



Your Geordie Symphony School

In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead

Dear friends,

It took me a surprisingly long time to understand what EXACTLY made such an impact on me when I became part of Bridgewater and Hawthorn. Smiling faces on my first ventures inside, dynamic energy from all directions and everything busy and focussed.

All good, but not enough to explain how I felt so drawn to the experience.

I got more clues in a neighbouring shop, when asked if I was from Hawthorn (cello case in hand). The same happened on a small square of urban field/football pitch the same day, stopped by a group of teenagers we talked about music (and football a bit...).

In truth, and without the cello case, would any of us have stopped to talk and share a moment together? I doubt it.

It began to make a little sense, that feeling of common goal and purpose. A good school is a community, but it is built of people and not of brick. It goes beyond the gate.

It was enough for me at that time to simply find it rewarding, but when asked why I became part of it all, I found it difficult to put into words. But then in September this year, two afternoons, one at Bridgewater and one at Hawthorn as part of a string quartet from Royal Northern Sinfonia (I'm a member of the cello section) everything became clear.

But they were not concerts, well not exactly! They were shared events. A string quartet of Royal Northern Sinfonia musicians played with freedom to the most open-minded people you could hope to meet. At Bridgewater, Year 1 children choosing instruments for the very first time. What could be better? But this was not 'them and us', children sang with us as we played, just enjoying music for its own sake. Music unites; it creates that sense of togetherness. At Hawthorn as part of a presentation to a hall of adults and children we invited non-playing grown up volunteer Adeola to join us in a Purcell 'Fantasia'. Four players became five and she enthusiastically played her cello part with a smile...and she played it perfectly! Later, Adeola tweeted '*It was fun having a go with the instrument, lovely music, I love every beat of it! Will practice more with my daughter, cello!*'. Music has that gift of inclusion, nobody is excluded.

Those afternoons were my light-bulb moments! The children and adults of Hawthorn and Bridgewater with their dynamic energy, sharing the experience. Communities free from judgement. That's what 'In Harmony' means to me; it gives me more than I can hope to return. It thrives because of the children, and if they continue to invest in each other as well as in the world outside, then our futures will be bright indeed.

James Craig
Principal Study Leader

Summer Schools

This year's Summer School had a different theme each week. The first week's theme was *Animals* and the children played an arrangement of the tortoise theme from Saint-Saëns' 'Carnival of the Animals' as well as singing songs about a donkey! In the second week, the children designed and made their own percussion instruments and used them to create a soundscape on the second theme: *The Sea*.

At the end of each week, the children were delighted to play a mini-concert for their families, as it was the first indoor concert that we'd been allowed to do for over 18 months!

Seven young people from West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra have undertaken the task of designing and directing a commemorative film to celebrate In Harmony's 10th year, to be shown at the celebrations next June. The young people are using the project to help them complete their Silver Arts Award and started in a specially designed Summer School working with Second Draft film makers. They learnt about the different types of cameras, talked about the different roles required and did some planning for the content, all within three days!

We're excited to see how the film project develops over the year and would like to thank Second Draft for collaborating with us in this ambitious project.



RNS Visits – Clarinet day with Cristina

In October, Cristina Mateo, Principal Clarinetist with Royal Northern Sinfonia, visited all clarinetists from Hawthorn and Bridgewater schools, in a bespoke workshop about the instrument they all share – the clarinet. The children heard Cristina play a variety of pieces, and discussed different techniques on the clarinet, as well as sharing her top tips for breathing, posture and performing.

Over the course of this, our 10th year, every child playing an instrument with In Harmony will experience one of these bespoke workshops for their instrument, alongside a player from Royal Northern Sinfonia.

'I'm so glad I met you. Your tips helped me play my clarinet today, I'm so lucky to meet someone in RNS. Thank you for visiting our school!'

Clarinetist and Head Girl,
Hawthorn Primary School



Family Learning

We are delighted to welcome back families into our In Harmony sessions, giving parents a chance to learn an instrument alongside their child. Adults are given an appropriately sized instrument and join either with the small group lessons in school or with the West Newcastle Mini Orchestra – our new after school group for children in Key Stage 1.

The parents are doing well and are such a fantastic support for their children in their learning. We can't wait to see them perform in our concerts later in the year.

'I joined the after school group so me and my daughter could do something together, we both really enjoy. We love all kinds of music and really loving it so far. I feel I now have more of an understanding why the children in school enjoy music so much!'

- Year 1 Parent



The Globe Sessions

"It was amazing, I've never seen my dad play the drums before. I think he did good."

- Year 5, Violinist

In July, five families joined a family music-making taster session held at The Globe and run by Unlock Music CIC. The group developed a joint piece of music with children on their orchestral instruments and parents playing drums or hand-held percussion. The group then all had an opportunity to conduct each other and looked at different ways the group could be directed.

The taster session was such a great success, that we are delighted that regular sessions will start after half term with seven families signed up already.

