

Your Geordie Symphony School In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead

Dear friends,

My name is Jo and I joined Sage Gateshead in 2019 as Head of Young People's Programme, which encompasses CoMusica, Young Musicians Programme, In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead alongside work with schools.

I was lucky enough to spend my first day at Hawthorn Primary and although I knew about In Harmony prior to working at Sage Gateshead, I feel privileged to have seen the programme up close over the last year. There are so many highlights, but to pick out a couple from the Winter term - it was wonderful to sit in on an open session for Bridgewater's reception class and see how quickly the children picked up the rhythm and song - clearly excited for the upcoming festivities. In Harmony took Christmas by storm and it was brilliant to see the range of performances from after-school sharing performances at Hawthorn, to the West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra John Lewis performance where players delighted the busy shoppers.

It was so lovely join Royal Northern Sinfonia players, children and parents at Hawthorn's Christmas lunch. We enjoyed delicious food and the great company of Head girl Katie and Sumaiyah who told us about the instruments on their Christmas wish-list alongside the performances they have been involved with in 2019.

In Harmony clearly plays a big part in people's daily lives and I am very glad it has become part of mine now too.

Looking forward to a great year ahead and hopefully meet with some of you at future performances and events.

Jo Thornton
Head of Young People's Programme

Newcastle Citizenship Ceremony Performance

The children of Hawthorn Primary Symphony Orchestra were invited to perform for the Lord Mayor as part of a Citizenship Ceremony at Newcastle Civic Centre.

The children performed two pieces and were extremely proud to play for such an important event for the city. They were later presented with a professional photograph which is proudly on display in the school reception.



Performances in our community

We love to share our music with our community, and we try to perform as often as we can in various places in the local area.

There have been three key performances since the last newsletter:

Summerhill Trust

Four children from Hawthorn Primary School were invited to perform at the Summerhill Trust Christmas Fair in December. The children played some festive favourites as well as some tunes they have been learning during their In Harmony lessons.

In a heart-warming display of community spirit, the audience joined in and sang along to a sister and brother duo who had put together 'Jingle Bells' just a few days before, using an arrangement from the younger ones' ensemble. It was lovely to see such determination alongside the ensemble skills.

We want to thank the Trust for the invitation to perform and donating some of the events proceeds to our programme. Thank you for your continued support.

Anne Frank Exhibition

West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra were invited to perform as part of the opening of the Anne Frank Exhibition at the West End Women and Girls Centre in Elswick - a 'home from home' for the orchestra as this is where they rehearse.

The performance took place just before the official opening speech by our local MP Chi Onwurah who also enjoyed hearing the orchestra.

"Thank you so much for the Orchestra playing at the opening of the Anne Frank Exhibition, it was much appreciated and as usual they were brilliant."

Huffty, West End Women and Girls Centre Manager

Cruddas Park Shopping Centre



The Beethoven's ensemble from Hawthorn Primary School took the short walk from school to perform at the Cruddas Park Shopping Centre for a festive community event.

The children loved decorating their stands with tinsel and families gathered to hear them perform a variety of pieces. Other people came out of the shops and library to give a warm reception to the group. The library staff treated the children to juice and biscuits as well as presenting them with a small gift. Thank you to the Shopping Centre, Library and all involved for their continued support for our programme, we'll definitely return!

Brody Rocks!

Seven year old Brody Flynn from Bridgewater, dreams of being a rock star and has featured in Sage Gateshead's What's On Guide recently!

Brody started playing the violin when he was five years old. Now seven, Brody's enjoyment of playing and interest in music has flourished. *"I picked the violin because I liked listening to higher sounds."* Brody was pleased to be able to learn the violin alongside the guitar and drums which he already plays at home. His mum Leanne said: *"It compliments his interest in music at home and has now taught him theory. His guitar finger work has also improved which I think are transferred skills from In Harmony."*

For Brody, music helps with his focus and attention and his mum says that *"he always comes home happy from In Harmony."* She was so proud when she first saw him perform - *"it was great to see him play with so much confidence on a real stage with an orchestra."*

Leanne is looking forward to seeing how his passion for music develops. *"He has a real love for music of all genres but particularly rock music."* Brody said: *"One day, I'd like to record my own songs and be in a band. Maybe become a rock star like Ozzy Osbourne!"*



RNS Live! Primary Beethoven

The Year 3 and 4 string ensembles from Hawthorn visited Sage Gateshead to see the Royal Northern Sinfonia Live concert in February. The children were excited to see the concert, which was themed around Beethoven, from Level 2 where they had a great view and were able to see all the orchestra.

