



THE MUSIC PARTNERSHIP

Newsletter - Summer 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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Awards for Young Musicians

We're delighted to announce that we will be continuing our partnership with Awards for Young Musicians (AYM) as an Ambassador Hub as part of their new Furthering Talent Connect programme.



The Music Partnership

The Music Partnership gives students the chance to perform with world-class musicians, orchestras and ensembles.

MusicShare turns 20!

MusicShare celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and continues to develop and evolve.

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.

Perspectives on Assessment

Secondary Curriculum Consultant Graham Rutland offers insight into the challenging topic of musical assessment.

Supported using public funding by



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Inspiring Futures

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

The weeks ahead will be packed with concerts, events, and opportunities for pupils to perform together and celebrate their music learning from this year. It is also the time when most schools design and confirm their provision for the 2023-24 academic year, and I know that colleagues across The Music Partnership are ready to assist with programme design and targeting support for young people.

The Spring Term was certainly one to celebrate. A hugely successful Telford Sings at The Place Theatre in Oakengates, packed Recorder Festivals at the Victoria Hall in Hanley and the Place Theatre, impressive Songbirds concerts and a wonderful end to the Matilda 'Create' project with Manchester Camerata at the Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock. The Stoke-on-Trent Young Musician competition was again a huge success, and we congratulate the winners and all participants for their involvement. The finals for Staffordshire Young Musician 2023 will take place in July at the Riverway Centre. We were also delighted to receive news that funding for In Harmony Telford & Stoke-on-Trent will continue at the same level until August 2024, that we have been successful in applying to Youth Music to continue our Soundpots programme in EYFS and that the outcomes from our SEND project with Youth Music were well received. More details to follow on all of those strands.

In January, TMP published an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion strategy which you can find in full in the footer of our website. Its aim is to ensure Musical Inclusion is a reality for all young people and an Inclusion Action Group has been formed to move forward on our priority areas. There are some simple ways that you can help support this work:

- Please help our partners to find and work with those children in schools that may benefit from music education the most but may also be likely to miss out due to circumstance.
- Share information to support education (e.g. SEND details) with visiting practitioners so they can adapt their lessons accordingly and achieve the best outcomes.
- Always get in touch with your local music service if you are unsure how to support a child's musical needs.

In March we hosted a session on Assessment in Music led by Chris Stevens, lead HMI for Music at Ofsted. Chris was hugely helpful, knowledgeable, and generous with his time in responding to questions from music leaders and teachers. If you haven't seen the presentation, or follow up training, then please get in touch with your local music service so we can send you the content.

Network session invites

We have a growing music network across the region which we hope is a collaborative space to help improve music education and support teachers. Please look out for network session invites via email, visit our [events calendar](#) or join the mailing list through the website.

In the last edition, I mentioned the impending bid process for national music funding and the ongoing consultation period for the DfE's new Music Hub regions for September 2024 onwards.

You may have seen that details were published on March 10th about these geographic regions, and we are delighted that the proposal reflects the progress and tremendous hard work of the past decade by keeping Staffordshire, Stoke and Telford together as the intended region. We responded to the consultation to confirm that the proposed region is workable but also highlighting that we remain open to working with others if it would be helpful to do so. Music Services and partners will provide further details as we receive them.

To close I would like to highlight a few things for the term ahead:

- On the last Friday of the Summer term, July 21st at 11 am, we will be running a Summer Live Stream concert available for all schools to join and take part in. Music and teaching materials will be provided and there is no charge to take part, please save the date!
- The DfE has asked all school to have a Music Development Plan in place by September 2023. If you haven't thought about this so far then please contact your local music service for support. Audit documents and templates will be provided to assist along with the recording from our recent training session.
- If any Staffordshire schools haven't yet completed the survey about Music Groups, then please could you take 2 minutes to help us review the offer across the county. <https://forms.office.com/e/AJhsp1CdZq>

We hope all schools find something helpful within this newsletter but if you feel a more bespoke approach is needed for your setting and pupils then please don't hesitate to get in contact.



Best wishes for Summer!

John Callister

Head of Service

Entrust Music Service Staffordshire
on behalf of TMP

Email: john.callister@entrust-ed.co.uk



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

telford&wrekin
MUSIC

Events, workshops and CPD opportunities

To view all of our upcoming
events please visit:

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



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

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

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.



