



# Your Geordie Symphony School

## In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead

Dear friends,

We hope you are all keeping safe and well during this challenging year. The children, staff and families of In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead have all been working hard to maintain music learning during the third lockdown and we are extremely proud of how well everyone has adapted.

I've been particularly lucky to see all this work either during live online lessons or on Seesaw, the school's online learning platform where tutors and children can share videos of their work. Even the very youngest children at Ashfield and Bridgewater nurseries have continued to learn through pre-recorded videos and songs or live sessions by the Early Years Team - well done to you all!

It was brilliant to see everyone again when we returned to schools in March; we've worked safely to make sure that as much as possible of the normal timetable.

After some very successful videos of our Winter terms' work, we'll look toward the Summer and explore whether sharing performances can take place.

Looking much further ahead, we warmly invite you to our 10th Birthday celebration in June 2022: a week-long celebration looking back at 10 fantastic years of In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead. There'll be more information in future newsletters, but for now, please pencil **Monday 20 - Saturday 25 June 2022** in your diary - you're all invited!

Thank you for your continued support - we hope to welcome you to a musical sharing soon.

**Lorna Wright**  
In Harmony Programme Manager

# Winter Sharing Concerts

As we were unable to perform live for families and friends at the end of the Winter term, we decided to record the children in their sharing concerts for you all to experience in the comfort of your own home!

The children played within their year group bubbles and the videos were shared with children in other year groups to enjoy. They performed so well - in a year of so much change and upheaval, we are really proud of their hard work.



View the concerts from Bridgewater School by [clicking here](#)



View the concerts from Hawthorn Primary School by [clicking here](#)



## Student Blog

**Meet Ameerah, she is in Year 6 and plays the flute.**



"Doing music in lockdown was very weird and difficult, including sorting out when practise times were going to be and uploading music videos for our tutors to hear us. I think that the hardest part was sorting where in our house to play our instruments. It couldn't be a small room as my sister plays the trombone (a rather large instrument!).

However, I still enjoyed playing my flute! Although some of the music was hard to learn, it was still really enjoyable. I think that my most favourite piece of music that I learned over lockdown was 'Can Can'. I really love fast and upbeat music however this was probably a bit too fast for me! So thankfully there was a slower version that Clare, my music tutor sent me to play along with, but it was still really fun to play.

When I leave Hawthorn, I will be attending Newcastle High School for Girls and I hope to learn to play quicker pieces and achieve my Grade 2."



# Lockdown Learning

Throughout the Spring term, children and families were asked to stay at home. Both schools worked tirelessly to distribute devices, live lessons and online work to make sure children could continue to learn and practise playing.

Around 50% of children took their instruments home and worked hard on In Harmony activities through Seesaw, or live lessons through Microsoft Teams. The live lessons helped families find out more about In Harmony sessions and Early Years classes were able to join in. The children and families could send back videos of their practise or work and it was great to see those valuable interactions continue.

You can see some of the children's hard work and practise on our Twitter feed - just search for InHarmonyNE or [click here](#)



*"I really like having my trumpet at home. I like to listen to tracks and play along. My favourite is Wallace and Gromit." **Year 5, Trumpeter***

*"It has felt weird practising and playing at home since there is no music tutor, but my mum says I'm doing great and I feel excited about getting back to In Harmony at Hawthorn." **Year 4, Violist***

Members of West Newcastle Symphony Orchestra have continued to meet online through Microsoft Teams. They have been working hard on improvisation, call and response as well as some Haydn and Brahms over the last term.

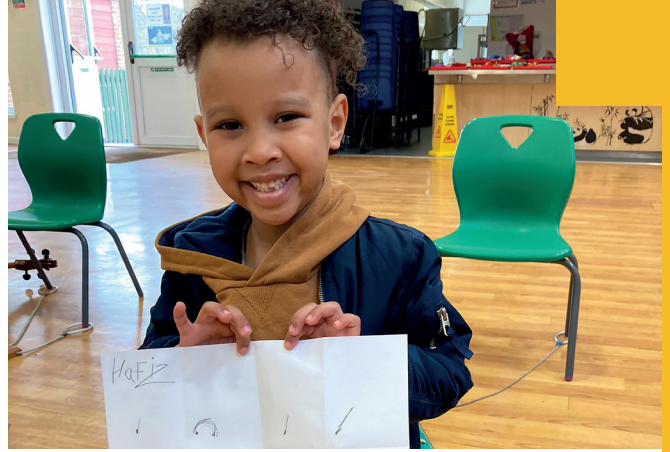
In February, they held an online sharing concert where each of the children bravely unmuted and played a solo piece to the group - it was excellent to hear their progress and see how confident they are.

# Easter School

**On Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 April, we formed three bubbles and planned Easter School activities for children at both Hawthorn and Bridgewater Schools.**

Led by Chrissie and Charlotte, Key Stage One children at Hawthorn enjoyed the nice weather and did some singing outside, learning popular Easter themed music such as 'Hot Cross Buns', 'Chocolate Treats' and 'Chicken on a Fencepost.' The children learnt the music using sol-fa, and then played them on their instruments. In addition, they all composed an 8-beat rhythm and performed their compositions on percussion instruments.

In the afternoon, the Key Stage 2 children at Hawthorn worked hard with Abi and Clare on some tricky music!



The children learnt a fun body-percussion routine to establish the rhythms of 'Hall of the Mountain King' by Grieg, and then they played an arrangement of the music on their instruments. Some children who have only been at Hawthorn a few weeks did incredibly well working on the music - well done to them.

On the Tuesday, Peter and Imogen were encouraging the children in Years 3 and 4 at Bridgewater to recognise the emotions of music, and they learned how to show these emotions on their own instruments. The children had a chance to pair up and improvise a musical conversation, based on the techniques they'd learnt and the emotions they were feeling that day.

## Save The Dates

### **In Harmony 10th Birthday Celebrations**

**Monday 20 - Saturday 25 June 2022**

**To celebrate 10 years, we are planning a week-long festival both in and around the community of the West End of Newcastle and at Sage Gateshead and you're all invited.**

Planning has already started and the week will feature every single child at In Harmony, as well as a few faces who were previously part of the programme. We are working with our friends at In Harmony Leeds and In Harmony Liverpool to join forces for a huge celebration.

The first part of the week will see partnerships and performances in our local community as well as our schools. We'll perform and share our celebrations with as many people as possible in our community.

From Thursday 23 - Saturday 25 June, In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead will celebrate at Sage Gateshead, with invited guests and collaborations with Royal Northern Sinfonia, Young Sinfonia, and more to be confirmed.



# 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 partnerships with Hawthorn Primary and Bridgewater Schools to run In Harmony Newcastle Gateshead. Now in its ninth 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.

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

Ways to give:

- **Regular Direct Debit** - on a monthly or quarterly basis. These gifts are particularly helpful as they enable us to better plan for future needs.

To set up a Direct Debit, or make a card payment, contact **Natalie Heath**, at Sage Gateshead on **0191 443 5038**. Cheques can be posted to In Harmony, Sage Gateshead, St Mary's Square, Gateshead, NE8 2JR.

- Regular and Single gifts by **Text message**, where your donation is added to your phone bill.
  - o To donate a £5 single gift, text INHARMONY to 70085. You will be charged £5 + your standard message rate
  - o To set up a £5 monthly text donation, text IHMONTHLY to 70085
- Single gifts can be made by **cheque** (payable to North Music Trust).

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