



## Sheffield Music Hub

### MAD MARCH 2017

March is traditionally one of the more frantic months for Music Education in Sheffield, so much so we thought it would be great to share some of the madness to celebrate the excellent work delivered by the Hub and its partners.

KEY: **P** = Primary School Initiative  
**S** = Secondary School Initiative  
**A** = After school music making of joy

Not only have our dedicated team of Accredited Teachers and Music Leaders delivered over 5000 hours of specialist instrumental and vocal teaching, first access projects, choirs and ensembles we have also been beavering away at the following:

### In partnership with Music in the Round



### **The Recorder Revolution – Performance with Ensemble 360 at the Crucible Studio on 10<sup>th</sup> March**



We are bringing back the recorder! We have an ambitious plan to get the recorder back into every school in Sheffield – so to get it going we have piloted a project with 10 schools and 350 children. We've equipped them with shiny new recorders, a whole load of resources and materials and some handy in school training. Coupled with that the children were lucky enough to join with musicians from Ensemble 360 and performed with them in a specially adapted performance of Music in the Round's sell out and truly spectacular *Chimpanzees of Happy Town*. The result – astounding! (Photo Andy Brown)



## **Power Plus – Ensemble 360 Musicians rehearse, perform and record 52 GCSE compositions on 9<sup>th</sup> March**



After expert guidance, and in school support from Music Hub Manager Robin McEwan and Music Leader Travis Finch, year 10 students from 4 secondary schools travelled to the Upper Chapel in central Sheffield to hear their compositions worked on and performed by professional musicians from Ensemble 360. Magic moments a plenty as creative juices were flowing – nothing is more inspiring than observing a 15 year old putting a professional musician through their paces!

*\*PowerPlus runs all year and reaches 260 young composers in 10 secondary schools\**

## **Composer in Residence 2017 – with BBC 10 pieces composer / arranger Andy Smith – throughout March**



In a bold move to demonstrate that the Music Hub is at the cutting edge of creativity, and to ramp up our support of music making in schools, we commissioned a composer in residence. Andy Smith, our composer in residence for 2017, is a magician! He has miraculously gathered compositional inspiration from five hundred children and young people and crafted a new composition “Out of the Darkness”. Inspired this year by Mussorgsky’s *Night on the Bare Mountain*, Andy describes how he “passed musical letters between schools” sharing ideas and bringing us together with music, creativity, composition and performance. Nine schools have benefitted from the professional input of Andy during March as he travelled around leading workshops. The final massed rehearsal took place on 30<sup>th</sup> March before the debut performance at the Gala Concert on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

## **Come and Play – Crucible Theatre 11<sup>th</sup> March**



Audiences who were lucky enough to bag a ticket for the sold out performances of the outstanding family concert *Chimpanzees of Happy Town*, promoted by Music in the Round, were given an extra treat as a team of six music leaders were on hand before and after the performances to give children (and their adults) the opportunity to try their hands at a number of instruments. We had a good go at spreading the word about the Music Hub at the same time.

[www.musicintheround.co.uk](http://www.musicintheround.co.uk)

## **In partnership with the University of Sheffield AND Music for Youth**



## **Music for Youth Regional Festival – University Students (Music in the City) taking a lead in a nationally recognised example of outstanding practice - 14<sup>th</sup> March.**



Nearly 1000 Young Musicians from Sheffield and beyond shared their musical performances in the University Octagon Centre in a show produced and staffed entirely by Students from the University. Not only did we hear a vast array of great performances the musicians received feedback from professional music mentors and may get asked to perform at the National Festival in Birmingham in July!



## First ever Music Hub Schools Festival – in a ground-breaking national pilot we teamed up with Music for Youth again – 17<sup>th</sup> March



In a bid to open up the National Festival to as many new performers as possible and thanks to our innovative approach to partnership working, Music for Youth asked us to pilot this national initiative. Once again we took over the University Octagon Centre and welcomed hundreds of performers from schools across Sheffield. After a busy morning of technical

rehearsals the groups performed to each other and their families. The atmosphere was electric, standard exceptionally high and the sense of camaraderie and support amongst the performers was something to behold. True to the style of Music for Youth but with a contemporary twist the schools received video feedback after the event from leading music educationalists.

[www.mfy.org.uk](http://www.mfy.org.uk)

### In partnership with Sheffield Music Academy



### **Jazz – opening up expressive and creative musical pathways - throughout March on Saturdays**

Sheffield is proud to host one of a handful of Department for Education funded National Centres for Advanced training in Music. Our in-house Jazz expert, Music Hub Manager Colette Dutot, has been commissioned to work with colleagues at the Academy to drive forward their Jazz programme. This is just the start as we hope that many of the Jazz musicians from the Academy will join us in our Royal Albert Hall debut in November 2017 when we take 750 young musicians to London to perform a newly commissioned Jazz Oratorio in the Schools Prom concert.

