



April 2017

Welcome to the Spring 2017 edition of the Leicester-Shire Music Education Hub newsletter. It has been a busy period for the Hub with new partnership projects starting up, lots of boys singing, the annual conference and Turntablism! We hope you enjoy reading up on what has been going on and what's on offer over the next 2 terms!

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In the unit, pupils are introduced to the art of Turntablism and taught how to interact with the equipment safely, several basic scratch techniques and the concept of Turntablism Transcription Method, a method of scratch notation. The project, a first of its kind in this genre, is giving pupils in Leicestershire access to a musical art form which is exciting, culturally contextual and musically engaging whilst also giving teachers and educators a chance to broaden their curriculum by using specialist music technology.

The first school to engage in the project was Ivanhoe College in Ashby-de-la-Zouch. Craig Cubitt, the college's Head of Music, said of the project "Ivanhoe College is the first school in the country to pilot the new turntablism project and it is going down amazingly. Our students have engaged with the decks and have loved every minute of the project and it has created a bit of a buzz around the school. It is exciting and fun while being a challenging musical experience."

Schools News

Leicester-Shire pupils becoming DJs through new pioneering Turntablism unit

You might remember in our Autumn newsletter that LSMS now have a Turntablism Unit of work, which is being delivered with Secondary age pupils. The resources have been written by Lead for Music Technology Bradley Smith and include a six lesson planned unit for a teacher to deliver, supported by an instructional video featuring Mr Switch, a world renowned Turntablist. The service has purchased a half class set of double decks which are loaned to schools for half a term.

Leicester-shire Schools Music Service (LSMS) have produced a pioneering project which builds on inspirational work from the BBC Ten Pieces initiative. Our music consultant, Bradley Smith, was commissioned to write a 6 lesson unit of Turntablism (scratch djing as it's known by some) to be offered to high schools around the county of Leicestershire. As part of the project, schools are given an entire classroom set of professional DJ equipment, written lessons plans, PowerPoint slides and tutorial videos which include several features from the BBC Ten Piece award winning turntablist, Mr Switch.

Comments from Year 7 pupils who have experienced the lessons include:

"It's amazing! I never thought I could do it!!!" Owen

"It is hard, but a great challenge" Lilly

College Principal, Anne-Marie Blewitt, has also been really impressed with the project saying "We are delighted to have had the opportunity for our students and staff to learn turntablism... it has added further interest to our broad and engaging music curriculum and students have thoroughly enjoyed the chance to experiment with sounds and technology in new ways".

Robert Smyth Academy is currently undertaking this exciting project and next term the project moves to St Martin's Catholic Academy in Hinckley.

Bookings are now being taken for the project in the next academic year. The cost to schools is £500 which includes a day's training, visits from a consultant, and transportation of the resources. To register interest for next year, please email bradley.smith@leics.gov.uk

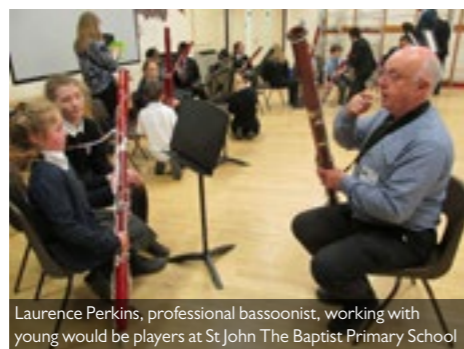
Saving the Endangered Species one instrument at a time!

Some orchestral instruments have been nationally identified as “Endangered Species” instruments as there are very few children learning them. The balance of instruments in our Youth Ensembles, and indeed in our orchestras of the future, is therefore in jeopardy.

LSMS had a number of instruments available not being used, many of them in need of repair, therefore, with the support of our repair technicians, Alison Cooper (woodwind) and Andy Beswick (brass) we have managed now to increase the number of players.

