



The Big Drum Adventure

Scottish Borders
Council

About

Each year, The Big Drum Adventure works with around 300 pupils from P4 to P6 across six primary schools in Scottish Borders. It is one of 13 Youth Music Initiative programmes run by Scottish Borders Council to encourage music making and participation.

The approach

The project offers all pupils the opportunity to take part in activities. Through drumming, children can develop their vocal and instrumental skills, explore sounds and concepts, gain musical confidence, and use their skills and imagination to create compositions. They're encouraged to be creative, enjoy music, perform to an audience, and share their experiences with peers and family. Pupils also have the opportunity to develop their teamwork, personal and social skills.

Activities

This ten week drumming programme encourages pupils to learn about and play drums from a range of countries. Each programme is bespoke and designed around the school, the class and their needs. Lessons are highly structured, though offer choices in activities and games, and each child can experience all the different instruments. Children also make their own drumsticks, perform their pieces, record their work and share it with others.

One of the children's favourite aspects of the Big Drum Adventure is the Museum of Instruments, which introduces new percussion to the class. Pupils learn about the instrument, listen to the tutor playing, sometimes have the opportunity to try it themselves, and learn about another culture.

"They learn so much without knowing it – many of them are transferable skills and some of it is quite reflective. It increases their overall attainment and achievement."

"We are taking their enthusiasm for music as a springboard to learning other subjects."

Support and training

Running the Big Drum Adventure project is a self-employed musician with over 15 years experience. He has trained through drumming and singing courses run by National Youth Choir of Scotland and several development sessions. The tutor also trains the teachers and other YMI tutors in the areas. An important aspect of the programme is encouraging teachers to join in, giving pupils the valuable experience of learning alongside their teachers and seeing them make mistakes too.

Working with others

The partnership between the tutor, the schools and Scottish Borders Council is fruitful in a number of ways. The equipment is provided for free by the tutor so no resource, beyond funding, is required by the council. In addition, the project is easy to implement across a range of schools without being dependent upon their current music provision and facilities. The tutor also has creative freedom in the planning and delivery of the Big Drum Adventure.

Impact on children

There's a great response to the Big Drum Adventure, with both teachers and pupils asking for more sessions. Children are improving their music skills, becoming more interested in music and feeling more confident. Everyone involved believes the project helps with wider learning, and both tutor and teachers see an increase in pupils' focus and concentration across all areas of their learning. In addition, children are more connected to each other by working as a team and this is particularly noticeable in more rural areas where the project has helped tackle isolation.

Impact on deliverers and the music sector

The tutor really enjoys the project and very much values the links between school work, drumming and the wider community. Pupils share their music with friends and relatives at the finale performance and showcase their skills in the community by drumming at local events.

The Big Drum Adventure has created opportunities for young people to experience different musical genres and broaden their horizons, and the Scottish Borders Council has noted an increase in pupils wishing to study music in secondary school.

Successes

The Big Drum Adventure has reached out and engaged young people who would not otherwise have access to this genre of music. Pupils and teachers alike have benefitted from the skill and enthusiasm of the music tutor who connects young people with their community and engages teachers in and beyond the sessions. This high quality project also features extensive cross-curricular learning by incorporating maths, languages, physical education, science, poetry and theatre into the sessions.

Lessons learned

Running the Big Drum Adventure within the school day is a helpful way of providing the sessions with structure in a safe and inclusive environment while the flexible approach by the tutor has also been critical to its success.

The most challenging aspect is providing opportunities in the community so pupils can progress beyond school. In response, Scottish Borders Council is creating a bank of instruments for schools and community groups, and the tutor is developing an online resource so pupils can create and share their own compositions.

What's next

The project will continue to develop through the new online drumming application, by using MaKey MaKey technology, and by increasing the supply of instruments within Scottish Borders. In addition, the tutor notes that drumming would be a constructive approach to working with pupils with social, emotional and behavioural needs.





Bookbug

Delivered by
Scottish Book Trust
Orkney

About

Bookbug in Orkney is part of Scottish Book Trust's Early Year's Programme and aims to encourage parents and children to share books together from birth. Four free packs of books are given to every child in Scotland, from babies and toddlers to three year olds and P1 children. Bookbug also promotes fun free activities in almost every library in Scotland.

The approach

The Bookbug local coordinator delivers book packs to health visitors, local nurseries and primary schools, and leads monthly Bookbug sessions for babies and toddlers at Kirkwall Library. Session leaders also run activities in local centres in outlying communities on the mainland, such as Deerness and Dounby, and on some of the smaller islands.

Bookbug has been running in Orkney since 1999 and the first 'Bookbug babies' are now entering high school.

"It is all about encouraging parents to bond with their children and give them a love of books. They start to come to the library at an early age and remember it as a fun place."

Activities

Bookbug packs for babies and toddlers are usually gifted to parents by health visitors, who then encourage families to go along to the free Bookbug sessions. Packs for three year olds are gifted in all nursery settings, many of which also tailor activities around the books. The P1 packs are given to children in local primary schools during Bookweek Scotland.

Children from birth to four years also receive stickers and illustrated certificates when they take part in the national Bookbug Library Challenge, encouraging them to discover and enjoy their local libraries in Kirkwall and Stromness.

Support and training

The Scottish Book Trust provides support and training to coordinators, offering workshops, networking meetings and the Bookbug Annual Conference. Networking meetings are a valuable opportunity to share experiences while Train the Trainer workshops encourage more people to deliver Bookbug sessions on the outer islands. In addition, one of Scottish Book Trust's national trainers has run a session Bookbug for the Home tailored mainly, but not exclusively, for the Homestart project.

