

The Right Note



The Leicester-shire Music Education Hub Newsletter - Spring 2014

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Diane's Column

Hello, I'm Diane Rivaud, Head of Service at Leicester-Shire Schools Music Service and welcome to The Right Note, the first Leicester-Shire Music Education Hub newsletter. Just in case you haven't heard of us – we're the Leicester-Shire Music Education Hub - a dynamic partnership of the Leicester-Shire Schools Music Service (formerly Arts in Education / Leicestershire Arts), and over 30 local and national musical organisations, as well as all schools and both Local Authorities. As a key partner in the Hub, this newsletter is for you – to keep you updated and informed and included in what's going on. It's also yours to contribute to and feature in.



A major part of the Hub's role has been to develop a Whole Class Ensemble Teaching (WCET) programme, free of charge to all pupils in Year 4 and currently 81% of city schools and 78% of county schools are engaged in this programme.

This is an exciting time to be involved in music education in Leicestershire. Following the recent publication of the Ofsted report "Music in schools: what hubs must do", there has been an increased impetus to engage with schools and form closer working relationships. Music Education Hubs are being asked to create a *School Music Education Plan* to enable them to articulate clearly to schools what is available to support them and to promote closer working between schools and the hub. We welcome this and believe that we already have an offer to schools, but will redouble our efforts to ensure that this offer is extended. We will develop a framework that will enable the hub to support all schools in improving the music curriculum that will include offering "expert training and consultancy to schools, which supports school leaders and staff in understanding what musical learning, and good progress in music, are like".

We also have a whole range of exciting events coming up (more details inside), including our Richard III Choral Event in July, the fifth Annual Festival Rock at the O2 Academy, and our six Summer Festivals in June at De Montfort Hall.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Rivaud".

Diane Rivaud, Head of Service

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What are Music Hubs?



As with anything new, there is always a period of adjustment as people try to understand and familiarise themselves with them. Music Education Hubs are no different. What are they for? What are we going to do? What are our targets? How do we differ from the Leicestershire Schools Music Service? How do I get involved?

The Leicester-Shire Schools Music Service (LSMS) is the **lead** partner in the Leicester-Shire Music Education Hub. The LSMS brings together a range of other partners to improve music education across Leicestershire, and to help involve and include ALL children across the county in some form of music. Some things will be done as the **LSMS**, but some things will be done as the **Hub** in partnership with other organisations.

Building on existing music services in Leicestershire, we have four main targets as set out in the Government's National Plan for Music Education. **These four targets are:**

1. Ensure that every child aged 5-18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (other than voice) through whole-class ensemble teaching programmes.

How will we achieve this?

The LSMS offers a range of Whole Class Ensemble Teaching (WCET) projects led by high quality music leaders. We have a target to engage 95% of schools across the City and County in our WCET programme, and we are committed to reaching this target and beyond.

2. Provide opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform from an early stage.

How will we achieve this?

Our WCET projects teach classes how to play the instrument as part of one large group, and involve fun games to build musical skills in a creative way. Class teachers are also encouraged to learn to play the instrument alongside their class, and pupils will have the opportunity for at least 2 performances, including a performance to peers and parents in school and a medium to larger scale concert.

We, as a Hub, work in partnership to provide over 40 ensembles throughout the City and County to enable children and young people to perform as an ensemble and develop skills for life, as well as making lots of new friends.

3. Ensure that clear progression routes are available and affordable to all young people.

How will we achieve this?

Pupils that learn to play an instrument through the WCET projects can choose to continue learning in years 5, 6 and beyond. Following the initial access of whole class teaching, the teaching can continue into a second year. Through the Hub, young people can access a range of after school activities too, such as Steel Pans, Djembe drums, Dhol drumming, Show choir, Ukelele club, Rock and Pop bands project, String group, Brass band, and music technology. There are a number of Associate Teachers (see our website for details) who also provide individual or small group lessons during and after school who will develop musical skills in a creative way providing opportunities for children to experience making music together as an inclusive activity.