First came the bassoons, and with the help of a promotional video on our website, made with the support of Laurence Perkins, a professional recital bassoonist, we now have almost 50 bassoons being learned, taught by Rebecca Wong and Ceri Beaumont. Most of these pupils are in five of our high schools (two city and three county), and recently we have promoted the bassoon through half day presentations and workshops at two city Primary schools. At each of these, “expert” players who had been learning a few weeks, were able to show pupils in years 4 – 6 how to hold and make a sound from the instrument! We also have two existing players from the Junior Concert Band starting lessons on Saturday mornings alongside two who have responded to advertising.

A bassoon extravaganza morning took place on March 18th and Laurence will be composing music for these beginner players to play.



Laurence Perkins, professional bassoonist, working with young would be players at St John The Baptist Primary School

A French Horn initiative has followed this, now off the ground at Gartree High School and Brocks Hill Primary using funding that the High School has for musical development. This will enable pupils to continue the lessons when they go up to the High School if they wish. French Horns are also being played at Kibworth Primary school and there are plans to spread this initiative to at least one other school in their academy chain. Rachel Thomas and Ben George are working on this initiative.

Oboes are next on the list, not quite so rare but still scarce in some of our ensembles, and our Associate teacher Sally Griffiths is starting ten pupils at St Winefride's in Shepshed. We hope to extend this to other schools in the next few months.

There are also plans to introduce trombones on the Brookvale/Groby campus in the near future.

The first ten lessons are provided to pupils free of charge, and then they have between one and two terms paying a modest contribution to the cost*, to enable time for decisions about whether playing an instrument suits them. Continuation after that will have to be paid for in the normal way, although there are concessions for Pupil Premium pupils, and we are also hoping to offer bursaries to support talented budding musicians who cannot afford it. Instrument hire is free and the only condition is that as soon as they are ready, pupils will play in an appropriate LSMS ensemble.

If you are interested in an endangered species initiative in your school, please contact lsms@leics.gov.uk in the first instance.

*In some cases, schools are meeting this either from their own funds or from funds provided by the Hub for Musical Development in Secondary Schools.

Secondary Funding helping schools to broaden musical opportunities

Leicester-Shire Schools Music Service has recently offered all state funded secondary schools and academies a sum of £1500 to support the development of music. Colleagues have requested funding to buy back LSMS services and/or to fund tailor-made projects.

Projects were asked to meet at least one of the key recommendations of the Musical Pride report which is a significant piece of research published almost a year ago by the University of Central London Institute of Education. The report can be found on the LSMS website at the following link:

<http://leicestershiremusic.org/news/2016/02/musical-pride--music-education-in-plural-communities>

Projects so far have included the formation of a Dyslexia Orchestra, iPad in the curriculum training and transition projects. It is hoped that this extra boost will help provide alternative and additional opportunities to pupils and allow schools to develop their music offer. Schools who are successful in receiving the money will be asked to evaluate their projects and I am sure you will be reading about their successes in future newsletters.

NEW! Music Teacher's Forum now LIVE!

The Teacher's Forum is now up and running on the LMEH website:

<http://leicestershiremusic.org/login?redirect=%2Fdiscussion-forum>

At the moment very few teachers are engaging with it. It would be great if this could become a place for interaction and discussion, particularly as many music teachers work mainly in isolation from colleagues in similar situations. So please go onto the forum and let's really make it work for us all!

LSMS Service & Staff News!

Staff News

In April we said goodbye to our fantastic Deputy Service Manager Graeme Rudland. Graeme has made a great impact on music education in Leicester-Shire and has become a familiar face amongst schools and students. He will be missed! Graeme's role has been taken over by Sarah Barton-Wales.

We welcome four new members to our team with Tracey Foster and Alison Cooper teaching Woodwind and Rachel Thomas teaching Percussion and Brass. Bradley Smith joins us as Lead for Music Technology.

Our Area Music Leaders continue to run network meeting for teachers – this is a great chance to meet other music specialists and coordinators and get advice and training from members of the Music Hub. The networks are free to attend and locations vary each term to accommodate all areas of the City and County. To find out more please visit the CPD section of the Hub website:

www.leicestershiremusic.org

Sad News

We were extremely saddened to hear of the passing of Stuart Johnson on the 11th February 2017.

