



THE MUSIC PARTNERSHIP

Newsletter - Summer 2025

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

City of Stoke-on-Trent Symphony Orchestra

The City of Stoke-on-Trent Symphony Orchestra brought a series of free performances to Stoke-on-Trent.



FOSYM - Charity 2024-25

FOSYM funds any young person living in, or at school in Staffordshire, whose family needs that extra financial support.



Moreton Hall - Music Outreach & Partnerships

22 students from Moreton Prep Choir joined over 100 other choristers from local school choirs to take part in a Choral Experience Day.

Oswestry Music Festival

Over 1,100 young people from 45 different schools took part in Oswestry Town Council's Youth Music Festival.

Shropshire Music Service

Children in Shropshire are benefiting from free music lessons thanks to a new scheme – 'Take it Up!' – funded by Shropshire Music Trust and delivered by Shropshire Music Service.

Pizza and Jam

Pupils who have been learning their instrument on the Musical Opportunities Pilot scheme in Stoke-on-Trent came together for a 'Pizza and Jam' evening.

Supported using public funding by



Welcome to the Summer Term 2025 edition of The Music Partnership's newsletter

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter and I hope you are looking forward to the Summer term, which will no doubt fly past with all the events and activities that are planned!

Following the success of our [Primary Songbook](#), authored just after the pandemic, MusicShare have developed and launched a [Secondary Songbook](#), which will be sent to all secondary schools this term. Huge thanks to Cathy Lamb and MusicShare for their work on this resource. Both songbooks continue to be available via the website and we hope you can make good use of these resources with your pupils.

Across the partnership we have events this term taking place at the Victoria Hall in Stoke-on-Trent, for the celebration of 100 years since Stoke-on-Trent was granted city status by His Majesty King George V and visits from the Hallé Orchestra with KS2 and KS3 concerts. Shropshire will be singing in schools around the county and hosting WCIT celebrations in Theatre Severn. WCET celebrations and Young Musician will be taking place in Telford and there is a WCET Showcase at Symphony Hall in Birmingham for Staffordshire schools, followed by Staffordshire Young Musician in July. The year will finish with our Summer Virtual Sing-Along on the 17th of July which all schools can attend free of charge.

This is to name but a few of the partnership's upcoming events. Please find further details within this copy or find the latest events and activities online here: [Events - The Music Partnership](#).

In these introductions, I always try to give an update on the national landscape and, once again, this is a particularly interesting time. Music Hubs have recently been through restructuring, with the DfE defining the geographic regions for the 43 hubs across England. We are approaching the end of our first year working as an expanded region and hope that schools are getting used to hearing messages about 'The Music Partnership' across our four local authorities.

Last month, you may have seen that the interim [Curriculum and Assessment Review](#) was published. Alongside this, the DfE also made a press statement which you can read here: [Young people to benefit from creative education boost - GOV.UK](#). It contains details about a new "National Centre for Arts and Music" which is expected to be established in September 2026. Music Hubs are also referenced throughout the press release, confirming they remain a core part of the national strategy for music. We're obviously very pleased to hear this although there are no specific details yet for 2025-26, we expect to receive these later this term.

What we do know is that Music Hubs are to remain on the national landscape for the future, and hubs will need to continue to work closely with schools to have a real impact on provision for pupils.

So, what should busy school and music leaders do to improve music? Here are a few hopefully helpful thoughts:

- Please make sure the school music lead is signed up to our mailing list, to receive our fortnightly updates with event details and opportunities. You can sign up via the footer on our website.
- Book a session to talk to your local music service about your music curriculum, your instrumental / vocal offer, the events you can take part in, and the support you may need with equipment and resources e.g. inclusive and adapted instruments. This support is free of charge.
- Please make use of the resources available on our website from Audit Tools and Youth Voice toolkits to Progression Maps and approaches for Music and SEND. These resources are all free to use.
- Please talk to us about individual pupils. Schools are best placed to identify need, or to be approached by parents or carers for support. If you have a child that needs help with their music-making, then please contact your local music service.

Have a fantastic Summer Term and please get in touch at any time to request support for music in school.

Best wishes,



John Callister

Head of Service

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

Events, workshops and CPD opportunities

To view all of our upcoming events please
visit: www.themusicpartnership.org.uk/events

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 Shropshire, 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.org.uk



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 Shropshire, 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: Shropshire Music Service, 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
- Subsidised Charanga licenses (online music resource to support teaching and learning)
- Subsidised Sparkyard Subscription
- Funded lessons for Children in Care (CiC) via partnership with local Virtual Schools
- Bursary support for individual families (upon application) please [contact us](#) for more information
- Bursary support for children from low income families with identified musical talent - Young Sounds Connect - youngsounds.org.uk

Concerts and events:

- A huge range of local events throughout the year:
- Annual Recorder Festival
- MusicShare Concerts
- 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 and Groups

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 click [here](#). Alternatively, please email us on musicservice@entrust-ed.co.uk 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 - Choir
- Tuesday - Strings and Recorders
- Wednesday - Wind and Brass
- Thursday - Rock and Pop / Contemporary

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.

Shropshire

Our ensemble provision runs every week at various locations across the county: Shrewsbury, Wem, Ludlow, Cleobury and Mortimer. Our Riffs rock and pop ensemble runs on the first Saturday of every month at our centre in Shrewsbury. Our beginners group, Stompers is suitable for instrumentalists who can confidently play three or more notes. All ages are welcome and all our ensembles are completely free of charge!

Stompers

Beginner ensembles open to all instruments: participants need to play three notes confidently.

