

Musicians-in-Residence Programme

Spring/Summer 2013 Newsletter

During 2013 Live Music Now (LMN) is working with twelve special schools across England (London, Liverpool, Tees Valley) to deliver a year long Musicians-In-Residence programme, with the aim of supporting young people's musical and personal development. Each school is hosting regular visits by an LMN musician and termly concerts by LMN ensembles. LMN musicians are being supported by an LMN Mentor, as well as colleagues in schools, to develop their skills and experience of leading music sessions for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

To date, we've delivered 170 sessions in the schools, working regularly with approximately 320 children and young people with a range of special educational needs and disabilities.



Planning Day at Priory Wood School, Middlesbrough

Sounds of Intent (Sol)

At our planning days in December, Prof Adam Ockelford gave a fascinating introduction to *Sounds of Intent* – a new free online framework to support and assess the musical development children with complex needs. The framework is based on 10 years of research and has recently been praised by Ofsted in their report "Music in Schools: Wider Still, and Wider, 2012". Some schools and LMN musicians have started to explore and use the framework to help assess progress made by pupils during the LMN music sessions. It would be really helpful if schools could share any tips about using Sol. There is **free** support available via Soundabout music charity for schools that would like some help in getting Sol up and running.

To request help with Sol or share experiences of using it, please email karen.irwin@livemusicnow.org.

Focus on Liverpool

We are delighted to be working with Princes Primary, Abbot's Lea, Springwood Heath Primary and Sandfield Park schools in Liverpool. Here's an update about what's been happening so far...

Sandfield Park

Fraser Johnstone, musician-in-residence at Sandfield Park School, brought his saxophone trio along last term to perform an interactive concert for the whole school. *"All pupils were engaged and it was especially lovely to see beaming smiles and animated hand gestures from two PMLD children. You could hear a pin drop when the Trio were playing quiet pieces which was surprising as we have a few pupils with Tourette's Syndrome."* Lorna Evans, Music Co-ordinator, Sandfield Park

Springwood Heath School

In March, Prof Adam Ockelford visited Springwood Heath School to introduce Sounds of Intent. He led two music sessions with some of the children taking part in the project, demonstrating how to do a baseline assessment using the Sol framework.

Princes School

"Carla, our talented flautist, has been very flexible with the classes she has worked with and has planned according to the whole school topics and to the individual needs of the pupils. All pupils have responded to the musical experience and have loved working with the musician. A PMLD child was drawn in by the flute and followed it with his eyes. He was so interested in the flute that he tried to make his own music by blowing into the top of the flute!" Sophie Pullan, Music Co-ordinator, Princes School



Abbot's Lea School

For children with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder, group music-making can help promote the development of social skills and confidence:

"The Live Music Now project is going brilliantly at Abbot's Lea. The children are making progress, especially in terms of eye contact, being more confident to lead activities and turn-taking. Sue (LMN musician) is great with the children and they enjoy all of the games and interaction. Last week was the final week with two of the groups so they performed in assembly on glockenspiels and percussion!"

Kim Roberts, Co-ordinator, Abbot's Lea School, Liverpool



"I liked 'BBBB, rest rest rest rest"! Hamza

"Music good. Drums and dancing". Brendan

Resonate Music Education Hub



We are very pleased to be working with Liverpool's Music Education Hub – Resonate. The Hub is organising a "Music in Liverpool Special Schools" Forum Event on 11 June during which Princes School will give a short presentation about the impact of the project in their school so far.

LMN Musicians

As a national charity, LMN recruits and supports talented musicians emerging into the music profession to deliver engaging music sessions for diverse audiences. The musicians selected to take part in the Musicians-in-Residence programme are developing valuable new skills and understanding as they respond to the individual needs of pupils during music sessions. Many have documented special moments of progress with pupils, reinforcing the power of music to enable non-verbal communication and dialogue:

"The light bulb moment came today from Helen (PMLD, ASD) who was a lot more receptive to the flute and me. I played closely to Helen who reached out for my flute and pressed a few keys, realizing this changed the pitch. She did this a few times and then moved on to tapping both arms on the chair. I played a low motif to this. After a little while, she realized I would only play if and when she tapped the chair with his arms. She moved her arms towards her face, and I played higher sounds. Helen then vocalized high-pitched sounds which I imitated; she did this for a little while, listening very carefully. This was a real breakthrough, as Helen had been so cautious with me/flute. I am hoping to develop this further." * name changed*

Feedback, photos, case studies, comments ... please send them to us!

We are interested in how the music sessions are promoting pupils' musical and "extra-musical" development, particularly communication skills, focus/concentration and confidence. Please share your feedback, photos, videos and responses from children with us to help assess the impact of the programme and share learning with other schools, organisations and our funders. There is also the potential to share case studies with our funder, Youth Music, and contribute to the Youth Music Network site (<http://network.youthmusic.org.uk>). This website has a wealth of information about music projects throughout England as well as some very useful resources and is free to access.

Autumn Term Creative Music and Performance Project

Next term we have the opportunity to organise special celebratory performances by pupils from participating schools. There is the option of schools getting together to share their music with each other or putting on a special performance in school for friends and family. We'll be in touch soon to see what might suit best.

Keep in Contact

Thank you for all the hard work everyone has contributed so far to the project! We want the residencies to be as beneficial as possible for everyone taking part. Please do contact your regional LMN project manager or Karen Irwin (LMN Strategic Director, SEN) if you have any queries or need any further information.

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