



THE MUSIC PARTNERSHIP

Newsletter - Spring 2024

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Striking the Right Note

An Ofsted report providing guidance and challenge for senior leaders and music leaders in Primary and Secondary schools.



Telford Young Musician 2024

A competition to celebrate the borough's top instrumentalists, singers and music creators.



MusicShare turns 20!

What better way to celebrate MusicShare's 20th anniversary than performing the marvellous opera/cantata 'Noye's Fludde' by Benjamin Britten.

Sparkyard

Sparkyard is a new subscription platform for primary schools. Find out how your school can benefit from its fun, educational resources.

Madula

In April 2024 we are bringing Adam Luwandaga from Uganda to the UK. Adam is the founder and current head teacher at the MAMA Music School in Kampala.

Piano Masterclass

In partnership with Stoke-on-Trent Classics we are pleased to be able to offer free tickets to a special Piano Masterclass featuring pianist Martin James Bartlett.

Supported using public funding by



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ENGLAND



entrust
Inspiring Futures

Welcome to the spring term 2024 edition of The Music Partnership's newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

I hope 2024 has started smoothly and you managed to get a good break following a busy festive period. Across the events and activities organised by partners within The Music Partnership, more than 20,000 children performed with us through December, and we know many thousands more were involved in local performances, nativities, or celebrations for parents. Quality performance opportunities are an essential part of a good Music Education and I want to thank everyone who took time in December, at what is the busiest time of year, to get pupils involved and making music together. We are really grateful for your support and dedication.

2024 is set to be an important year for Music Education. Music Hubs will find out the outcome from their funding applications, which were submitted in September last year. Our application is for The Music Partnership to support all schools across Shropshire, Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent and Telford & Wrekin and we are delighted to have the support of our four local music services and around forty additional shared partners. We anticipate receiving news on the outcome of our application in the Summer Term and, for now, continue to support schools in our current region with their musical development.

In September I mentioned our local priorities for improving music education and it is worth reiterating these now at the start of the new year:

1 Please help us to improve **Musical Inclusion** across our region. Visiting teachers' and practitioners 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. Many partners have funding to support pupils but need your help in identifying the need.

2 The Music Partnership has a ten-point **Progression Strategy** designed to help children make musical progress. 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 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 your pupils? Are all children able to access lessons or just those who can afford to?

3 **Music Development Plans** above. The DfE have asked all schools to have a Music Development Plan (MDP) in place from 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.

4 **Curriculum, Lessons, Everything Else!** Please look at page eighteen in the National Plan for Music Education. 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 **CPD, Training and Events.** Please book onto our sessions for school music leads and teachers, 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.

Lastly, please look out for our fortnightly email with a reminder of the upcoming CPD, initiatives and opportunities for music across the region. Emails are sent from each local music service to all school office accounts, and directly to those teachers' who are signed up to receive these messages. Please contact your local service if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

Best wishes for 2024 and, as always, please don't hesitate to get in contact for any help with Music in school.



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



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

telford&wrekin
MUSIC

To view all of our upcoming events please visit:

www.themusicpartnership.org.uk/events

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.



Contact us to find out more www.themusicpartnership.com



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)
- Subsidised Sparkyard Subscription
- 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).

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.

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

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.





Striking the Right Note

by Graeme Rudland, Secondary Curriculum Consultant

This Ofsted report¹, published in September, provides guidance and challenge for senior leaders and music leaders in Primary and Secondary schools. It brings together findings from fifty one-day visits to schools during the last academic year. The visits were undertaken by subject specialist inspectors and school participation was on a voluntary basis.

The report acknowledges the effectiveness of Early Years teaching in preparing children for learning music in Key Stage 1. It also highlights the strength of singing in primary schools. However it identifies weaknesses in the teaching of composition across all key stages and the fact that singing is generally not built upon in the secondary curriculum. Timetabled provision in primary schools visited was in most cases adequate, however in secondary schools timetabled time appears to be shrinking and in almost half of the schools visited, pupils are not adequately prepared for further study as a result. A major weakness in the music curriculum identified in the report is the fact that progress is often seen as increasing the breadth of experience rather than the development of musical expertise. The frequent organisation of the curriculum into units with each unit exploring a different musical style or genre can lead to a lack of musical progress across time. Whilst the report acknowledges that progress within the unit may be evident, progress from one unit to the next is often less carefully planned.