- Shrewsbury Stompers: Monday: 4.30-5.30pm, Music Centre SY3 ONU
- Ludlow Stompers Tuesday: 4-5pm, SY8 1TP
- Cleobury Mortimer Stompers: Tuesday: 4.15-5.15pm, DY14 8PE
- Wem Stompers Wednesday: 4.45-5.45pm, SY4 5UB

- Youth Orchestra: Monday 6-7.30pm, Music Centre SY3 ONU (Grade 3+)
- World Folk Ensemble: Wednesday, 6-7.30pm, Music Centre SY3 ONU (Grade 3+)
- Riffs – Rock and Pop: First Saturday of every month, 10am-1pm, Music Centre SY3 ONU

Registration

Find out more and sign-up visit shropshiremusicservice.org.uk/ensembles or call 01743 874145.

Telford & Wrekin

Rock / Pop

Our Rock Clubs run weekly during term time at a number of our secondary schools . They are free and open to all.

- Charlton School - Tuesdays 4-6pm
- Telford Park School – Tuesdays 4-6pm
- Ercall wood school (NEW) – Wednesdays 3:15-4:15

Our Orchestral Ensembles are as follows:

Telford In Harmony Youth Orchestra

Thursdays, 3.30-5.30pm, Old Park Primary School, Malinslee

Telford In Harmony Youth Orchestra (TIHYO) is open to any young musician from Years 4-13 who plays a standard orchestral instrument. The orchestra plays a range of different musical styles and genres in a supportive and friendly environment and is free of charge.

Telford In Harmony Youth Ensemble

Thursdays, 5.30pm – 6.30pm, Old Park Primary School, Malinslee

In Harmony Youth Ensemble runs on a Thursday evening in Telford from 5.30 - 6.30pm and is for anyone from Years 6 – 13 playing at Grade 2 standard or above on a standard orchestral instrument. Youth Ensemble members need to be able to read music to a reasonable level. TIHYE is free of charge.

Registration

For more information on any of the above contact us at Telford.music@telford.gov.uk or phone 01952 380981.

City Music Service

Soundpots Early Years Music Network

Come and join us for the next Early Years network meeting taking place either at The Bridge Centre in Birches Head or online via Teams on Wednesday 21 May at 4pm. The session is aimed at colleagues working in Early Years settings as well as those leading Music. Attendance is **free** of charge. To reserve your place please email citymusicservice@stoke.gov.uk



The Big Sing and The Big Play SOT100

The year 2025 marks 100 years since Stoke-on-Trent was granted city status by His Majesty King George V in 1925. Stoke-on-Trent first obtained city status on 5 June 1925, following a direct approach to King George V, to recognise the city's considerable contributions to the pottery industry.

City Music Service will be organising the following music events for schools at The Victoria Hall in Hanley as part of the Centenary Celebrations.



The Big Sing SOT100

4 and 10 June, KS1 10:00 -11:15, KS2: 13:00-14:15

The Big Play SOT100

11 June, KS2 13:15-14:30, Ensembles: 19:15-20:15

We are delighted that thousands of children from Stoke-on-Trent are signed up to take part and that we will be working in partnership with Royal Birmingham Conservatoire's LEAP ensemble for The Big Play event.

Stoke-on-Trent Young Musician of the Year 2025 ★

Back in January pupils took part in the preliminary rounds of the Stoke-on-Trent Young Musician. They all performed brilliantly but only six Junior and six Senior entrants could progress through to the final. The final took place on Friday 28 March and the adjudicators had the difficult job of choosing just one winner from each age group.



Winner ★

The Junior Stoke-on-Trent Young Musician of the Year 2025 is Henry Amison, St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy (Trombone).



Winner ★

The Senior Stoke-on-Trent Young Musician of the Year 2025 is Lewis Roberts, City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form (Guitar).



The Music Partnership Recorder Festival

This year thousands of young recorder players took to the stage again as part of the 2025 Recorder Festival. Six performances took place across the region in Telford, Stoke-on-Trent and Tamworth. Well done to everyone who took part this year!

Congratulations to the 1,500 recorder players who took part in the 2025 Recorder Festival at the Victoria Hall on 18 and 19 March. The children performed brilliantly representing 45 schools from the local area.

The concerts were the first in a series of music events for schools during 2025 as part of the Centenary Celebrations to mark 100 years since Stoke-on-Trent was granted City status. The finale featured guest soloist Anna Davies performing Sandstorm on the 'elody' electric recorder alongside hundreds of recorder players in a Recorder Rave that bought the house down!

Telford Recorder Festivals took place at The Anstice in Madeley, on 12-14 February. 400 children took part in total, They all worked incredibly hard and played really well - a credit to your schools!

On 1st and 3rd April two incredible days of The Music Partnership Recorder Festival took place at the Coton Centre, Tamworth. Nine primary schools from Staffordshire, showcased their talents with traditional recorder repertoire and even a modern twist with "Derude Sandstorm".

Big thanks to all school staff, and to our wonderful TWM team, Miss Andrews, Mrs Perry, Miss Smith and Mrs Blakemore, who ran the festival for the first time this year...



Telford - The Anstice, Madeley



The Music Partnership - Coton Centre, Tamworth



Victoria Hall, Stoke-on-Trent



School staff/TWM team

Children in Care

At Entrust Music Service Staffordshire we are now providing weekly individual or small group instrumental lessons for 84 Children in Care through our partnership with the Staffordshire Virtual School, an increase of 50 pupils since the same time last year. In addition, this year we have held three weekend workshops for all Children in Care across the partnership in Lichfield, Newcastle-Under-Lyme and Cannock.

