

Your Geordie Symphony School

In Harmony NewcastleGateshead



Dear Friends ...

Issue 4
Autumn 2016

I am very pleased to be writing to you with an update on the progress of In Harmony NewcastleGateshead.

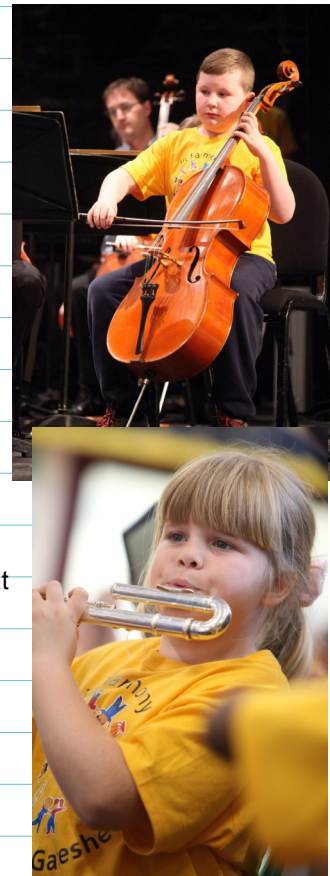
As Head of Participation at Sage Gateshead this programme has been under my remit since April this year. During my regular weekly visits to Hawthorn Primary School and attendance at concert performances and events I have been hugely impressed by everything I have seen. It is wonderful to observe how the teachers and staff at the school have embraced In Harmony, the dedication of the music tutors delivering the work, the commitment from the administrative staff and the way families have supported the children on their musical journey. But most of all it has been a joy to see the musical development of the young people themselves and how they are becoming confident performing musicians.

Alongside the musical progression of the children, I have also been particularly pleased to see that we have managed to introduce the Arts Award qualification into the programme (a range of qualifications run by Trinity College London to support the under 25s). This year's Summer School successfully engaged 19 children in Arts Award Discover. This has been a great achievement so congratulations to all those who passed.

We are all looking forward to the Autumn term and highlights will include pre Christmas performances in a number of local care homes and the West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra Christmas Fundraising Concert at 6pm on 15th December at St Matthew's Church. The regular weekly rehearsals happening at the church is a further step in widening the reach of the In Harmony programme across the west end community and we are pleased to have young people joining the WNSO who have not previously been involved in the programme.

I will conclude by thanking you all for your continued support of our In Harmony project both through donations and your presence at our events and performances. Your contribution is invaluable.

Steve Jinski, Head of Participation



Lars provides inspiration

The school had an inspiring start to the year when Lars Vogt, Music Director of Sage Gateshead's resident orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, paid a surprise visit to listen to the Hawthorn Primary School Orchestra rehearsals. The children were mesmerised on hearing Lars play for them.

After answering many eager questions, Lars talked to the children about his love of music and said he was delighted to see so many children enjoying the opportunity to have music in their lives.

Lars is greatly admired within the school - by staff and children alike - and the experience of his visit proved to be inspirational to all.



Developing In Harmony in our Community – The Next Steps

You are invited to be part of the next stage of our journey. To find out more, and see how you can help shape the future of In Harmony, come to an open meeting on **Thursday 1st December** from 5.00pm - 6.30pm at Hawthorn Primary School. (Park Close, Elswick, Newcastle, NE4 6SB).

You may be passionate about the impact of music on young people's lives, their health, education, wellbeing and their futures, through your work and/or experience or you may work in the local community yourself. Please do pass on this invitation to anyone who you think may be interested.

Refreshments will be available from 4.30pm with a performance by our In Harmony musicians starting the meeting at 5pm. Please note, parking at the school is limited. The school is wheelchair accessible.



London Trip

In July, twenty children from Year 5 travelled to London and performed with The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment as part of an educational project at Kings Place. The children were right at the front and were immersed in the storytelling of King Arthur. One of the children was asked to go on stage to feature in the performance. In Harmony is looking to establish a closer relationship with the OAE in future. Whilst in London, the children had the chance to visit The Lyceum Theatre to see a performance of 'The Lion King.' For many, it was their first experience of a big theatre and a high tech performance, and all the children thoroughly enjoyed it.



Instruments donated

Special thanks to The Cobweb Orchestra who have donated fourteen instruments to us from their instrument bank ranging from cellos to violins to flutes. The children are already making good use of them!

Thanks also to Tegwen Jones (sub-Principal, Viola with Royal Northern Sinfonia) and her husband, Tony Abell (who teaches double bass for In Harmony) who have offered a piano on long term loan to the school.

We are extremely grateful to you all for your generosity.



