



Annual Review 2017

2016-17 was another exciting year for Haringey Young Musicians with two foreign tours, three concert series, two fun days, three vocal festivals, some exciting collaborations and projects, a song-writing project, a 3-day summer holiday guitar course, two visits from overseas groups and a performance in the BBC proms, broadcast on national television. In October 2016 we welcomed Abi Munson to the team as our Activities and Development Officer. Abi immediately got to work organising the end of term concerts, grade exams, a beginners Fun Day, a visiting band from Barcelona staying with host families and the trip to Barbados. In September 2017 we welcomed Thomas Gregory as Head of Strings. Thomas immediately set up two new string groups in Tottenham schools, extending the HYM offer still further.

Fun Days are opportunities for young musicians who have been learning for a relatively short time to come together for a day, learn some music and give a short concert to parents in the afternoon. Many of those young musicians subsequently join the weekly Haringey Young Musicians groups and begin their progression from training to advanced level.

Haringey Vox, our stunning choir, started 2017 with a moving performance at the Holocaust Memorial Day in Bruce Castle and went on to join the Steel Orchestra in our third trip to Barbados to perform in the Hometown Festival as well as doing workshops and concerts in schools and a community college on the island. All of their performances were very well received and the blog posts, including videos of their performances, were followed by family and friends back in the UK.

Our partnership with Wigmore Hall Learning continued to flourish, including some intensive work in local schools, **and opportunities for a schools singing festival and a teachers' conference** in the Wigmore Hall, which is a beautiful venue very close to Oxford Circus.

London Sinfonietta gave a concert and composition workshops in a local school and will be working with us again this year in a composition project based at Dukes Aldridge Academy, including four Haringey and one Enfield primary schools. Members of the HYM Symphony Orchestra and Enfield Young Symphony Orchestra will then join forces with London Sinfonietta to perform the new music in the Royal Festival Hall in March 2018.

In Spring 2017 Symphony Orchestra joined forces with Talkies Cinema to prepare a performance of **Laura Rossi's "Battle of the Somme" along with a screening of live footage from the First World War** as part of the WW1 centenary. The composer attended the concert given in Heartlands school and gave a short talk about her piece. We continued the WW1 theme in our project with **The Vale Special School and HYM Big Band. "My Mate George" was the title of the piece of musical theatre** composed and performed by staff and students to commemorate the short life of George Baxter Lawson, a soldier from Tottenham. Our trip to Belgium in July, to perform the piece in Ypres and Ostend, attracted much publicity, including a short piece on BBC TV news.



"Haringey Young Musicians" is the over-arching title given to all the instrumental and vocal work organised through Haringey Music Service, School House, Inderwick Road, London N8 9JU Tel. 020 8489 8960 email: hms@haringey.gov.uk

The Parent Teacher Association of the same name supports this work and is registered charity no. 1105957

One of our newest groups, the HYM Jazz Combo, gave several performances and seemed to bump into the Mayor at most of them, including an appearance at the Haringey-Livry Friendship Association dinner, attended by friends from our twin town of Livry-Gargan, Paris, with whom we have organised many cultural exchanges in the past.

In June we met the Midland Lee String Orchestra from Texas when we hastily organised performances in two local schools for them after their other concerts had been cancelled. We are now preparing to take the Symphony Orchestra, Stage Band and Hornsey School Dancers to visit them in Texas in February 2018.

In July we continued our partnership with Chestnuts School and the Bernie Grant Arts Centre to **organise another series of schools singing festivals and “Mini Massive” concerts for classes that** had completed a year of the Whole Class Instrumental Tuition programme. Hundreds of local primary school children gave exciting performances to delighted parents and friends in the lovely theatre.

The guitar faculty continues to go from strength to strength. Our first summer holiday guitar school took place over three days at Hornsey School for Girls in July and was attended by 44 children of varying ages and abilities. We have also started a new training ensemble at Lea Valley Primary School and our 4 ensembles now have more than 55 children attending weekly. 17 members of the senior group will be visiting Budakalász, Hungary for 5 days in April, 2018.

We strengthened our partnership with New River Studios in Tottenham who hosted the “Teenage Dreams” secondary school song-writing performances, including very positive and helpful feedback from local music business guru, Charlie Pinder. The songs were very varied and sophisticated with stunning performances from the young composer/performers representing a number of local schools.

Just when we thought we could eventually wind down for the summer, we received a late invitation to take Haringey Vox to sing in the Proms. They learnt the piece in two rehearsals and then travelled to the Royal Albert Hall to perform with another choir and the BBC Concert Orchestra as part of the John Williams film music prom, which was later televised on BBC TV. It was a wonderful moment to hear Katie Derham utter the words **“who else but the wonderful Haringey Vox”**.

Next year will be just as busy, including the cultural exchange visits to Texas in February and Hungary in April, followed by the **“Haringey Goes Wild” festival** at the Royal Albert Hall on Monday 4th June.

Many thanks to all the young musicians, parents, friends, tutors, schools, Music Service staff and the HYM Committee for their support and encouragement. We would also like to say a massive thank you to the Tottenham Grammar School Foundation for their continual support in our adventurous activities.



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Haringey Vox & Steel Orchestra enjoying the sun in Barbados. This was our third stay at the beautiful All Seasons Resort. The second photo shows the stunning view from Cherry Tree Hill on our island tour.



“My Mate George”

In the Summer term the HYM Big Band embarked on an exciting project in collaboration with our friends at The Vale; the My Mate George Project. My Mate George is a devised music, dance and spoken word piece, exploring the all too short life of George Baxter Lawson, a World War One soldier from Tottenham.

In July, the HYM Big Band and a group of pupils and staff from the Vale toured ‘My Mate George’ to Belgium, performing at venues in Ypres and Ostend. The trip included the incredible opportunity to perform at the Remembrance Ceremony at the Menin Gate, a very moving experience which will be remembered by all. We also visited Tyne Cot Cemetery to pay our respects to ‘our mate George’. We were very impressed with the maturity and respect shown by the young musicians, and some of the insightful comments made during the visit. Overall we had a very enjoyable week in Ypres. Relationships between the young musicians were strengthened and it was lovely to see the friendships growing between HYM and the pupils from the Vale.



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Exam Report

Many congratulations to everyone who took an instrumental exam over the last year. We received some excellent results. In total, 145 candidates were entered for ABRSM exams, with a pass rate of 97%; 8% of candidates received the top mark of distinction. 113 candidates were entered for Trinity exams, with an excellent pass rate of 99%; 29% of candidates received a distinction in their exams. Haringey Music Service has now also become a centre for Trinity Rock & Pop exams, and we look forward to holding our first exam session in the new year.



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