



**75 YEARS OF SUPPORTING
AND CHAMPIONING
VOLUNTARY MUSIC**

Case Study

No. 12

Durham People's Opera Group

One of Making Music's five areas of activity is working with and for young people. Through Making Music's Young People's Programme a substantial library of youth project case studies has been developed. These case studies are designed to highlight and share best practice from the experiences of Making Music member societies undertaking youth projects. Many of the case studies arise from Making Music's two national youth programmes *tuned in* (2001-2002) funded by Youth Music and The Carnegie UK Trust and RESOUND (2003-2005) funded by Youth Music, Scottish Arts Council, The Carnegie UK Trust and Headley Trust.

1. Project Description

Project Aims

To enable children to compose and perform an original song

Project Description

The project had three phases; composition, performance and video viewing. The children at this special school for children with physical disabilities worked with volunteer members of the society during 10 after-school sessions. The children were totally involved in all the decision making from the inception of ideas, the development of the story line and the composition through to the development of the musical ideas. There was one final rehearsal involving the children along with staff, former pupils and volunteers which was followed by the videoed performance. The video was shown twice; once to the whole school (150 children and adults) and once in the evening to the members of the society plus other adults with a professional interest including lecturers and teachers.

Legacy

The society has gained a lot of confidence to work with young people in the future. Education professionals were present at the evening video viewing.

Improvements

The use of after school time was an improvement on the society's previous attempt to run a project on Saturdays.

2. Project Details

General Details

Nature of Youth Project	Workshop followed by performance
Number of Young People involved	11
Age Range of Young People	5 - 18
Type of Young People involvement	Composing and performing for video
Recruitment of Young People	One school for children with physical disabilities
Level of LEA involvement	None
Project budget	£1,000 - £2,000
Sources of funding	Northern Music Plus, Sunderland Special Needs
Video available	False
Audio available	False
Photographs available	False
Programme available	False
Publicity leaflets/posters	True

Society Details

Name of society	Durham People's Opera Group
Type of Society	Non-classical choral
Size of Society	35
Age profile	Only adult
Under 19s in society	0
Under 19s from project	0
Repertoire	Mixed
Typical concert budget	£1000 - £5000
Typical performance	Short pieces and major works
Number of performances	4 - 5
Willing to be contacted	True
Contact name	Rosalee Fairlie
Contact phone	0191 383 2717
Contact address	The Miners' Hall, Red Hill, Durham DH1 4BB
Contact email	wea@countydurham1.freeserve.co.uk
Contact fax	0191 383 9347

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