



Newsletter no. 9

January 2021

Music for the Many is a registered charity no. 1185526

Happy new year! to all our families, friends and supporters.

Music for the Many has been busier than ever over the past few months, because music is more important than ever in such difficult times for children, families and communities.

Thanks to our project grant from Arts Council England's Lottery Fund we have been able to explore some new creative activities in addition to our usual instrumental tuition.

M4MCREATE



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

The project, titled M4MCREATE, is a musical response to the children's experience of life during the pandemic. The initial call out to our young musicians for some song lyrics has led to some fascinating discussions about our different thoughts and ideas of what the pieces should say and a range of feelings about lockdown, restrictions, school closures, the environment, freedom, politics, wildlife, etc.

One of our visiting artists, **Amy-Rose Atkinson**, who is a deaf musician and British **Sign Language** specialist has been showing us how to use signing in a musical way to compose and perform songs more expressively. These sessions got us thinking about how hearing-impaired people experience, appreciate and make music and how mask-wearing adds an extra challenge to hearing-impaired people's communication and connection with other people.

The resulting song from these sessions, called "**Behind the Mask**", puts it like this:



"I want to see them smile
and feel the vibration of the bass and the beat."

You can see our children's signing and hear this song in our video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZdA-ToGrX8>



Thanks to **Sean Lovell**, our film maker for this project, for his nifty editing, bringing this video to life; and thanks to all the extra singers who sent in their own recordings of this song for us to add to the final mix.

In addition to our marvellous team of instrumental tutors and music leaders, **Atholl, Daniel, Emily, Helen, Jack and Will**, who have been collectively flexing our creative muscles, we have also had the privilege of working with superb cellist, **Ellie Boney**, a visiting artist and rising star from the world of string quartets. Together Ellie and Helen have been immersing some of our young string players in the rich textures of chamber music. It has been very exciting to hear the children grow in confidence as they compose and play independent musical lines in harmony with professional string players. This really captures a lot of what Music for the Many is all about.



Another source of inspiration for our work has been the way that lockdown in spring and summer made us more aware of the flora and fauna in our local environment. This has led us to make a song called **Birds**. Our young musicians created and recorded a soundscape of gentle harmonic breezes and some very convincing birdsong on their musical instruments.

You can hear this piece and our epic, dramatic work "**Lockdown**", which showcases some of our children's newfound instrumental skills in some complex orchestral textures, here, on our website:

<http://music4themany.com/m4mcreate-project/>



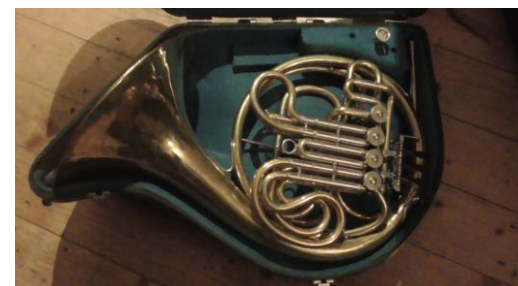
This term we will be working with singer of Punjabi Sufi music, **Imaan Lone**, exploring meditative South Asian music; and with international circus percussionist **David Insua-Cao**, making music outdoors with found natural objects. We look forward to hearing what exciting new works emerge from these creative activities.

We are still appealing for song lyrics and ideas for our young musicians to work with. Send any materials you would like to share to music4themany@gmail.com

In other news....A very big "**Thank you!**" to all our performers, **Andy & Kathy Kim, Paddy Higginson, John Ellis, Gareth Scott** and (as-seen-on-TV) **Nicola Mills**, who braved the elements to play our **Live at the Market** series before Christmas, raising **£530**. **Thank you!** also to all the unfailingly generous people of Todmorden and beyond who have donated money and musical instruments to support the work of Music for the Many.

Thank you! to **Jan Peters** and the **British Horn Society** for donating a lovely, refurbished French Horn, which is already being played by one of our young French Horn pioneers. *C'est magnifique!*

Thank you! to all our schools with their heroic support staff, administrators and teachers for carrying on to accommodate our musical work even under such challenging conditions. We all know that music is vitally important for our children, families and communities. It keeps bringing us together even when we have to stay apart.



Remember, you can donate online at <https://localgiving.org/charity/musicforthemany> It's only with your help that we can do what we do. You can give regularly with an amount as little as £2 per month.