

Your Geordie Symphony School

In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead



Dear Friends ...

Issue 6

Summer 2017

As we approach the end of another school year, I have been thinking particularly about our year 6 children. They have been "In Harmony Musicians" for almost 5 years now. I have been really impressed with their enthusiasm to help and encourage the younger musicians in their ensembles. I'm delighted that several will represent our programme at Sistema England's "Young Leaders" summer residential course. Seeing how all of the children have grown into happy, mature, self assured young musicians brings an enormous sense of pride to all involved in delivering this programme.

Looking back over the past few months, we have had many new experiences. The children visited In Harmony Opera North and played at the Assembly Rooms alongside musicians from the orchestra of Opera North and young musicians from the In Harmony programme in Leeds.

The orchestra played in the Wansbeck Music Festival, and enjoyed hearing some encouraging comments from the adjudicator and audience members, such as: "Some excellent string sound," "Great Pieces to be playing," and "Really exciting." And there was the added bonus of winning a shield!

In April, our children spent a day working with older children from Sunderland Youth Orchestra and RNS playing Beethoven's 5th Symphony. It is such a valuable experience for the children to get out from their usual performance and rehearsal space to perform. They learn so much from these experiences, and it is thanks to your continued support that makes this possible.

We look forward to a busy end to the Summer term and hope you can join us for some of our performances.

Pauline Brandon, In Harmony Programme Leader



Wansbeck Music Festival success

This Spring, Hawthorn Primary Symphony Orchestra performed and competed as part of the Wansbeck Music Festival.

We are delighted to have been highly praised for our performance and winning our category! The winning shield (pictured right) will be sitting proudly at the entrance to Hawthorn Primary School for the next 12 months.

While the Festival has been running for more than a century, this was the first time we have taken part. The children were all really excited and thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. We hope to return next year with more entries. And perhaps to compete at some other music festivals too!



Music performance raises funds

Eight amazingly brave young musicians performed as part of a Spring Music concert at the Quaker Meeting House in Jesmond, Newcastle.

We jumped at the chance to perform for them as they have

been so supportive to the In Harmony programme.

The Quakers continued their incredible support by donating the proceeds of the concert to In Harmony which totalled £403. Thank you to all.

“What a treat to have the young people play for us. They were charming and so professional” commented an audience member.



Parents Open Day

Just before Easter, we invited parents from the school to sit side by side with their child during their music ensembles, so they could find out more about what happens.

On the day, over 30 parents attended and all of them said how extremely proud they are of what In Harmony does for their child.

All of the parents enjoyed the sounds of the ensembles and many of them joined in with rhythm and clapping games too. Afterwards, one parent said: ‘I didn’t realise my daughter was that good!’



Head of Hawthorn to retire

After 37 years of teaching and 13 years at Hawthorn, I will be retiring as Head Teacher at Hawthorn Primary at the end of this term.

The last four years since the In Harmony project began have been extraordinary, the children have changed and developed into real musicians and their self-confidence is beautiful to see.

I have met and been in contact with so many wonderful people and had incredible experiences. So I was overjoyed when the governors of the school offered to employ me to continue fundraising, spreading the word about In Harmony and documenting the project’s progress. Please keep in touch judy.m.cowgill@gmail.com. Love Judy x



Musical collaboration

Thirteen children between the ages of 8 and 14 gave up a Saturday this Spring to join together with Sunderland Youth Orchestra and Royal Northern Sinfonia for a 'Come and Play day' working on two of the nationally recognised BBC 10 pieces.

During the day, the children were coached by professional musicians from Royal Northern Sinfonia, Sage Gateshead's resident chamber orchestra (including Peter Francomb, right, demonstrating how to get sound from a horn) and made friends with members of the Sunderland Youth Orchestra.

The collaboration culminated in the evening with a fantastic performance attended by some of the parents, which featured some solos and small groups of RNS players.

Rebecca Pedlow, Sunderland Music Education Hub Manager said: "the Hawthorn Primary and West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra pupils were so well behaved. Their levels of engagement and positive attitudes to the day were so high. They were a credit to their parents, the schools and to all those involved with In Harmony."



Music fun and games at Easter School

Over twenty five children visited Sage Gateshead to take part in the one-day In Harmony Easter School. They played music games, made Easter eggs, toured the building and of course played Easter themed music.

Some Key Stage 1 children (aged 5-7 years) were invited to attend the Big Family Hop at Sage Gateshead, with musicians from the Early Years and Family Learning Team helping everyone to get in the Spring mood with plenty of fun, song and dance especially designed for the under 7s.



One parent who attended, said: "I loved it, we were singing along."

A trip to Leeds

In April, all 55 children from Hawthorn Primary Symphony Orchestra travelled nearly 100 miles by mini-bus to Leeds for a day working with In Harmony Opera North, and musicians from Opera North.

Seventeen highly supportive parents made the journey too, and while they were treated to a day out in the city, the children worked extremely hard making friends and practising for a concert at the end of the day. The venue was the beautiful Howard Assembly Rooms (pictured right), which just about squeezed everyone in!

It was an incredible experience for the children, some of whom had never been out of Newcastle.



Upcoming events ...

Come to our summer concerts

We will be performing two summer concerts this June and would love you to join us. Come and hear how well the children are all progressing with their music.

Tickets for both events are free, with a suggested donation of £5. Tickets available through the Sage Gateshead Ticket Office on 0191 443 4661 or on the doors.

Monday 19 June at 5.30pm. St Joseph's Church, Benwell, Newcastle, NE15 6JL

In Harmony After School Groups and West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra

After school groups from In Harmony at Hawthorn Primary School perform their summer concert in memory of Tony Powell, a great supporter of the project. They will be joined by West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra for a fantastic evening of music. 5.30pm start. Finish at 6.30pm.

Thursday 22 June at 6pm. St. Matthew's Church, Summerhill Street, Newcastle, NE4 6EJ

West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra

Join West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra for their Summer concert at their home in Summerhill. They will play a range of music recognisable from TV as well as film themes and classical favourites. Performance starts at 6pm and will finish at 7pm.

Summer Music Festival

On Thursday 29 June, Hawthorn Primary School will open its doors at 10.30am to the public and community to showcase In Harmony in action. It's free entry to all, so we'd love to see you there!

Every child in the school will be performing, plus we'll have some special guests. There's plenty for everyone. With workshops for families to get involved with, tombolas and a 'café in the car park,' it's sure to be a great day. And to bring the festival to a close there will be a ceilidh for everyone, starting at 2.30pm. All welcome!



Hawthorn Primary School
Park Close, Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 6SB

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. In the North East, Sage Gateshead is delivering the programme in partnership with Hawthorn Primary School.

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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).