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Music for the Many is a registered charity no. 1185526

Since our last newsletter, way back in January, Music for the Many has celebrated 3 years of providing equal musical opportunities in our schools. And it's all thanks to YOU, our supporters who share our vision and commitment.

As well as our instrumental lessons and project workshops taking place online, on 16th March we gave a live online performance. A few of our young musicians bravely played solo on trumpet, trombone, violin, guitar and cello on Zoom for the celebration event of the Calder Valley Land Trust. CVLT owns Fielden Hall, where we do our concerts, which we hope to be bringing back very soon!



M4MCREATE

In January we welcomed two new visiting artists to our M4MCREATE project: David Insua Cao and Imaan Lone.

David is a professional percussionist who, when he's not touring with a circus, specialises in making music with found natural objects. Together with Ellie Boney, another of our visiting artists, he gave our young musicians lots of inventive, enjoyable and, at times, weird ways of creating new music by making instruments out of household objects, by recording and editing sounds in our environment and even enlisting the help of our pets. David's dog, Maceo, was a star of our instructional videos, one of our students at Tod High showed us how her Guinea pig can compose rhythmic phrases and another of our pupils' dog, called Snorlax, can be heard singing on the end of one of our new songs.

The snowy, icy weather in February inspired our young musicians to compose another new piece called Ice Music, merging our melodic phrases on different instruments with the real sounds of ice crunching, cracking and squeaking.



When we all came back into school, David led some brilliantly inventive and energetic workshops with the children in year 2 at Ferney Lee and at St. Joseph's making rhythmic pieces with sounds and objects in found in the garden and the woods.

Opening up our workshops to online participation meant that we could welcome some new pupils from our primary schools and from Tod High. It also gave an opportunity for the children at home to work with the children in school. We received some especially wonderful lyrics from some of our brilliant young poets, which we combined with the melodies, rhythms and environmental sounds contributed by other pupils to make some very atmospheric new pieces of music.

One piece we made paints a fascinating picture of lockdown as experienced by different people stuck in different places, as we all described what we can see from our windows, and, of course, the windows in which we see our friends on the computer screen.



Imaan, a singer of South Asian music, gave us some inspiring insights into Punjabi music and we used a qawwali, which Imaan taught us, as the starting point for our own new composition. We found that the meditative, healing quality of this music was very appropriate for how a lot of us were feeling during the lockdown. We expressed all this in

our song called In Isolation, using the Islamic greeting, "salaam alaikam" as our refrain. Our tabla players studied the rhythmic pattern and, when we all returned to school in March, Amy-Rose, our sign-language specialist, taught us to sign the lyrics, making a very special music video. Have a look at it [here](#) on youtube.

BBC
RADIO



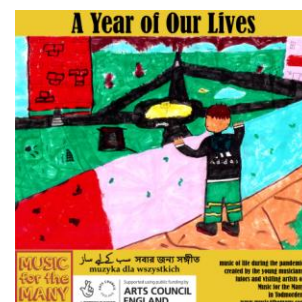
One of the highlights of our project came on 14th February, when one of our new pieces was played on BBC Radio 3 by Martin Handley. The piece he chose to play was Birds, our celebration of our bird-filled environment. Responses to this came from all around the country:

"Congratulations to the children and staff of Todmorden for their beautifully crafted soundscape this morning. How special to be able to hear the results of their creativity. Opportunities so necessary through these challenging times." "Thank you for the wonderful piece by the children from Todmorden. How I would love to be walking in the Calder Valley now."

This was a great recognition of the work our young musicians do and made us music teachers feel extremely proud of the achievement.

If you haven't already seen it, have a look at the [documentary film of our project](#), made by Sean Lovell.

We have put together all the recordings of our new pieces of music on a **11-track album**, called *A Year of Our Lives*. You can download it from our website www.music4themany.com. Please tell all your friends and relations, tell us what you think of it, and don't forget to make a donation if you can.



A CONCERT!

We are very excited to announce that we will be giving a public performance on **Saturday 12th June at 12.30** in the afternoon at **Pollination Street**, next to Todmorden Market Hall. Our young musicians will be performing some of the music we've been composing this year. We look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, whilst we have carried on providing weekly instrumental lessons throughout the pandemic, we haven't been able to hold any fundraising events, so your donations are especially needed to fund our continuing work with Todmorden's children and young people. You can donate at www.justgiving.com/musicforthemany or at www.localgiving.org/charity/musicforthemany/ or you can get in touch with us to set up a standing order.

Thank you for all your support!