Working with others

The Bookbug coordinator works closely with local partners, including NHS Orkney. She liaises with midwives at the local Maternity Unit and attends Social Baby Class for expectant parents, helping to raise awareness of Bookbug. The relationship with health visitors is very strong and families are recommended Bookbug sessions for their children's speech and language development. Kirkwall Library also hosts the 24 month health checks for toddlers.

The programme benefits from the support of a range of volunteers who take part in song and rhyme and run craft activities at the sessions.

Impact on parents and children

The response to the Bookbug project in Orkney has been overwhelmingly positive. The sessions offer a fun experience for babies and toddlers, and are a great way to learn rhymes and songs. For parents, the sessions provide a place to meet other families and a chance to relax in a friendly place. Bookbug also helps extended family become more involved as parents and carers can take home their rhyme sheets.

One of the Bookbug sessions was set up in response to concerns from the local health visitor that

some of the children had speech and language difficulties. Since establishing this new session, there have been noticeable improvements in the speech development of these children.

Bookbug also helps foster an interest in books and the library from an early age, something from which children can continually benefit.

Successes

Key successes in Orkney include improved bonding between children and their parents and carers, stimulating an early interest in rhymes and books, and a positive impact on language skills and development. The programme also provides the opportunity for parents to learn songs and rhymes to use at home, helps babies and children develop their socialising skills, and gives parents the chance to meet others in a friendly environment.

For those working on the programme, the greatest thing about Bookbug has been the sheer number and mix of people attending the sessions, and seeing the enjoyment children and their parents and carers get from these.

Lessons learned

Originally the early years Bookbug sessions in Kirkwall were joint sessions for babies and toddlers. The sessions are now split which is particularly beneficial for babies and new mothers who can be in a much quieter environment.

What's next

Though the Local Area Coordinator would like to be able to deliver the sessions on a weekly basis, this currently is not possible due to staffing.

"It's the highlight of our week, and a great opportunity to meet other babies and mums."

"We are quite isolated up in Orkney – it is a great opportunity to network."



Coco Music

Delivered by Impact
Arts and Barnardos
Polmont

About

The Coco Music Project is run by Impact Arts liaising with Barnardo's and takes place in Her Majesty's Young Offenders Institution Polmont. The programme offers music provision to young men in custody through group work, individual sessions and master classes. Participants are encouraged to build a repertoire of music and work towards a finale performance to friends and family.

The approach

The project centres around communication skills, confidence, a sense of purpose, creative skills and recognition of talent, and aims to give young people the opportunity to make music, develop skills and to consider a future in the creative industries.

"Immediately for some, it's a release, an outlet. A way to communicate how they feel in a safe environment."

Activities

Participants opt in to the programme and choose their instrument or activity. There are currently four groups: two learning to DJ and two working on band development, rap and MCing. Tutors teach and guide but the programme is designed to be led by the young men who are encouraged to take ownership wherever possible.

All participants have the opportunity to record their work and make a CD of their music. They can also take part in a performance to friends, family and their peers, and work towards a Trinity College accredited Arts Award.

Support and training

The environment of the Young Offenders Institution is unusual and unmatched by anything in the community. The programme's music tutors are specifically chosen for their knowledge, experience and ability to work with potentially challenging young people, and receive extensive training. Youth workers and Scottish Prison Service staff are also offered master classes with industry professionals to develop skills so they too can set up music sessions.

Working with others

The partnership between Impact Arts and Barnardo's is particularly important to the success of the project. Based in Polmont Young Offenders Institution, the Barnardo's youth worker has regular contact with participants, knows who might like to take part, can provide information on the project, and maintains contact throughout and after the programme. She also comes to the sessions which helps build a trusting relationship between participants and the music tutor.

Impact on young people

There is high demand and excellent turn-out for the programme. The young men feel the sessions offer a much needed addition to their week, and help their health and wellbeing. The Coco Music Project also stimulates a real interest in music, so much so that the young men would like to develop this further and continue their music making.

The project also offers the time and space for participants to express themselves, share personal experiences, recognise their own behaviours and take responsibility for their actions. In addition, the programme helps with creative development, including music skills and songwriting; social development, such as teamwork,

relationships and compromise; and raises self esteem, confidence and pride.

Impact on deliverers and the youth music sector

The experience of working in a different environment gives tutors the chance to develop their skills and helps them learn how to adapt, especially when managing behaviour.

Tutors find the work very rewarding and feel that it changes their perception of working in the prison environment. It is hoped that the project will have an impact on the youth music sector as the participants come to see a career in music or performing arts as a viable option.

"In the long term, it's aspirational. They're working with real artists so they can see that it's a viable career, something they can do when they leave prison."

Successes

Those involved in the Coco Music Project believe the best thing about the programme is the considerable difference it has made to young people, giving them something to focus on and a sense of achievement. The project has increased the confidence of the young participants, inspiring them to further their own talents. This has been particularly beneficial to protected prisoners who often have limited opportunities within their environment.

The project has also benefitted significantly from the tutors' ability to respond to different needs and build trusting relationships. A positive partnership has also developed between music tutors, youth workers and prison staff.

Lessons learned

Working in the young offenders institution can be challenging. Tutors strive to ensure they can deliver the best possible programme of music within the restrictions and regulations of a custodial environment. Tutors and youth workers have to work carefully to manage dynamics and conflicts within the groups, and can sometimes find it difficult to encourage young men to perform without embarrassment in front of peers and family.

What's next

A new performing arts space is being developed in Polmont Young Offenders Institution which will provide the opportunity to host larger events at the end of the programme. There are also plans to build a peer mentoring scheme; develop an in-house radio station and record label run by the young men; and try the approach in other prisons, particularly with young women.

