



# Your Geordie Symphony School

## In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead

Dear friends,

At Bridgewater, we're very much looking forward to the 10th Anniversary celebrations this Summer. We've been involved for 5 years now and our Year 5 children have started playing as a full orchestra for the first time; this is wonderful to see and hear. They have made so much progress over the years in their musical ability but also in confidence, persistence, and the way they are working collaboratively. Their enthusiasm is lovely to see.

Our children have also enjoyed the Royal Northern Sinfonia workshops which really help them visualise what they could do in the future. More of our children have been attending the West Newcastle Junior Orchestra on a Thursday and our Year 5 children were moved and inspired by the Brundibár Festival workshop and performance. Year 4 are also looking forward to seeing Royal Northern Sinfonia's new children's show in collaboration with MishMash.

Our families are very appreciative of the other opportunities our children receive as they are part of In Harmony. Many parents took up the invite to attend the performance of Frozen at

Sage Gateshead at Christmas. I know there are several families enjoying the Unlock Music Family Music Making Sessions too – we'll have an orchestra of parents soon!

We are very grateful for the support people give to In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead, be it through instrument or financial donations, without this the programme would not be as rich and far reaching. Our community continues to feel very privileged to be an In Harmony school alongside Hawthorn Primary.

**Sam Robson**  
Head Teacher, Bridgewater School



# Winter Performances

We were lucky enough to be able to hold some in-person concerts in December, as well as some pre-recorded for parents to enjoy at home. Every child was able to showcase their hard work from the term.

The Beethoven string ensemble from Hawthorn Primary School enjoyed playing at the Grainger Market. For those children it was the first time performing in public! They represented In Harmony exceptionally well.

West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra performed at the much loved St. Matthew's Church, Summerhill and met once again with a warm, friendly audience and church staff who provided refreshments. It's so great to be back performing in our community, and we look forward to being around much more in our 10th Birthday festival.



# Royal Northern Sinfonia Visits

Since the last newsletter, we've had three visits from Royal Northern Sinfonia players to both Hawthorn and Bridgewater School. The players have worked with the In Harmony tutors to design a bespoke instrumental workshop, all about what is special about their instrument!

The Lower Strings day in November was all about the responsibility of the bass line, and children at Bridgewater were able to hear a double bassist for the first time.

The Flute day in January focussed on posture, and Charli from Royal Northern Sinfonia gave some excellent advice to the young flautists about the impact of posture on the sound.

The Upper Strings day involved our group working hard on playing beautiful melodies. The children at Hawthorn played an arrangement of Bartok's *Romanian Folk Dance No.5* and were able to follow along to the RNS players. The children at Bridgewater sang in sol fa and played an arrangement of *Jubilate Deo* by Mozart.

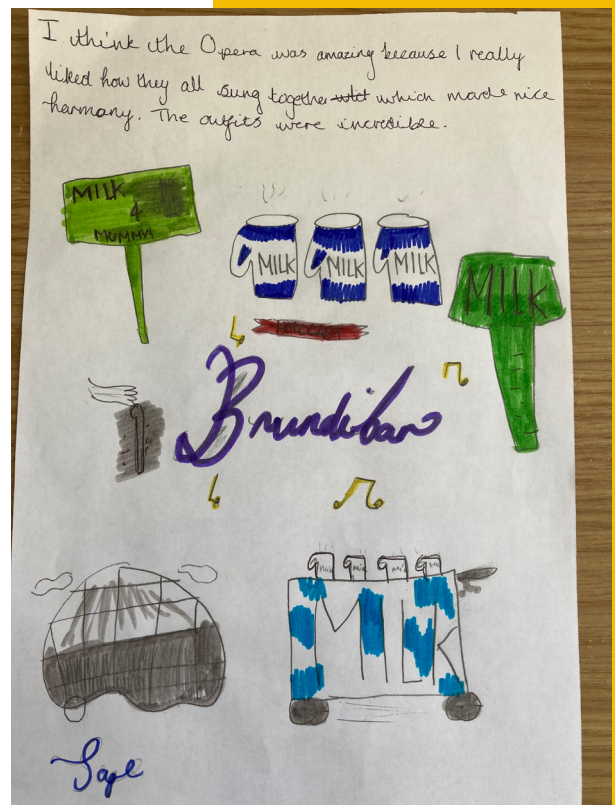


# Brundibár Festival

In February, children from Year 5 at Bridgewater and Year 6 at Hawthorn were treated to an amazing performance of the opera, Brundibár, at Sage Gateshead. The opera was originally written by Hans Krása (libretto by Adolf Hoffmeister) in 1938 as an entry for a children's opera competition sponsored by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Education. Before a winner could be announced, the country was occupied by Nazi Germany. The North-East based Brundibár Festival, run by Royal Northern Sinfonia violinist Alexandra Raikhlina, is named after this opera, and we're grateful to her for giving these children this opportunity to see such a fantastic show.

Before the performance, each class took part in a workshop by The Holocaust Exhibition and Learning Centre based in Huddersfield, learning about the stories of child refugees from the Holocaust and thinking about the value of precious possessions.

After the performance, the children drew pictures and wrote about what their favourite part of the opera was.



# In Harmony Live!

The free In Harmony Live! monthly concert series at Hawthorn Primary School continues to be a great success. In January, a quartet of musicians from Sage Gateshead, including our very own violin tutor Jo Montgomery and viola tutor Chrissie Slater performed a wonderful programme of film music, TV themes and familiar classical pieces that the families really enjoyed.

