



Jazz Vision

September 2017

Colette Dutot

www.sheffieldmusicHub.org/colettedutot

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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Executive summary

“Jazz is not just Music, it’s a way of life, it’s a way of being, it’s a way of thinking”

Nina Simone

What Sheffield has...

Sheffield has a vibrant jazz community with a focus on live music performance opportunities and audience development. There are some key venues that promote Jazz performance – Yellow Arch Studios, The Crucible, Crookes Social Club, The Lescar, and City Hall to name a few. Access for children & young people can sometimes be limited due to licensing laws and cost barriers. At present, there is not a regular performance space for children & young people however SMH creates fantastic performance opportunities.

This new strategy sets out the philosophy and key objectives for the 2017/18 period. We analyse Arts Council Data and listen to all feed-back to ensure that we increase and support high quality Jazz education opportunities in and outside of schools.

With a rapidly developing infrastructure, two strong universities and a genuine energy in the Jazz community we believe there is potential for new ideas through collaboration. It is an exciting time to be in the City.

This Jazz Strategy document is a significant rewrite, with the aim of simplifying and effectively communicating our vision. In doing so, the strategy is represented by the conceptual model of a fan and blades.



Other supporting documents in support of this strategy are available on request:

- Jazz Strategy Model (the fan and blades)
- Trello Board (Jazz Strategy showcasing all activities from 2012 to the present day)
- Jazz Strategy (Sheffield Jazz Youth Collective spread sheet. An internal document with two focuses: Teaching & Learning and Future Models).

For the children and young people of Sheffield to grow, progress and blossom as creative individuals and musicians, access to high quality teaching and learning that embraces the skill of improvising whilst being inspired by Jazz Educators/Artists/Arrangers and Promoters, is crucial. This will enable those who desire it, to seek opportunities both regionally and nationally.

“Remember to make the best quality of music you have the ability to make. If you do that, you are a successful musician” Anon.

Why Jazz? Why Improvising?

Sheffield Music Hub recognises that improvising is about being spontaneous, taking chances, conveying emotion and interacting with others in a musical dialogue. Children have highlighted the desire to improvise confidently and this takes a consistent approach over an extended period to nurture those skills. The reflection of educators is key to ensure that the building blocks of learning (vocabulary, language and style acquisition) are embedded at every level.

In improvisation settings, individuals support the creative development of one another in an open and warm manner. Children can learn the fundamental soft life-skills of sincere listening. In a group setting, jazz musicians hold a conversation, negotiate when to play, respect and hear the language of the individual whilst acknowledging the group is stronger because of the unique individual voices and the relationships they nurture.

Jazz is about being in the moment” Herbie Hancock

The Jazz Strategy sets how we will work to discover like-minded partners who share our Jazz vision and subscribe to the **SMH Mission statement**:

The Sheffield Music Hub enables children and young people from all backgrounds and every part of Sheffield to deepen their enjoyment of music and to progress to the highest levels of excellence.

In Jazz, we open up the art of improvisation whilst nurturing children and young people’s well-being by consistently reflecting, and understand the context of our City.

We have chosen to illustrate the new strategy using a conceptual model of a fan with each of the 6 blades representing the key focuses/ objectives that together support the central vision (Figure 1.). This model is flexible and adaptable as new opportunities come alive. Each focus, represented as a blade in the Jazz Model, is described in more detail throughout the following pages to state the activities for 17/18. An overview of previous activities and the journey to this point (beginning in 2012) are presented in our Trello Board and available on request.

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The Jazz Strategy: Fan and Blades conceptual model

*“Anyone can make the simple complicated. Creativity is making the complicated simple”
Charles Mingus*

