



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

Case Study

No. 29

Sheffield Oratorio Chorus

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 Chorus wished to contribute to the artistic development of the pupils involved through the project and to establish links between the Chorus and the college. It was hoped that older pupils might participate in future concerts, possibly become members and share in the enjoyment of choral singing. It was also hoped that the combination of Sunduza and the children will be inspirational for Chorus members.

Project Description

To provide an opportunity for up to 100 children from a comprehensive school in a deprived area of Sheffield, to prepare for and participate in one of the Society's concerts. The concert concluded with a performance of African Sanctus, accompanied by a Dance Theatre troupe to choreography specially written by their leader. In the first half of the concert the children performed with the Dance Theatre troupe as a culmination of the week's work in the college.

As a change from our original plans the young people joined in the final dance with the troupe, having been coached by them for this.

The troupe is 'Sunduza', a group of 11 Zimbabwean performers, who have been touring internationally. In recent years their leaders have worked in schools generating enormous enthusiasm in pupils and staff.

Legacy

The young people were from the poorer side of Sheffield, from various ethnic backgrounds and included some boys, though the majority were girls. There was a significant number of people from ethnic minorities in Sheffield, a few refugees came and a group from Zanzibar on exchange.

The project had demonstrated to the Chorus that we can work successfully with young people from an earlier age than we had done, and from a different discipline, particularly where the school had a performing arts specialism and given a group like Sunduza whose leaders have done a considerable amount of work in schools.

A link with the school has been established so future work might take place.

Improvements

The society learned that rehearsing such an event with a large group of children in a large and unfamiliar setting needed more time than they had, especially as there was a lot of work to do on lighting and sound, which was something their usual concerts do not include. Delays with the lighting meant the doors were opened late, which probably meant fewer people being able to eat at the Eritrean buffet or browse at the Sunduza and Development Education Centre stalls, both of which had African books, etc, than might have been. Next time we will make sure we have more time for the dress rehearsal.

The project proved to be very time consuming and risky as so much could have gone wrong!

The Society's conductor spent more time than expected on planning the concert with the school. To recognise his extra efforts and expenses incurred, the Committee paid him an extra £700 which was not in the original budget.

2. Project Details

General Details

Nature of Youth Project	Workshop followed by performance
Number of Young People involved	35
Age Range of Young People	11 - 14
Type of Young People involvement	Week long workshops followed by performance with society
Recruitment of Young People	Through contact with the school and co-ordinator of dance troupe
Level of LEA involvement	none
Project budget	Over £5,000
Sources of funding	tuned in (£1,500), Charity (£750), Society Reserves (£1,140), Earned Income
Video available	False
Audio available	False
Photographs available	False
Programme available	True
Publicity leaflets/posters	False

Society Details

Name of society	Sheffield Oratorio Chorus
Type of Society	Classical choral
Size of Society	90
Age profile	Only adult
Under 19s in society	0
Under 19s from project	0

Created by Making Music

Updated May 2007

Repertoire	Mixed
Typical concert budget	£1000 - £5000
Typical performance	Major works
Number of performances	4 - 5
Willing to be contacted	True
Contact name	Laurence N Coates
Contact phone	0114 2377 583
Contact address	130 Westwick Road, Sheffield, S Yorkshire, S8 7BX
Contact email	In@laurencecoates.freerve.co.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.

We hope you find this Making Music document useful - it is intended to give a reasonable summary of the position at the time of writing. If you are aware of any changes to the situation described or have suggestions for further information to be included please contact the Membership Services Team at Making Music 020 7422 8280 or info@makingmusic.org.uk. Please note that no responsibility for loss occasioned to any person or group acting or refraining from action as a result of any of the contents of this information sheet can be accepted by any of the authors or by Making Music, the National Federation of Music Societies.

Members of Making Music can download this and other information sheets from our website, www.makingmusic.org.uk, where the latest version will always be available.