Awards for Young Musicians

We're delighted to announce that we will be continuing our partnership with Awards for Young Musicians (AYM) as an Ambassador Hub as part of their new Furthering Talent Connect programme. Building on over 10 years of work together, we will continue identifying talented young musicians from low-income families for funded one to one lessons, as well as wider music making and progression opportunities.

In addition, The Music Partnership are now able to offer even more support for families and young people looking for musical opportunities and information in our area, via a new Connector. Our Connector is called Chris Stringer and he has been leading the Furthering Talent programme for 5 years. In the new programme model, he will be able to support even more young people and families, beyond just those on the Furthering Talent programme.

Too often parents and young musicians struggle to find the information, advice and guidance they need. Some stumble across this information by accident while others sadly don't, missing the support they need for their musical development.

Chris is here to take away the hit-and-miss nature of finding information, advice, and guidance for young musicians. He has extensive knowledge of our local musical landscape and the national picture too, and he's here to connect young musicians with opportunities. These might range from music groups to funding.

Get in touch

Chris is here to support families and young musicians. If you're unsure about where to go next or need some information or advice, feel free to get in touch via chris.stringer@entrust-ed.co.uk and he'll get back to you as soon as he can.





It has been a privilege to be at the helm of the programme for nearly 16 years and to oversee its evolution. It has been particularly brilliant to work so closely with The Music Partnership and to receive the funding from the Arts' Council via The Music Partnership, which has enabled such growth...

New songs

We have been working hard on new songs to be added to our website [here](#). Do visit it and take advantage of this free resource – the password for access to the resources section is ShareMusic747!

Included in the CPD section are lots of useful videos, including recordings of the live, online Singing Basics' sessions we have been delivering on behalf of The Music Partnership.

music
singing
for schools / SHARE

MusicShare is 20 years old!

MusicShare started as something called a Chorister Outreach Programme. Lichfield was the third cathedral to create such a programme, adopting a similar model that had started at Truro Cathedral, soon becoming one of many such projects funded by Sing Up.

The initial project was essentially to take choristers out to three local schools per term and then to work with them for a final concert in the Cathedral. It seems crazy to think how different the project now is, particularly as we do not see it as outreach in the same way because it is a two-way-street, with our choristers learning just as much from the programme as the other way round. MusicShare is now almost unrecognisable because we work with around 150 schools per year, we visit schools much more regularly, we run 4 choirs based in Lichfield (0-5 Mini Voices, 6-11 Young Voices, 12-18 Youth Voices and 18+ Ladies who Lark), we work with SEND schools, pupil referral units as well as mainstream schools covering all ages.

This term alone has seen us work with 18 schools (16 of whom attended the final concerts) in Telford culminating in two large-scale concerts at Telford Theatre for 'Telford Sings', plus the special experience of working with a group of refugees from Afghanistan who also joined in with one of the final concerts. In Stoke we delivered a transition project at Birches Head Academy with students from the academy plus three primary schools, we also worked with three Stoke secondaries which led to a wonderful concert at the Victoria Hall, which also included a secondary from Staffordshire.

In Staffordshire we worked with three SEND schools plus one school from Stoke culminating in a concert in Lichfield Cathedral, plus three further Staffordshire primary schools for another concert in Lichfield Cathedral. We also had the pleasure of a Royal visit to the Cathedral from the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, and students from Rocklands and Queen's Croft Schools, Lichfield sang wonderfully alongside Young Singing Leaders from the Cathedral School. By the time this newsletter comes out we will have delivered further projects plus a Big 'Sing for the King' in Lichfield Cathedral.

Celebration event - watch this space!

We are planning a full celebrations for the 20th Year in November so watch this space. If you are interested in getting involved in our projects then please contact c.lamb@lichfieldcathedralschool.com

Perspectives on Assessment

by Graham Rudland, Secondary Curriculum Consultant

Assessment has always been a challenging topic and we have been very fortunate to have received some clear thinking from OfSTED recently on the subject.