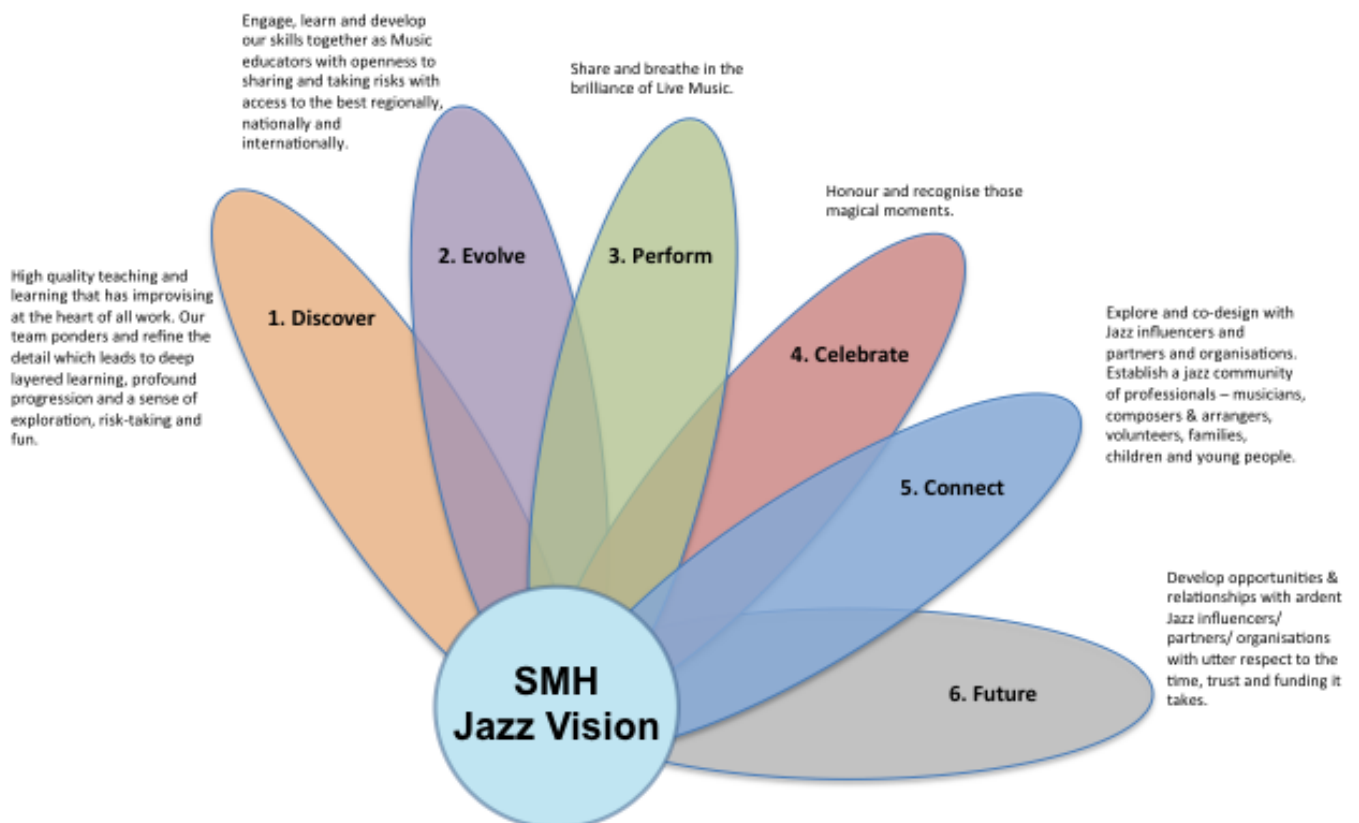
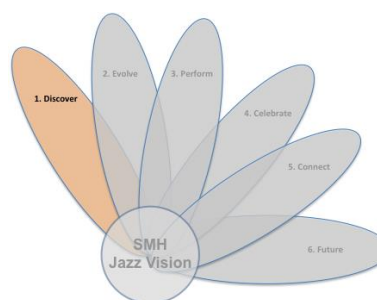


Figure 1. Conceptual model of the 2017/18 Jazz Strategy. Each blade represents one of six key focuses of the Strategy which together will work to achieve the overall vision for Jazz at SMH. The detail behind each blade are described on the following pages.

Discover:

Discover: high quality teaching and learning that has improvising at the heart of all work. Our team ponder and refine the detail which leads to deeply layered learning, profound progression and a sense of exploration, risk-taking and fun.



SMH uses different models of Jazz Education in and outside of schools:

Sheffield Youth Jazz Collective

SMH leads a high quality city-wide weekly improvising opportunity. **Sheffield Youth Jazz Collective** is a place for youngsters to make music creatively and cooperatively where the sum is greater than the individual.

How:

- Set up an environment where supportive risk is encouraged. Students and teachers offer ideas to assist others with care and consideration for their well-being and the acknowledgment that everyone develops at different pace across the range of skills.
- Mutually helping each other so that the progression of the whole is a greater focus than the individual whether a teacher or student. As musicians we have a lifelong philosophy of learning.
- Develop good aural and reading skills so that the two sides of learning are mutually benefited. Skills include: learning tracks off by heart, playing across the harmonic changes and transcribing from audio tracks.
- Identify and play across different styles of Jazz music: Latin Jazz, Swing, Bebop, Fusion, Blues, Contemporary etc. <https://www.sheffieldmusichub.org/sing-and-play/intermediate-jazz-band>

Sheffield Youth Big Band

SYBB is an experienced band who perform regularly.

Focus: Sheffield Youth Jazz Collective & SYJC 18/19 Discover Focuses.