"There's no way we could deliver a successful project without the support of everyone involved in the care of the young people."





**Edinburgh Youth
Music Forum**
Edinburgh

About

Edinburgh Youth Music Forum provides a hub for music makers and music educators working with young people aged 0-25. Together they can develop skills and share their knowledge of music provision and education. EYMF has a broad membership, including individuals and organisations, and has many opportunities open to non-members.

The approach

EYMF aims to strengthen and support musicians working with young people, promote and develop skills for best practice, and share information and job opportunities. The Forum is run by a Board of 12 members and has a wider membership of around 40, with a larger mailing list who are invited to take part in activities. The only paid staff member is the Development Manager who organises events, liaises with partner organisations, and manages finances, membership, enquiries and administration.

Activities

EYMF's free events provide training and support to people working in the youth music sector, and include continuing professional development, peer support, practical support, and residential weekends. In addition, peer-to-peer learning sessions encourage members to share skills and experience.

Activities help practitioners provide the best quality support and engagement in the youth music sector and also help them manage potentially challenging issues that might arise. Topics covered at events include improving teaching skills, managing funding applications, facilitating group work, and working with at risk children.

The Forum strives to remain relevant and continuously adds to its resources of knowledge and contacts, where possible inviting visiting artists to host events and workshops. The Forum is also developing a library of books, instruments and equipment.

"For every member who learns something new from one of our sessions, that new knowledge can only impact on the young people they work with for the better and continue to strengthen youth music in Scotland."

Working with others

Partnership working is vital to EYMF and the Forum works closely with partners around Edinburgh and across Scotland, including educational institutions, the local authority and youth organisations. Many members also deliver training and workshops.

Impact on Forum Members

Members are very positive about the ability of EYMF to connect community musicians to one another and feel they really benefit from the work of the Forum. Most significantly, EYMF has created a community and support system for individuals and organisations working with young people in music. The Forum has also developed networking opportunities to raise the profile of their members' work and share information.

Members very much appreciate the events and value the chance to meet those in similar roles who are dealing with the same issues. These free events also provide a great opportunity to try out new approaches and in some cases lead to new partnerships and collaborations.

Impact on the wider community and the youth music sector

Members feel that all the work of EYMF contributes to enhancing the youth music sector. The support they receive to improve their knowledge and skills has had a real impact. This has been particularly significant in strengthening tutors' skills in working with hard to reach and at risk young people.

The Forum also continually raises the profile of community music, benefitting the practitioners themselves and those they work with.

"The EYMF is helping community music to get recognised as an important and valuable part of human endeavour that is important for well being."

Successes

EYMF actively encourages members to make requests for workshops and training as their needs arise, and responds well to demands. The Forum strives to meet these needs wherever possible and regularly works with local and international musicians to provide an array of training opportunities and resources.

Added to this, the Forum provides a supportive community for musicians from diverse backgrounds to come together and share their experiences.

EYMF's reach is now broader and includes the formal sector. A number of school teachers now come along to events to learn new ways to engage pupils. Developing this relationship with the formal sector helps ensure that community practitioners are recognised as talented, proficient and professional in their work with young people.

Challenges

Aside from having a limited budget, the main challenge to EYMF is bringing people together at events as many members work evenings and weekends so it is rare that they can all come along. The Development Manager aims to accommodate everyone as much as possible and runs events on weekends as well

as weekdays. Members are keen to see more community musicians attending regularly to keep up standards of practice across the field of community music.

What's next

EYMF aims to improve links with the formal music sector by working with schools and teachers. The Forum is considering working directly with young people, particularly those interested in a future in music, and involve them in the Forum.

Upcoming events include co-hosting the Community Music Activity Commission Symposium with the International Society for Music Education and getting involved in the Edinburgh Youth Music Festival.

"I began to feel part of a community of youth music practitioners, which I hadn't felt before."



**Gorbals Youth
Brass Band**
Glasgow

About

The Gorbals Youth Brass Band (GYBB) was established in 2012 by two former pupils of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland who wanted to bring brass tuition to inner city areas. Through the project, each child receives an instrument, joins weekly lessons and rehearsals, and can take part in competitions, masterclasses and concerts with the Band.

The approach

To promote inclusive access in an area of deprivation and sectarianism, the founders based the project in the St Francis Centre in the Gorbals, between two local primary schools, one non-denominational and the other Roman Catholic.

The Gorbals Youth Brass Band introduces young people to brass instruments, brings people together from different backgrounds, and gives them the opportunity to showcase their new musical skills.

The Band offers free music tuition to young people from P4 upwards and covers all brass instruments from cornet, tenor horn and baritone to euphonium and trombone.

Activities

Weekly sessions take place during term time and are based around group tuition followed by playing together as an ensemble. Tutors give taster sessions to pupils at both primary schools and the Band takes in around 20 new pupils each time.

For the first few weeks there are no instruments, just games and activities based on rhythms and Kodaly principles. This gives the tutors insight into the young people's abilities who are then encouraged to try different instruments and find the one best suited to them.

As well as individual lessons and band work, the group is encouraged to perform together at events, such as the brass band championships.

Support and training

Funding from the Youth Music Initiative has enabled tutors to explore continuing professional development with community education. The Band has also received support from the Scottish Brass Band Association and both primary schools have been a great support in helping to recruit more young people.

"It was different. There's nothing like this in the Gorbals."

Impact on children and young people

Young people enjoy being part of the Band and really like performing at concerts and events. They also appreciate having somewhere to go after school, seeing their friends and making new friendships with pupils from another school. By learning new skills and performing to their peers and to an audience, they've also increased in confidence.

