

## Haringey Young Musicians - Texas Trip, February 2018

Over the February half term, the Haringey Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra and Stage Band, as well as a group of dancers from Hornsey School for Girls, spent a very enjoyable week in Midland, Texas. We spent the week at Lee High School working with their teachers, musicians and dancers, which culminated in a joint concert at the end of the week.

As well as lots of rehearsals and workshopping in school, we visited a candy factory and enjoyed a morning at the Petroleum Museum, as well as taking a day trip to Lubbock, visiting Texas Tech University and the Buddy Holly Museum. On the Thursday the group visited two elementary schools, Bowie and Fasken, giving performances which were very well received by the school children. We ate lunch with the children at Bowie and it was great to see our young people talking with them about their education and hobbies.

Our final concert, shared with Lee High School Orchestra, was a great success. Councillor Stephen Mann, the Mayor of Haringey, gave presentations during the evening and exchanged gifts with Beau Garza, Corey Metcalf and Karen McAfee. Particular highlights from the evening were the dancers sparkling performance to 'Mississippi Quodlibet' and the massed performance of the Finale from Sibelius' Second Symphony, featuring the Haringey Young Musicians and Lee High orchestras.

We were very honoured to share our experience with the Mayor of Haringey and his wife, and are grateful for all their support. The pupils all seemed to enjoy their experience. It was clear from some of the tearful farewells that the young musicians and dancers had made long-lasting friendships with their host families.





A quote from the Mayor:

*"Over the years I have witnessed Haringey Young Musicians supporting our communities across Haringey as well as providing great entertainment through their performances and concerts. During my Mayoral year they have supported me and my work in raising awareness and funds for Mental Health and Wellbeing in Haringey. So it was a great honour and a privilege to be able to join the Haringey Young Musicians cultural exchange with Lee High School in Texas during February half term. It was a huge success with outstanding performances and the Young Musicians, their teachers and tutors and the dancers from Hornsey School for Girls were a credit to our Borough.*

*The story of this cultural exchange started in June 2017 when the Lee High School young musicians from the City of Midland in Texas came to London to perform in a number of prestigious locations including Buckingham Palace and Southwark Cathedral. However, the terror attack on London Bridge led to a security shutdown and their performances were cancelled. When Peter Desmond, Head of Music and Performing Arts in Haringey heard about this he invited the young people from Texas to Haringey where performances were arranged. Concerts took place in a number of schools in the Borough and as a result Lee High School invited Haringey Young Musicians back to Texas to perform there.*

*During our week in Texas I was able to give the Young Musicians my support as Mayor, accompanying their visits to schools and speaking about Haringey to audiences, families, teachers and students at the various schools. During the final joint concert with the Lee High School orchestra I gave presentations during the evening and exchanged gifts with Beau Garza, Director of Music at Lee High School. Beau presented me with the flag of Texas in a presentation case that will take pride of place in my Mayor's Parlour.*

*The trip was a wonderful triumph that I and everyone on it will remember for the rest of our lives. The families of the Lee High School students invited our young people into their homes and into their hearts and showed us all great kindness and generosity. Out of a terror attack that sought to divide communities came an opportunity to show friendship which will endure."*