Stuart was a talented violinist who originally hailed from Leicestershire. He was awarded a scholarship to study violin at the Royal College of Music in London when he was just 15 years old. Stuart studied hard for many years and went on to have a very successful career as a soloist, orchestral violinist with the Halle Orchestra and Conductor travelling the world. He later settled back in his native Leicestershire and became the Principal Music Advisor for Leicestershire in September 1984. At the same time Stuart also took the baton of the Leicestershire Schools Symphony Orchestra taking them to perform in many prestigious venues in around Britain and abroad. When he eventually retired, he continued to teach the violin and assist violin students to get into music college as well as still working with the LSSO taking sectionals. He has inspired countless students over the years to love music and motivate them on their musical journey.

Staff in the Spotlight

This is a feature that we introduced in the Autumn Term and we are pleased to showcase Tony Rifugiato as our second member of 'staff in the spotlight' for this term:

“Hello! My name is Tony Rifugiato and I am Area Music Leader for North and North-East Leicestershire, making me the first point of contact for all things musical for 102 schools in the Loughborough, and Melton & South Charnwood Areas. In addition, and as part of my role, I teach brass and guitar for the Service.

My route into music education was somewhat unusual, having spent 30 years as a self-employed businessman running Mel-Tone, a musical instrument retail shop and music tuition studio in Melton Mowbray. I started the shop in 1983 when I was 22 years old. The shop is still running under the name Icon Music, now owned by a former employee.

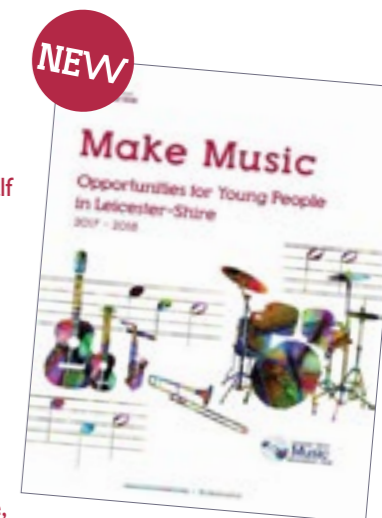
I am a largely self-taught musician, starting out as a cornet player in local brass bands, an experience which gives me a strong appreciation of the benefits and challenges of learning to play in a Whole Class Ensemble situation. I started at 11 years old progressing to the position of Principal Cornet by the time I was 16. That is also the age at which I started playing drums.

Although I didn't study music formally, I spent every possible minute playing either trumpet, cornet or drums, such that by the time I was 17, I was playing trumpet in a professional dance band, cornet in a brass band, drums with a semi-professional jazz band, trumpet or percussion in musical theatre productions and drums in various heavy rock and punk bands (no, I didn't sport a Mohican haircut!). I added guitar to my arsenal of musical instruments during my tenure of the shop.

Outside of my working life with LSMS, I continue to work and perform as a musician and conductor. I am currently Musical Director of Enderby Wind Band, Harborough Big Band, GBRT Sax Choir and Rutland Musical Theatre Company, and work with various LSMS Ensembles on Saturday mornings, supporting brass and percussion sections. I also sing and play with an 11 piece semi-professional function band called Raise The Roof where I get to play guitar, trumpet and percussion.

LSMS Service brochure out now!

Our new 'Make Music' brochure has recently been sent out to schools and we are really excited about the new packages and opportunities it details. New packages for both Primary and Secondary schools have been introduced to allow schools to tailor their music education to school needs – they can choose from a half or whole day package, access special offers and add-ons whilst making big savings on individual prices. The package approach means that schools have a dedicated specialist with them for a much longer period of time and can pick from whole class ensemble lessons, whole class or smaller continuation groups. The same applies to our new singing offer which is also detailed in the extensive brochure. Bookings for 2017-18 are being taken now so for more information on what is on offer or to request a copy of the new 'Make Music' brochure, please email LSMS@leics.gov.uk or visit www.leicestershiremusic.org





All Things Instrumental!

Orchestral Workshop Extravaganza

On Friday 3rd March we held a Special Orchestral Workshop Extravaganza at Redmoor Academy, Hinckley. The main purpose of the workshop was to aid the transition from Primary school to Secondary schools and to inspire and give the younger players in the Hinckley area the opportunity to play alongside the more experienced children as part of the Hinckley Schools Area Orchestra.