Tutors and teachers have also seen this change among the pupils, noting their positive attitude towards music making and a greater feeling of self worth. The programme also gives them the chance to broaden their horizons by learning new skills and meeting new people. Young people also had the opportunity to travel outside of Glasgow, which was a first for some.

The tutors in the Gorbals Youth Brass Band continually gather feedback from their members, ask young people for their views and change the programme where they can to suit different needs.

Impact on deliverers, the youth music sector and the wider community

Initially, some of the young members joined the Gorbals Youth Brass Band because it was something new

and different for the area. They're now keen to continue playing their instruments and develop their skills. Others, having had such positive experiences in the Band, are now considering careers in the music sector.

Families of participants also recognise the benefits of their children's involvement in the Band, having seen them flourish over time. They also enjoy coming to watch the children perform the pieces they learn and practice at home.

Successes

The Gorbals Youth Brass Band is successful in a number of ways. The project develops young people's skills in music and encourages a real interest in, and enthusiasm for, brass instruments. In addition, the programme boosts young people's confidence, particularly by offering them the chance to perform on stage.

Children have also benefitted from taking their instruments home to practice. They are effectively 'gifted' an instrument when they join the Band which encourages them to learn and play in their own home.

The project also brings together children from different schools and backgrounds who then learn how to work together as a team. Key to all of these successes is the dedication and commitment of the volunteers.

Challenges

The Band has found it challenging to engage some of the parents and families of the young participants and there are some young people who have been attending for some time but whose parents the tutors have not yet met. The tutors are working hard to encourage engagement by inviting parents to attend events and concerts and are considering having a presence at school parents' evenings to meet more families.

What's next

The plan is to expand the Gorbals Youth Brass Band by introducing a percussion element, particularly drums, which they believe may attract more boys. The Band is aiming to enter some young people into solo competitions and inviting their parents and teachers to these performances. The Band would also like to launch a summer timetable of activity rather than having only term-time sessions.

"I used to be really shy and not do anything in front of others but the tutors just encouraged me and told me that no-one would laugh and everyone is the same, and it boosted my confidence."

"Last week we went to the City Halls with the BBC and we played to open it. It was a bit scary, I was shaky before the performance, but after I was excited."



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Hot Chocolate Trust
Dundee

About

Hot Chocolate Trust is a youth work organisation which provides a safe space for young people aged 12 to 21 to make music together in Dundee city centre. This community of young people often face a wide range of challenges such as low educational attainment, bullying, unemployment, homelessness, mental health issues, risk taking behaviour and discrimination.

The approach

The Hot Chocolate Trust embraces an unstructured and informal approach, allowing the programme to be shaped and led by young people. The project develops young people's self worth and encourages them to believe they can make a positive impact. The music tutor urges young people to try different instruments or sing, and works with them to build their confidence in music skills and more generally.

The project also equips young people with skills for employment, education and training, such as writing a CV, interview preparation, help finding work, and seeking training opportunities.

Activities

Drop-in open music sessions are held three times a week in a space complete with drum kit, acoustic guitars, other instruments and a computer for recording and editing music. Young people can attend as often as they like and are free to play independently, as a group, and with or without support from the tutor and music volunteers. They can also have one-to-one lessons.

The music tutor builds a close relationship with each young person, working with them to develop their musical skills, and build their confidence and self worth. She mentors them, organises performances for family and friends, and encourages the young people to perform by taking them busking.

Young people are also directed towards training and employment opportunities and some have signed up to music courses at college, having felt more inspired and confident since working with the tutor.

While the age limit for drop-in sessions is 22 years, participants can return as volunteers and take on responsibilities such as facilitating groups, and buying and maintaining equipment.

Hot Chocolate also runs creative residential weekends throughout the year, designed to give young people a chance to develop.

These weekends encourage collaboration between young people interested in visual arts and those developing their music skills.

Working with others

Partnership working is especially important to the project and Hot Chocolate, the YMI tutor and volunteers work closely to build confidence in young people and encourage their ambitions. In addition, Hot Chocolate works with Dundee City Council and YouthLink Scotland.

Support and training

All staff are given training on care and protection services, and how to manage challenging behaviour. There are also sessions in specific areas such as mental health and debt counselling as well as residential weekends covering training, reflection and team building.

Impact on young people

Young people feel their confidence has increased through the project and really enjoy having a place to go, making new friends and having one-to-one sessions with the music tutors. They also particularly value the support around education, employment and training. Many have been inspired by the project and gone on to study music at college or university.

Impact on deliverers and the youth music sector

Staff and volunteers find working with Hot Chocolate and the music activities very rewarding, some even describing it as 'life changing'. The programme also has a really positive impact in the local community through building strong links with the Police and local shopping centre. Hot Chocolate works to re-build relationships and trust with the shopping centre by finding jobs and apprenticeships for the young people, some of which have had long term bans or been known to the Police.

"Often there is a "wow" moment when a young person exceeds expectations and their families are amazed by it."

Successes

Hot Chocolate has created a community for young people to come together in a place where they aren't judged, attracting members who might never have considered attending and providing the security they need to continue to come. The programme fosters an environment in which young people can speak up, build their confidence and push themselves.

As well as developing musical skills, the project shows the wider value of music. Young people feel music has a significant impact on their lives, and that it gives them the opportunity to express themselves and overcome personal issues. Young people are flourishing by finding something that they're good at and, for some, this is the first time they feel this has happened.

Lessons learned

Hot Chocolate are committed to continuing their ethos of co-production, putting young people first and allowing them to lead, knowing that young people get the most out of the project when they can make their own decisions.