Amongst the recommendations it is suggested that clear end points should be identified within the planning in order to establish a line of progression through the curriculum as a whole. The OfSTED music research review², published over two years ago suggests that progression should be thought of within three pillars: technical, constructive, and expressive. The curriculum should therefore incrementally build knowledge and skill within these three pillars so that pupils become more musical in their journey through school. Ongoing instructional feedback in lessons is far more effective than formal assessments to enable pupils to progress. The report suggests that this, alongside effective teacher modelling is key to high quality music teaching. In order to provide this, teachers should have a clear understanding of what effective music making should sound like. Assessment activities which involve recall of facts not associated with musical sound are of little use.

The report highlights the lack of professional development opportunities for some music teachers. The possession of a music qualification does not automatically enable a teacher to effectively deliver the full music curriculum. Furthermore many music teachers work in isolation and/or are supervised by leaders who do not have understanding of what an effective music curriculum is. The report therefore suggests that schools should enlist the support of outside organisations in order to provide the necessary development for teachers. Music hubs in particular fulfil this function. The report highlights the wide disparity of the range and quality of extracurricular activities. It recognises that some schools are still struggling to re-establish their offer following COVID. It is also noted that access to instrumental tuition is not always available to those who cannot afford it and this often results from pressures on school budgets. Indeed in about half of the Primary Schools visited, instrumental tuition is not available at all.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/subject-report-series-music/striking-the-right-note-the-music-subject-report>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-music>

The report raises many challenges for leaders and teachers of music in schools. Below are some questions for further consideration:

Questions for senior leaders:

- Has sufficient curriculum time been allocated to music to provide pupils with regular and sustained opportunities to practice their skills?
- Is teacher workload manageable in the light of the expectation to provide a range of extra-curricular activity?
- Do music practitioners have sufficient opportunity for CPD, especially if they are in single person departments (Secondary) or less confident with the subject content (Primary)?
- Do disadvantaged pupils have equal opportunity to learn a musical instrument: is PP funding available for them?
- Do you monitor and analyse engagement of different groups of pupils in extra-curricular musical activities and act on your analysis?
- Do whole school policies support or hinder the development of pupils as musicians?

Questions for music leaders:

- Is your curriculum plan built on enabling pupils to become more musical rather than on encounters with a range of music?
- Does your planning identify the small steps necessary to achieve more complex outcomes?
- Have you identified specific end points at different stages in pupils' musical journeys?
- Do assessment processes support rather than halt the process of musical learning – is regular “in the moment” feedback instructive enough to secure improvement?
- When playing instruments how strongly do you focus on the development of technique? How high are your expectations in this respect?
- Do tasks enable all pupils (including those with SEND) to achieve musical and satisfying outcomes?
- Do you teach children how to compose and do composing activities focus on specific compositional techniques?
- When using IT does learning focus on manipulation of the software at the expense of learning the techniques used to produce musical compositions?
- Do pupils have the interpersonal skills and motivation to achieve group tasks independently without supervision –are tasks and monitoring processes carefully planned to generate sustained collaborative effort and generate rapid progress?





The Music Partnership and Out of the Ark Music work in partnership to offer subsidised subscriptions to Sparkyard. All Primary Schools in Staffordshire, Telford and Wrekin, and Stoke can save 30% by contacting their Music Hub and requesting a discount code. Out of the Ark have just introduced new 45-minute Cup Of Tea & CPD online workshop sessions to help you get the most out of this award-winning* resource. We have three amazing workshops to choose from:

A Sparkyard Tour

This is perfect if you want to find out a bit more about Sparkyard and what it has to offer, or if you already have a subscription and want to learn some new tips and tricks! This workshop will cover:

- How to teach songs in the classroom with Sparkyard
- How to share songs with pupils at home
- Ways to explore and find songs and resources for every purpose
- How to personalize Sparkyard for your own needs
- An introduction to the Sparkyard Music Curriculum

Sparkyard Music Curriculum – A Whistlestop Tour

This session will provide an overview of our flexible, skills-based curriculum with Out of the Ark songs at its heart. It is perfect for giving you a taste of our curriculum activities from Reception to Year 6. This workshop is suitable for everyone, from trainee teachers to experienced music coordinators or school leaders. This workshop will cover:

- The National Curriculum coverage and how the Sparkyard Music Curriculum enables high-quality music-making whilst covering every aspect of National Curriculum delivery
- Our brand-new Reception Music Curriculum
- Sparkyard Music Curriculum and the bigger picture

Everyday Is A Sparkyard Day

This workshop is packed full of songs and ideas to see you through an entire school day! This session will help you create a bank of songs and musical activities to signpost key moments from the very start to the end of the day. This workshop is suitable for all staff working in a school setting. This workshop will cover:

- How to use Sparkyard as a powerful tool for effective behaviour management
- How to use songs and music to build classroom routines and develop a positive classroom environment

If you would like to find out more about these workshops, or book on to one, please visit:

www.sparkyard.com/workshops

*Outstanding Music Education Resource, Music and Drama Education Awards 2023.

Primary Music Leadership Certificate



This programme comprises three half-day training sessions across one term. These will be supported with access to online learning materials, and challenges, ideas and activities to try out in the classroom, culminating in a short assignment. On completion of the assignment participants will be awarded with the Music Education Solutions® Primary Music Leadership Certificate.



Dr Liz Stafford
Course Leader

Liz has 25 years' experience as a primary music teacher working in school and music service settings. She is a director of Music Education Solutions®, Editor of Primary Music Magazine and Author of The Primary Music Leader's Handbook (HarperCollins).

This programme is ideal for subject leads for music working in primary schools, whatever their level of experience and whether or not they consider themselves music 'specialists'!

- 22nd January 2024: Leading Music in Your School
- 19th February 2024: Planning & Assessing Music in Your School
- 18th March 2024: Delivering Music in Your School



Cost: £100 per person (includes TMP-sponsored discount). To book your place email musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk

Music Sessions

For Early Years Settings in Telford and Wrekin

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.



Settings can access a set of 5 music sessions free of charge. Contact telford.music@telford.gov.uk to book your sessions.



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough



Calling all musicians...

TELFORD YOUNG MUSICIAN 2024

A competition to celebrate the borough's top young instrumentalists, singers and music creators.

Free of charge to enter

Video entries for Round 1

Live final: 8 and 10 March 2024

To enter you must:

- Live in the borough of Telford and Wrekin
- Be **18 or under** on 31 August 2024

Categories:

- Junior/Intermediate/Senior **Singer**
- Junior/Intermediate/Senior **Instrumentalist**
- **Band** or Group
- Composer/**Creator**

Deadline for video submission:

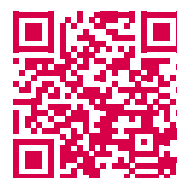
15 January 2024

t: 01952 380981

w: www.telfordandwrekinmusic.co.uk



Scan
QR code
to enter



All information will be sent once we receive your entry application.

Complimentary Tickets for the 2024 Recorder Festival

Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

The Music Partnership are delighted to offer local pupils complimentary tickets to watch the 2024 Recorder Festival at the Victoria Hall. This will take place on Tuesday 5 March and Wednesday 6 March at The Victoria Hall in Hanley with performances both at 12.30pm.

This year there will be a limited number of complimentary tickets available so please reply to Helen.Booth@stoke.gov.uk by Friday 2 February stating:

- how many tickets you require
- how many children and how many accompanying staff
- for which concert (Tuesday or Wednesday lunchtime)
- contact email address for lead staff member

Please note that transport is not provided.

Schools do not need to reserve any tickets for pupils taking part in the Recorder Festival. Tickets for parents and friends of pupils taking part in the Festival will be available to purchase directly from the Victoria Hall. Flyers will be distributed to all children taking part shortly. There will also be two complimentary tickets for Headteachers/Governors of the schools taking part, again information regarding these will follow by email.



