

Y

quarterly newsletter of scotland's youth music initiative summer 2008



Scottish Arts Council

A message from Youth Music Officer Petrea Cooney

Access to music opportunities is a subject that is close to my heart and I am passionate about music and its positive effects. I worked at the chalk face of music teaching for 10 years and saw many young people's lives transformed after being given an opportunity to learn to sing or play an instrument.

The YMI has been working with every local authority to give every child in Scotland one year's free music tuition by the time they reach Primary 6. Local authorities have been achieving this in a range of imaginative ways.

My role is to encourage all local authorities to not only sustain this target but to build in support mechanisms for the projects to be sustained throughout their entire music provision for the 3-18 age group.

You can read about the projects that are taking place across Scotland in our annual P6 target report and there is more information on the YMI pages of the Scottish Arts Council website at: www.scottisharts.org.uk/yimi



Petrea Cooney, Youth Music Officer

Front cover

Young people in West Lothian have had the chance to learn to play instruments, form bands and perform in public as part of a West Lothian Youth Action project funded by the Youth Music Initiative. Almost 200 young people have taken part in the project which has included organising gigs, specialist music tuition and sessions in performance skills.

Image: McAteer Photograph

Latest developments...



It is an exciting time for the arts in Scotland which was reflected in the many passionate debates at the recent Scotland: Creative Nation conference hosted by the Scottish Arts Council. This time next year will see the birth of a new national body for the arts – Creative Scotland.

Many of Y's readers have been concerned about the future of the YMI in the new financial year. We are delighted to advise that five years after the YMI was established, the Scottish Government has announced a commitment to maintain this investment for a further three years until 2011. This will bring the total funding package to £66.9 million.

The Scottish Government should be congratulated for continuing to provide us with the opportunity to put music at the heart of young people's lives and learning, particularly for those young people that would not normally have the chance to access music making.

This investment in Scotland's young people has had a massive impact on their lives, choices and the range of music making opportunities available to them. Scotland's youth music sector is using this opportunity to challenge preconceptions and look at existing practises and current thinking of how we support, deliver and champion music to ensure that Scotland leads the way in music provision.

The implementation of Standard Grade Music in the 1980s and the introduction of electronic keyboard, guitar and drums led to a massive increase in participation in class music and began what was to become a tidal wave of engagement with music. Music had become accessible.

Provision was however patchy across Scotland - some authorities employed music specialists while others relied on class teachers to deliver the music curriculum. Participation in instrumental tuition was by selection with many students paying for lessons and children with learning difficulties denied equal access. The significant developments in instrumental tuition were at the expense of singing and access to styles such as traditional music and jazz was limited. There was little evidence of joined-up thinking within schools, authorities or between the formal musical experience and informal activities.

The £37.5 million funding provided since the YMI was established in 2003, and the associated target of ensuring that all children receive at least one year's free tuition by P6 has, of course, had a major impact on music in Scotland. The YMI has challenged barriers which existed and has benefited both the formal and informal curriculum. Many staff have received secondment opportunities, creating programmes and supporting classroom teachers both in special and mainstream primary schools, with positive effect.

My view of the Youth Music Initiative

by Alistair Salmond, Music Consultant



Children are consulted about ways in which they wish to engage which has led to authorities throughout Scotland establishing new activities - the variety of projects taking place reveals a minefield of creativity. There are inter-departmental collaborations and partnerships and singing is much in the ascendency, with young people thoroughly enjoying choral participation. Traditional music is at last enjoying the status it deserves and as jazz similarly makes an impact, we can confidently look forward to generations of prolific exponents in these fields. There is improved integration between class and instrumental music in the overall delivery of the curriculum and strong cross-curricular links are in

evidence as schools seek to pursue a Curriculum for Excellence.

Traditional teaching methodologies have also been challenged. Whole-class instrumental tuition, mobile teaching units, the use of digital technology, lessons by video and creative music-making with early years offer evidence of inspired thinking. Music is seen by all for all, regardless of ability and local players and teachers are now seen as vital contributors.