4. Develop a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil sings regularly and that choirs and that choirs and other vocal ensembles are available in the area.

How will we achieve this?

The singing strategy is about making singing possible and accessible for all children and young people - from Primary aged children through a school setting right through to KS4 talented singers who need a progression route by which to improve their singing even further. This is achieved in a number of ways, both directly through LSMS (via our Primary Vocal-Ease singing package) and through our Hub singing partners - Bullfrog Arts, Kaine, 2Funky, Leicester Cathedral, Sing Up and Darbar Arts Cultura; Heritage. The partners allow us to be able to offer a diverse and broad range of singing genres including traditional, Indian classical, gospel and urban. They work with a variety of different ages and backgrounds of young people and offer both in-school tuition or extra-curricular activities. Our website contains a singing map where young people can find out what is happening in their area and how to join in - helping to make sure that younger singers are made aware of the routes that they can take to progress their singing further.

There is also a CPD element to the singing strategy where the intention is to train key staff who work with children and young people to allow singing to take place even when a specialist is not there. This involves staff training sessions, 'specially created resources and a newly formed 'singing working party' to work on evaluating the quality of singing teaching going on and how to assess it.

We also offer singing opportunities that young people would otherwise not be able to access. The most recent example of this is 'The Shoemaker and the King' singing residential and performance - see the separate article on this for more details and also how to get involved in this exciting project as a staff member (some of you already are!).

Spring Gala Concert



LSMS recently held its Spring Gala Concert at De Montfort Hall. 365 children and young people took part in the event, supported by schools, families and friends as well as staff from the service and the Hub.

Three partners from the Hub performed on the night; Darbar Arts Cultural Heritage Trust, Bullfrog Arts, and Viva Sinfonia who have been working with schools in North West Leicestershire.

The evening was a great demonstration of what the Hub is all about - bringing together partners from schools, from organisations such as The National Forest, Orchestras Live, and North West Leicestershire District Council, and creating something original, special and something greater than the sum of its parts.

Sinfonia Viva and Orchestras Live's schools Project - 'Our Forest Futures' was a perfect example of what the Hub can do.

The Shoemaker & the King

Someone once said that you never truly know anyone until you've walked a mile in their shoes. Well, who better than a shoemaker's shoes to walk in to learn more about Richard III and the world in which he lived? Leicester-Shire Schools Music Service has commissioned renowned British composer Philip Wilby and Poet and lyricist Ian McMillan, of BBC Radio 3's The Verb, to write an exciting new piece, entitled 'The Shoemaker and the King' – a Leicestershire fable created around the former King of England and last of the Plantagenet dynasty.

As Philip and Ian state, "perhaps we might learn something about ourselves if we were to see the events of 1485 through the eyes of one of the King's famed Leicestershire shoemakers?"

As our text says....."

*So dig a little deeper
In the car park where he lay
Beneath that Royal sleeper
the maker of shoes will see the light of day!"*



To help realise this vision, Leicester-Shire Schools Music Service (LSMS) is offering a unique one-off opportunity for young singers across Leicester-Shire to come together to perform this exciting new choral piece.

