

In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead — your Geordie Symphony School



The newsletter for supporters and friends of the In Harmony project



Dear friends,

I am delighted to write to you with updates on In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead.

Issue 2
February 2016

Our programme is truly inspirational, changing the lives of young children in the West End of Newcastle, through the power and discipline of orchestral music making. As Programme Leader, I am extremely proud of our young musicians.

2016 promises to be an exciting year for In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead. The sistema inspired music programme is growing rapidly. It now boasts ten orchestral ensembles: 5 string orchestras, 2 wind bands and 2 symphony orchestras with members aged 5- 15.

Teachers are seeing substantial progress in particular children.

We've had a busy start to the year, with all involved preparing for our concert at the Tyne Theatre & Opera House (see back page).

We are so excited to have the opportunity to perform in this Grade I listed venue in the heart of Newcastle's West End. This building, with such a lavish auditorium is sure to inspire our young musicians and supporters. Royal Northern Sinfonia will perform alongside the young players from Hawthorn Primary School.

Our programme on the day will include the premiere performance of Stephen Deazley's "The Tuba Train", specially commissioned by the BBC for our programme. The afternoon of Monday 14th March promises to be a memorable occasion for all involved in our programme, so please do come along to share the experience with us.

I am privileged to witness the confidence, motivation and joy music making brings to our children every day.

Thank you all so much for your continued support.

Pauline Brandon,

In Harmony Programme Leader



Community performances a hit

The West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra (WNSO), In Harmony's after school orchestra, continue to undertake public performances in the community.

Here are some of the children performing at the Calvert Kielder Trust family day at the Hilton Hotel, Gateshead in December, to an appreciative crowd.



Fundraising concert is a huge success

In December, the In Harmony students took part in a fundraising concert at Jesmond United Reformed Church, performing to a capacity audience of family, friends, members of the public and existing supporters. Through a combination of raffle money, ticket sales and donations on the door, the concert raised £636.46. This is an amazing achievement.

Thank you to everyone.



Learning from the professionals



Royal Northern Sinfonia Principal Cellist Dan Hammersley gives encouragement to pupils

The In Harmony children have the invaluable opportunity to work in very small groups with a Royal Northern Sinfonia player. This means they get to know the players well, and can listen to the sound of excellent playing at close proximity.

The Royal Northern Sinfonia players made very encouraging comments, including:

“The flautist is producing an excellent sound”

“the clarinetist is a good little musician”

“He (*a violinist*) is absolutely brilliant”

“she (*a Year 3 student*) was so responsive”

Pop Up Performance at Central Station

On Monday 29th February at 2pm, the In Harmony children will be playing in front of commuters and travellers at **Newcastle’s Central Station in the new covered entranceway**.

The station are very pleased and will be advertising the ‘pop up’ performance on the day. The BBC will be filming it too as part of a follow up to the ‘Geordie Symphony School’ film they are making.

Come and support the children — it would be lovely to have a good audience.

Norway bound

When the Lord Mayor of Bergen, Norway visited Newcastle in December to switch on the lights of the Norwegian Christmas tree presented to the city each year, the Leader of the City Council suggested she visit the In Harmony programme.

It was an extremely successful visit to the school, so much so that the mayor of Bergen has invited the Hawthorn Primary School Orchestra to Bergen in 2018 to take part in the European Youth Orchestra festival.



Helping hands

Peer learning is becoming common and normal practice within the In Harmony programme, with pupils of all ages supporting each other. Many of the senior students really enjoy helping younger pupils with their instruments. This sort of peer learning is always encouraged and now happens without prompting.

Here we see a senior student helping one of the younger oboists.


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How wonderful; in the break of WNSO we have one of our senior students guiding a beginner oboist through some notes!



RETWEETS 3 LIKES 4

8:55 AM - 19 Oct 2015

One boy's journey ...

One of the Year 3 (7-8 year olds) pupils has been taking his violin home and this week his playing was absolutely excellent. He played Pachelbel Canon and Frere Jacques in his lesson so well, and I asked him if he's been practising at home. He said he's been playing to his Mum every night because it makes her cry!

And the first time he played his violin to her at home she picked him up and flew him around the room like superman! When he was telling me about it, he looked very proud of himself, and if you know this child, he's a bit of a tough guy... But it's lovely to see how much confidence it's given him, and how that has translated into him wanting to practise more and play to his mum which has meant he's made a massive step forward in his playing.

Jo, Violin Teacher

Award nomination

The BBC film 'The Geordie Symphony School' which featured the In Harmony children has been nominated for an award at the Regional Television Awards on 27th February. Good luck to all.

Nurturing the talent

Centre for Advanced Training

Seven of the In Harmony students have progressed on to Sage Gateshead's Centre for Advanced Training for talented young musicians aged 8-18. They regularly attend the WNSO practice sessions, and also perform weekly and in festivals.

Volunteering works

Two students from Sage Gateshead and Sunderland University's BA (Community Music) worked on placements at the school. The placements were extremely successful, particularly with WNSO, and the students have both asked to continue volunteering from January, which is really encouraging and we hope to have other student placements/volunteer in future.

ABRSM exam success

This winter, three of the In Harmony-related children successfully passed their ABRSM Grade 2 exams, with one child achieving a Merit.



Music after hours

It's great news for the In Harmony after hours orchestra, West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra. (WNSO). The group now has four sessions a week (up from one) and has growing numbers, with a total of 53 children attending at least one session per week.

Every half term, WNSO aims to perform in different parts of the community. Last October, they played to an appreciative audience on the concourse at Sage Gateshead prior to a Royal Northern Sinfonia Star Wars Gala concert in Sage 1.

This tweet is from the Royal Northern Sinfonia cellist, Dan Hammersley.



Keeping in Touch

Email updates: If you'd be happy to receive future news about In Harmony by email rather than post, please let us know. You'd be helping to keep our costs down.

Unsubscribe: If you'd prefer not to receive any In Harmony updates please let us know.

Contact: Natalie in the Fundraising team at Sage Gateshead on 0191 443 5038 or by email at supporters@sagegateshead.com

Twitter: @InHarmNE We've got 1,165 followers!

To donate: Cheques can be made payable to North Music Trust (please put your name and postcode on the back) and send to Sage Gateshead, (In Harmony) Fundraising Team, St Mary's Square, Gateshead, NE8 2JR. Or you can donate online at sagegateshead.com/donate

Spring Fundraising Concert

On 8th May this year, it'll be one year since the In Harmony 'Geordie Symphony School' first aired on BBC4. Since then, the programme has gone from strength to strength and the children are gaining in ability and confidence all the time.

We'd love for you to come and see their progress in our upcoming spring public performance on **Monday 14 March at 2pm at the Tyne Theatre and Opera House, 117 Westgate Road, Newcastle, NE1 4AG.**

Members of Royal Northern Sinfonia will join the students of Hawthorn Primary Symphony Orchestra for a special concert in this beautiful building in Newcastle's West End, to perform the premier of The Tuba Train – a BBC Commission written by Stephen Deazley especially for In Harmony NewcastleGateshead.

The hour-long concert is being compered by Lindisfarne legend, Ray Laidlaw, and promises to be a truly inspiring occasion.



We'd love you to join us. All welcome – bring your family and friends too! If you haven't seen the children play before now is your chance to be astonished. The event is free, but ticketed, with a suggested donation of £5 or £10.

Information and tickets from <http://www.sagegateshead.com/event/in-harmony-performance/> or on the door.