



Your Geordie Symphony School

In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead

Dear friends,

What an incredible few months we've had. Across our 10th birthday season, almost 700 children performed and shared their music in 12 different venues across the region. As a singer myself, my personal highlight was seeing the children creatively demonstrate their passion for In Harmony, collaborating with the incredible Beccy Owen to write and produce our own In Harmony song. The song is so catchy that Year 6 at Bridgewater performed it at a recent visit to a local care home, whilst taking part in an inter-generational project. Thank you to Beccy for everything, it was a pleasure working with her.

Our young people also had a fantastic opportunity to tell their own story as six young musicians from West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra (WNSO) co-directed a commemorative film. They worked with Second Draft, a local film company, to produce a beautiful and moving film – in their own words. I highly recommend watching the film which you can do by visiting sagegateshead.com/inharmony.

Away from the 10th birthday celebrations, we've had a very successful Summer School, as well as some other special performances in the community. We've certainly packed a lot in since the last time we wrote to you.

Autumn term has begun and In Harmony is now reaching the whole school at Bridgewater. All 360 children have an orchestral instrument and take part in two hours of music per week. We welcome you to join us at our end of term concerts in December.

As I write this, four young musicians from WNSO are representing In Harmony at the national Young Leaders Residential run by Nucleo, who recently took over from Sistema England. The children have formed a large orchestra, playing alongside children from In Harmony and Sistema-inspired programmes across the country. We're so proud of them and look forward to telling you more about it in the next newsletter.

A huge thank you for your continued support – this simply could not happen without your generosity.

Lorna Edwards
In Harmony Manager

Benedetti Foundation strings day

In July, the North East hosted the Benedetti Foundation at a series of residencies for young string players across the region. A group of In Harmony string players from Hawthorn Primary School had an amazing time when they visited Gateshead Music Service for a Benedetti Foundation Strings session. They met other children from across the North East who play string instruments and were able to form a huge ensemble.

The day started with a fun, practical warm-up before the children began work on an original piece written by Joëlle Broad, who led part of the workshop herself. To round off the day of activities and music-making, the children performed in a concert for family and friends.

Thank you to the Benedetti Foundation and Gateshead Music Service for a fun and insightful day for our young musicians.



ABRSM success!

We are extremely proud that over 60% of the Year 6 students at Hawthorn Primary School achieved an ABRSM exam this Summer. We're so proud of all the children who achieved Prep Tests up to Grade 3, with 2 children achieving a merit. Congratulations!

We hope they'll continue playing their instruments at their secondary school, and we're delighted we've already seen many of them at West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra this term.

This academic year, we're excited that children from both Hawthorn and Bridgewater schools will take an ABRSM exam. Keep an eye out for a lot more ABRSM results in the Summer term 2023.

"Passing my Grade 1 Violin makes me feel really special, that I can go on to achieve anything!"

Summer school

Our annual Summer School was a success again this year. It was a fantastic opportunity for children at both Hawthorn and Bridgewater schools to play and learn music together, for the first time in three years. Each week had a different theme. The theme for Week One was 'Weather', during which the children explored an arrangement of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, *Sunny Afternoon* by The Kinks and of course, *Singin' in The Rain*. Week Two had a European theme. The children played and sang a French song, learned a Scottish folk tune by ear, and tackled a Hungarian dance. The children focused on learning themes and variations and had the opportunity to write their own variations of 'Alouette'.

One child even took her variation home and completed it so she could present and perform it to her friends the following week. Finally, in Week Three of In Harmony Summer School, the children explored a pirate theme by playing familiar songs such as *Drunken Sailor*, *Cap'n Jack's Hornpipe* and the theme from *Pirates of the Caribbean*. The young musicians really got into character when they created their own pirate bell bracelets to help them explore the musical influences of the pirate world.

Thank you to all the In Harmony tutors who helped make these weeks so special.



Royal Northern Sinfonia visits

We were so pleased to welcome our friends from RNS to Hawthorn and Bridgewater schools in September for a very special performance for our brand-new orchestras for this year. Charli, Eva, Sophie, Malcolm and Dan performed for the pupils who particularly enjoyed pieces by Bologne, the first-known classical composer of African ancestry. They also performed some pieces by Haydn and Mozart, and led a question and answer session after the concert to discuss what it means to be in an orchestra.

One pupil asked, "What inspired you to be the person you are now?" to which Sophie (violin) replied, "The music itself has inspired us a lot – we've been doing it a lot!" Another player, Eva (violin), replied "We're also inspired by our friends who play alongside us"

We agree music is the most fun when shared with friends.

In Harmony in the community

The children love going out and about to perform in their local community. As you know, we've been right across our community as part of the 10th birthday celebrations (more below). But there are two very special other performances we'd like to share with you:

St. Matthew's Community Dinner

In early June, five of our WNSO players were invited to play for a community dinner hosted by the incredible people at St. Matthew's Church. They performed as a string quintet for the first time, with pieces ranging from Baroque to the Blaydon Races. It was so special to be involved in such a heartfelt and important event for the community.