We are committed to supporting our staff members regularly working with Children in Care. The Virtual School kindly and warmly welcomed us into their training programme for Attachment and Trauma Awareness this year, which many staff members have completed. In the next academic year, we are committed to:

- Continuing our strong working partnership with the Virtual School
- Enabling every Child in Care in Staffordshire to learn to play an instrument
- Providing musical enrichment events for all Children in Care
- Welcoming Children in Care into our ensembles and to our special events
- Continuing to train and support our staff members working with Children in Care
- Exploring opportunities with our wider partners to support the musical journeys of Care Leavers, Children Previously Looked After and those under Special Guardianship Orders





Pizza and Jam Spring Get Together in Stoke-on-Trent

In March we held our first Young Sounds UK Get Together at The Bridge Centre, Birches Head. Pupils who have been learning their instrument on the Musical Opportunities Pilot scheme in Stoke-on-Trent joined together with members of our contemporary music group 'Soundwave' and their instrumental teachers for an evening of 'Pizza and Jam'.



This interactive workshop led by City Music Service teacher, Luke Twyford began with a fabulous performance by Soundwave and then everyone else joined in to create an improvised piece based on Blue Monday by New Order. This was followed by an inspirational demonstration of some electronic instruments, a fun music quiz and finally pizza! A good time was had by all, and we are looking forward to our next Get Together in the Summer.

"I liked learning the piece and hearing all of the sounds....and enjoyed meeting different people with different talents."

- Participant quote

Students Explore Folk Music at Spring Get Together

On 1st March, Young Sounds students gathered at Entrust HQ in Stafford for our Spring Term Student Get Together. The focus of this workshop was to introduce students to the rich and diverse world of folk music, giving them the opportunity to explore the many forms of English folk traditions and try their hand at playing folk music on their own instruments.

Leading the session was the renowned performer and folk music educator from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Joe Broughton, who was brilliantly supported by the innovative percussionist Tom Chapman on the Cajon. Students began by playing simple folk motifs on their instruments, and under Joe and Tom's expert guidance, these motifs were gradually combined to create sustained musical passages. As the workshop progressed, students were introduced to Jigs, Reels, and Hornpipes — each with its own distinct style and rhythm, adding variety and depth to their understanding of English folk music. Tom also shared a fascinating history of the Cajon (which, fun fact, originates from the land of Paddington Bear!) and demonstrated the wide range of sounds and playing styles the instrument offers.



With a handful of extended folk motifs under their belts, students worked collaboratively to structure, interpret, and ultimately compose their own original folk piece. The workshop culminated in an exciting world premiere performance of their new folk composition for an appreciative audience of parents and carers. We hope this inspiring experience has sparked a deeper interest in folk music, encouraging students to continue exploring the genre with the support of their instrumental teachers.

Chris Stringer, Staffordshire Young Sounds Connector

Young Sounds UK is a charity providing musical opportunities for young people, especially from disadvantaged backgrounds. They offer workshops, education, and mentorship to inspire the next generation of musicians.

A Connector links young people and families with local musical opportunities and provides information to support their musical development. If you would like to be signposted to musical opportunities near you, please contact:

chris.stringer@entrust-ed.co.uk



Telford & Wrekin Telford sings

Singing is really good for human beings. It releases chemicals in the brain that increase happiness and confidence. It encourages breath control and good posture, along with a host of other mental and physical benefits.

Each year Telford & Wrekin Music, in partnership with Music Share, hosts 'Telford Sings' a large scale singing event for young people from across the borough. Children rehearse a set of songs in school, and come together to perform them with a live band in front of a packed audience.

We are uniquely placed to put on an event like this. Being part of the council, part funded by DfE through the The Music Partnership means we are able to ensure the event is as inclusive as possible. None of the 600+ children that attend over the three days have had to pay to do so. Primary, Secondary and Special schools from across our geographical area were represented.

The children worked incredibly hard during the final rehearsal and performance. All three nights sounded amazing! Hopefully this experience will be one of those things that children will remember about their time in school and it will encourage children to sing as part of every day. And of course, the more people sing the healthier the borough, in the long term.

Find out more

For more information about Telford Sings, other musical experiences for children and the range of services we provide, please contact telford.music@telford.gov.uk A member of our team will be happy to talk through your requirements.





FRIENDS OF STAFFORDSHIRE'S YOUNG MUSICIANS (FOSYM) Charity 2024-25



FOSYM continues to enable children and young people to participate in musical activities which help them to experience the joy of making music and can inspire their future.

What we fund

Currently FOSYM supports pupils up to the age of 19 by:

- providing financial help for individuals to learn an instrument, sing or take part in activities such as attending a concert
- paying for instrumental and singing exam music and exam entry costs
- providing part funding for quality instruments for pupils working at higher levels
- providing additional income for music projects in schools
- funding special events in Staffordshire such as Battle of the Bands, the Young Musicians Competitions and Music Courses
- working with local Music Centres
- having a presence at events to raise awareness of the work we do and providing fundraising opportunities.

What does FOSYM fund?

FOSYM funds any young person living in, or at school in Staffordshire, whose family needs that extra financial support. FOSYM is currently supporting well over 100 individual pupils to have instrumental or singing lessons in schools. FOSYM can provide up to 50% of the annual cost of the lessons and in certain cases this can be nearer 100%.

FOSYM also supports hundreds more pupils in schools, competitions, events and Centres. Developing musical skills may take several years and we are committed to pupils learning as they progress.

Families, teachers and schools can approach FOSYM to ask for financial support.

“Just wanted to thank you all for the support given to Chloe. It made a big difference in helping her get through this. Both her, and us as parents, really appreciate your help. It's fantastic that she was able to achieve a distinction at grade 8. Special thanks to FOSYM for the financial support.”

“Thank you so much, we are thrilled by the award. Drew is very excited and we truly appreciate the help from the FOSYM trustees.”