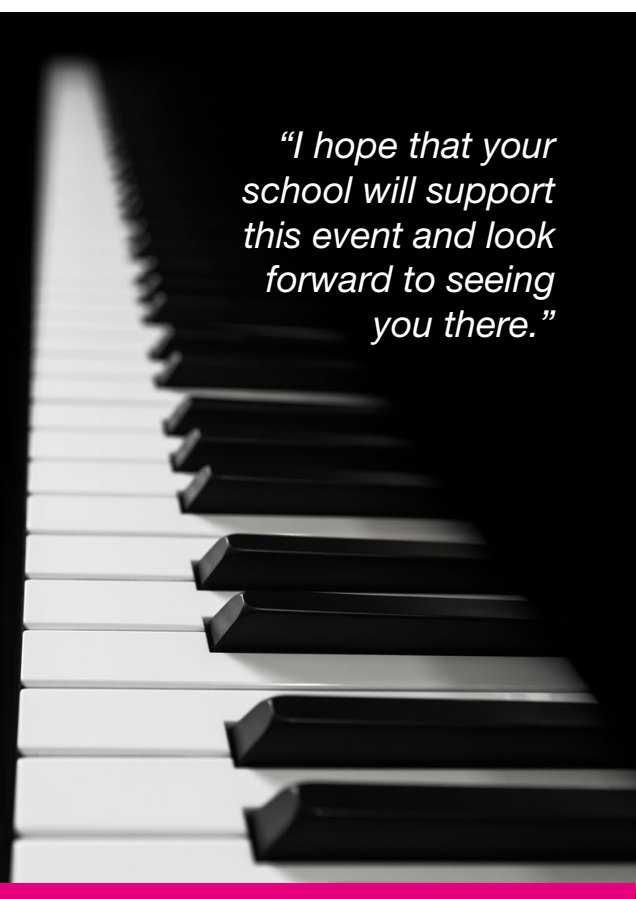
Piano Masterclass

Featuring pianist Martin James Bartlett

In partnership with Stoke-on-Trent Classics we are pleased to be able to offer free tickets to a special Piano Masterclass featuring pianist Martin James Bartlett. During the masterclass Martin will be working with three local piano students.

The masterclass will take place on Friday 10 May 2024 10.30-12.00 at Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre. Schools would need to provide their own transport to and from the venue and arrive to take seats no later than 10.15 am

Martin is an English classical pianist who has twice reached the keyboard finals of the BBC Young Musician of the Year contest, winning the competition in 2014. He possesses a fearless technique and plays with a maturity and elegance beyond his years. Audiences adore his style, witty personality and stage presentation and continually call for his return to the Rep Theatre.



"I hope that your school will support this event and look forward to seeing you there."

Awards for Young Musicians



Clowning Around

On a cold frosty November morning, sixteen AYM students met for their Autumn Term Student Get Together at Entrust HQ to work with Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, composing music based on the movement and actions of clowns. Let me enlighten you on the tomfoolery and clowning around that took place, if you suffer from Coulrophobia, look away now!

Students began the workshop watching a vintage video excerpt of Little Tich and his Big Foot Dance from circa 1900. This demonstrated what is now well established, exaggerated clown movements which lead to a discussion around the movement of clowns. Students worked in small groups to explore several other possible humorous clown movements, ranging from walking into walls to drunk walks to dramatic and elongated falls to the floor. These clown movements were then developed into short musical ideas which represented each movement. After a quick break, students listened to the second movement of Igor Stravinsky's Three Pieces for String Quartet. This movement was inspired by the music hall performer and clown Little Tich, Stravinsky saying he was "inspired by the jerky movement, the ups and downs, the rhythm, even the mood or joke of the music was suggested by the art of this great clown". Thinking about the shape and character of their own created movements, students explored the musical ideas they had already created and developed them further. Once refined and rehearsed, students looked at how to plan and structure their musical gestures into a music score. These scores took the form of standard notation as well as graphic notation. This written representation allowed other students to perform and interpret the original musical ideas and gave students the chance to develop their music writing skills, exploring new ways to notate music.

Once everyone had created their own short piece, students formed three larger groups to compose an ensemble piece together. Sharing their ideas and working collaboratively enabled the ensembles to develop an expanded and complex music score. Towards the end of the workshop, students were able to show off their musical prowess by sharing their work with other AYM students, parents, and carers. The AYM Student Get Togethers aim to introduce students to new genres, new musical experiences, to ignite a desire to explore new learning further, and to inspire their own musical playing on their chosen instrument. What a way to spend the day clowning around!

We would like to introduce you to James Curgenven

Entrust Music Service, as part of The Music Partnership would like to introduce you to our newest member of the Awards for Young Musicians team in his role as Mentor, James Curgenven. James is very much here to support all our AYM students in their musical journey by offering advice, help and guidance. As you will see from James's introduction, he has a vast breadth of experience across a range of musical disciplines.

The mentoring sessions are an opportunity to discuss your musical journey, ask questions and seek advice as well as having a knowledgeable musician to chat to.

