

Newsletter

September 2009

Welcome to our newsletter. We hope you find it informative and interesting, giving you an overview of recent events and details of future activities. If you have any comments or suggestions for the content of this newsletter please let us know.

Big Band perform at National Festival of Music for Youth

Brighton & Hove's Youth Big Band performed for the first time at one of the world's most prestigious youth music festivals this July. The 25-strong Big Band performed alongside 10,000 other musical talents in the UK as part of the National Festival of Music for Youth.

The band were one of 315 groups over the seven days of festival to perform to audiences in Birmingham's impressive venues including Symphony Hall, Town Hall, O2 Academy 2 and the Adrian Boult Hall (Birmingham Conservatoire). The festival line-up included choirs, orchestras, steel bands, rock, pop and urban groups, brass bands, music theatre groups and jazz bands.

The band performed 3 songs - *Little Brown Jug*, *Fiesta Bahia* and *Feeling Good*. The adjudicators commented on "the authentic feel of the music, good dynamic contrast, driving groove in the rhythm section and overall a strong sense of team work." Councillor David Smith, Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Tourism, said:

"Being invited to play at this national festival really does showcase the talent that exists in Brighton & Hove. We are very proud of the young musicians in our Brighton & Hove Youth Big Band as they demonstrate that our city is producing some of the most exciting and diverse music in the country."

Bandstand Re-opening

BYO String Ensemble played for the opening of the newly refurbished bandstand and it was a wonderful occasion hosted by the Mayor, Councillor Ann Norman. The ensemble is used to unusual situations – and this occasion provided the string players with a new challenge – that of playing in a near gale. Music stands were impractical so the ensemble played by memory. The band stand is a great venue and will surely be a great venue for our ensembles - especially brass and amplified groups.

Soundmakers

We estimate that during the next academic year approximately 2500 children will experience the opportunity to sing and learn a musical instrument through our Soundmakers programme. Through working with specialist tutors, Soundmakers develops children's musical and creative skills, usually in a whole class setting. Following their involvement in Soundmakers pupils will be given a range of opportunities to continue making music through our Soundmovers scheme.

If your child has recently participated in Soundmakers and you require further information about continuation opportunities at your child's school please contact us on 293524.

Howzat Graduation @ Sussex CCC

The Howzat Learning Centres graduation for the Summer term took place on 14th July. With such a successful term, it was fitting that it ended with a fantastic graduation packed full of students and their parents. Sussex Cricket Club had also organised for first team squad member Chris Liddle to present certificates and have photos taken with the students. All students had an enjoyable time and it was great to hear from the parents how much their children had enjoyed the course. It was also great to have such huge support from Sussex Cricket Club there; with a special thank you to Dave Brooks (Chief Executive) and Tim Marks (Community Manager SCCC) for announcing that students who attended graduation received 2 free tickets to one of Sussex's pro 40 games at Hove.



Summer School 2009

Almost 700 children and young people applied to take part in our programme of summer school courses in July. Alongside established courses such as Junior Music Theatre, Summer String Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz and Folk Bands, this year saw a range of new courses on offer. Courses such as Digital Music, Songwriting and Popular Vocals were aimed at Primary aged children, many of whom had experienced music making through our Soundmakers programme.

All courses included an opportunity for participants to perform music studied to family and friends and the standards achieved were very impressive. Congratulations to everyone who took part!

Vocal Force in Brighton & Hove

- Do you work with primary aged children?
- Do you support the health and well-being of children?
- Are you a healthcare worker, nurse, social worker, teacher or foster carer?
- Are you interested in developing your singing skills?

Then get in touch...

Lucy Stone, Rhythmix, lucy@rhythmix.org.uk, 08701 417 484 (ext 2)

What is Vocal Force?

Vocal Force a national programme delivering inclusive, learner-centred training for leaders singing with primary-age children in 60 target areas across England. The Vocal Force programme operates for two years and will run 2009-2011 in Brighton & Hove.

Vocal Force in Brighton & Hove

In Brighton & Hove Vocal Force is being co-ordinated by Rhythmix in partnership with Music, Arts and Study Support and Sing Up. The programme will focus on working with colleagues across the city supporting young people's health and wellbeing.

Cre8iveSounds

Cre8ive Sounds is a programme of music-making activity aimed at providing a personalised approach to music-making activities for Looked-After Children in Brighton & Hove.

Brighton & Hove Music Trust successfully applied for funding from Youth Music to deliver a wide variety of structured music-making activities taking place in out of school hours for 5-18 year olds. The programme includes provision for taster sessions,

holiday activities, weekly one-to-one or group sessions, tickets to music events and professional development for support workers.

Sessions include DJ, Music Technology, African Drumming, Samba, Indian Tabla, Singing, Song Writing, Creative Composition, Rock and Pop. The type of music learnt in the weekly and individual sessions will be chosen by the young people based on their interests and their taster sessions.

Brighton & Hove Music Trust are developing and delivering Cre8iveSounds in partnership with Rhythmix, Music, Arts and Study Support, Fostering and Adoption service, The Intensive Placement Team, The Children in Care Education Team, The Youth Offending Team, Childrens Disability Service and the 16+ Support Team.

If you know any Looked-After Children in Brighton & Hove who are interested in music-making or attending a music event please contact Lucy Stone on lucy.stone@brighton-hove.gov.uk

BHYP Cycle Tour & BYO Tour

This last academic year saw Brighton and Hove Youth Philharmonia go on a tour by bicycle to the Dieppe region – and it was voted a success by all participants. It was almost certainly unique and ended in a standing ovation for the performers in Offranville Town hall. Thanks must go especially to our colleague and friend Francoise Cornu from the Conservatoire Camille Saint Saëns in Dieppe and we look forward to an ongoing musical rapprochement.

BYO toured to the Leipzig region and their final concert also ended in a standing ovation in the Thomaskirche in Leipzig – the players left the performance to walk through an extended ovation – a moving experience especially as this church is so famous for music and is where Bach is buried (the percussionists were placed directly above his grave for the performance). Despite a rather uncomfortable outward journey in searing heat the tour was voted a great success by the players.

