RBC for hosting us and organising such a brilliant schedule.



*"It was really well organised, brilliant that 3 sessions were set up and the kids got to experience 3 types of music. And such experienced leaders! I Loved the last bit when Seth asked the kids to suggest how they wanted the song to progress. I really loved that." - Parent*



# Madula News

Last August Madula ran a Summer Arts College in Telford, working with looked after children and the leaving care/participation team and achieved 26 arts Awards as well as a ABRSM qualification.

Participants had the chance to try different instruments, group music working, recorded in a professional studio, designed and released their own CD from the programme, and performed as part of a showcase event.

Find out more by watching their documentary video: <https://youtu.be/wbH-izQRKk>

**2023 will be the 10th anniversary of the programme so a bigger showcase event is planned to celebrate the success of the programme. Members of the Music Partnership are invited to get involved in any way they think they can benefit their participants.**

They are also working on a Madula showcase on 11th March 2023 at the New Vic Theatre, Newcastle Under Lyme. The project will be featuring public workshops and master classes with Johnny Kalsi (the Dhol Foundation/Afro-Celt Sound System) and Palestinian vocalist and percussionist Reem Kelani - alongside a wealth of inspiration from their team of local creative practitioners.

We also worked with the CATE team over Easter holidays in a pilot programme. We achieved 20 arts awards and produced music videos / graffiti designs with the participants. Due to the sensitive nature of this project and participants, most of the documentation has had to be kept in house with the CATE team, but David Bache has said he is happy to give further information on the project to all interested parties. Contact: [david.bache@telford.gov.uk](mailto:david.bache@telford.gov.uk)

Again they are looking for anyone else within the Partnership who would be interested in having their participants come and perform as part of this event.

## Find out more

For more information on both of these events please contact [info@madula.org.uk](mailto:info@madula.org.uk)



## First of its kind Easter Arts Programme

Telford & Wrekin delivered a first of its kind, Easter Arts Programme for young people believed to be vulnerable to Criminal Exploitation.

The programme was the hypothesis from their project manager, who felt the Youth Justice (Unitas/Stevenson) specific arts programme, would deliver the same benefits evidenced in Youth Justice programmes. Benefits include improvements in ETE, progression with locus of control/self-efficacy and improved literacy and numeracy levels.

The pilot was funded by Unitas and was delivered by long stand partner Mr Will Music/MADULA. 100% of the starting participants finished the programme with 20 arts awards achieved. The programme, delivered by Mr Will gave learners the opportunity to produce music videos and create their own graffiti designs.





## BRAZILIAN DRUMMING & DANCE Workshops for Schools with ART BRASIL



ART BRASIL is a not-for-profit arts organisation based in North Staffordshire, providing community projects and workshops in Brazilian percussion, song and dance. We are passionate about delivering high quality arts and cultural workshops which aim to develop skills, increase confidence and self-esteem, and encourage a healthy, active lifestyle.

Our school workshops provide an energetic and engaging cross-curricular experience for all year groups. We explore authentic rhythms, dances and songs from all over Brazil in our fun and accessible workshops, supporting pupils to develop musical, physical, social and team-work skills.

We offer a full day of workshops in drumming, singing and/or dance, to suit your groups and timetable.

### Find out more

For more information contact Mika  
[info@artbrasil.org.uk](mailto:info@artbrasil.org.uk)

## Create with Camerata

Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent  
and Telford & Wrekin Schools  
Music-making project for  
KS2 based on the popular  
Roald Dahl story 'Matilda'.



Manchester Camerata are pleased that we will once again be working with Entrust Music Service and schools to write new songs based on the popular Roald Dahl story 'Matilda'. Project Details:

- CPD for teachers
- Song-writing workshops facilitated by a Camerata composer and orchestral player
- Culmination concert alongside musicians from Manchester Camerata at the Prince of Wales Theatre, Cannock

The programme will take place in Spring term and is completely **FREE** to take part.

## 2023 NOW FULL!

To register for 2024 contact Sunny Stancheva at:  
[sstancheva@manchestercamerata.com](mailto:sstancheva@manchestercamerata.com)







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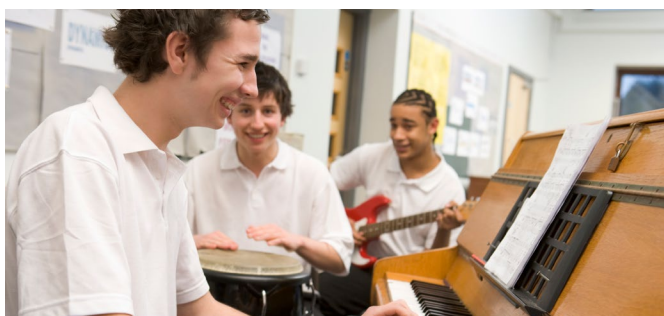


# Curriculum Development



## Key thoughts from recent DFE and OfSTED guidance:

1. Simply doing music is not enough. Musical progress is the key.
2. Activities should be purposeful in helping pupils to become more musical.
3. Less is more. The curriculum should not be a mile wide and an inch deep.
4. Don't rely solely on any single scheme or resource. Consider how your resources add value to your lessons and help your pupils to make progress.
5. Knowledge about music needs to be understood in relation to musical sound.
6. Assessment should be a constant, purposeful, and relevant guide to enable children to make progress.



