

I've been having a blast diving into my role at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music. It's so eye-opening to see the In Harmony programme in full swing and to meet all the amazing children, tutors, and school staff. These incredible schools prioritise music education, not just for the music making itself, but for all the benefits it brings to the children and the local community.

Part of my role here is to keep In Harmony plugged into all the cool stuff happening at The Glasshouse. That means making sure our special bond with Royal Northern Sinfonia and visiting musicians stays strong. Speaking of which, we've had some exciting visits already this year. Tim Ridout on the viola and Isata Kanneh-Mason on the piano swung by. You can catch up on all the details in this latest newsletter. The visits give the children a rare chance to rub elbows with pros and get inspired right in their own school. It's all about making them think, 'I can totally do this!'

As In Harmony grows and changes, you can bet I'll be right there every step of the way, shaping things to keep making a real difference in the lives of the children and families in our area.



**Rebecca Johnson**  
Senior Producer, The Glasshouse  
International Centre for Music.



## What instrument will it be?



### Violin, viola, cello, or a surprise?

It's the big question for our budding musicians in Year 1 at Bridgewater School this term. Our In Harmony tutors dropped by in January to introduce the string family to the Bridgewater Turtles and Pandas classes.

Picture this: the children getting to hear each instrument and even try them out. After some serious pondering about which sound they fancy - the mellow cello, the lively violin, or the smooth viola - they made their picks. Some were super confident, while others couldn't resist the mystery. And guess what? They all got their very own string instrument. We can't wait to see the looks on their faces when they get to hold them for the first time. Stay tuned for updates on their musical adventures.

# Hawthorn Primary Symphony Orchestra wows at Greggs HQ



Let's rewind to the end of last year. It was a chilly, rainy Tuesday, just before Christmas rolled in. But that didn't put a damper on our spirits at all. The Hawthorn Symphony Orchestra decided to spread some serious festive joy over at Greggs HQ in Newcastle.

Now, we all know breakfast is key. That's why the Greggs Breakfast Club at the schools are such a big deal - making sure all the children start their day with a healthy meal. So, when In Harmony got the chance to perform some carols for the awesome folks at Greggs, we were absolutely thrilled. It was our way of saying a massive thank you in true Hawthorn Symphony Orchestra style.

We belted out some classic festive tunes. The Greggs team couldn't resist joining in the fun, singing along like pros. And as if that wasn't awesome enough, all our young musicians got treated to a delicious lunch from Greggs and even had a cracking time decorating festive biscuits. Who can resist unlimited icing and sweets before lunch?

After a morning filled with music and merriment, we headed back to school with our bellies full and our biscuits in hand. **Big shoutout to Greggs for making it such a fantastic day.**

# A visit to remember from Isata Kanneh-Mason



Last month, we had a very special morning when the incredibly talented pianist, Isata Kanneh-Mason, landed here in the North East. As well as wowing audiences at The Glasshouse – she also made time in her jam-packed schedule to swing by Hawthorn Primary and serenade our In Harmony musicians.

The school hall was buzzing with excitement as Isata treated us to some Gershwin. After her performance, she even took some time to chat with the children, answering their burning questions. From 'What's your favourite instrument to play?' (spoiler: it's the piano, closely followed by the viola) to 'Did you always want to be a musician?'. The children hung on her every word.

**"It was brilliant because she was very brave to do a concert for us. I learned about her favourite pieces of music. One of them started with R... (Sergei Vasilyevich Rachmaninoff)"**

**- A Year 4 trombone player**

# Celebrate good times

On Wednesday 27 March 2024, 300 In Harmony children from Hawthorn Primary and Bridgewater schools stepped onto the stage at The Glasshouse for an afternoon of musical excitement.

There were remarkable guests as members of Royal Northern Sinfonia joined the fun and played side by side with the children.

Audiences couldn't get enough of the finale; a mass choral performance of the 'In Harmony song', co-created by the young people.

**"We got to do a huge performance and it was incredibly fun. Just hearing all the different schools and the feeling you get from it was amazing. It was awesome playing for our parents - all of us together, alongside each other."**

- In Harmony young musician on the 2022 celebration day at The Glasshouse



## More dates for the diary

**West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra concert**  
Thursday 2 May at St Matthews Church, Newcastle

**West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra Quintet play**  
**The Late Shows**  
Saturday 18 May 6pm – 7pm, Shipley Art Gallery

# Harmonious!

In Harmony is a national programme made to inspire. It aims to transform the lives of children in areas where things can be tough using the power of community and orchestral music-making. In our region, The Glasshouse works with Hawthorn Primary and Bridgewater Schools to run In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead. The programme, now over ten years old, shapes the lives of young people.

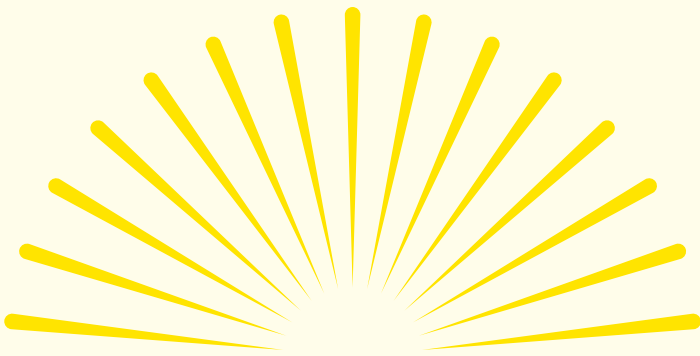
**“He loves his cello. It’s his favourite part of school.”**  
- Year 1 parent, Bridgewater School

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. The benefits might start in the classroom, but they reach far into the local 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

Music-making skills, confidence, self-esteem, health, well-being and resilience improve through making music together as part of daily life. We think that’s pretty wonderful. The programme builds a sense of belonging and encourages parents to get involved with the schools - some have been so motivated by their little ones’ growth they are now learning instruments alongside them.

**“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



## Music lives and grows here

The Glasshouse, St Mary’s Square,  
Gateshead Quays, Gateshead, NE8 2JR  
Box Office: 0191 443 4661 | theglasshouseicm.org

## Make it happen

Every year, the children of Hawthorn and Bridgewater Primary schools thrive more and more, thanks to the generosity of our many donors. What you read about in this newsletter simply wouldn’t be possible without your support. Thank you.

**If you’d like to add your support to this life-changing project, we’d love to hear from you. Any and every contribution makes a difference.**

## Ways to give

### Direct debit

Whether monthly, quarterly or yearly, a regular gift is especially helpful as it lets us plan for the future.

### Single gifts

Just call us to make a donation by debit/credit card, and our letterbox is always open to donations by cheque (payable to North Music Trust).



## A musical legacy

When you include a gift in your Will to our charity, you will give youngsters magical musical moments for years to come – from learning to play Beethoven to exploring New Orleans Jazz and having a go at composing. If you’ve made a gift to our charity in your Will or are considering it, we’d love to hear from you so we can keep you connected to the wonderful work happening at In Harmony.

### Please contact:

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