How to apply

There is a simple application form. Contact info@FOSYM.org or see the website at www.FOSYM.org for more details.

Shropshire Music Service

To find out more about who we are and what we do, visit
www.shropshiremusicservice.org.uk or call us on 01743 874145.

SMS

SHROPSHIRE MUSIC SERVICE
Teaching Music - Changing Lives



A New Partnership for Shropshire Music Service

Children in Shropshire are benefiting from free music lessons thanks to a new scheme – ‘Take it Up!’ – funded by Shropshire Music Trust and delivered by Shropshire Music Service.

Six children in years 4-6 have taken up instruments at Greenacres Primary School in Shrewsbury - with lessons funded by the Trust and instruments provided free of charge by Shropshire Music Service. They are being taught by peripatetic music teacher Benjamin Thomas. Shropshire Music Trust has committed to fund one full academic year in the outset, with plans to roll out the pilot programme to one further school in 2025. The programme is designed to support children to start tuition on a range of orchestral instruments.



Caroline Nowotarski, Education lead for Shropshire Music Trust, said:

“The trust has funded group rate tuition which is usually a great start to lifelong music making. The schools chose children who they thought would benefit holistically. Woodwind and brass were identified as the instrumental groups in most need of support. We are also exploring options for funding and developing the scheme beyond this initial pilot.”

Dr Sarah Browne, Head of Service at Shropshire Music Service, said she is delighted to be collaborating with Shropshire Music Trust:

“Every child should have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument and make music. One of the barriers that prevent them from doing so is cost: Shropshire Music Service seeks to break down these barriers wherever possible and with the assistance of Shropshire Music Trust, we’ve been able to do that.”



The children are all said to be enjoying their lessons so far and teacher reports suggest they are making good progress - the tuition will be a springboard into the Music Service’s groups, which are offered **free of charge** including rock and pop groups, ‘riffs’, orchestras of all standards and a world folk ensemble.

Forthcoming events | Shropshire Music Service

The summer term is always a busy time of year for Shropshire Music Service but our performance diary for the final term of the year is busier than usual with our ensembles scheduled to perform at a range of county events.

The summer term is always a busy time of year for Shropshire Music Service but our performance diary for the final term of the year is busier than usual with our ensembles scheduled to perform at a range of county events.

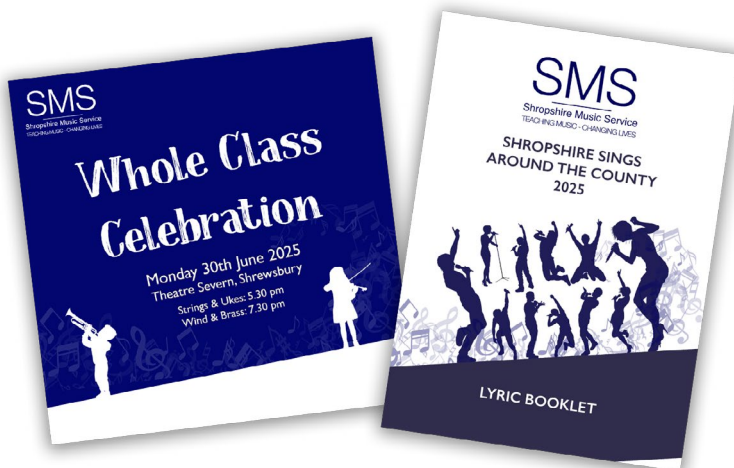
Following their [successful appearance](#) at our Winter Concerts (see image on right) on Saturday 17th May, all our ensembles will appear in our Spring concert at Baptist Church, Crowmoor.

Whole Class Celebration Event

Later in June, join us for our Whole Class Celebration event at Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury. Featuring two massed orchestras, the first of strings and ukulele, the second of brass and woodwind, and accompanied by a live band, schools from around the county join together to celebrate their progress in whole class lessons. Limited spaces are still available so be sure to [register your interest here](#). Tickets can be [purchased directly from Theatre Severn's box office](#).

Quarry Bandstand Event

Following a busy June of music making with all our schools in Shropshire, we end the year on the Quarry Bandstand in Shrewsbury on 5th July. All our senior ensembles will be performing alongside Shropshire Stage and Screen Orchestra, featuring repertoire from some of your favourite films and musicals.



June events

Throughout June, Shropshire Music Service are hosting a number of events to celebrate the brilliant music being made in Shropshire Schools. We kick-start a busy month with Shropshire Sings Around the County. If your school hasn't yet signed up, there are still a few spaces left for some of the dates below:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| • Tuesday 3rd June: | The Marches, Oswestry SOLD OUT |
| • Wednesday 4th June: | The Grove, Market Drayton SOLD OUT |
| • Tuesday 10th June: | Shrewsbury Baptist Church SOLD OUT |
| • Wednesday 11th June: | The Endowed School, Bridgnorth LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE |
| • Thursday 12th June: | Moreton Hall, Oswestry LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE |

Secure your school's place by clicking [here](#).

MusicShare Invitation

Academic Year 2025-2026

MusicShare is a Singing Schools Programme delivered through the partnership between Lichfield Cathedral School & Lichfield Cathedral, with significant DFE funding currently distributed by the Arts' Council England via The Music Partnership.