- Create one evening of Jazz Education involving SYJC & SYBB at Forge Valley School.
- Focus on small group working to developing improvising and experimentation in SYJC.
- SYJC Intermediate Residential Weekend – Jan 2018.
- Some SYBB members have joined the more advanced SYJC workshop group to develop their improvising skills
- Jazz Directors continue to discover and adapt Jazz pedagogy to personalise learning within a group setting.

- Honour the art of woodshedding!

"Playing with freedom can only come after a certain amount of foundational study" **Geri Allen**

Sheffield Youth Big Band

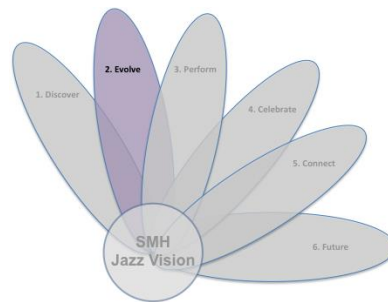
SYBB is an experienced band who performing regularly. The next step is to explore how improvising skills could be developed further within this SMH ensemble.

- SYBB members have joined the more advanced SYJC workshop group.

"Master your instrument, master the music and then just forget all that and just play"
Charlie Parker

Evolve:

Evolve: engage, learn and develop our skills together as Music educators with openness to sharing and taking risks with access to the best - regionally, nationally and internationally

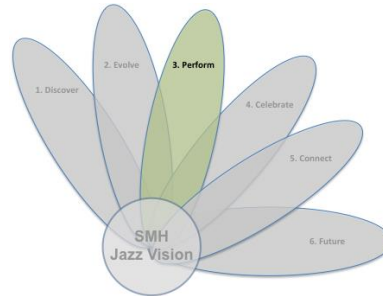


An amateur practices until he gets it right. A professional practices until he can't get it wrong" Anon.

- Create one evening of Jazz Education involving SYJC & SYBB at Forge Valley School.
- Focus on small group working to developing improvising and experimentation in SYJC following on large scale opportunities last year.
- Explore recording opportunities for SYJC.
- Jazz Directors to perform to the students regularly.

Perform:

Perform: share and breathe in the brilliance of Live Music.



"Do not fear mistakes. There are none" Miles Davis

Sheffield Youth Jazz Collective (SYJC) Perform Focuses:

- Christmas Concert
- Summer Concert
- Explore recording opportunities in the Spring Term.

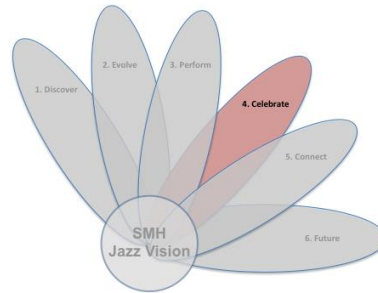
Sheffield Youth Big Band (SYBB)

- Three concerts per year often collaborating with other Youth Big Bands & SYJC combos.
- 18/19 Christmas Gig & Christmas Concert, Music for Youth.

"Jazz Music is the power of now. There is no script. It's conversation. The emotion is given to you by musicians as they make split-second decisions to fulfill what they feel the moment requires" Wynton Marsalis

Celebrate:

Celebrate: honour and recognise those magical moments.



"Music should always be an adventure" Coleman Hawkins

SMH loves to celebrate. Updates are found on our website, Sheffield Music Hub Youtube Jazz Playlist, Flickr and more recently in The Sheffield Star/ The Sheffield Telegraph.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzLeBvk3Xx93HM0UeRUqRujVDhjV24iC6>

Highlights from 17/18:

- Jazz Journeys at the Royal Albert Hall working with SY Music Hubs. 800 children, massed performance involving Dennis Rollins MBA & Chris Noble, SMH Jazz team and other professional musicians. Nov 2017.
- Hubfest 2018 – a one day festival involving six hours of music across three stages involving 160 performers at Yellow Arch Studios.

Media:

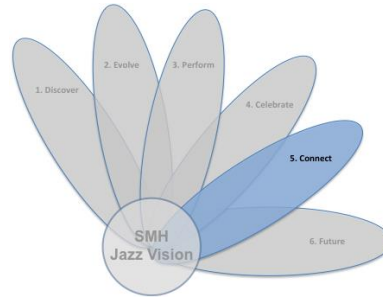
Continue to explore opportunities to celebrate SMH Jazz Education vision across all forms of media.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SheffMusicHub>

- <https://www.musicmark.org.uk/member-stories/sheffield-music-hubs-celebration-concert>
- <https://www.flickr.com/photos/sheffieldmusicHub/albums/72157651696218979>

Connect:

Connect: explore, connect and co-design with Jazz influencers and partners/ organisations. Establish a jazz community of professionals – musicians, composers & arrangers, volunteers, families, children and young people