What's next

Hot Chocolate hopes to update its recording equipment and staff are also working to create more learning opportunities for young people and other practitioners by creating a learning hub.

"In ten years' time, I don't think it really matters what we are doing as long as we are creating a community of happy young people that feel good."

"Music saved my life. And if I ever make it as a musician, I'll only have this place to thank."



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Inclusive Classroom
Drake Music Scotland
Aberdeenshire

About

Drake Music Scotland has been providing music classes and tuition to pupils with additional support needs for three years as part of Aberdeenshire Council's Youth Music Initiative. Three Drake Music Scotland Associate Musicians run the programme at four special schools, one primary school and one secondary school.

The approach

Inclusive Classroom ensures pupils with additional support needs, including those with complex needs, can take part in music activity. The aim is for pupils to develop their music skills, physical co-ordination and motor skills, and build confidence and social skills.

Activities

All pupils receive 15 weeks of music teaching with an Associate Musician and have access to a variety of instruments, equipment and technology to suit different needs and capabilities.

Sessions introduce young people to a variety of instruments and equipment designed or adapted to their needs. This includes 'soundbeam' technology, a device that uses sensor technology to translate body movement into music and sound, and 'Figurenotes', an inclusive system for reading music based on colours and shapes.

Where possible, participants perform to their peers in their own schools and take part in an annual summer show. They also contribute towards planning and delivering lessons, compose music themselves, decide which instruments to play and the style of music to perform.

"It's about allowing them to achieve their potential."

"I can hugely see the progression. I don't need to bring in ideas for them... I love that it's all them."

Support and training

Drake Music Scotland provides training to all Associate Musicians before they take up their posts. Continuing Professional Development days are also run throughout the year and Drake Music Scotland holds a summer event for musicians to share best practice and train each other. Associate Musicians also train class teachers and music teachers in the technology and techniques used with pupils with additional support needs, which teachers incorporate into their own lessons. This joint working creates links with music provision at the local high school and encourages young people with music throughout their education.

Impact on children and young people

Feedback from pupils and teachers is very positive. Pupils enjoy their musical experiences, are able to play and compose music, and are developing team work and listening skills. Tutors and teachers appreciate the quality of the sessions, enjoy seeing the enthusiasm of the pupils and have seen the young people become more creative. The programme also benefits pupils who'd like to progress further as they can enter exams using Figurenotes and achieve accredited qualifications.

In addition, as the programme brings schools together for performances, young people learn to be part of an audience, appreciate each other's work, build their confidence and feel more involved in their community.

Impact on deliverers and the youth music sector

Associate Musicians find the project beneficial, particularly as they have the freedom to collaborate with the pupils in designing and delivering a flexible programme. It is hoped that there will be an impact on the wider community and youth music sector, as there is growing acknowledgement that pupils with additional support needs can play music using Figurenotes in an ensemble with those using traditional notation. As pupils build their skills there will be the opportunity for them to join music centres and play alongside pupils from across the region in orchestras, ensembles and community performances.

Successes

This inspiring programme provides high quality specialist music activity and an inclusive music education accessible to all. It also offers opportunities for large-scale performances and new ways for pupils to explore music and develop team work.

Tutors and teachers agree that one of the great successes of this project is its ability to engage with all pupils, regardless of their needs, and to allow them to succeed in music.

“Music is something they can really achieve at, rather than reading or writing or learning music under conventional methods. Our technology allows them to do that.”

What's next

To ensure the programme is sustainable, Aberdeenshire Council has purchased specialist equipment, instruments and iPads used exclusively for music. In addition, teachers are being trained in using technology and are encouraged to use it across the curriculum without being dependent on an Associate Musician. Aberdeenshire Council hopes to expand the programme so more pupils can take individual lessons, and to develop the programme in mainstream schools so they too can benefit from the input of Drake Music Scotland.



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Mull Music Makers

Isle of Mull

About

Mull Music Makers is a violin workshop on the Isle of Mull. Here, young people can learn musicianship skills, play the violin, take part in group music making and perform for an audience.

The approach

The programme is open to all young people of school age living in Mull. Workshops have around 40 regular participants each month and most are primary school age. In the first year, the programme ran monthly and participants could choose to attend as much or as little as they wished. Now that young people are progressing their skills, the tutors encourage parents to bring their children to monthly workshops for a full year so that the young people get the most out of the project.

"I think it's amazing seeing such a huge group of children all playing the fiddle...having started from scratch."

Activities

Music workshops run for one weekend every month and activities include music lessons, musicianship sessions and ensemble playing. Most participants are beginners and have never played an instrument before so workshops focus on building up skills in rhythm and melody before introducing children to the violin. The young players develop their musicianship through songs, rhymes and games as well as learning the technical aspects of playing the violin. They also work towards a workshop and performance at the Mendelssohn on Mull Festival.

Support and training

The programme's tutors are all highly trained professional musicians and music teachers. Many have specialist knowledge of teaching methods or working with specific groups, such as children with complex needs. This provides an environment for peer learning with tutors keen to learn and share new techniques.

The programme works closely with parents to ensure young people maintain progression and momentum between workshops. Parents are also encouraged to come along to lessons and understand the challenges their children face when learning to play the violin.

Working with others

Partnerships are key to the success of Mull Music Makers, particularly relationships between the local co-ordinator and the parents of participants. Parents are included in the workshops as much as possible, and help shape the programme. Their involvement is intrinsic to the project as many young people are not able to attend without their family's support.

Impact on children

Mull Music Makers is helping young people develop important core musicianship skills which can be used with any type of music making. The children are showing real progression and, having listened to their tutors and peers play their instruments too, they're now able to perform confidently on their own.

