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# Newsletter no. 16

## January 2024

*Music for the Many is a registered charity no. 1185526*



Happy new year to all our friends. We're entering our 7<sup>th</sup> year of Music for the Many and, thanks to your support, we're still here and growing and giving more children, young people and families new musical opportunities. The past term we've worked with some very interesting guest artists and have welcomed some brilliant new tutors to our team.



In September our **Colourchord Project** filled Todmorden High School with singing. Devised by renowned folk musician, Jon Boden, Colourchord is a teaching system which enables everyone to sing in harmony almost immediately. The lyrics of the song are written with each syllable coloured to represent a particular chord and the singers are split into 3 teams, each of which has a very simple part to sing with only 2 or 3 notes, but which, all put together, make beautiful choral harmony versions of the songs. Jon was joined by our formidable

team of visiting artists: folksinger and body percussion virtuoso Alice Jones, nasheed artist Hussnain Hanif and BSL teaching deaf musician Amy-Rose Atkinson, who worked together with our M4M tutors to deliver all sorts of song sessions throughout the school. There were Islamic songs in the RE lessons, Spanish songs in the Spanish lessons, sign language songs in the drama lessons, traditional ballads in the English lessons and body percussion in assembly, as well as a session with just the staff singing and some very big sings with whole year groups. There's a very good documentary film of the project, made by Sean Lovell, available to watch on our Music for the Many youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAIZvaBFANw>

This term's instalment of our collaborative project with Todmorden Orchestra was a concert of **South Asian music** at a packed-out St. Mary's Church on 9<sup>th</sup> November, supported with funding from Calderdale Council. Volunteer musicians from Todmorden Orchestra and Calderdale Fantasy Orchestra performed new arrangements of Bollywood film songs, qawwali and nasheeds with very special guest singers Hussnain Hanif, Imaan Lone, and the sisters Laiba and Anaya Khan and fabulous tabla player Luke Reddin-Williams. Leading up to the concert we worked with the children of Castle Hill and St. Joseph's schools, exploring some of the core elements of Indian music, learning some of the Urdu songs and



rehearsing a Bollywood dance routine. The evening was full of new experiences for many of the people there: orchestral musicians playing Indian music, South Asian artists singing with full orchestra, our children singing in Urdu, audience hearing this repertoire for the first time.

As part of **Todmorden Book Festival** we collaborated with visiting poet Peter Sansom, young poets from Shade School and the brilliant Primitive Percussion Youth Orchestra from Cornholme School to make a performance of music and poetry at Todmorden Hippodrome Theatre. The M4M youth orchestra played a newly commissioned 2-movement work called *Peter the Poet* and was put together from pupils from all of our M4M schools, including, for the first time, our pupils from Beech Hill School, Halifax.



Last year, in our 2 new schools, we started our new method of teaching in the context of an orchestra, called [Complete Beginners' Symphony Orchestra](#). This proved so effective in increasing the overall rate of progress, engagement and enjoyment by the children that we decided to switch our instrumental teaching in all the schools to this method. This means that, in addition to some individual tuition, all our pupils have the opportunity of an hour-long ensemble rehearsal each week closely supported throughout by our team of tutors, as well as frequent performance opportunities in various venues with a wide range of other artists. Last term the orchestras played music by Beethoven, Vivaldi, Moondog, Prokofiev, Purcell, Gershwin, Handel, so that all pupils are immersed in symphonic repertoire right from the start of their instrumental journey.

### **Fundraising** is what makes our work possible.

October saw a return visit to our fundraising concert series by Alice Jones, who gave a spellbinding performance of English and American folk songs. This event also gave our audience an opportunity to try out some *Colourchord* instant harmony singing.

Special thanks to Matthew at Horsehold and the Bright Shiners who held a musical soiree to raise funds for us in September and to The Hepton Singers who put on a fundraising concert in Todmorden in November in aid of Music for the Many and Todmorden Food Support.

And big thanks to Sally's Army community choir who gave a festive concert in Menston in December in aid of Music for the Many.

A huge "Thank You!" to all of you who keep supporting our work with your very kind donations of money and of musical instruments for our children to play. You are giving children, young people and families life-changing opportunities which they wouldn't otherwise have and, in doing so, making the world a much better place.

And, as always a massive "thank you!" to all our volunteers who run events, put up posters, bake cakes, play the French horn, etc. We can't do it without you!



In September we welcomed 4 **fantastic new tutors** to our team:



**Jen Trott** - violin specialist and musical director of Jiggerie Folkerie, Calderdale's youth folk ensemble.

**Dickon Kyme-Wright** - multiinstrumentalist, session player and music teacher extraordinaire.

**David Insua-Cao** - percussionist, circus musician and founder of Calderdale Fantasy Orchestra.

**Jenny Sheldon** – orchestral specialist and go-to repetiteur. Jenny is also our wonderful new administrative assistant, thanks to funding from *Sir George Martin Trust* and from *Scurrah Wainwright Trust*.

The huge difference they have already made to our pupils and to the M4M community was very clear from the wonderfully confident and musical festive performances our ensembles gave at the end of this term in our schools.

Finally, another big M4M "thank you!" to **Alice Brockman**, head of performing arts at Todmorden High School, who has worked incredibly hard this term to facilitate our Colourchord project, who always helps out with our concerts and who has taken the fearless decision to join our team of trustees.

## **Dates for your Diary**

❖ **SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024 at 6pm at Tod College**

**EuroCeilidh with live music from Scintilla and Jiggerie Folkerie.** Entry by donation. Folk music and dancing from across our continent. Fun for all the family and a chance to hear some great young musicians (and some slightly older ones too). Refreshments available. Book ahead here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/786571926807?aff=oddtcreator>

❖ **THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024 at 4.30pm at The Crossley Gallery, Dean Clough, Halifax**

**Launch of Culturedale.** Calderdale's year of culture and youth-music takeover starts with a short performance from M4M's Beech Hill School Orchestra. (Audience space is very limited, but we'll record it for you.)

❖ **SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024 at 4.30pm at Todmorden Town Hall**

**Family Concert by Todmorden Orchestra and Music for the Many.** Tickets £5/£2. A child-friendly performance of classical gems from our town's very own Symphony Orchestra, with guest appearances from children of Tod C of E and Cornholme schools, and our M4M instrumental pupils. Book ahead here:

<http://www.todmordenorchestra.org.uk/concert/2022/family-concert-2024/>

❖ **SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024 at 3pm at Fielden Hall, Ewood Lane, Todmorden**

**Fundraising Concert in aid of Music for the Many by Alyssium.** Entry by donation. Gorgeous contemporary vocal music by this enchanting upper-voice a capella ensemble.

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**Thanks for all your support!**