Sue Jackson, Head of Music at Redmoor Academy and Garry Sleath, the conductor of the Hinckley Area Schools Orchestra worked together and worked extremely hard with the children.

We had in total 38 children and the music teachers also played alongside the children. We performed to parents for 20 minutes at the end of the session. Natasha Pattinson, Area Music Leader, was so delighted about the performance and also heard some great comments afterwards about the lovely opportunity.

Natasha would like to extend a huge thank you to Redmoor Academy for hosting the workshop. We had many of local teachers volunteer to come along and support this special event. Many thanks to the following for supporting the children and making them feel welcome.

- Graeme Rudland, Deputy Service Manager, LSMS
- Sam Goldsworthy, Area Music Leader, LSMS.
- Helen Fisher, Head of Performances and Ensembles, LSMS.
- Chris Jordan, Head of Music at Hastings High School.

- Mike Andrews – Trumpet
- Charles Brown – Trumpet
- Jane Kimberly – Flute
- Melita Brearley – Violin
- Laura Lorris – Clarinet
- Mark Wilson – Clarinet

Finally, a big thank you to Sue and Garry again for making the workshop such a big success!



LSMS Music Ensembles

LSMS have an outstanding reputation for providing quality aspirational and motivating ensembles and performance opportunities for students. Every group rehearses weekly practising repertoire to be performed at the end of each term in high quality venues around Leicestershire. At each performance there is chance for students and parents to see performances by other groups within the LSMS ensemble structure and also those given by our Hub partners including school groups.

Do you have students in your school who would benefit from playing in a larger high achieving music ensemble?

We are currently organising our annual audition schedule for the LMCT Music ensembles.

Entry to determine membership to our Intermediate and Senior ensembles for the academic year 2017-18 will be by audition. Auditions give us a chance to hear students play and make sure they are placed in the most suitable group to give them the best and most enjoyable experience.

Auditions will be held on Saturdays (usually the morning) and will start after Easter.

Auditions are free of charge but there is a cost associated for membership of a group.

Please have a look at our website for further details including the groups we offer and audition requirements.

Grade	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Brass	Junior Concert Band				Training Orchestra		Wind Orchestra		
					Concert Orchestra		Symphony Orchestra		
							Big Band		
Woodwind	Junior Concert Band				Training Orchestra		Wind Orchestra		
					Concert Orchestra		Symphony Orchestra		
							Flute Choir		
							Big Band		
Steel pans	[Orange bar across all grades]								
Strings	Strictly strings			Training Orchestra		Concert Orchestra		Symphony Orchestra	
								Senior Strings	
Percussion	Junior Concert Band				Training Orchestra		Wind Orchestra		
					Concert Orchestra		Symphony Orchestra		
					Junior Percussion		Senior Percussion		

NYO Inspire!

In February 2017 the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain (NYO) held their annual Inspire series where teenage musicians were nominated to take part in residencies aimed at improving musical technique and ability by tackling challenging repertoire and exploring ensemble playing.

Kush Patel, one of LSMS' young players thoroughly enjoyed the experience, saying

"Thank you for the opportunity to take part in the NYO inspire program. It was one of the best experiences I've ever had and has opened my eyes to how much music has to offer. It has provided me with new motivation and new skills and ways to improve my practice to make me a better overall player. Once again, thank you so much for nominating me for the opportunity".

For more information on the NYO and their programmes please email inspire@nyo.org.uk

Celebrating Success!

Huge congratulations to both Charlotte Denston who has been offered a place at Hull to study Music and Cameron Jackson LSSO violinist, who has been offered a place in the National Children's Orchestra. Amazing achievements from both these pupils and LSMS are incredibly proud of them!



Performances

The Spring term saw a variety of performances including the annual Big Band concert at Countesthorpe Leysland Community College, the Easter Chairman of the County Council's performance at De Montfort Hall and the Loughborough Town Hall showcase concerts.