[www.themusicacademy.eu](http://www.themusicacademy.eu)

### Singing our hearts out!



We passionately believe that a great music education has singing at its core. Below is a snapshot of the fabulous work we have done in March both in and out of school (*F.Y.I pretty much every month is like March for our dedicated and hardworking singing team!*)

### **Singing Festivals – empowering schools to deliver quality singing “in house”.**



In March alone, 884 children from 17 primary schools performed in Music Hub Singing Festivals at the University of Sheffield and Westfield School. 700 more will take part in Singing Festivals, directed by our partners at Sheffield Cathedral’s Sing! project, in the first week of April. Across the whole year we expect that nearly 4000 children will take part in one of these amazing events, showcasing high quality singing!

Singing festivals come together over a term and look like this:

- we provide each school a singing resource and free training for their class teachers
- the teachers work on these materials with their classes or in some cases the whole school
- our expert Vocal Music Leaders visit the schools a couple of times to support and encourage
- we all come together to form a massed choir and we celebrate with a *Singing Festival*

## Spring of Singing Commissioning – growing our partnerships throughout March.

Each spring we commission schools and partners to deliver exciting and innovative projects in schools. March has seen the culmination events for all of these:



### Playground Singing Games

In two separate projects run by Beck School and Rainbow Forge Primary Academy, the Y2s from 8 different infant and primary schools across Sheffield have learnt to play singing games that help them learn a whole range of musical skills which will help them progress in singing and in any instrumental lessons they have in the future

### Singing in the Curriculum



In two projects led by Homestart South Yorkshire and Forge Valley School, children from 9 primary and junior schools, and 1 secondary school have learned and performed songs that link with subjects the pupils have been learning in school

### Celebrating Diversity in Song



In a project led by Music Education consultant David Ashworth, Y7 pupils from Fir Vale School and Parkwood Academy have learned and performed a range of songs which reflect the diversity of the students at each school, with songs from Roma, Islamic and hip hop traditions, along with a bit of Beatles!

### Boys can sing and it can really help with their changing voices!



March saw the launch and first performance of the Hub's brand new *Changing Voices* – a choir for boys going through voice change. 20 boys from Y5 – Y10, from right across Sheffield have come together to learn about how their voice will change, and to sing songs specially arranged to suit their voices during this time. Changing Voices will meet again in June and July to continue this exciting work.

### The next step for those children who are blown away by taking part in a singing festival



At the same time, the Hub's Festival Choir, designed to give pupils the opportunity to take the next step after performing in a Singing Festival, has nearly doubled in size and has been rehearsing with 80 members. The choir performed together at the Music Hub Gala concert on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

[www.sheffieldmusicHub.org](http://www.sheffieldmusicHub.org)

## In Partnership with Classical Sheffield

### **Classical Weekend – ambitious (if slightly crazy) weekend full to the brim with Classical Music – 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> March** A

The Music Hub was proud to support the second classical weekend. A highlight for us was the opportunity for children and young people to “collide” with top class professional musicians. Here are our highlights:

#### **Canticles of the Sky – too many cellos to count!**

Around 40 cellists, with a fair smattering of teenage cellists, gathered at Kelham Island Museum to perform the UK premiere of John Luther Adams Canticles of the Sky led by superstar cellist Olly Coates. Even Head of Music Education Ian Naylor polished off his cello to get to grips with some seriously high notes! It was worth it – what an inspirational performance!

#### **Spell Binding Arvo Part in the dark**

We welcomed back violinist Lizzie Ball, former leader of the City of Sheffield Youth Orchestra and now leader of Nigel Kennedy’s Four Seasons Orchestra! The Upper Chapel fell into darkness and after five minutes of silence the sound of her beautiful solo violin floated out, accompanied by 30 intermediate and advanced string players who had attended our February half term holiday course at Forge Valley school (in case you didn’t know we welcomed 200 young musicians to the February holiday course at Forge Valley with the amazing Maxwell string quartet – thanks to our friends at Music in the Round for this!). This was a deep meditative experience.

#### **Shostakovich Cello Concerto no 1**

Our award winning Senior Orchestra teamed up with cellist Olly Coates to blow away the cobwebs for a midday performance of this great cello concerto in the City Hall Ballroom. There were plenty of kids in the audience too – no better way to inspire the next generation of musicians!



