



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

Case Study

No. 42

Eastern Flagship Project - Symphonia Academia

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 develop the idea of composition as a natural extension of other musical activity as early as possible in young people's education, and further to cultivate those pupils identified with particular gifts in this area, relating their output to the performing opportunities provided by the excellent work already being done in schools.

The project was part of Luton Finzi festival which was a Flagship Project as part of the Making Music 'tuned in' programme. The performance took place in a Recreational Centre.

Project Description

Two of the society's instrumentalists and the Making Music Local Youth Officer worked with 23 children to compose a three-movement piece drawing ideas from Finzi Clarinet Concerto, during a series of workshops. These culminated in a concert where the orchestra played Nick Pugh's arrangement of Ivor Gurney's 'Sleep', Finzi's favourite song. Children from 2 local junior schools performed a miniature clarinet concerto in the concert.

Legacy

Nick Pugh's arrangement was extremely lyrical and was very well received by the audience. The workshop for the clarinet concerto went well. The two schools provided 23 young people for the initial session which involved marching, singing and chanting and vocal/instrumental compositions based on the young people's names. They all sat wide-eyed as the soloist displayed the wonders of the clarinet.

The next session used material from the first and was very well rehearsed, whereas the second needed more guidance. The impact was different in both cases: in the second school some of the young people had obvious social interaction issues and it was felt that the

workshop helped them to open up and allowed them to make discoveries about their own abilities.

The young people were immersed in a completely new and exciting environment. The music was just challenging enough for them to perform well without too much anxiety.

Hearty applause lit up the children's faces!

Improvements

Time constraints presented a major problem to this project. The local music service did not identify the schools until four weeks before the concert. This meant that the schools found it difficult to recruit young people to take part who weren't already committed for that weekend. One school also had an OFSTED inspection in the week before the concert, so was unable to commit staff time to the project. One school also failed to provide adequate supervision on the day of the concert. The running order for the concert was changed on the day which meant children and parents had to stay longer which was inconvenient for some.

In future the society would have drawn up contracts with the schools detailing what exactly is expected of them and what the society would provide. More rehearsal time would have prevented a re-start of the piece as the children came in at half the speed.

2. Project Details

General Details

Nature of Youth Project

Workshop followed by performance

Number of Young People involved

23

Age Range of Young People

7 - 11

Type of Young People involvement

Recruitment of Young People

**Local schools via Local Music Service
recruitment of schools**

Level of LEA involvement

0

Project budget

Sources of funding

False

Video available

False

Audio available

True

Photographs available

False

Programme available

False

Publicity leaflets/posters

Society Details

Name of society

**Eastern Flagship Project - Symphonia Academia
Classical orchestral**

Type of Society

Size of Society

0

Age profile

Under 19s in society

0

Under 19s from project

0

Repertoire

Typical concert budget

Typical performance

Number of performances

Willing to be contacted

False

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

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