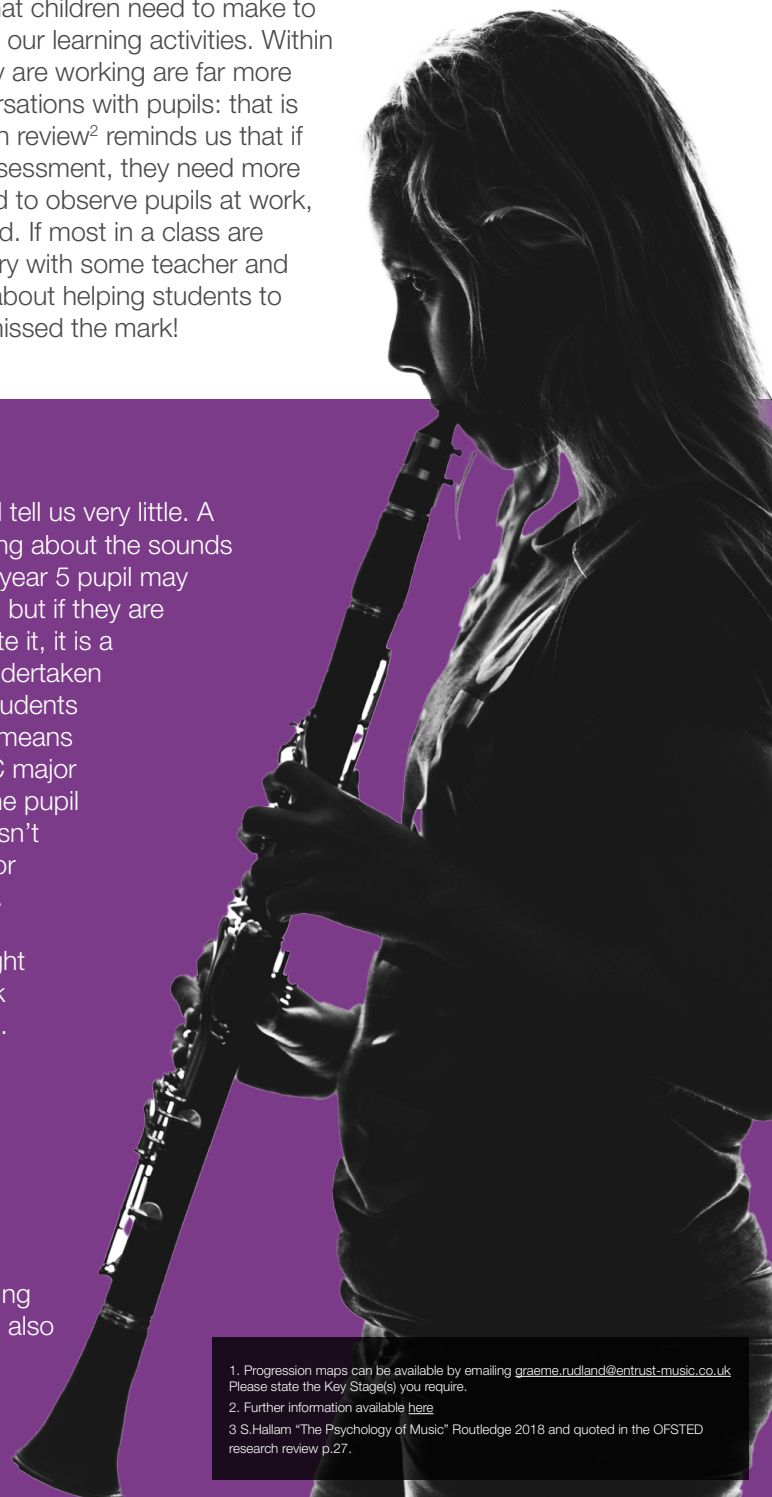
The key is that assessment is a teaching behaviour, not a bolt on activity. If we have planned carefully what pupils need to learn to become more musical, then assessment is straightforward and will take place as part of the teaching process.

