



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

# Case Study

## No. 33

### Quangle Wangle Choir

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 reach a wide range of children - not just those who already have involvement with music after school. This was achieved through basing the project in a school so that no one was left out. The school was chosen because it is in a socially deprived area.

It was intended that the percussion element of the project would add variety and improve musicianship for future concerts of the choir, who usually sing a cappella. They wanted to enjoy the experience of working with young people. The aim was also to create a 'rubbish band' to attract children who are shy about their voices or who think singing is 'cissy'. It was also hoped that a teacher at the school might be able to continue the band and use the songs after the project was ended.

##### Project Description

The project took the form of rehearsals and performance of Anansi the Drummer, a combined choral and percussion project involving a community choir, a primary school on a large council estate. The society employed 3 professional musicians - percussionists, MD of choir, who spent 4 mornings working with 75 8-10 yr olds at a local primary school. Some of the children were from a specialist unit for children with severe emotional & behavioural problems. The choir MD wrote a script for a play loosely based on an African story & incorporating many singing/dancing/drumming opportunities. She taught the children their songs, leaving a CD for them to practise from, while the percussionist taught them African drumming. The children's teachers took responsibility for sorting out the acting, dancing, costumes, scenery etc.

On the day of the performance 2 other Dorset Music Service musicians (cello & clarinet) & 16 members of the society were added to the melting pot! At the end of a day's rehearsing, the play was performed to a hall full of proud parents!

## Legacy

This was a 'stunningly successful project. The teachers and classroom assistants worked very hard and were fired up with excitement over the whole experience. Some comments from the children are:

"It was the best day ever"

"At the end when we did out loud noise we blew the roof off"

"I enjoyed the show. It made me feel proud of myself"

"It felt like I was in the best school in the world"

The society had undertaken 2 project involving primary schools before, but this was the first involving other professional musicians and so it was a big leap forward. A good link was established with Dorset Music Service. The music director and choir secretary were very impressed with the work of the Special Educational Unit with which they worked during the project that they decided to spend time there learning about their practice.

The choir produced a script and practice CD of the choir, so that when funding became available through the 'singing communities' fund (via Young Choirs.net) they were ready to reproduce the project in 5 other primary schools in the area. The Musical Director also became a Governor in the school where the first project took place in order to continue her link and influence over the music opportunities available to the young people.

## Improvements

The project was more expensive than anticipated, so the percussion workshops with the choir were cancelled. In future the society would be aware of projects becoming more ambitious than originally planned.

## 2. Project Details

### General Details

Nature of Youth Project	<b>Workshop followed by performance</b>
Number of Young People involved	<b>75</b>
Age Range of Young People	<b>7 - 11</b>
Type of Young People involvement	<b>rehearsal participation, workshop and performance</b>
Recruitment of Young People	<b>through links with local school</b>
Level of LEA involvement	<b>provided musicians and monitored the event</b>
Project budget	<b>£1,000 - £2,000</b>
Sources of funding	<b>tuned in (£1,500), Choir funds (£300)</b>
Video available	<b>False</b>
Audio available	<b>False</b>
Photographs available	<b>False</b>
Programme available	<b>False</b>
Publicity leaflets/posters	<b>False</b>

## **Society Details**

Name of society  
Type of Society  
Size of Society  
Age profile  
Under 19s in society  
Under 19s from project  
Repertoire  
Typical concert budget  
Typical performance  
Number of performances  
Willing to be contacted  
Contact name  
Contact phone  
Contact address

**Quangle Wangle Choir**  
**Non-classical choral**  
**80**  
**Only adult**  
**0**  
**0**  
**Exclusively non-classical**  
**Up to £500**  
**Short pieces**  
**Over 5**  
**True**  
**Juliet Harwood**  
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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](mailto: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.

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