One of the many highlights of the concert programme is the opportunity to bring together three of our orchestras for a massed item. At the Civic Hall in Bedworth the Symphony Orchestra (LSSO), Concert Orchestra and Training Orchestra came together to perform Bizet's Toreador.

Congratulations to all the fantastic young musicians involved.



CLICK HERE to see the massed performance of Bizet's Toreador



CPD Courses



There continues to be an excellent range of professional development opportunities for music teachers with some sessions still available to book for the Summer term as follows (please click on the links for more information on how to book):

A Guide to Curriculum, Pedagogy & Assessment in Music across the Primary School

Wednesday 14th June 2017 – 09:30-15:00

Led by Dr Alison Daubney

FREE Vocal training opportunity with Apollo 5

Friday 23rd June – 13:45-17:15

Venue: Newbridge High School, Forest Rd, Leicestershire, Coalville LE67 3SJ

Price: Free

LSMS, in partnership with Apollo 5, are funding a fantastic opportunity for Secondary teachers to attend a Twilight CPD event using the Voces 8 method of teaching vocal music. They will introduce singing through rhythms, riffs and patterns in a way which is engaging for Key Stage 3 and 4.

If you would like to attend this course, please book using our online booking system. For more information about Apollo 5 please visit their website <http://apollo5.co.uk/>

We are in the process of finalising our CPD information for the academic year 2017/18 and will update the Hub website page as soon as we have the final details.

Unit 1 & 2 Scheme of Work Training!

Final CPD course for the Summer term!

Wednesday 28th June
1-4pm

For more information about this course please contact Course Leader sarah.share@leics.gov.uk

Partnership Working

Partnership working continues to be at the heart of Hub activity and the Spring term has been no exception



Boys Noise!

Partnership with Leicester City Football Club to get boys singing.

January 9th 2017 saw the launch of the Boys Noise Singing Project, an exciting opportunity to get more boys singing in partnership with Leicester City Football Club. Over 200 boys from both KS2 and KS3 attended the launch and have been working hard within their school sessions over the Spring term preparing for their massed performance in June 2017 at De Montfort Hall. The launch event found itself the subject of local TV news with some of the boys telling reporters how much they were enjoying singing and experiencing something 'just for boys'. The singing aspect of the project was led by Greg Hallam from the National Youth Boys' Choir and Voces8, whilst Leicester City Football Club will provide coaches to include a sporting aspect to the project. Singing Development Leader Nicki Atkins has been visiting the schools taking part, making sure they are rehearsing well! It is hoped that a Leicester City Community Trust Youth Choir will be formed as result of this project and become a permanent fixture at the King Power Stadium.

Leicester-Shire Schools Music Service Junior Choirs

If you are aged between 7 and 13 and enjoy singing, why not come along to the Junior Voices.

The Junior Voices (CITY) meet every Thursday during term time in the Hall at Tudor Grange Samworth Academy, (formerly Samworth Enterprise Academy), Trenant Road, Leicester, LE2 6UA, from 4.30pm until 5.30pm.

The Junior Voices (HINCKLEY) meet every Tuesday during term time in the hall at John Cleveland College, Butt Lane, Hinckley LW10 1LE, from 4.20pm until 5.20pm.

Please contact LSMS on 0116 3050400 or by email gillian.ramshaw@leics.gov.uk (CITY) nicola.atkins@leics.gov.uk (HINCKLEY) for further details or to arrange to attend a trial session.

The Les Miserable Experience

In January 2017 LSMS offered an amazing musical theatre opportunity to Secondary age singers. This involved a weekend workshop in February to prepare a medley of music from Les Miserables. On the following Wednesday 45 students took a trip to London to work on the medley with a West End Director and a former cast member from Les Miserables followed by a matinee performance of the West End show itself. The West End staff were blown away by the talent of the students and helped them to stage their piece in order to prepare for their performance at De Montfort Hall in March. The performance went down a storm, complete with costumes and movement and some very moving solos from some of the young singers. The group are now keen to take on their next experience and Singing Development Manager, Nicki Atkins is currently working on ways we can challenge them next!