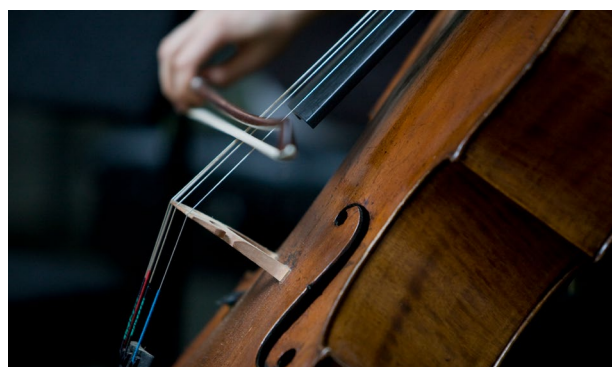
Our exciting singing projects for schools are fully funded for 2025-26, (apart from transport to the final concert, which schools need to arrange and pay for themselves) and are now available to book.

Projects include the following:

- Four one-hour in-school rehearsals leading up to the concert (usually within the same term as the concert) delivered by a MusicShare animateur. All the songs will be taught in these sessions.
- Provision of all the songs and backing tracks, in a broad range of styles.
- A concert in Lichfield Cathedral accompanied by the MusicShare live professional band.

There are limited spaces available for each project/concert so apply soon to reserve your place and to co-ordinate your rehearsal visits.

To reserve a place for your school please complete this form <https://forms.office.com/e/6UtP9BfHzb> by 1st July 2025



Concert Dates at Lichfield Cathedral

- **Tuesday 4th November 2025**
Concert for year groups 3 to 6
- **Wednesday 5th November 2025**
Concert aimed at Secondary schools, of any age from Year 7, in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent
- **Wednesday 11th March 2026**
Concert aimed at SEND schools, of any age from Year 3 to secondary, in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent
- **Thursday 12th March 2026**
Concert for year groups 3 to 6
- **Tuesday 16th June 2026**
Concert for year groups 3 to 6
- **Wednesday 17th June 2026**
Concert for year groups 3 to 6

Agenda

2.30pm: Arrival and seating
3.00pm: Rehearsal
4.30pm: Break (bring own nut free supper),
5.30pm: Attend Choral Evensong service in the Cathedral sung by the Choristers
6.00pm: Break – all groups will be accommodated within the Cathedral Close during this period
7.00pm: Concert.

Please note, there is no parking in the Cathedral Close, except a small number of blue badge spaces, details of parking in the centre of Lichfield can be found [here](#)





MusicShare

A free website resource exclusively for you!

EXCLUSIVE AND FREE song and training resources for schools in Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent, Telford & Wrekin (funded by Arts Council England, via The Music Partnership).

Are you looking for new songs for your school? Look no further! We have a new and ever-growing song resource, with songs ranging from Early Years to KS5 - handily divided into the relevant sections. Each song includes a teaching video with the MusicShare band, full sheet music, lyric sheets, backing and performance tracks.

It encompasses a wide range of styles including some songs that match topics – all carefully written for the voices in each key stage.



**FREE
RESOURCES**
Exclusive to Schools

Also see our free resources, exclusive to schools in this area, which includes a full set of CPD videos for non-specialists related to The Music Partnership's music curriculum document; videos about vocal health and what to expect at the different stages of vocal development. PLUS, a full list of recommend repertoire and a whole host of links to other excellent resources to help you with your singing in school! Visit: www.lichfieldmusicshare.org.uk (password for schools in The Music Partnership area is ShareMusic747!)

Music Education Solutions

Tune Up your Teaching with Music Education Solutions®

This academic year, Music Education Solutions is offering a varied programme of CPD webinars and certificates that will help to develop your teaching and subject leadership skills.

Webinars

Whether you're looking for help with creating a music development plan, wanting to understand how to develop core musical skills across a primary school, or looking for subject leadership training, we have an option that will suit you! To find out more about our webinars and subject leadership certificates visit:

www.musiceducationsolutions.co.uk/ourwebinars/

Online, self-guided courses

For those teachers who find it difficult to get release time to attend CPD, Music Education Solutions also offers a programme of online self-guided courses that you can complete in your own time. Each course includes a range of video, audio, and text-based resources, and interactive elements. You can find a course to suit you here:

<https://musiceducationsolutions.co.uk/ourcourses/>



Level 4 Certificate for Music Educators

If, on the other hand, you're ready to really lean in to your professional development this year, perhaps you might consider registering for the Level 4 Certificate for Music Educators.

This flexible, online distance-learning programme is open to music educators working in any context, regardless of previous qualifications or experience, and can be completed over the course of 1-2 years. On completion you will receive a qualification is the equivalent to the first year of an undergraduate degree, and be entitled to use the post-nominals CMETCL. Find out more here: <https://musiceducationsolutions.co.uk/level-4-certificate-for-music-educators/>



**EVERY
COPY
COUNTS**

Did you know?

All state schools in England have a **fully funded** Schools Printed Music Licence (SPML).

The **Schools Printed Music Licence** is your licence to copy and arrange sheet music for your classes, ensembles, choirs and bands.

It means you can *legally* :

- ✓ **Make photocopies** and **scans** of sheet music
- ✓ Use score-writing software programmes to **arrange** printed music
- ✓ **Make notations** by hand on copies of printed music
- ✓ **Upload scans** of music to a Virtual Learning Environment of similar secure network.

In order for the correct composers and song writers to be paid for the use of their work, teachers **must** report information on the musical compositions they copy for lessons as per the terms of the licence:

🎵 **Work and Book title**

🎵 **Composer and/or arranger**

🎵 **Print and music publishers**

🎵 **Website** (for digital copies)

Submit your data and unlock **free resources**

- Exclusive **teaching resources** for you classrooms
- A free mixed ensemble **arrangement**
- Access to **webinars** by leading music industry experts
- **Essential guides** on music publishing careers and copyright.

Visit our **website** and follow the simple steps to submit your data today.



