

In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead—your Geordie Symphony School

Dear friends, I am delighted to write an introduction to the first In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead newsletter.

Issue 1

At the beginning of our fourth year our orchestras and ensembles are well established and have made many public appearances, including a tour of local schools, a national Public Health conference as well as for parents and friends at school in the most incredible end of year concerts. They have played side by side with Royal Northern Sinfonia, an experience they will never forget.

Every child is engaged and loves their playing, they are highly focussed as they learn to read music, play their instrument and watch the conductor all at the same time. This spills over into their normal lessons too as their concentration spans develop and most movingly for me their cooperation with each other has increased beyond all recognition.

This has been an incredible year, with the BBC film sharing our project with the rest of the country and abroad too. We have had letters of support and offers of help as well as wonderful donations from so many of you. **You are making sure our children continue to have this life changing experience and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.**

Love Judy Cowgill, *Headteacher, Hawthorn Primary School.*



Performing at Sunderland Minster

Word about the In Harmony project is spreading ... In the past few months the children and tutors have been asked to perform at a number of public and community events, including the Journal Culture Awards at Sunderland Minster. At the ceremony, the children and staff impressed the audience with their playing. Comments included: *“fantastic performance from the young players from In Harmony and rapturous applause from the audience.”*



In Harmony News:

The Year in
Pictures

ABRSM exam
success

Join us for the
Christmas
concerts

Playing in public

Exam success



This summer, two of the In Harmony Students on the Centre for Advanced Training (run by Sage Gateshead) sat and passed their ABRSM Grade 2 and 3 exams, both with merits.

School visits

In recent months, the Hawthorn Primary Symphony Orchestra have been on tour in the Newcastle area to showcase their talents to other local schools, including two secondary schools and a special school.

The children not only performed, but gave a talk about their various instruments before taking questions from the other students. It was especially nice to see some former Hawthorn pupils in the audience at the secondary schools, as they were able to help answer some of the questions and educate their peers.



Hawthorn Primary School Orchestra
2014 - 15

Learning from the experts

Each year, as part of the In Harmony project, the children of Hawthorn Primary School get the opportunity to play their instruments alongside members of Sage Gateshead's renowned Royal Northern Sinfonia.

It's fantastic to see the interaction between our orchestra musicians and the children and to watch the children grow in confidence. It's an invaluable part of their learning and gives the children a real desire to continue studying music.



You helped us do it!

Thank you to the hundreds of you that have made a donation to our In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead project in the past few months. Your generosity has been truly overwhelming and I am thrilled to let you know that we are well on the way to reaching our In Harmony fundraising goal for 2015. This means the children of Hawthorn Primary School in Elswick, Newcastle can continue to benefit from the joys of music.

Rosie Thomas, Acting Head of Fundraising, Sage Gateshead

The Year in Pictures



Performing for the public and TV crew on a sunny, but very blustery day this summer as part of BBC Wall of Sound



Julian Lloyd Webber visits Hawthorn Primary School



“Day one with our new instruments!”



The children of Hawthorn Primary Symphony Orchestra on tour at Wallbottle Campus



“learning our notes ...”



... performing for the public at Eldon Square, Newcastle last Christmas.

“We were all very nervous, but everyone cheered and applauded.”

In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead

Christmas concerts 2015 — do join us

The end of term musical evening is always an inspiring show for the In Harmony children, their parents and staff as well as everyone in the audience. It's the culmination of hours of hard work and dedication, with students having the chance to perform as professional musicians. We'd love you to join us this winter on:

Monday 7 December at Hawthorn Primary School.

(6.00 pm start for 1 hour). Hawthorn Primary Symphony Orchestra Christmas Soiree. Featuring the HPSO, some small chamber groups and soloists. A sparkling evening of musical magic, mulled wine and mince pies!

If you can't make it that evening, we hope you can make it for one of our other seasonal performances at school:

**Tuesday 8 December,
Hawthorn Primary School**

(9.30 am start for 1 hour)
Come and hear the progress of the youngest In Harmony members (under 8's).

**Tuesday 8 December,
Hawthorn Primary School**

(2.00 pm start for 1 hour)
You'll have the chance to see the 8-11 year olds perform on their instruments in various ensembles and groups.

How to book your place at one of our school concerts:

Numbers for each of these Christmas concerts are limited, so early booking is advised. To secure your place, please tell us your name and how many seats you wish to book. Telephone the school on 0191 273 4237 or send an email to admin@hawthorn.newcastle.sch.uk



How to find the school:

Hawthorn Primary School,
Park Close, Elswick,
Newcastle NE4 6SB.

Parking at the school is limited.

The school is wheelchair accessible.



Follow us on Twitter:
@InHarmNE

If you can't make it to school for a concert, we're also doing public performances:

Sunday 6 December, West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra (our after school orchestra) will be playing at the **Kielder Calvert Trust Christmas Fayre** at the Hilton Gateshead from 3pm onwards, £1 entry fee, all money raised to The Kielder Calvert Trust.

Thursday 10 December (5pm for 1 hour). West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra performance at **Jesmond United Reformed Church** (near Jesmond Metro). All proceeds from this concert go to the In Harmony project – a huge thank you to Jesmond URC! Tickets are £5 are available from Sage Gateshead Ticket Office on 0191 443 4661, or from the church on the night.

Contact:

For more information about the In Harmony project or any of these concerts, please email the team on inharmony@sagegateshead.com or ring 0191 443 4562. Alternatively, write to us at Sage Gateshead, St Mary's Square, Gateshead, NE8 2JR. Website: www.sagegateshead.com