Our planning should set out the musical progress that we want pupils to make. The Music Partnership has developed exemplar progression maps for each Key Stage¹. When planning for progression, we need to be ambitious but nevertheless realistic and understanding of the needs of our pupils in our setting. Our plans should inform the small steps that children need to make to become more musical, and they should then be used to inform our learning activities. Within classroom practice, verbal conversations with pupils whilst they are working are far more useful than summative tests. We need not record verbal conversations with pupils: that is time consuming and unnecessary. The OFSTED music research review² reminds us that if pupils are struggling with a task, they don't need formalised assessment, they need more instruction. Our verbal conversations can provide that. We need to observe pupils at work, providing specific feedback and giving instruction where needed. If most in a class are struggling, then either we reshape the task or lead a mini plenary with some teacher and peer modelling perhaps to support pupils to move on. It is all about helping students to make progress, not about proving that they have or have not missed the mark!

Evidence

We need to think carefully about evidence. Some evidence will tell us very little. A photograph of a 4 year old holding a tambourine tells us nothing about the sounds they have explored on it, or whether they can hold a pulse. A year 5 pupil may be able to write a simple rhythm where every bar adds up to 4 but if they are unable to play it, or understand what it sounds like as they write it, it is a musically meaningless exercise. Written tests of vocabulary undertaken at the start of a Year 7 lesson tell us nothing about what the students understand in sound. A Year 8 pupil once told me that minor means sad. I asked for a minor chord to be played and was played C major very quietly at the bottom of the keyboard. In a written test, the pupil might have gained a mark for saying minor is sad (although it isn't always in reality!), but without any concept of its construction or how it is identified in sound, that piece of knowledge is limited. Recordings of pupils' performances and compositions can be helpful in supporting self-evaluation or if carefully selected, might be useful to model to others. Recordings of every pupil's work kept on the school server is not necessary if it has no purpose.

Summative assessment can be useful in checking that the curriculum is working, although informal observation in class can also do that. We must steer away from regularly stopping learning and 'doing' an assessment lesson to fill a box on a spreadsheet with a number or a percentage. That is not good practice. If our learning intentions are clearly articulated then over a period of time, we will be able to draw up qualitative degrees of success against them such as 'exceptional', 'working beyond', 'achieving', or 'working towards'. However we need also to remember "...that there are no universal features of music that allow assessment of attainment in the domain as a whole..."³(Hallam 2018). Therefore produce one overall score which attempts to show 'progress in music' is bound to be flawed.



1. Progression maps can be available by emailing graeme.rudland@entrust-music.co.uk
Please state the Key Stage(s) you require.
2. Further information available [here](#)
3 S.Hallam "The Psychology of Music" Routledge 2018 and quoted in the OFSTED research review p.27.

Music Education Solutions

Music Education Solutions is running two certificate programmes for primary and secondary music teachers during the Summer Term.

The Primary Music Leadership Certificate and Secondary Music Leadership Certificate are designed for music subject leads to help them develop in their leadership role. They are delivered through three half day Zoom sessions, with supporting online materials, and tasks to carry out in school, culminating in a short assignment.

Find out more

Further information and booking can be found at:
<https://musiceducationsolutions.co.uk/ourcourses/>



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.

Find out more

We offer a full day of workshops in drumming, singing and/or dance, to suit your groups and timetable. For more information contact Mika at info@artbrasil.org.uk

The Music Partnership Recorder Festival

This year we celebrated 25 years since Recorder Festivals began in Stoke-on-Trent. Since that first Festival back in 1998 the event has grown considerably!

This year the Festival was made up of three performances; 28 February at The Place, Telford and 21, 22 March at the Victoria Hall, Hanley. This was the biggest Festival ever featuring 1750 young people from 48 schools across Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent and Telford and Wrekin taking part.

To celebrate the milestone professional recorder player, Anna Davies, returned as a guest performer and played on her Elody – an electric recorder. She first played in the Recorder Festival at the age of five and has been involved ever since.

Anna, now 28 said:

“ The Recorder Festival is the most special concert that I take part in as it’s what got me going in my playing from such a young age and has given me so many incredible experiences, which led me to becoming the guest soloist at the Recorder Festival myself. One of my most memorable moments was performing a duet with Piers Adams, a British recorder player, when I was much younger and being so honoured that he’d allowed me to do that and for the Music Service to give me that opportunity and playing alongside my mum on the piano. This year I will be playing a more classical selection as well as a medley of pieces from ‘Matilda the Musical’ and ‘Don’t Stop Me Now’ by Queen on the Elody. This will give children the opportunity to recognise some pieces that I’m playing and allow them to sing along. ”



Anna Davies

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Festival this year. It was fantastic to hear so many recorder players performing together.