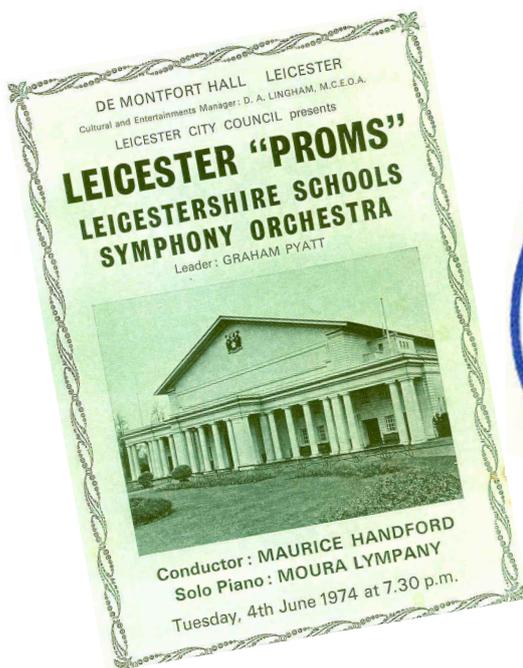


The plan is to form a large group from school and community choirs throughout Leicestershire and rehearse the work in June before performing it for the first time at Leicester Cathedral on July 11.

This promises to be a fantastic event but we need the support of volunteers on the day to make sure its a day to remember. If you're interested in taking part on this historic day then please contact sarah.barton@leics.gov.uk



Leicestershire Schools Symphony Orchestra



The Leicestershire Schools Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1948 by the county's first music adviser, the late Eric Pinkett OBE. With the support of Leicestershire's education committee, the orchestra quickly established itself as one of the very best of its kind. Early associations with leading guest conductors, soloists and composers, brought the LSSO to the attention of the world of professional music. Sir Michael Tippett regularly visited the LSSO as guest conductor and toured with the orchestra to Belgium and Germany. He wrote *The Shires Suite* for the LSSO as a result of this association, and until his death, was the orchestra's Patron.

The LSSO is now part of Leicester-Shire Schools Music Service providing teaching, curriculum support and outstanding performance opportunities for thousands of pupils. Peter Dunkley is the current Conductor and has joined the group after retiring from his post as Head Of Northampton Music Service.

The development of the LSSO, with the support of specialist instrumental tutors, set a model which many other cities and counties have since followed. The Orchestra has always been at the forefront of the British Youth Orchestra Movement. The link with new music has remained a trademark and the LSSO has a proud record of world and British premiere performances to its credit.

For almost fifty years, the LSSO has also regularly toured abroad playing in many of the great cities and concert halls of Europe. Recent foreign tours have included visits to France, Germany and Austria. The LSSO will be touring Prague this Summer.

Forthcoming Events



April

In the Spring term, we have a cluster/ collaborative concert organised for 7 WCET projects which is being held in collaboration with Redmoor Academy on the 8th April. It will involve all of the feeder schools coming together and playing with other WCET projects alongside pupils from Redmoor raising standards and promote continuation through transition. We are currently working with Redmoor to develop an area network with the Hub On the 10th April we are holding an open evening in the Coalville area with the view to starting an Area Network Centre there. This will be at Castle Rock High School also looking at transition. We will be offering various musical activities culminating in a musical performance to parents and carers.



May

The LSMS will be leading peer to peer learning for the region.



June

24-26 June LSMS Summer Concerts at De Montfort Hall.

28 June Orchestral Gala at Bedworth Civic Hall

29 June Band Gala at Bedworth Civic Hall

28-29 June The Shoemaker & the King Residential Weekend at Oakham School



July

5 Festival Rock at O2 Academy (Leicestershire Schools Battle of the Bands)

11 The Shoemaker & the King at Leicestershire Cathedral

Get involved - 'Join our Hub'

Do you want to hit The Right Note? Would you like to submit an article for a future edition, or would you like to receive a copy of this newsletter on a regular basis so that you can always find The Right Note? Contact our Communications and Marketing Manager Neil J Smith at neil.j.smith@leics.gov.uk

We recently undertook a survey looking at the benefits of getting involved with the Hub. Here are the results from Survey Monkey

70% (actually 69.36%) would definitely recommend us to a friend, 25% (24.86%) said "Yes, I think so", 5% (5.2%) said "Maybe", 0% said "Probably not", with only 0.58% (1 respondent) saying "Definitely not". If you would like more information about the Leicester-Shire Music Education Hub, and want to get involved, please contact us today at lsms@leics.gov.uk