As a result, one parent has decided she'd like to play the violin and starts lessons after half term!

Later this term, there will be a flute recital by our flute tutor Elise Fairbairn and have more participation for families as we host a ceilidh with other In Harmony tutors making up the band and leading. It's so exciting to bring a wide variety of genres to the families.





# Family Music Making

In collaboration with Unlock Music CIC, we're delighted to be running family music making sessions every Monday after school.

There are around 15 families from both Hawthorn and Bridgewater Schools who come along and learn about a variety of different instruments and enjoy working on rhythm and playing the drums together. In exploring the various instruments, the group have been composing different sounds and working with the musicians on call and response techniques.

As well as playing the instruments, they have all had the opportunity to learn how to lead the group, thinking creatively about how to start and stop the sounds.

In the next half term, families will be able to explore other instruments, as the group start to develop a melody section, in addition to the rhythm section.

We're really impressed by their commitment and development to the group, and very much hope they will perform within the 10th Birthday Festival.

Thank you to the musicians at Unlock Music CIC for this brilliant opportunity, it is extremely valuable to the families and brings significant enjoyment every week.

*"My family really like my music. Every night when I bring my instrument home my little sister asks me to play Twinkle Twinkle, it makes her feel relaxed and sleepy."*

– Y2 Cellist



# Save The Dates

## In Harmony 10th Birthday

Our 10th Birthday Festival is running from 17 May – 25 June and the children are excited to go out into the community as well as celebrate at Sage Gateshead.

Throughout the festival, we will work with Royal Northern Sinfonia, and one of Sage Gateshead's Artists in Residence, Beccy Owen, to create an In Harmony song and share our music with everyone in our community. We'll also show our 10th Birthday commemorative film, directed by the young people. As many of our performances are at smaller community venues, we will prioritise family attendance. However, there is a concert almost every day after half term in June, so if you would like more information, please get in touch.

### Monday 13 June

Armstrong Brass and Debussy Wind Ensemble from Hawthorn Primary School will perform in Elswick Park showcasing their brilliant work over the past year. The performance will be at 1.30pm and last no more than 30 mins.

No ticket required – just turn up!

### Thursday 16 June

Haydn String Ensemble from Hawthorn Primary School will perform in Cruddas Park Shopping Centre showcasing their brilliant work over the past year. The performance will be at 1.30pm and last no more than 30 mins.

No ticket required – just turn up!

### Thursday 23 June

Our 10th Birthday Concerts at Sage Gateshead will be on Thursday 23 June, where almost every child involved in In Harmony will be performing. We'll have more details of the day in the next newsletter, but you're all warmly invited.

### Saturday 25 June

Our 10th Birthday Festival comes to a close at Sage Gateshead on Saturday 25 June, when after a workshop day for Key Stage 2 children with Sage Gateshead's Young Musicians Programme, the West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra will perform side by side with Young Sinfonia on the Concourse at 1.30pm.

We'll have more details of the day in the next newsletter, but you're all warmly invited. No ticket required – just turn up!





# About In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead

In Harmony is a national programme that aims to inspire and transform the lives of children in deprived communities in the UK, using the power and disciplines of community music-making. In our region, Sage Gateshead works in partnership with Hawthorn Primary and Bridgewater Schools to run In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead. Now in its tenth year, the programme continues to enhance the lives of children through community-based orchestral music-making.

*"He loves his cello! It's his favourite part of school."*

- Year 1 Parent, Bridgewater School

From their very first day in Year 1, children at Hawthorn Primary School and Bridgewater School in Newcastle's West End begin learning an instrument – and the benefits extend far beyond the classroom into the wider community.

*"For those who are not confident during school lessons, they shine during music and it has helped them in group situations."*

- Teacher, Hawthorn Primary School

The music-making skills, confidence, self-esteem, health, wellbeing and resilience of the children improve through the power and disciplines of ensemble music-making and music being part of daily life. In Harmony helps to build a sense of community and supports parental engagement with the schools - some have been so motivated by their children's development that they are now learning instruments alongside their children.

*"In Harmony improves self-esteem, confidence, life chances and future health. I see the effect on children when I see them at my work - pride, confidence, self-worth and I see the effect on parents when I see them too."*

- Dr Guy Pilkington, Local GP

## Support Us

**Every year we rely on support from donors to sustain this inspiring programme. Whether you choose to make a regular donation or a single gift to In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead, your support will make a real impact on the lives of young people today.**

**Ways to give:**

- **By Credit/Debit card:** please contact Natalie Heath at Sage Gateshead on **0191 443 5038**.
- **By Cheque:** please post your cheque (payable to North Music Trust) to the Fundraising Team (In Harmony), Sage Gateshead, St Mary's Square, Gateshead, NE8 2JR.
- **By Direct Debit:** To set up a Direct Debit please contact Natalie Heath at Sage Gateshead on **0191 443 5038**.





## With thanks to

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Sage Gateshead is a registered charity,  
North Music Trust (Reg. Ch. No. 1087445).

We would also like to thank all of our donors for their generous support, including those who helped us purchase new instruments this year. Thanks to the Instrument Appeal donors, we were able to buy one trombone, three clarinets, six flutes, eight cellos and 31 violins, ready for the Year 1 and Year 5 pupils at Bridgewater School to start their next year of learning and playing. Our sincerest thanks to you all!