SMH supports families/ parents/ carers to understand how to support their child's learning no matter what musical experience the adult may or may not have. We recognized the journey that musical learning takes – the highs, the lows and all the points in between and when it is Jazz; Ahmad Jamal sums it best:

“Jazz Improvisation means that practice is not that straightforward as it would be when you simply have a score to read” Ahmad Jamal

- Continue to highlight the Jazz vision for the city involving Sheffield Youth Jazz Collective & Sheffield Youth Big Band.
- Jazz Camp for Girls – a five year plan with JazzNorth, five hubs across the North of England and Jazz Danmark to support improvising and creativity in a girls setting.
- Explore the next step in working with NYJC & South Yorkshire Music Hubs on Jazz education.
- Continue to have conversations with the international artists of ‘Myth of Her’.
- Build relationships to enable sponsorship and other funding opportunities for Jazz education.

Highlights 17/18

Wider Network Conference

Artists: Dennis Rollins MBA & Sarah Sayeed speaking at the Wider Network Conference and Sarah Sayeed to inspire and challenge our perceptions of Diversity.

“Life is a lot like Jazz. It is best when improvised” George Gershwin

Many Music Leaders, Accredited Teachers, performers and other professionals to support jazz education in the city to help with this vision.

The Jazz team who work together on a Wednesday night at Forge Valley School for the Sheffield Youth Jazz Collective & Sheffield Youth Big Band Collective, have actively contributed to this strategy. Their breadth, depth and diversity of jazz experience make them a strong team.

Travis Finch:

<https://www.sheffieldmusicHub.org/schools/music-leaders/travis-finch-guitar>

David Burgoyne:

<https://www.sheffieldmusicHub.org/schools/music-leaders/david-burgoyne-violin-piano-drums>

Chris Burge:

<https://www.sheffieldmusicHub.org/schools/accredited-teachers/chris-burge>

Colette Dutot

<https://www.sheffieldmusicHub.org/schools/meet-the-team/colette-dutot-music-hub-manager>

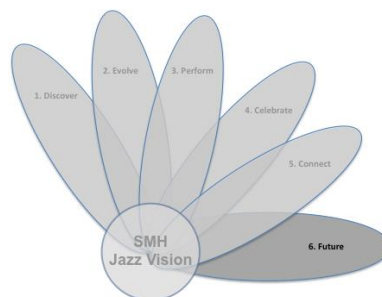
Dave Joyce

Sheffield Music Hub would love to thank the following **in** 2018/19. Jazz Influencers/ Partners/ Organisations that inspire/ help/ co-design and understand our vision:

- Dave Joyce – Sheffield Big Band
- David Burgoyne
- Travis Finch
- Chris Burge
- Hannah Brady
- Jamie Taylor
- Sarah Sayeed
- Dennis Rollins
- Chris Noble
- Jez Matthews
- Jack Lowe
- Sonia Mellor
- Helena Summerfield
- Issie Barratt
- Yellow Arch Studios
- Vox Media
- Hubfest Photographers
- Forge Valley School
- Myth of Her – Sarah Sayeed & Anne Eltard
- Sheffield Jazz
- Jazz North
- National Youth Jazz Collective – Andy Thornton
- South Yorkshire Music Hubs: Doncaster Music Education Hub, Rotherham Music & Barnsley Music Education Hub
- The Sheffield Star & Telegraph
- BBC Radio Sheffield
- Arts Council England – Project Grants Award
- Jazz at the Lescar – Parliamentary Jazz Award for The Best Venue 2017
- Arts Council England

Future:

Future: develop opportunities & relationships with ardent Jazz influencers/ partners/ organisations with utter respect to the time, trust and funding it takes.



Sheffield Music Hub is open to new partnerships that support our vision. Please note that new relationships/ meetings normally commence 18 – 24 months in advance of projects/ activities coming into fruition.

SMH holds the Safeguarding of Children and Young People as our key priority and therefore if as an professional/ organisation or a partner you require some assistance around this we are happy to signpost and offer guidance.

If you would like to discuss opportunities whether as an artist/ charity/ NPO/ teacher/ student then please email Colette.Dutot@sheffield.gov.uk. A quick introduction with a link if appropriate, a summary of how your skills could help children/ young people in Sheffield musically and a request for access to the Trello Jazz Strategy Board will start the discussions.

“Art is how we decorate space, Music is how we decorate time” Anon.

For more information about the Jazz Strategy or to connect with the Sheffield Music Hub, please contact:

Colette Dutot:

Email - colettedutot@sheffield.gov.uk

Web - www.sheffieldmusichub.org/colettedutot

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