Just as Anna was inspired by Piers Adams we hope that the pupils who took part will be inspired to continue their musical journey and to continue learning to play the recorder. Maybe one day one of the pupils who were there this week will be our future guest soloist!



Find out more

City Music Service runs the City Youth Recorder Ensemble during term time on Tuesdays 5.45-7.15pm at the Bridge Centre, Birches Head.

Sessions are **FREE** to attend. To find out more email: citymusicservice@stoke.gov.uk



Create with Camerata

Create with Camerata presented 'Matilda' on March 27th at The Prince of Wales Theatre in Cannock.

Fifteen schools worked with composer Andy Smith and violinist Sarah Whittingham to write their own musical version of Roald Dahl's book Matilda. During the performance the participants also performed alongside Hannah McCabe on clarinet, Sarah Nixon on bassoon and Andrea Vogler on percussion. Joe England also narrated the story.



Soundpots Early Years Music

Soundpots is a programme of creative music-making for young children aged 0-5 years.

Through a mixture of adult and child-led activities, our skilled Early Years Music Practitioners nurture children's musical skills and understanding of rhythm, pulse, pitch, listening and playing together. These musical sessions provide many opportunities for interaction, creative play, listening and focusing attention, awareness of rhythm and rhyme and developing self-confidence – all vital in supporting communication and language development.

Support and training is also given to Music staff, Early Years Practitioners and parents/carers to develop their skill set and confidence in sharing songs, rhymes and musical play with their children, using a range of engaging activities and resources. The programme has received funding from both Youth Music and Arts Council England. During the most recent programme funded by Youth Music the Project involved Early Years settings and music organisations from Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent and Telford & Wrekin working together to promote and develop music provision and practice.

Over the course of the programme a range of sessions took place for children and families in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent including:

- Delivery in **20** settings
- Taster sessions in **30** settings across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent
- Sessions for families in **16** Library settings across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent
- Early Years Music Sessions with Teen Parents in Stoke-on-Trent
- **53** films for families and settings to access during lockdown on our [YouTube Channel](#)



Over the course of the programme a range of CPD sessions for EY practitioners, teachers and music leaders was delivered including:

- **9** Early Years Music Network meetings including recorded CPD
- **1** online Early Years Music Conference June 2021
- **1** face to face Early Years Music Conference October 2022
- A series of mentoring sessions with Early Years Practitioners from **4** settings
- Training and support with **30** settings where Music Leaders worked alongside Early Years Practitioners during taster sessions
- Training and support with Library Practitioners where sessions for families took place
- Training for Emerging Music Leaders from the Music Hub and wider West Midlands Music Partnership
- CPD for Music Leaders including attendance at National and Regional Conferences, Early Years Events and Sharing Sessions
- A series of bespoke training and support packages with **20** settings where Music Leaders worked alongside Early Years Practitioners during the 10 weeks of delivery

How well did we do?

In terms of project reach:

- **5,684 children** aged 0-5 years worked with over the course of the programme
- **2,139 children** aged 0-5 years worked with as core participants
- **264 group sessions** for participants
- **604 staff** who received training as part of the programme

Read our report

Read our Early Years Provision evaluation report in full [here](#).

Find out more

To find out more about Soundpots please contact: citymusicservice@stoke.gov.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.

Our Partners

Art Brasil
Arts Connect
Awards for Young Musicians
Charanga
City Music Service Stoke-on-Trent
Entrust Music Service Staffordshire

Friends of Staffordshire's Young Musicians
Friends of Stoke-on-Trent City Music Service
In Harmony Telford & Stoke-on-Trent
Lichfield Cathedral Music Share
Madula
Make Some Noise

Manchester Camerata
Music Mark
Music Education Solutions
Music for Youth
My Inter Theatre Company
Normans Instruments
Sing Up

SSPA Events
Stoke-on-Trent Festivals
Telford & Wrekin Music
The Hallé Orchestra
Association of British Choral Directors
The National Youth Orchestra
West Midlands Music