The workshops also have wider benefits for young people as they gain listening skills, discipline and teamwork, all of which help with lifelong learning.

Impact on tutors, the wider community and the youth music sector

This project gives tutors the chance to work alongside those with expertise in different areas, providing the opportunity to share skills and techniques. The workshops bring together children from all over Mull on a regular basis, creating stronger connections in the community.

An additional YMI project has been set up for tuition in schools. It is hoped that in the coming years the impact of this new school-based project, along with Mull Music Makers, will be seen more directly as the young players mature and create their own music scene.

"When you have such a scattered population anything that brings people together is really important."

Successes

The project has instilled in young people a genuine interest in, and enthusiasm for, music. As such, there's a high level of commitment from those taking part. Young people also benefit from a programme that places a high value on musicianship as the basis for learning an instrument. And, by playing in groups and seeing their friends perform, children are more comfortable in their environment and become more confident.

Another success of the project is connecting talented music tutors who share their unique skills with each other and with the young participants. The project also brings together members of the community from all across the Isle of Mull, and has created links between participants, local music organisations and visiting musicians.

Lessons learned

Parents and tutors believe the success of the programme is largely due to the local co-ordinator who lives on Mull and is well known in the community. In addition, the project benefited from developing out of Mendelssohn on Mull, a longstanding annual event known to residents.

What's next

In the near future, the programme will focus on reading music, providing more performance opportunities and gathering more feedback. As the programme grows, there are plans to incorporate the Island's rich history of traditional music into the sessions. The long term goal is for Mull Music Makers to become a high quality violin academy.

"My daughter was quite self-conscious and shy. She didn't like doing things in front of people but this has given her a lot of confidence."



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL





Music Plus
Scottish Music Centre
Nationwide

About

Music Plus is a national mentoring programme for young people aged 14 to 19 run by the Scottish Music Centre. The project offers practical experience of working in the music industry with high quality one-to-one mentoring from professionals, experience days, events and peer-to-peer workshops.

Approach

Each mentoring session is tailored to the needs of the individual participant who is encouraged to set and achieve specific aims, such as gaining technical skills, increasing confidence, communication or performing in front of an audience. Mentors offer opportunities and provide coaching but the programme is planned entirely by the participants based on the areas of the industry and the type of music they want to explore.

Activities

Around 100 to 150 young people take part each year, and can choose from a variety of activities. Mentoring and workshops include vocal and instrumental coaching, song writing, band management, sound production and DJing. The programme also has a series of free online tools.

Music Plus is offered on an individual basis but young people are encouraged to collaborate at workshops, showcases, group sessions and experience days where they often form bands and perform jointly at showcase events.

The programme encourages participants to perform and use their music skills in the community as much as possible, at events hosted by Music Plus and performances at local venues and festivals.

Working with others

Local partnerships are important for the programme in all regions as facilities for meetings, rehearsals and performances are often found in the community through local music hubs, youth clubs and community centres. By building strong relationships with carefully chosen partners, the Scottish Music Centre has successfully built an active network of industry professionals and can 'mobilise anyone at any time, across the country, providing mentoring on anything from DJing to the accordion'.

"I want to open their mind to the range of possibilities so that they know anything is possible."

Support and training

The Scottish Music Centre's Train the Trainer programme for new mentors covers observing lessons, shadowing activity and a high level of feedback and reflection. The Centre also provides opportunities for further training, Continuing Professional Development and specialist skills for mentors working with vulnerable young people.

Impact on young people

Young people get the practical opportunity to use their skills in their local community, and are appreciative of the support they receive to perform and promote their music. The programme also encourages young people to express themselves in a non-judgemental environment, giving them the chance to build their confidence.

Many young people from Music Plus go on to pursue further education in music or to work in the industry, using the skills they've acquired and the programme's resources with great success.

"When we see any creativity and potential it is encouraged as much as possible."

Impact on deliverers and the youth music sector

Mentors and regional coordinators find that the programme allows them to build up their own skills. They're also pleased that they're able to provide young people with a service that covers a wide range of areas in the industry while being bespoke to individual participants.

The greatest impact on the youth music sector is in areas that are remote or with little music provision. Here, Music Plus creates a high quality and safe music scene for young people, many of which now organise their own events.

Successes

One of the key successes of the programme is its scope – a national project which gives music provision and mentoring to young people regardless of their geographical location.

This also helps the migration of skills into areas that otherwise have few opportunities for young people.

In addition, the activities are high quality and offer young people knowledge of every aspect of the music industry and access to industry professionals. Alongside this, the programme's informal approach, long term structure and holistic view ensures young people's well being is nurtured.

Lessons learned

Some young people live in remote areas and while it can sometimes be difficult to make opportunities accessible, it remains a high priority of the programme. In addition, the age range, spanning adolescent to adult, can raise issues in using venues where there are age restrictions and so some areas may benefit from having their own hub.

The project manager believes it is best to scale up gradually in developing a successful national programme and that success is also dependent upon choosing the mentors and co-ordinators not only for their practical skills but their ability to work with young people.

What's next

The programme always aims to reach more young people and hopes to continue growing over the coming years. Music Plus is in the process of becoming accredited so that young people can receive a formal qualification, and also hopes to work with Erasmus to create a European exchange programme.

Ideally the next stage for Music Plus would be to create a record label run by professionals and shadowed by young people who could eventually run the label as a productive business.

"I like seeing what people are capable of, it's inspiring and makes me want to develop things myself."



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**The Primary
Music Programme**
East Renfrewshire
Council

About

The Primary Music programme centres around Kodaly, a method of teaching musicianship that is used worldwide. The programme reaches all pupils from Primary 3 to Primary 7 in East Renfrewshire, including pupils with additional support needs at the local authority special school. By the time they reach Primary 7, almost all 6000 pupils will have received nearly three years of music tuition.