Performance for the UK Network of Children's Communities meeting

The Hawthorn Primary Wind Orchestra represented In Harmony at the West End Children's Community who hosted the UK Network meeting in Elswick. They performed to delegates from different children's communities around the country as Newcastle West End Children's Community shared their partnership working initiatives.

"They were fabulous! The delegates thoroughly enjoyed the performance. They energised and motivated us all in the afternoon to have some great discussions."



Save The Dates

Upcoming performances

We're delighted to be able to welcome you back into schools to watch the children in their end of term performances. Listed below are the three performances we'd recommend. We hope to see you there. All concerts are free to attend. If you can't make these, but you'd like to visit on another day, we'd be pleased to welcome you.

Bridgewater Symphony Orchestra in Concert

**Tuesday 13 December, 3pm,
Bridgewater Primary School**

Join the wonderful Year 6 children from Bridgewater School in their end of term performance continuing the success of the formation of the orchestra last year.

Hawthorn Primary Symphony Orchestra Soirée

**Thursday 15 December, 4pm,
Hawthorn Primary School**

The fantastic Hawthorn Primary Symphony Orchestra will host their soirée again this year. They will be joined by the West Newcastle Mini Orchestra in their debut performance and the West Newcastle Junior Orchestra.

West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra in Concert

**Thursday 15 December,
6pm, St. Matthew's Church Hall**

Led by conductor Mark Edwards, WNSO returns to the much-loved St. Matthew's Church, this time in the hall for warmth! The young musicians will perform a programme of Tchaikovsky, Mozart, and a lively item by Susato, as well as some seasonal favourites for you to join in with.



In Harmony 10th Birthday Festival

Between the end of May and the beginning of July, the young people, tutors, and schools of In Harmony celebrated an incredible 10 years of this programme we love. The children all got a chance to perform in their local community, as well as at Sage Gateshead, where all children performed in one jam-packed day of sharing, ending with a huge confetti cannon which symbolised the finale of the festival. At the finale event, we performed our new In Harmony song, composed by the young people and Beccy Owen, a Sage Gateshead Artist in Residence 21/22.

At the beginning of the five week-long festival, some young people from Year 4 at Bridgewater performed for the 'Boogie Bairns' session at the Riverside Community Health Project. This was a wonderful sharing event for the very youngest members of the community. The performers showed great resilience and determination when perhaps the audience were not that quiet!

Children from Hawthorn performed at the beautiful Lit & Phil on Westgate Road, and The Globe, a community run music venue. Playing outside in Elswick Park proved challenging against the wind, but the children were professional and so well behaved. At Cruddas Park Library, the Haydn's ensemble was surprised by a huge audience of Newcastle College students, who had timed their lunchbreak accordingly, and were an extremely receptive audience. Bridgewater Symphony Orchestra gave their debut performance at the newly restored John Marley Centre in Scotswood Garden to many proud parents and families, which was such a special occasion.

The very youngest members of In Harmony took part in a performance of the Big Sing for Mini Singers – singing songs about being on a journey, and bringing joy to all the classes and teachers who saw it. The oldest children of WNSO joined forces with Young Sinfonia for a side by side performance at Sage Gateshead, with aptly branded cupcakes which went down a storm.

We were very proud of the young people embracing this opportunity to play with Young Sinfonia. Six of the young people from WNSO embarked on a great challenge: to direct a film with Second Draft filmmakers to commemorate the 10 years of In Harmony. Speaking about seeing the end result, Jessica says:

"It was a surreal experience to watch me and my friends on a screen doing the things that make us happy. The work and creative effort that was put into the film really paid off and we are all so proud of ourselves and each other. There were moments where we thought we couldn't finish parts of the film and days where we were tired but with dedication and drive, we managed to pull through. This experience was just one of many amazing opportunities In Harmony have offered and the future seems even greater."

"It has been a privilege to be a part of this for 10 years. I have grown along with the children, they are my inspiration. Here's to many more years together!"



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:

- **Regular Direct Debit** – on a monthly or quarterly basis. These gifts are particularly helpful as they enable us to better plan for future needs.

To set up a Direct Debit, or make a card payment, please contact Natalie Heath, at Sage Gateshead on 0191 443 5038. Cheques can be posted to In Harmony, Sage Gateshead, St Mary's Square, Gateshead. NE8 2JR

- **Regular and Single gifts by Text message**, where your donation is added to your phone bill.

To donate a £5 single gift, text INHARMONY to 70085. You will be charged £5 + your standard message rate

To set up a £5 monthly text donation, text IHMONTHLY to 70085

- **Single gifts can be made by cheque** (payable to North Music Trust), and posted to In Harmony, Sage Gateshead, St Mary's Square, Gateshead. NE8 2JR





With thanks to

Supported using public funding by
 Department for Education



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

With further thanks to our 10th Birthday supporters



We would also like to thank all of our donors for their generous support.