



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

Case Study

No. 50

Bolton Symphony Orchestra

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 inspire young people to experiment with musical expression, using major orchestral works as a stimulus.

To provide INSET training for participating teachers through the services of the Music Consultant.

To give BSO the opportunity to reach new and younger audiences within a new performing and educational context.

To bring together community music-making at different levels and to give the children the chance to participate as performers in a live concert, alongside BSO.

Project Description

The Peer Gynt Project

A curriculum support project based on the repertoire of a Bolton Symphony Orchestra concert on 4th July 1998 in the Albert Hall, Town Hall, Bolton (capacity 400).

Participants/performers were the BSO plus 130 Year 6 children from 4 Bolton LEA Primary schools. The conductor was BSO's Musical Director, Paul Payton, who is also Head of Music Service for Bolton. The Music Consultant for the schools work was Jane Hampson, who is Deputy Head of Service (Curriculum Support). Two members of BSO, Karen Thorp and Sheila Tonge co-ordinated the project on behalf of the orchestra. Other young people involved were senior members of the Bolton Youth Orchestra, who regularly play with the BSO, and the whole population of the 4 schools, who were given concerts in school of their friends' compositions.

The children worked in their schools with the music education consultant and their teachers to prepare their own compositions, both choral and instrumental, using an education pack which

studied the music to be performed by BSO in the concert. Four members of the orchestra and the conductor visited the schools to talk about being involved in an orchestra and their particular instruments/conducting skills. Each of the 4 instrumentalists was "adopted" by one of the schools, and the conductor visited all of the schools. The consultant visited each school on three occasions during the summer term.

Planning for the project began more than a year before: the project was planned as an integral part of the BSO's programme for the season.

Arts for Everyone Lottery Funding application sent to the Arts Council of England in April 1997.

Preparation of education package September 1997

Orchestral preparation commenced April 1998

School-based activities commenced mid-May 1998

Parents bought approximately 150 of the 400 available tickets.

The Repertoire was chosen because Paul Payton already knew at the planning stage that he wanted to include an education project in the season's programme. The repertoire of the 4th July concert seemed to lend itself very well to such an occasion - Adams: Short Ride in a Fast Machine; Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite; Britten: Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra; Glière: Horn Concerto; Sousa: The Stars and Stripes Forever. – A varied programme with plenty of scope for "stimulus" pieces for the children's compositions.

The event was managed well and was well thought out and planned. Joint planning meetings took place between the Music consultant and the Music Co-ordinators of the 4 schools, and staff were able to make a real contribution towards the materials. There were two INSET courses which ensured that staff had the relevant skills, and had worked through the pupils' activities before they had to deliver them to the children. In-class support was a successful element of the project.

School staff were responsible for the pupils during rehearsals/ performances out of school, supported by the Music Consultant and Head of Music Service/Conductor.

Concessionary tickets to the final concert were available to parents and siblings of performers, and there was a good take-up of these.

Legacy

The children were fascinated and excited by the orchestra and its music. The contribution made by the visiting orchestral players and the conductor was a highlight of the project. The children's compositions impressed not only the young people themselves and their parents but also members of the orchestra, even those who had originally been less than enthusiastic about the project. Some parents who had never been to an orchestral concert before said that they would come again, and have in fact attended recent concerts.

Improvements

It was not possible to keep to the time schedule with regard to the preparation lessons for all of the pieces. Schools tended to concentrate on their stimulus piece and because of pressures of the performance were unable to complete the curriculum work for the other pieces. The Consultant felt originally that one term was an appropriate length of time for the project. With hindsight she thought that either more time should have been allowed, or that the expectation of what could be done should have been set at a more realistic level. What was in fact achieved in the time was considerable.

2. Project Details

General Details

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

Recruitment of Young People
Level of LEA involvement
Project budget
Sources of funding

Via LEA
Recruitment of schools
£3,000 - £5,000
A4E Lottery 4,500, 500 given in kind, 500 BSO
funds, concert sales
True
False
True
True
False

Video available
Audio available
Photographs available
Programme available
Publicity leaflets/posters

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

Bolton Symphony Orchestra
Classical Orchestral
0
0
0
True
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