'It was really great fun playing with my son, I would definitely give this a go to get involved'

- Year 5 Parent

ABRSM Success

Despite such a challenging year almost a third of eligible young people decided to undertake an ABRSM exam at the end of Year 6. We're so proud of the determination and hard work these young people showed towards their music and we're delighted that so many were rewarded with fantastic scores, with three children gaining a Merit.

A copy of their certificates has been sent to their secondary schools' Music departments to enable the children to continue their learning at their new schools. We wish them every success for the future!



In Harmony Live!

In Harmony Live! is a new, monthly concert series at Hawthorn Primary School on a Friday afternoon, where families and children are invited to access a live, professional performance at no charge.

The first performance was by a string quartet from Royal Northern Sinfonia, and James has already told you about how a parent was able to join the quartet for one piece! The second concert was a performance by our newest member of staff, Imogen Creedy, who is a professional vocalist. She sang folk songs from the North East, popular songs from the musicals as well as some classical pieces which left everyone feeling very relaxed ready for their half term break. Over 40 families have already attended at least one concert, and we hope to develop the concert series as we go throughout the year.



'What a fantastic start to our 10th In Harmony Year, with the first of our new, regular In Harmony Live! concerts at Hawthorn. Families had a real treat with a special performance from RNS string players. It was so lovely to see so many of our newer parents enjoying music with their children, and to hear one of our brave parents play alongside the RNS players.'

- Head Teacher,
Hawthorn Primary School

Save The Dates

Upcoming Performances

We're so pleased to be back able to perform, and so you are warmly invited to our end of Winter term performances listed below. If you'd like to attend any of the concerts, please email us at inharmony@sagegateshead.com or telephone 07580 078803.

West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra Winter Concert

**St Matthew's Church Hall, 11 Summerhill St,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 6EJ
Thursday 9 December, 6pm**

Join the West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra as they perform indoors for the first time in two years! They'll be performing their favourite works from popular films, some classical pieces, and some pop music we're sure you'll recognise and want to sing along to. Of course, there will be some festive favourites too. The young people are very excited to be performing again and would love to see as many of our supporters there as possible. Refreshments are available after the concert, and you are all welcome.

In Harmony Live! Hawthorn Primary Symphony Orchestra

**Orchestra Afternoon Soirée
Hawthorn Primary School, Park Close,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 6SB
Friday 10 December, 1.45pm**

Hawthorn Primary Symphony Orchestra will be performing as part of the monthly concert series at Hawthorn Primary School to round off the term in style. The children are working hard on a piece by Vivaldi, as well as some popular classics, and can't wait to share their hard work with friends, family and supporters.

About In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead

In Harmony is a national programme that aims to inspire and transform the lives of children in deprived communities in the UK, using the power and disciplines of community music-making. In our region, Sage Gateshead works in partnership with Hawthorn Primary and Bridgewater Schools to run In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead. Now in its tenth year, the programme continues to enhance the lives of children through community-based orchestral music-making.

"He loves his cello! It's his favourite part of school."

- Year 1 Parent, Bridgewater School

From their very first day in Year 1, children at Hawthorn Primary School and Bridgewater School in Newcastle's West End begin learning an instrument – and the benefits extend far beyond the classroom into the wider community.

"For those who are not confident during school lessons, they shine during music and it has helped them in group situations."

- Teacher, Hawthorn Primary School

The music-making skills, confidence, self-esteem, health, wellbeing and resilience of the children improve through the power and disciplines of ensemble music-making and music being part of daily life. In Harmony helps to build a sense of community and supports parental engagement with the schools - some have been so motivated by their children's development that they are now learning instruments alongside their children.

"In Harmony improves self-esteem, confidence, life chances and future health. I see the effect on children when I see them at my work - pride, confidence, self-worth and I see the effect on parents when I see them too."

- Dr Guy Pilkington, Local GP

Support Us

Every year we rely on support from donors to sustain this inspiring programme. Whether you choose to make a regular donation or a single gift to In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead, your support will make a real impact on the lives of young people today.

Ways to give:

- **By Credit/Debit card:** please contact Natalie Heath at Sage Gateshead on **0191 443 5038**.
- **By Cheque:** please post your cheque (payable to North Music Trust) to the Fundraising Team (In Harmony), Sage Gateshead, St Mary's Square, Gateshead, NE8 2JR.
- **By Direct Debit:** To set up a Direct Debit please contact Natalie Heath at Sage Gateshead on **0191 443 5038**.





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Sage Gateshead is a registered charity,
North Music Trust (Reg. Ch. No. 1087445).

We would also like to thank all of our donors for their generous support, including those who helped us purchase new instruments this year. Thanks to the Instrument Appeal donors, we were able to buy one trombone, three clarinets, six flutes, eight cellos and 31 violins, ready for the Year 1 and Year 5 pupils at Bridgewater School to start their next year of learning and playing. Our sincerest thanks to you all!