The approach

The programme aims to give every pupil in East Renfrewshire an introduction to music, ensuring everyone can take part. Through the Kodaly method of songs, rhymes and games, children are introduced to rhythm, pitch and melody. Pupils can then build on these basic skills throughout primary school and into secondary school.

The programme also encourages professional development and partnership working between teachers.

"It touches so many pupils – every single pupil gets a chance to experience it and it is totally across the board."

Activities

The Primary Music programme provides weekly music lessons during term time for children in Primary 4, 5 and 6, and one block of tuition for children in Primary 3 and 7.

Younger pupils take part in short activities designed to hold their attention and gradually build up their skills through individual learning, group work and peer-to-peer sessions.

Lessons are highly structured though pupils can choose the songs or games they'd like to play.

The project is devised to contribute to the Curriculum for Excellence and the sessions also involve cross-curricular learning by incorporating maths, history and languages.

"Just getting the young people to communicate and seeing the success and progression of the young people is rewarding."

Support and training

The programme is delivered by four Primary Music Specialists working in partnership with class teachers. All the specialists are registered with the General Teaching Council and have received a wide range of training, including musicianship training from the National Youth Choir of Scotland, training days with the British Kodaly Society, and, where required, specialist training on autism, dyspraxia and working with children with additional support needs.

The Primary Music Specialists also train the class teachers who then teach alternate weeks. As such, the programme features a high level of Continuing Professional Development. Class teachers have regular contact with the specialists and are supported through a structured lesson plan, access to the full range of music resources, and a CD for those less confident in singing.

Impact on children

Pupils, parents and teachers are positive about the programme and the range of benefits it brings. Children are successfully learning musical skills and developing co-operation and communication skills, while boosting their confidence. The programme inspires a longer term interest in music and also helps children to learn about other topics.

Impact on the youth music sector

Bolstered by their enthusiasm for music, pupils are taking their new skills out to the community, performing in retirement homes, charity events and taking part in the Glasgow Music Festival. Many young people are forming their own bands, going to recording studios, playing to their schools and performing at local events. Former pupils have formed a jazz band and an orchestra and there are now more school leavers pursuing careers in music or music teaching.

Impact on deliverers

Primary Music Specialists have enjoyed the experience of delivering the programme, especially seeing children grow in confidence and develop their skills. The programme has also drawn in teachers who may have been apprehensive about teaching music; they have increased in confidence because of the development opportunities and support they've received. They're also able to use new teaching methods in other subjects.

Successes

Feedback shows that the single best thing about the Primary Music programme is its sheer scale and the ability to cover every primary school in the area. It is entirely inclusive and ensures all pupils have the same level of basic grounding in music, reaching pupils who might not otherwise have taken part, particularly in areas of deprivation.

Successes also include higher standards of musicianship in pupils entering secondary school, greater enthusiasm from class teachers as a result of their training, and a successful partnership between specialists and teachers in delivering this high quality programme.

Lessons learned

The school setting is beneficial in delivering the programme though one of the main challenges for teachers is in working with older children as the programme becomes more complex at a time when they are learning a new curriculum.

What's next

In the near future, Primary Music Specialists will incorporate more technology such as iPad apps for composition and learning. They also plan to make the programme more creative, involve more cross-curricular learning and incorporate additional multidisciplinary elements. The Council and the programme team aspire to extend the programme to encompass pupils from early years to P7 on a weekly basis.

"We are always happy to adapt to schools' projects and it keeps the programme fun and interesting for us too."

"It's fun. You sing songs to help you learn rhythm."



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Traditional Music in Schools

Delivered by Fèis Rois
Highland

About

The Traditional Music in Schools programme is one of four Youth Music Initiative programmes by Highland Council and provides 12 hours of traditional music and song to every primary school across the Highland Council region. Fèis Rois, an organisation specialising in traditional and Gaelic music, song and culture, deliver part of this programme on behalf of Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

The approach

The project introduces pupils to traditional, Scots and Gaelic music and song; develops young people's music skills, including rhythm and pitch; and enhances their understanding of Scottish culture and heritage. The programme ensures every P5 pupil experiences live traditional music or song through access to professional musicians who are passionate about delivering participatory music.

"There is such great reward in witnessing shy individuals blossom into confident youngsters... their pride in what they have achieved in six short weeks can be humbling."

Activities

Sessions are interactive and dynamic and include Scots, traditional and Gaelic singing, group music making and tin whistle instruction. Tutors give children the experience of live music by singing and playing a variety of instruments, including guitar, fiddle, accordion and piano.

Tutors often have no knowledge of the pupils' music ability before the class so all pupils start at the same level. Children already receiving instrumental tuition are encouraged to play their instruments in group music workshops. This gives them the opportunity to explore a genre they might not usually play and also brings their musical talent and knowledge into the class sessions.

"There is a great variety of skills among the YMI tutors, both in terms of experience of different instruments and musical skills, so the kids get super variety."

Support and training

An annual traditional Youth Music Initiative meeting for tutors is hosted by Fèisean nan Gàidheal before the programme starts. The sessions cover safeguarding, class management, project updates and repertoire sharing, and tutors are given the chance to share ideas about the programme.

Throughout the year, tutors can access training sessions run by Highland Council and Fèis Rois, including courses on Music for the Deaf and Working with Children with Autism in a Musical Context. Fèis Rois has also developed a trainee tutor programme which includes mentoring, reflection and evaluation. There is also the opportunity to shadow other YMI tutors which helps develop a variety of techniques and approaches, and build up an inspiring age-appropriate repertoire.