ABRSM exam results

The children had some great success in their exams last term. Three pupils took the ABRSM Prep Test, whilst 13 children passed their Grade 1 (two of them with a Merit), and seven children passed Grade 2, with one achieving a Merit. **Well done to all of them!**

Following this success, our aim is now to enter all children in Year 6 for the appropriate level exam at the end of 2016.

Young Leaders Orchestra

In Harmony NewcastleGateshead is part of the national Sistema England network and in August, eight of the In Harmony children took part in the Sistema England Young Leaders Orchestra residential in Shropshire.

All the pupils developed musically and socially during the week. At the start, some thought they wouldn't reach the required standard, but they rose to the occasion, practising hard alongside children from some of the other more established In Harmony programmes in the UK and performed fantastically in the concert.

On one of the days, they rehearsed at Loughborough Festival Opera House and were lucky enough to meet Nicola Benedetti and Roderick Williams. At the end of the week, one of our students won an award for 'Best Independent Learner' (pictured right) as he was the only bassoonist in the orchestra and worked extremely hard all week.

There has been a real difference in all 8 children on returning to the North East. They are all much more confident and take pride in being a leader in their regular ensembles by getting involved in peer learning. For example, helping to coach younger children on their instruments at the after school clubs and ensuring the younger ones are socially included.



Comments from the organisers included:

"I watched one girl go from being rather surly and withdrawn to a girl with a beaming smile who put her all into the performance – including all the jumping up and down and dancing!"

Music Festival success

On the 27th June Hawthorn Primary School hosted its first Music Festival. Every child at the school was involved, as well as our friends from Excelsior Academy who brought their brass and wind bands, and school choir to perform. The afternoon was officially opened by the Leader of Newcastle City Council, Cllr Nick Forbes (pictured right) after a brass fanfare (pictured below) played by the children, and then the school opened its doors to our biggest audience yet!

The weather remained sunny for the afternoon allowing the transformed school car park to play host to tombola stalls, an outdoor cafe and small performance space, all decorated with bunting! Inside, the school hall was the main stage for larger groups and ensembles to show off their year's work. It was a very enjoyable day for all who were involved, thank you to those who came and offered your tremendous support.



Festive Concerts - Your invitation to join us

Tuesday 13th December 2016. From 5pm

Come along to the school for an evening soiree on Tuesday 13th December and celebrate the festive season with Hawthorn Primary Symphony Orchestra. HPSO is made up of 50+ Key Stage 2 students (Years 4 to 6), with every section of the orchestra represented.



The soiree starts at 5pm at Hawthorn Primary School Hall. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served while you are entertained by the young In Harmony musicians.

Thursday 15th December 2016. 6pm to 7pm

The all new West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra performs its debut concert at **St. Matthew's Church**, Summerhill Street, NE4 6EJ on **Thursday 15th December**, 6pm – 7pm.



Come along to support our thriving young musicians from across the west end of Newcastle. Alongside Christmas favourites, they will perform music from famous TV shows and films and a wide range of classical music. Tickets are available from Sage Gateshead box office on 0191 443 4661 or via our website at sagegateshead.com as well as on the door. Tickets are free, with a suggested donation of £5. All donations go to In Harmony.

Summer School

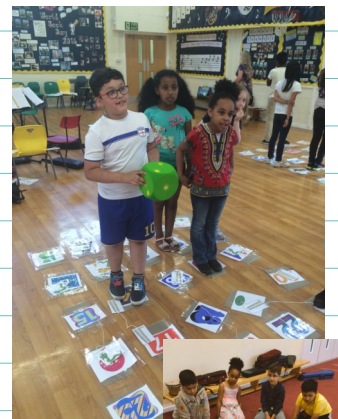
The In Harmony 4-week Summer School was open to any child from Year 1 and above.



There was a strong focus on musicianship, singing and games throughout the summer as well as keeping playing.

During the Summer School the children performed at the Children North East's 125th Birthday Celebrations. Nineteen children also completed their Discover Arts Award whilst attending the Summer School. We await the certificates and

look forward to presenting the children with them.



About In Harmony

In Harmony is a national programme that aims to inspire and transform the lives of children in deprived communities in the UK, using the power and disciplines of community-based music making.

There are lots of ways to find out more about In Harmony:

Website: www.sagegateshead.com/inharmony

Email: inharmony@sagegateshead.com

Telephone: 0191 443 4562

Post: In Harmony, Sage Gateshead, St Mary's Square, Gateshead, NE8 2JR.

To Donate: You can donate to In Harmony via our website by clicking on the 'Donate Now' button, or via telephone or via post. (Please make any cheques payable to North Music Trust, the registered charity name of Sage Gateshead, and put your postcode on the reverse of the cheque).

