



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

Case Study

No. 24

Roman River Music Society

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

The ethos of the project was to make the workshops more accessible so that the experience might be shared by all children who wished to take part, especially those who had had little or no similar musical experience. The society believes that music participation increases children's self-confidence and sense of value, as well as giving them a legacy of a life long love of music. In terms of the society, the aim was to create a worthwhile project which would fulfil a valuable role in the community.

Project Description

The project comprised 4 day-long instrumental and vocal music workshops which took place during the school holidays for 7-14yr olds. Workshops were led by a team of either 2 or 3 professional musicians with considerable teaching expertise, but planned collaboratively by the society's Artistic Director. Each workshop started with warm-up activities, then into rhythm and singing. Children were then divided into varying ensemble groups according to instrument, age and ability. Throughout the day they came together for whole-group singing and playing. The children finally performed to parents and friends at the end of the day.

Legacy

The workshops provided a valuable musical experience for all the young people involved, and the opportunity for children to work together in this unique way enabled them to make rewarding progress. As a result of the workshop, the society has been invited to take part in a composition project involving young people, which began to take shape during the Christmas workshop of this project. All of those involved in the project - the society, musicians, all participants to the youngest and least experienced - have grown in confidence. The society found that watching the musical and social development of the children taking part was deeply rewarding.

Improvements

- 1) Lengthen sessions by half an hour
- 2) Shorter ice-breakers in larger groups,
- 3) Send out music for chosen piece ahead to leave time on the day for wider variety of skills,
- 4) Encourage commitment to whole project so that the most beneficial programme can be devised.

2. Project Details

General Details

Nature of Youth Project
Number of Young People involved
Age Range of Young People
Type of Young People involvement

Workshop followed by performance

70

7 - 11

Workshop participation followed by performance to parents & friends

Recruitment of Young People

letter to local primary schools, peripatetic music teachers and all local children interested advise in setting up

Level of LEA involvement

Project budget

£2,000 - £3,000

Sources of funding

tuned in (£1,295), Music Union (£150), Fees from participants (£945)

Video available

False

Audio available

False

Photographs available

False

Programme available

True

Publicity leaflets/posters

True

Society Details

Name of society

Roman River Music Society

Type of Society

Promoting

Size of Society

0

Age profile

Mixture of adult and youth

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

Up to 3

Willing to be contacted

True

Contact name

Mrs Zelig Jopling

Contact address

South Green Farmhouse, Fingringhoe, Colchester, Essex, C05 7DP

Contact email

zelie@romanrivermusic.org.uk

2-4 Great Eastern Street, London EC2A 3NW
T 020 7422 8280 F 020 7422 8299
info@makingmusic.org.uk
www.makingmusic.org.uk

This information sheet can be made available in large print and other formats on request. Please telephone 020 7422 8280.

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