Impact on children and young people

Pupils enjoy their traditional music making sessions and particularly like the variety of instruments they can listen to and try out. The lessons improve their musical skills and range of musical knowledge, giving them access to types of music they might not otherwise experience. As a direct result of having traditional

musicians in the classroom, new pupils attended Fèis Rois Oigridh, a week of traditional and Gaelic music during the school holidays. In addition, the lessons at school encourage young people to become more involved in learning generally.

Impact on the youth music sector and the community

Tutors feel that they benefit from working in the more formal environment of a school and learn different techniques by working closely with class teachers. In turn, the class teachers felt they were able to gain new skills from the tutors.

The wider youth music sector also benefits from the traditional music making. The programme offers employment for musicians and gives tutors the chance to collaborate with those who have different specialisms or interests.

In the community, pupils are sharing their learning with their parents and grandparents who often recognise the songs. Tutors and teachers hear the children singing the songs from class in the playground and with their families.

“With Fèis Rois, you always learn something new.”

Successes

As a result of the Traditional Music in Schools project, children and young people are experiencing different types of music and broadening their knowledge. They receive high quality tuition and also have the benefit of listening to live music from professionals. This has spurred their interest and many are now signing up to other traditional music projects outwith school time.

Class teachers also feel the benefit of the programme by coming into contact with different approaches to teaching. The programme has also fostered increased respect between YMI tutors and school instrumental teachers.

Another success of the programme is its flexibility, which allows each tutor to tailor their approach to engage pupils in the best possible way. Children also benefit from the inclusive nature of the project which allows all pupils to start from the same level.

What's next

Fèis Rois will continue to support the ongoing training of musicians to enable more professional artists to work on the programme. Fèis Rois would like to see the continued development of the programme and for every child in Scotland to have the opportunity to explore and participate in traditional music.

"I like it. It's more active and fun and you play all different types of instruments."



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Young Music Makers
City of Edinburgh
Council

About

The Young Music Makers project in Edinburgh provides music making opportunities in a specialist school for young people who are experiencing significant social, behavioural or educational difficulties and who cannot maintain a full-time place in mainstream education. Many are also looked after away from home or in kinship care.

The approach

Young Music Makers provides long-term music tuition for young people who don't otherwise have access to music making activities. The project promotes expression through music and encourages the development of transferable skills for learning, life and work including confidence, self-discipline and team work.

The young people involved generally have chaotic lifestyles outside school, mental health issues and difficulty communicating. With this in mind, the project concentrates on building positive relationships with pupils through music and does not set a prescribed programme of activity.

Activities

Three trained and qualified community musicians deliver sessions twice a week.

Group work combines singing and songwriting while individual sessions focus on instrumental tuition and songwriting. Pupils can learn voice, guitar, bass guitar and ukulele, as well as music production and sound engineering. Tutors encourage pupils to record their music in a professional studio and share their CDs with their friends, families and carers. The project also supports staff to learn instruments alongside the pupils, showing young people that learning can be lifelong.

One of the tutors also works with a local youth organisation so that school leavers can continue music making through local authority Activity Agreements. This is a national programme for those young people who may not, without additional support, make a successful transition to work, further education or training. Maintaining continuity with the project helps to keep participants engaged at a potentially turbulent time of transition.

"Some young people would have struggled to engage for ten minutes and now they're spending six hours in a recording studio."

Support and training

The project manager and music tutor have undertaken a significant amount of training to help deliver the project, including sessions on child protection, working with looked after children and song writing with children. In addition, they have attended sessions delivered by Edinburgh Youth Music Forum who offer training and peer support for musicians working with young people.

Working with others

Vital to the success of the project is the partnership between the music tutors and the school staff. Teachers are actively engaged in the programme and happy to offer support for music activity when the tutors are not present. This creates additional positive experiences for the young people taking part.

"They need the time, flexibility and effort that community musicians can provide."

Impact on children and young people

In addition to developing skills in music and technology, the project has a significant impact on young people's personal and social development. Using music to find common ground, the group sessions improve team building and help in forming positive relationships. The project also provides a safe way for young people to begin exploring their personal issues, many of which they have never addressed before.

The end of term concert helps raise aspirations and build confidence. For some pupils, this was the first time they had worked towards a goal, achieved an end result and received positive recognition.

Impact on deliverers and the youth music sector

The success of Young Music Makers has shown that this type of project can engage young people in a meaningful way and with real impact. Teachers have strengthened relationships with their pupils by learning instruments and performing alongside them, being actively involved in the project and having a positive attitude. The project has also given musicians the opportunity to learn more about working with young people.

Successes

One of the key successes of Young Music Makers is the sustained participation from young people who, through the project, have developed motivation, increased their confidence and learnt how to express their emotions in a positive way. These encouraging results are in part due to the programme being flexible enough to adapt to young people and their needs.

In addition, by recruiting highly qualified musicians and using professional recording spaces, the programme gives young people a rich experience which helps them feel valued, sometimes for the first time in their lives.

Lessons learned

Although it is possible to deliver activities for short periods of time, musicians and teaching staff believe this programme has most impact when delivered over a full year. This gives tutors time to develop genuine trusting relationships and the young people benefit from a sustained and predictable routine.

What's next

It is hoped that in future the project will focus more on young people transitioning out of school as this is a pivotal time in their lives. The local authority is keen to implement this project in at least one more school next year with a view to extending it more widely in future.

"For the ones who engage it is a unique opportunity where money, time and love are poured into them and they respond to that eventually."

"It's helped me become more confident with standing in front of crowds of people. It's made me confident about my voice, and sharing it with people."



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