Moreton Hall | Music Outreach & Partnerships

Choral Experience Day Success - Helen Raynor, Moreton Hall's Music Outreach Coordinator



At Moreton quality choral music making and offering authentic choral experiences to our wider community has become part of our DNA in recent years.

On the back of a convincing and resounding win against a number of local school choirs in the 12 and Under Choral singing Category at the Oswestry Festival, 22 students from Moreton Prep Choir joined over 100 other choristers from local school choirs to take part in our Choral Experience Day.

On reflection of the day, five words spring to mind which were evident throughout this whole initiative: **Collaboration; Harmony, Opportunity, Involvement & Responsibility.**

Collaboration was key to the success of this event, and as ever, came in various forms. Collaboration between Moreton's Music Department, where our designated Music Outreach Coordinator, Helen Rayner visited schools, worked with students and staff on a number of musical games and repertoire during the lead up to the actual event. Collaboration between the Department and one of the UK's renowned Choral Director, Composer and Arranger, Aled Phillips, who generously broke off from his relentless schedule coordinating [Johns Boys](#) Canadian Tour and their second sell-out [UK Tour](#).

"Choral music is not one of life's frills. It's something that goes to the very heart of our humanity, our sense of community, and our souls."

- John Rutter MBE one of the UK's most renowned Composers and Choral Directors

On reflection of the day, Aled said:

"Nothing thrills me more than an invitation from Moreton to work alongside their wonderful Music Department: Moreton has such a strong choral tradition and a deep commitment to nurturing young singers. It's rare to find a school that invests so much time and effort into its choral program and while also extending opportunities beyond its own students. Moreton's Outreach work - inviting other schools to participate and actively going into the schools to support and develop their singers - sets it apart as a truly inclusive and inspiring musical community."

Effective collaboration is closely followed by harmony, not only in the music and activities the pupils participated in, but by the harmony and joyous atmosphere that was created on the day and in the final performance for parents. Collaboration, and harmonic interaction brings opportunity, again on many levels. The day gave opportunity to all the children, an opportunity to work with one of the UK's most renowned and decorated choral directors, and for some the first time ever to be part of a mass choir.



Amy Lott, Director of Music at Moreton Hall, described the choral day as a powerful experience...

"It's the weaving together of voices, building a community of shared passion and harmony, enriching all those children and teachers who took part," she stated. The groundwork laid by Helen's outreach in local schools was crucial, fostering confidence that allowed students to be fully engage. "Pupils were able to sing out with a smile on their face and absorb Aled's guidance, culminating in a truly harmonious performance and a sense of shared achievement."

Learning something new

The day and workshops that took place prior to the event gave the opportunity to visiting staff to learn some handy hints and tips of the 'mechanics' in learning simple but effective songs for their own choir. For experienced choral directors, the day provided the opportunity to learn something new; extend their existing knowledge and think about ways they might incorporate different learning styles and methods into their own lessons and rehearsals.

Thomas Barnes, Music teacher at Holy Trinity extolled: *"We jumped at the chance to have two experienced choral directors like Aled Phillips and Helen Rayner work with the children, their enthusiasm is infectious, their rapport with the children is instantaneous and their choral knowledge and depth of understanding of how to get the best out of a group of children is impressive. The children genuinely loved Mrs Rayner's visits, and I have certainly learnt a huge amount from them which I hope to implement in my own choral directing in the future: Thank you, Moreton Hall."*

Involvement

Involvement in a choral experience can be special. All schools: Holy Trinity, St Martins, Coleham School, Moreton Prep were fully engaged and enthusiastic, throughout that day. Involving young children in these types of experiences can have a long lasting positive effect, especially for parents who found the time out of their busy schedules to support the event's mini concert at the end of the day.

A parent from Coleham commented: *"It was wonderful to see a group of young singers at the end of a full day at Moreton Hall. It's invaluable to have this standard of choral music at a young age, and I am so grateful to Helen and the staff at Moreton for connecting with us again, and bringing our local schools together. They made a spectacular noise!"*

Responsibility is gained from these types of experiences: everyone having their own part to play, or in this case, sing, to ensure success and enrichment.

So, Collaboration, Harmony, Opportunity, Involvement and Responsibility - together what does mean? If you take the first letter of each word...you of course get...CHOIR.

All Choral opportunities and musical enrichment at Moreton, like John Rutter says, certainly "goes to the very heart of our sense of community, and our souls", with the Moreton Hall's Choral Experience Day being no exception.

Summer Carnival Vibes!

Brazilian Dance Workshops with ART BRASIL

Explore dances from all over the land of Carnival in our fun and accessible **BRAZILIAN DANCE workshops for Primary Schools**.

Our workshops provide an energetic and engaging experience that will make a lasting impression on your pupils, bringing dance to life. Workshop visits can be structured for a half or full day, with timings to suit your timetable and groups.

Why choose ART BRASIL?

We are your local not-for-profit specialists, with 18 years of experience delivering high quality workshops across Staffordshire and beyond.

For more information email Mika: info@artbrasil.org.uk



Oswestry Town Council Youth Music Festival 2025



The Oswestry Youth Music Festival began in 1977 to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and also St David's Day. It was originally planned as a small one-off festival, but it proved to be very popular and became an annual event in the town.

In recent years it has grown significantly and now hosts more than 90 competitive classes over 5 days. There are trophies for every class and bursaries for the winners of the 3 finals. As well as solo classes for strings, woodwind, brass, percussion, piano, organ and voice, we also have classes for choirs, vocal and instrumental ensembles, musical theatre, rock bands, orchestras, wind bands and brass bands.

This year over 1100 young people took part from 45 schools in Shropshire, Wales, Cheshire, the West Midlands and Norway. We are affiliated to the British and International Federation of Festivals and all our adjudicators are drawn from the Federation's pool and therefore trained to the Federation's standards.