## Skills and Knowledge

### Technical

- Knowledge of relevant notation: knowing the process of producing different notes
- Skill in applying that knowledge to the instrument: developing automaticity in moving between notes, playing chords etc

### Constructive

- Knowledge of elements, devices, procedures etc
- Skill in applying these to sound to create and appreciate musical compositions

### Expressive

- Knowledge the provenance of music: contexts, resources, purposes
- Skill in expressive engagement with a range of music

## And for some (perhaps) more challenging questions:

Why do we plan our curriculum by topics? If the core thread is musical progression and becoming more musical, should that be the basis of our planning, with musical styles and repertoire brought in to support this?

Is the compartmentalisation of the curriculum into "units" driven by the need to formally assess at regular intervals (tail wagging the dog)?

Should assessment lessons be a thing of the past? No one task can comprehensively assess a pupil's progress in music anyway. Isn't feedback supported by positive instruction more important to engender success than assessment when a task is completed?

Should we be encouraging pupils not to see their progress as being at a level, but sharing and celebrating their musical development week by week?

How does our co-curricular offer build on and complement the curriculum offer?

How much singing is undertaken at Key Stage 3? The voice is the natural instrument that we carry with us (you can't leave it on the bus), so should it be a normal part of the curriculum experience from day 1?



# Frequently asked questions

## What is a “music specialist”?

A music specialist is a teacher who has enough musical knowledge to:

- Teach the content of the curriculum confidently and accurately
- Model confidently to a class
- Give appropriate developmental feedback which helps pupils to become more musical

## What is meant by an “ambitious curriculum”?

An ambitious curriculum sets out a pathway that integrates the three strands of progression through activities that challenge and support pupils to progress. Plans will show identification of small steps or components of progression so that term by term and year by year, pupils increase in confidence and sophistication in their musical responses to composite tasks.

For concrete examples, look at the Model Music Curriculum. The progression maps that have been produced by The Music Partnership can also serve as a guide to what could be achieved.

## What format should my planning take?

A format that is helpful to you and to the teachers delivering the curriculum and not just put together to satisfy SLT/OfSTED.

Here are some key features of a strong plan:

- Evidence of the National Curriculum requirements being met
- Clearly set out incremental steps to support pupil progress
- Regular reinforcement to embed essential prior learning
- Ambitious end points (or goals) including markers of musical quality
- A range of repertoire across styles, genres and traditions
- Use of music technology in a way that helps musical learning

The backbone of the plan must relate to the progress that pupils should make, and not hinge around a sequence of unrelated topics with a rather thin and sometimes contorted progression thread through them.

## How should I assess musical progress?

Assessment is a teaching behaviour and formative, observational assessment practice, with constructive feedback based on musical quality is more important than formal assessment tasks which interrupt teaching.

## Should I be making recordings of every pupil’s work?

Only if they are purposeful and can be used to help pupils to progress. Mountains of recordings on the school server which are never referred to are of limited value.

## In Early Years we use photographs to demonstrate progress against the Early Learning Goals. Will these be accepted as evidence?

No. Still photographs are not helpful in a subject which is about sound.

## Do you have any guidance on recall tasks?

Ensure that all recall tasks are related to musical sound, and not merely tests of vocabulary or factual learning. Routines are important for children, but a routine of writing answers to questions in silence at the start of every music lesson may not be helping children to become more musical. A routine of having music playing on entry to the classroom and basing questions on it, or recapping a song at the start of a lesson, will.

## What is OfSTED’s preferred style or pedagogical approach?

OfSTED does not have a view on specific pedagogies but will base their judgements on the progress that pupils make.

## I have seen some OfSTED documents on social media and I am panicking about the amount of questioning I might get in a Deep Dive. Do I need to prepare answers to all of these?

Any documents outside of the OfSTED framework and the National Curriculum are only guidance whether produced by OfSTED or not. Close examination of banks of questions could lead to unnecessary stress and panic.

## I am worrying about my Deep Dive Inspection as I have just returned from extended leave. Will my circumstances be taken into account?