#### **Yellow Arch – too cool for school!**

30 musicians in our Symphonic Wind Orchestra (made up from the wind and brass players in Senior Orchestra and Sheffield Young Sinfonia) performed Malcom Arnold and Arvo Part at the super funky Yellow Arch Studios to help round off this exhausting weekend of classical music.

#### **Come and Play**

In a repeat of our successful come and play event a week earlier 4 Music Leaders welcomed hundreds of budding musicians into Channing Hall so they could try their hands at an instrument for the first time.

## In partnership with South Yorkshire Hubs

### **Brass remade – composition, creativity, art and writing – oh and the odd steam rolled Tenor Horn! – 22<sup>nd</sup> March.**

9 Young Brass Musicians from High Green Primary have worked alongside a poet, composer, instrument maker and the other South Yorkshire Music Hubs as part of the Moved by Art, Brass Remade project. Initially viewing and writing poetry based on an exhibition at Barnsley Civic the pupils then composed music to fit their words and finally designed instruments using scrap brass instrument parts. On Saturday 25th March, alongside 'Barnsley Brass' Band they performed this new composition in a large inflatable tent in Thurnscoe.

## Outstanding performance opportunities

We are never short of giving children and young people the opportunity to perform in professional performance venues and March has been no exception. Here are our highlights:

### **Gala Gig – because authentic performance opportunities matter! March 26th**

Jazz, jazz and more jazz (anyone would think we have a big jazz gig coming up at the Royal Albert Hall.....!). We strongly believe that as young musicians grow they should experience performing in venues that are appropriate to the style they are exploring. Last year our Gala Gig was born and this year it has truly exploded onto the scene. Sold out well in advance, the audience were treated to performances by Sheffield Youth Big Band, the Music Hub jazz collective and musicians from Bradfield secondary school. All this topped off with great support from the tech team at Yellow Arch who provided top draw sound and light for a truly authentic experience!

### **Regional Festivals of Music for Youth – getting out there and trying something new – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March.**

It was all go on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March, *Alley Cats* our senior clarinet group and *Sheffield Youth Concert Band* took to the stage at Hope Valley College as they participated in one of a number of Regional Festivals of Music for Youth. On the same day, in Huddersfield, Sheffield Youth Big Band performed as part of the same festival.

## In partnership with the Halle Orchestra **HALLÉ**

### **Made in the British Isles – Two epic schools concerts with the world famous Halle Orchestra – March 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Because we don't like to go out with a whimper we thought we should push the boat out and invite 4000 primary children to Sheffield City Hall to hear this wonderful Symphony Orchestra perform live. The day itself did also include some drama as we had to evacuate 2000 children from the first performance due to a fire alarm – the building was clear in less than three minutes and thankfully it was a false alarm. Within 15 minutes the concert started again – with an impromptu performance of James Bond by the Orchestra!

To help prepare the children we created a resource pack and provided training to class teachers (all for free of course!). For 9 lucky schools we also gave the project extra clout by giving them one of our free *percussive classroom projects*. Here schools have been loaned a class set of

tuned percussion, given a whole load of resources and training (naturally) and learnt to play some of the music that will be performed – a totally magic way to end the month!

**BUT** ..... no rest for our dedicated team of professional music educators who were out in force on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April for our annual Gala concerts at Sheffield University (P.S. it *only* included around 500 amazing young musicians so no great shakes really!)

### **Watch this space**

We have loads more projects coming up; here are some of our highlights for the rest of the year:

#### **Modulo – 6<sup>th</sup> April – University of Sheffield**

Working with our friends at *Orchestras for All* hundreds of secondary school pupils come together to form a scratch orchestra – the aim – to promote orchestral playing in all of our schools!

#### **BBC Music Day – 9<sup>th</sup> June – 500 strong samba band in Barkers Pool**

With some help from Sheffield Children's University we are inviting all the children who have been involved in our *Samba in a Box* project to perform together in the City Centre – pass the earplugs!

#### **Summer Holiday Music Course – July 2017**

Over 300 children will share musical experiences at our annual holiday course. We join with the City of Sheffield Youth Orchestra and Soundpost for what promises to be a spectacular three days!

Want to know more? Want to get involved? Then look no further than our lovely new website, the one stop shop for music education in Sheffield.

[www.sheffieldmusichub.org](http://www.sheffieldmusichub.org)

Do you want to help our mission to support the musical journey of every child in the city? You can donate to our musical stars fund by texting:

**FSMH00 followed by your donation amount (£5, £10, £20) to 70070**



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