We think that having the opportunity to just chat with someone who is only one or two steps ahead of you can be very inspirational and aspirational. I would encourage everyone to grasp the opportunity to chat to James in a mentoring session to support and guide you on your music making journey.

James Curgenven is a Yorkshire based musician and woodwind specialist. James completed his master's degree at the University of Hull where he focused on improvised performance. The idea of improvisation communicating information from the improviser to the listeners is something that James is incredibly passionate about. This is something that is central to his professional life as a musician.

These ideas of communication through improvisation were employed by James during his previous engagements with AYM in Hull and Leicester. Allowing young musicians to embrace improvisation, rather than hide from it, has allowed them to express themselves in ways they couldn't before. In turn allowing them to develop their own creative practice and relate improvisation to the musical things that they do more regularly. This is central to the way that James mentors and teaches, showing musicians all the possible tools at their disposal. Therefore, allowing them to take more agency in their musical development and give them as many options and routes for them to follow as possible.

James is a member of the bands Karmic Script, Equilibrium, and the award-winning Wisteria Quartet, and New York Brass Band, gigging both across the country and abroad. James is also a woodwind teacher at the University of Hull, Musica Kirklees and Bradford Music and Arts Service where he enjoys watching his pupils develop at a wide range of abilities and ages.



James Curgenven



Madula



In April 2024 we are bringing Adam Luwandaga from Uganda to the UK. Adam is the founder and current head teacher at the MAMA Music School in Kampala.

Adam will be a headline performer at the MADULA “joined by a drum” showcase at the New Vic Theatre on 29th April 2024. We have access to the Theatre on 20th April and 27th April in the afternoons to run CPD opportunities for any tutors or members of the Music Partnership who wish to learn Ugandan drumming, dancing and vocals to incorporate into their work. Interested parties can email us directly at info@madula.org.uk and we’d really like to hear from you.

We are also developing online resources (including notation, and adapting to your own instruments and settings) which will be accessible to all music partnership members.

The resource is still in development, but you can see examples of Adam’s work here:

- [How to play the Bakisimba rhythm](#)
- [Showing the Bakisimba rhythm as an ensemble](#)

Adam will also be available for school workshops and cultural visits during his time here, so if anyone is interested in bringing him to your project please email us on info@madula.org.uk

How you can support the Mama Music school

We’ve been developing links between our project at the the Mama Music school and have established a [GoFundMe page](#) to help them with basics such as food and running costs. If anyone would like to contribute, we would all appreciate it.

We have also put together an “artist interview” with Adam that pupils can use for their Arts Awards (typically Explore and Bronze level) where they examine an existing artist. This interview includes questions asked by pupils from the UK (so is tailored towards the kind of questions that they would ask) you can find his Q&A [here](#)

MusicShare 20 Years Celebration

by Cathy Lamb, Director of MusicShare

What better way to celebrate MusicShare's 20th anniversary than performing the marvellous opera/cantata 'Noye's Fludde' by Benjamin Britten on the 110th anniversary of his birth, arguably one of our greatest British composers?

The opera is a large-scale community work – mainly involving children as animals and orchestra – alongside the two main leads. We were delighted to host, across the two evenings, schools including Chadsmead Primary Academy, Lichfield; Highfields Primary Academy, Burntwood; Lichfield Cathedral School, Queen Elizabeth's Gramma School, Ashbourne; Queen's Croft High School, Lichfield; Rocklands School, Lichfield; St Michael's CE Primary School, Lichfield; Stonydelph Primary School, Tamworth and Willows Primary School, Lichfield.

MusicShare began in 2003. Each term, three schools were involved, with nearly 200 children singing at each concert. In September 2007, the government launched its National Singing Campaign Sing Up, which worked on getting singing back into the heart of every child in the nation. Cathedral Chorister Outreach projects from across the country were drawn into this campaign and Lichfield was thrilled to gain government grants in 2007, 2008 and 2009 to broaden the scope of the MusicShare project.



Sadly, Sing Up drew to a close, but we were so passionate about the project that we kept it going and were thrilled when we became a partner, and later a major funded partner, of The MusicPartnership.

As part of MusicShare, we set up Lichfield Cathedral Young Voices which has now flourished into five choirs: Mini Voices for 0-5 year olds, Young Voices for 6-11 year olds, Youth Voices for 12-18 year olds, Ladies who Lark for those aged 18+, and Ukrainian Voices for anybody! If you would like to find out more, or wish to join these choirs, get in touch via musicsharechoirs@lichfieldcathedralschool.com.