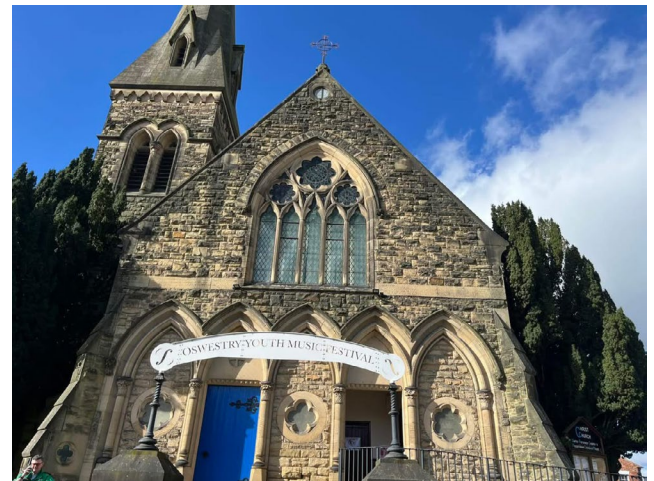
In 2026 we plan to expand the festival to a full week beginning on Monday 2nd March, with the Finals Day on Sunday 8th March. We are also planning a Golden Jubilee event in 2027 to celebrate 50 years of the festival. This will include a special concert in aid of the CLIC Sargent charity and a commemorative booklet about all the trophies which have been donated over the years.

We are very fortunate to have the support of Oswestry Town Council and an excellent team of volunteers who help to keep the event running smoothly.

To find out more about the festival you can follow us on Facebook at Oswestry Youth Music Festival. Here there are regular updates about how to enter and how to find the new syllabus which will be published in September this year. The closing date for entries will be Friday 23rd January.

Find out more

For more information please email the festival organiser, Sue Turner, at susanhturner@hotmail.co.uk, or go to the Town Council's website at: www.oswestry-tc.gov.uk



Main festival venue: Christ Church, Oswestry



Kit Fisher (right) won Young Performer of the Year Award, Kristin Alstad Rukke won the Oswestry Town Council Junior Cup, and Ceirion Hughes won the Oswestry Town Council Cup



Zak Mason won the Mayor's Award for commitment to and determination in the festival

SPARKYARD

FROM
Out of the Ark Music

Let singing transform your school!

Out of the Ark believes that singing changes children's lives, and has a profound impact on learning and wellbeing. Sparkyard is a subscription service from Out of the Ark, which gives primary school teachers over 1000 songs, and countless resources to allow those songs to be used in every part of a school's life: in curriculum lessons to support learning, in assemblies to develop community, in classrooms and playgrounds to enhance wellbeing, and much more. It also features an innovative, flexible, skills-based primary music curriculum designed to enable every primary teacher to feel confident teaching music - whatever their experience level.

Sparkyard was named as the "Outstanding Music Education Resource" at the 2023 Music and Drama Education Awards.

Out of the Ark Music offer a **30% discount** on Sparkyard, their primary school song streaming service and music curriculum (and much more!) to every school across our region. Many of you will know about Sparkyard already, but many more may well have been singing Out of the Ark songs for well over 30 years in school Nativities, musicals and assemblies.



SPARKYARD
puts singing at the heart of every school:

- IN ALL SUBJECT LESSONS
- IN ASSEMBLIES
- AS PART OF SCHOOL ROUTINES AND SIGNALS
- FOR THE WELLBEING OF PUPILS AND STAFF

AND it includes an innovative, flexible Music Curriculum.



SPARKYARD
FEATURES AT A GLANCE

- Supporting wellbeing, PSHE and social cohesion
- Packed with almost **1,000 SONGS**
- Inspirational values-based assemblies
- BSL and Makaton signing videos
- Comprehensive, flexible Music Curriculum
- Songs and resources for all curriculum subjects

Supporting teachers at every stage

Another exciting area of Out of the Ark's work is how they work closely with SCITT and university providers across the country to enable trainee teachers to harness the power of music in their classrooms. Their training is embedded in SCITT programmes and shows trainees how music and singing can **strengthen classroom practice**, support **children's curriculum learning** and **promote pupil wellbeing**.

Over the past 6 years OOTA have worked with over 1,000 trainees, and whether helping them **get to grips with the National Curriculum for Music** or teaching them how to use songs to **support behaviour management**, they are always bowled over by trainees' enthusiasm, energy and capacity to take on new ideas – particularly if the prospect of teaching music terrifies them!

Sparkyard and The Music Partnership

The Music Partnership use Sparkyard in our delivery, and through the partnership between us and Out of the Ark, primary schools in Staffordshire, Stoke, Telford & Wrekin, and Shropshire are able to access a 30% discount on a subscription to Sparkyard at www.sparkyard.com (just enter the discount code 30TMP24 when you check out).

City of Stoke-on-Trent Symphony Orchestra brings free performances to the city



From Star Wars in the Potteries Centre to a Relaxed Concert at the University of Staffordshire, the City of Stoke-on-Trent Symphony Orchestra brought a series of free performances to Stoke-on-Trent in March.

As part of a new partnership between the CSSO and the University of Staffordshire, the orchestra delivered its first Relaxed Concert in the university's Catalyst Building on 14 March thanks to funding from JCB. The audience, ranging from school children to residents of local care homes, experienced a huge variety of music, from *In the Hall of the Mountain King* to singing along to *Consider Yourself* from *Oliver*.