The children were able to recognise favourites such as 'Ode to Joy' and the opening of 'Symphony No. 5' as many of them have completed their Arts Award research on the composer Beethoven so were able to recall hearing and playing some of his works.



Music for Youth Regional Festival

West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra impressed the Music for Youth mentors with their performance at the regional festival in February, enjoying their chance to perform in Sage One at Sage Gateshead.

The orchestra played two pieces, one without the conductor! There was recognition of how the older players had inspired and mentored the younger players, working well together and supporting each other's abilities..



"[This performance was] a lovely little suite of works from an orchestra who are growing in confidence, and able to achieve some precision in your playing and moments of sophistication and style." Music for Youth Mentor Feedback

Arts Award Explore Success

16 children from Key Stage Two at Hawthorn Primary School have successfully completed their Arts Award Explore. The children worked with their tutors to create posters and storyboards which, alongside their musical performances, made up a fantastic Arts Award Explore booklet.

The children completed their award by describing their projects and performances on camera and sharing the videos with the rest of their class.



"Arts Award is important because it's a big step towards your whole career in music"
Year 4 student

Upcoming Concerts

■ West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra in Concert

Thursday 2 April, 6pm, Lit & Phil Society, Westgate Road, NE1 1SE

Come and hear the young musicians from West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra who will be playing their favourite pieces from the term. Tickets are free will be available on the door.

■ West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra in Concert

Monday 22 June, 6pm, St. Matthew's Church, Summerhill, NE4 6EJ

Come and hear the young musicians from West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra who will be playing their favourite pieces from the term. Tickets are free will be available on the door.

■ In Harmony Summer Festival

Thursday 25 June, all day, Sage Gateshead

Join us in supporting every young musician from Hawthorn Primary and Bridgewater School who learns an instrument with In Harmony in their end of year showcase at Sage Gateshead. More details to follow.

About In Harmony

In Harmony is a national initiative that aims to inspire and transform the lives of children through community-based orchestral music-making.

Established by Government and now funded by Arts Council England and the Department for Education in conjunction with individual donors, trusts and foundations.

This immersive orchestral music making programme improves the life chances of children and young people in the West End of Newcastle, by increasing confidence, wellbeing, resilience and educational attainment.

By working in partnership, In Harmony helps build stronger communities, generating pride, hope and aspiration.

"He loves the cello! It's his favourite part of school".
- Year 1 Parent, Bridgewater School

From their very first day in Year 1, children at Hawthorn Primary School and Bridgewater School in Newcastle's West End begin learning an instrument – and the benefits extend far beyond the classroom into the wider community.

"For those who are not confident during school lessons, they shine during music and it has helped them in group situations."- Teacher

The music-making skills, confidence, self-esteem, health, wellbeing and resilience of the children improve through the power and disciplines of ensemble music-making and music being part of daily life. In Harmony helps to build a sense of community and supports parental engagement with the schools - some have been so motivated by their children's development that they are now learning instruments alongside their children.

"In Harmony improves self-esteem, confidence, life chances and future health. I see the effect on children when I see them at my work – pride, confidence, self-worth and I see the effect on parents when I see them too".

- Dr Guy Pilkington, Local GP

Please Support In Harmony

Every year we rely on support from donors to sustain this life-enriching programme.

Whether you choose to make a regular donation or a single gift to In Harmony, your support will make a real impact on the lives of young people today.

Ways to give:

- **Regular Direct Debit**
On a monthly or quarterly basis.
These gifts are particularly helpful as they enable us to better plan for future needs.

- **Regular or single gifts by text message.**
Your donations is added to you phone bill.

To donate a £5 single gift, text INHARMONY to 70085. You will be charged £5 + your standard message rate

To set up a £5 monthly text donation, text IHMONTHLY to 70085

- **Single gifts** can be made by credit card, debit card or cheque (payable to North Music Trust).

Make a single donation online at www.sagegateshead.com/donate and select 'In Harmony'

To set up a Direct Debit, or make a card payment, please contact Natalie Heath, at Sage Gateshead on **0191 443 5038**.

Cheques can be posted to In Harmony, Sage Gateshead, St Mary's Square, Gateshead. NE8 2JR.



Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

Sage Gateshead is a registered charity,
North Music Trust (Reg. Ch. No. 1087445).