If there are singers in your school who would benefit from experiences such as this please get in touch with Nicki for more information on what's coming up – Nicola.atkins@leics.gov.uk

Orchestra Unwrapped!

The Philharmonia Orchestra continue to offer inspiring educational opportunities including Orchestra Unwrapped which returns to De Montfort Hall on 24 March 2017 for the final schools concert of the academic year. The concert is completely sold out, but we're pleased to announce that Orchestra Unwrapped will return in the 2017/18 season! A live, presented concert experience for Key Stage 2 children aged 7-11 performed by the Philharmonia Orchestra, Orchestra Unwrapped features:

- Inspiring music from a world class orchestra, themed around Revolutions;
- An opportunity for children to perform with the Philharmonia live in concert;
- A teacher training session prior to the concert to enhance the concert visit;
- An occasion for each child to enjoy and learn about music locally, whatever their background.

2017/18 concert dates:

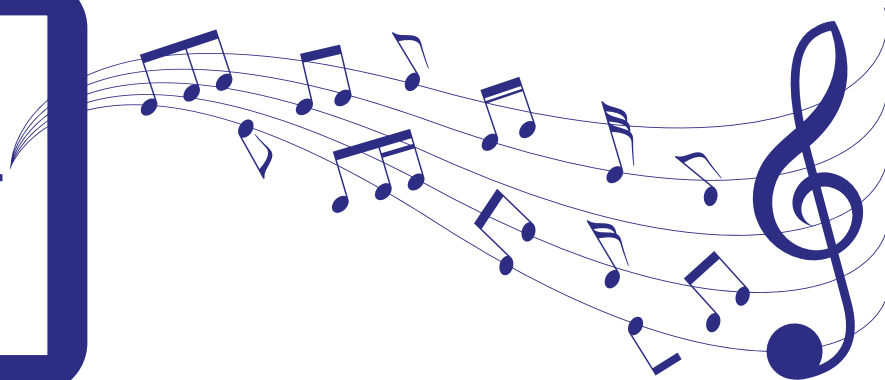
Wednesday
1 November 2017, 1pm

Wednesday
7 February 2018, 1pm

Concerts are appropriate for all KS2 pupils, including SEN, and booking will open in May 2017. For more information and how to book, visit: philharmonia.co.uk/unwrapped or email: orchestra.unwrapped@philharmonia.co.uk



Making Technology Musical



A project in partnership with Transformance Music is focussing on Embedding iPads in the SEN/D classroom. This project engages with the highly diverse needs, strengths and musical tastes found in SEN/D schools. It introduces a variety of iPad apps that offer pupils powerful new methods of playing, visualising, organising and manipulating music. The project works with both Hub and school based music specialists, as well as non-specialist teachers and TAs, to develop a 'toolbox' of lesson plans and short activities for classes and individuals.

The goal is for staff across the Hub to use iPads with confidence and creativity, moving beyond 'play' to deliver clear progression and outstanding musical outcomes.

The first half of the project took place over five days between January-March 2017 at Nether Hall Special School in Leicester. Each day combined group classes, one-to-one tutorials and informal staff training. All pupils at Nether Hall are described as having Severe Learning Disabilities (SLD) or Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD).

A progress report has been produced on the work so far – to read more on this innovative and exciting project please email sarah.share@leics.gov.uk for a copy of the report.

PRU Music Project

A partnership project with Pedestrian has taken place, working with children in Pupil Referral Units: Oakfield Short Stay School and The Phoenix and Arc Centre. Pupils will work on music production and turntablism as well as some basic instrumental skills on keyboard, guitar and percussion. The project will culminate with pupils sharing their newly created tracks and some live performance.



Shout about your Music! Share your Work!

If you have brilliant and innovative music education going on in your school or a partnership that is really working then why not shout about it?! We are currently gathering editorial for our next issue and would love to hear from you about what's happened or what's coming up. It might be that you have an opportunity you want to share or that you are involved in the Music Hub and how it has helped you... whatever it maybe let us know. Please email sarah.barton@leics.gov.uk



For more information about the Leicester-Shire Music Education Hub, visit our website at www.leicestershiremusicHub.org

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