Deep dives are not subject inspections, they are sampling the processes and procedures that the school has in place to support children’s learning, and their implementation and impact. Across a range of subjects, these together form the basis of overall judgements about the quality of education in the school.

Headteachers should have a voice in determining which subjects are deep dived, and if a Headteacher gives good reason why a subject needs to be avoided, a lead inspector will give fair consideration to such a request.

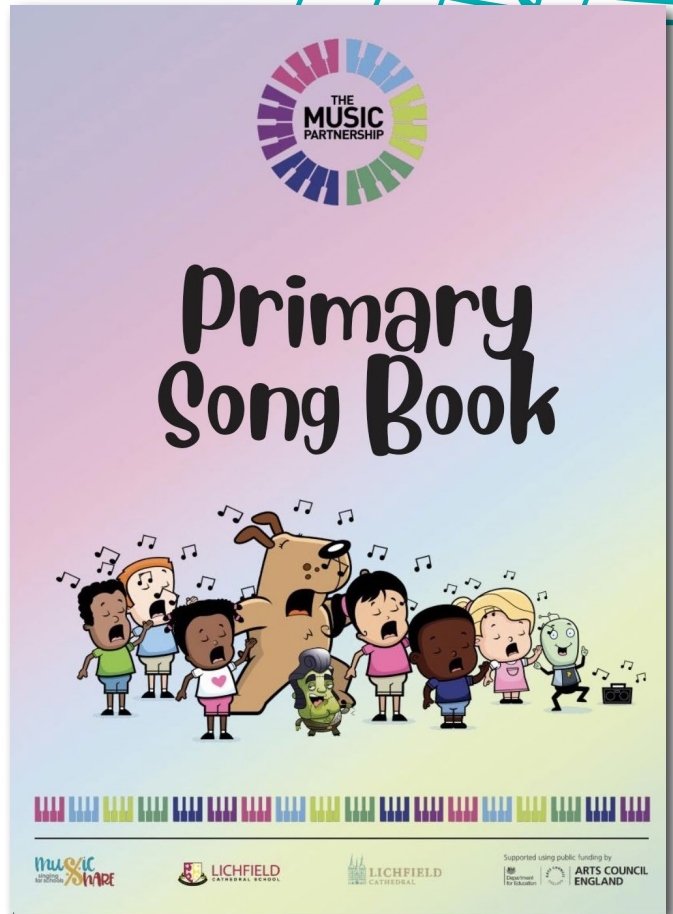
# music singing for schools

# SHARE

A Singing Schools programme led by a partnership between Lichfield Cathedral School, Lichfield Cathedral and The Music Partnership

It could not be more exciting to have managed a year back, properly, in the swing of things! It really was tough, during Covid, when singing took such a hit, to stay positive, because we all know how important singing is for our students!

However, what lockdown enabled for MusicShare, was time to develop a resource that has proved to be hugely valuable and we are particularly thrilled that this will soon result in the publication of a singing resource book, which has been funded by The Music Partnership to be sent to every primary setting within the partnership area so, please do watch this space for yours to arrive! This printed resource supports the website that we have created which has a wealth of songs, Continuing Professional Development and repertoire recommendations for Early Years right through to Secondary level. This is a free resource for all of those within The Music Partnership area and we really do hope you will take advantage of it. To access this resource visit [www.lichfieldmusicshare.org.uk](http://www.lichfieldmusicshare.org.uk) and then add the password ShareMusic747! (capitals and punctuation are crucial).



## Within the website are:

Early Years Foundation Stage, KS1, KS2, KS3/4/5 and Christmas resources - all of which include songs which have sheet music, lyric sheets, teaching videos, performance and backing tracks. CPD resources – this set of videos explains a lot of the national curriculum buzz words, with a specific link to singing.

They also include recordings of the 'Singing basics' CPD sessions led on behalf of The Music Partnership plus a set of vocal health videos which explain how the voice works and specifics relevant to different age groups – including how to preserve your voice as a teacher.

MusicShare is hugely proud to have chosen and recorded teaching resources for the repertoire to be used at the 2022 Entrust Victoria Hall and Lichfield Cathedral Christmas concerts, plus the Entrust Virtual Christmas concert.

Schools who would like to get involved in our MusicShare projects should email [musicshare@lichfieldcathedralschool.com](mailto:musicshare@lichfieldcathedralschool.com) for further information – we have regular termly projects in Stoke and Staffordshire, plus Telford Sings, which will take place in March 2023.





# Staffordshire Young Musician 2023

*Calling all musicians*

**We're now taking applications for our historic Staffordshire Young Musician 2023 competition!**



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## **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](http://www.fosym.org.uk) or contact your local music service.



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## Our Partners

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Art Brasil  
Arts Connect  
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Entrust Music Service Staffordshire  
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