Over the years we have had a particularly good relationship with many of our local schools who were involved in our production as animals alongside members of Lichfield Cathedral Young Voices. The instrumentalists came from various walks of life: the professional players were mostly Lichfield Cathedral School or Entrust peripatetic teachers, with amateurs from Lichfield Cathedral School's orchestra and ensembles.

continued >



The recorder players drew on people who have links with the Cathedral (MusicShare volunteers, Chamber Choir members, and former members of Ladies who Lark) augmented by players from the South Staffordshire Branch of the Society of Recorder Players and members of the Lichfield and Stafford U3A recorder players; the Society group is run by recorder soloist, Alyson Lewin, who also teaches at Lichfield Cathedral School. The percussionists comprised several young players all co-ordinated by Geoffrey Mason (a member of the Chamber Choir).

The handbell ringers were from the Alton Handbell Ringers who were previously involved in a Lichfield Festival production of this work, and were both brilliant and very lovely, so we asked them back! The young soloists were all members of the Lichfield Cathedral Young or Youth Voices and our adult soloists were Ailsa Cochrane, singing teacher to the boy choristers, and Fran Ambrose who is a Lay Vicar in the Cathedral Choir.

Jenny Mason delivered the Voice of God, which was only fitting as she has been the backbone of support for MusicShare for many years in many different guises. And of course, we had our Cathedral musicians including Martyn and Ben who were playing keyboard instruments. The way that so many people pulled together for the performances was typical of the teamwork that has been the great joy of MusicShare over the years, not least due to an amazing team of voluntary support, to whom I want to pay particular homage.

"It is strange to think that I have been at the helm of this project for over 16 years and I am so proud of what it has become as we work with around 150 schools per year of all settings and particularly proud of the strong partnership with The Music Partnership. We work with people aged from 0-99 and make music from all different cultures, styles and genres. Music is transformative for our society educationally, mentally and spiritually - I hope MusicShare will see at least another 20 years and perhaps successive governments will invest more in something that has the power to change us all for the better!"



View the photos

Please enjoy the amazing photographs of our event taken by Performing Arts Media on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).





Samba Drumming

artbrasil.org.uk 

Workshops for Schools with ART BRASIL

ART BRASIL is a non-profit arts organisation based in North Staffordshire. We are passionate about delivering high quality arts and cultural workshops in Brazilian Percussion, Song and Dance in the community and education.

Our school workshops provide an energetic and engaging cross-curricular experience for all year groups. We explore musical styles from all over Brazil in our fun and accessible workshops, supporting pupils to develop musical, physical and social skills. We offer half and full school days to suit, as well as twilight CPD/Team Building workshops for staff.

For more information email info@artbrasil.org.uk



**EXPLORE IDEAS
HAVE FUN**

**FEEL SAFE
MAKE FRIENDS**

"I was heading further and further into a pit of despair and self-loathing. The Hive provides hope, it provides aspiration, it provides determination ... I have the ability to be great at something and finally have a future"



INTERESTED? WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Get in touch for a chat, or to come and have a look round. Access by referral.

PROJECTS@HIVEONLINE.ORG.UK

THE HIVE

The Hive, 5 Belmont, Shrewsbury SY1 1TE
01743 234970 hiveonline.org.uk/mycollege

 **COMMUNITY
FUND**

Live Gigs | Band Practice
Free Rehearsal Space | Radio
Local Festivals | Songwriting
Sound Engineering | Podcasting
Marketing | Performing | Media
A Career in Music | Lighting
A Career in Events | Workshops
Interviews | Running a Festival
Music Programming
Industry Experience
Grassroots Music
Graphic Design
Volunteering



If anything in the list above has got your attention and you're **aged 13-25**, **scan this QR code** to register your interest.

We'll get in touch in early 2024 when our brand new **Amplify** project is up and running!





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
A Major Music
Charanga
Chuckle Productions
City Music Service Stoke-on-Trent

Entrust Music Service Staffordshire
Friends of Staffordshire's Young Musicians
Friends of Stoke-on-Trent City Music Service
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Sing Up

SSPA Events
Stoke-on-Trent Festivals
Symphonia Verbum Orchestra
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Association of British Choral Directors
The National Youth Orchestra
West Midlands Music