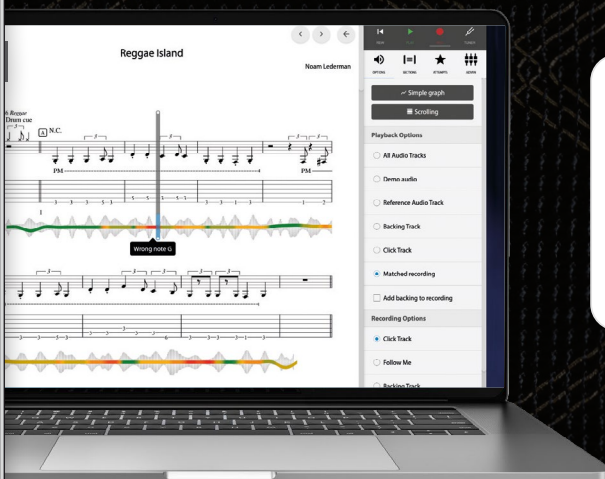
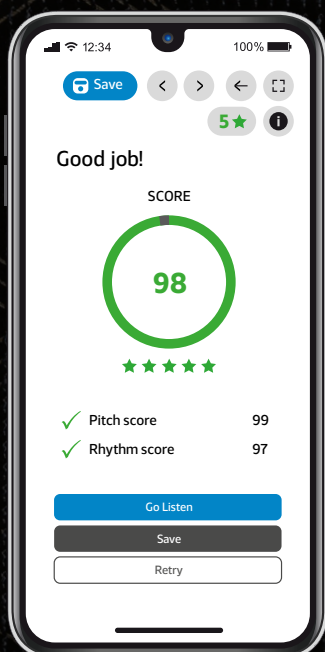
Later in March, the CSSO delivered its first Out and About Festival, which saw a series of pop-up performances take place in the Potteries Centre and around the City Centre. The Festival, which was funded by the UKSPF, was a huge success, and introduced so many people to the world of orchestral music.

Joe Hearson, the CSSO's Artistic Director, said: *"A huge part of what a modern symphony orchestra is about is taking inspiring music into the community to bring together people from all walks of life. Events like our Relaxed Performances and our recent Out and About Festival are a great way for our audience and musicians to connect with each other, and they are always uplifting and inspiring for everybody present."*



On Friday 13 June 2025, the orchestra, which has been active as The Symphonia Verbum Orchestra since 2018, launches officially as the City of Stoke-on-Trent Symphony Orchestra as part of the Stoke-on-Trent Centenary Celebrations in a Prom concert at the King's Hall, Stoke. As well as traditional prom favourites like *Auld Lang Syne* and the *Sailor's Hornpipe*, the concert will include William Walton's *Spitfire Prelude and Fugue*, written for a documentary about Reginald Mitchell's most famous creation. The orchestra will also perform a piece by Thomas Pitfield, titled *Fantasia on Staffordshire Folk Tunes*, which has not been heard in the UK for decades.

The concert, titled the 'CSSO Stoke 100 Celebration Prom', will also feature a world premiere by local composer Eden Longson, as well as local baritone soloist Jordan Harding. Under 18s and carers can access this concert for free with a paying adult. Tickets can be booked by calling 01782 206000 or through www.musicmaniauk.com



SCAN ME

Get started for **FREE!**



Packed with technology, an interactive score player, and video content, access our free sample e-books for a taste of the Rockscool experience.

www.rslawards.com

Secondary Song Book



I have been privileged to lead MusicShare for 18 years and it has, and continues to be, a joy to work with children and teachers across The Music Partnership in their singing journeys. MusicShare celebrated its 20th anniversary year last year as it was founded in 2003 and I am thrilled that we have been asked to create this Secondary Song Book to partner the Primary School Songbook, which was released a couple of years ago.

This new book, commissioned by The Music Partnership offers songs for KS3 to KS5, most of which you will not find anywhere else! The Music Partnership is exactly that, a brilliant partnership, and we all learn from each other all the time. This is by no means an exhaustive resource which is why the book also contains an inventory of recommended songs and links to other organisations with great ideas for secondary singing.

Singing is, in my opinion, the birthright of every child – whether they are naturally tuneful or otherwise! It is a natural human expression and can open so many doors academically and mentally. However, singing with your students in a secondary setting can often prove daunting as there is so much to contend with in terms of changing voices, puberty and competition with so many other pressures in young lives. We do hope you find the resource helpful – watch this space as it will be sent free to all secondaries within The Music Partnership.

Cathy Lamb
Director of MusicShare

[DOWNLOAD NOW](#)

Contacts for the TMP team



Sarah Browne
Head of Service

Shropshire Music Service
E: sarah.browne@shropshire.gov.uk



John Callister
Head of Service

Entrust Music Service Staffordshire
E: john.callister@entrust-ed.co.uk



Ruth Steele
Lead

Stoke-on-Trent City Music Service
E: ruth.steele@stoke.gov.uk



Sam Newth
Team Leader

Telford & Wrekin Music
E: sam.newth@telford.gov.uk

Our Partners

Art Brasil
Arts Connect
Association of British Choral Directors
A Major Music
Charanga
Chuckle Productions
City Music Service Stoke-on-Trent
City of Stoke-on-Trent Symphony Orchestra
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 MusicShare
Madula
Make Some Noise
Manchester Camerata
Music Mark
Music Education Solutions
Music for Youth
Music Therapy Works
My Inter Theatre Company
Normans Instruments

North Shropshire Music
Out of the Ark
Partners in Creative Learning
RSL Awards
Severn Teaching Alliance
Shropshire Music Service
Sing Up
SSPA Events
Stoke-on-Trent Festivals
Sympho
Telford & Wrekin Music

The Hallé Orchestra
The Hive
The National Youth Orchestra
Trinity College London
West Midlands Music
Young Sounds UK