The YMI has resulted in many benefits to children, teachers and their communities revealing increased participation across all ages; a large increase in employment opportunities with inspiring results and professional development opportunities to support sustainability. Communities are witnessing the development of enthusiastic and skilled individuals, contributing to the life-blood of their localities. Who could have imagined that the P6 target would manifest into such a creative and ongoing musical explosion?

What now? The momentum must be maintained to guard against complacency, to encourage creative partnerships and ensure the continuation of openness of minds and creative planning which have led to this point - we are not there yet!



Latest News

Traditional music resources in the classroom

Scottish Traditional Music and the Primary School Classroom - a report commissioned by the Traditional Music Forum of Scotland was launched last month at the Tolbooth, Stirling. The research which was carried out by Pamela Flanagan and funded by the Scottish Arts Council looks at the resources available to primary schools, and contains a number of recommendations for developing Scottish Traditional Music in schools.

The report can be viewed at:
www.traditionalmusicforum.org
For more information contact David Francis at:
davidfrancis@the-cast.org.uk

A' Adam's Bairns

A' Adam's Bairns is a musical reflection on Scotland's historical and ongoing journey towards social inclusion and racial and religious tolerance over the last 200 years. With the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, The National Library of Scotland, Scotdec and Dr Fred Freeman have joined forces to produce a folk music CD and teachers resource pack which will go out to every school in Scotland.

For more information visit:
www.nls.uk/news/index.html

Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama

The RSAMD has announced that it will be developing new specialist pathways for jazz musicians at Postgraduate Diploma and MMus levels. Undergraduate programmes will follow in 2009. The new programmes will be created and led by internationally-renowned jazz musician Tommy Smith.

For more information visit:
www.rsamd.ac.uk

KEY FACT

10,472 children and 8,682 adults attended YMI funded Bookstart Rhymetimes sessions between October 2007 and Feb 2008.

Events for your diary...

YMI workshops - Tune Up Opera Circus tour

As part of the Scottish Arts Council's Tune Up initiative, a magical new chamber opera by Nigel Osborne will tour Scotland in May 2008, performed by Opera Circus. The tour will run alongside a full YMI funded education programme which will include percussion workshops, youth music theatre and much more. For further information and tour dates visit:

www.tuneup.org.uk/tours/differences_in_demolitions



West Lothian Youth Action: McAteer Photograph

Drake Music presents...

Drake Music Scotland will be hosting a concert next month showcasing performances from favourite projects over recent years, as part of its 10th year celebrations.



Drake Music Scotland at Braidburn School, Edinburgh: McAteer Photograph

Special guests include the RSNO Big Band.

Date: Friday 13 June - 7.30pm
Venue: The Queen's Hall, Edinburgh

Tickets: £10 (£6 conc) / £2 children

www.thequeenshall.net

0131 668 2019

KEY FACT

The YMI awarded £731,260 for informal sector projects in 2007/08, generating a further £390,606 in partnership funding from other organisations.

YMI ensures Shetland has a new generation of Tradition Bearers

Young people across the Shetland Islands are going back to their roots, learning traditional fiddle styles unique to their local areas, supported by funding from the Youth Music Initiative



The Young Tradition Bearers is a two year project run by Shetland Arts which encourages young fiddle players to embrace local traditions and work with older members of the community to keep musical traditions alive, by reviving unique area styles and tunes.

Young talented fiddlers from five areas across the islands have been selected to become tutors and lead the project in each area, creating a network of young tutors to work with, inspire and teach young players aged 8-25.

Each of the young fiddlers works with an experienced tutor and mentor guided by the Tradition Bearers who teach them about the different local styles and how to pass on their knowledge and skills, to develop music in remote communities and keep the tradition alive. They also learn how to compose their own traditional tunes and apply these styles to recent compositions.

The young fiddlers not only work with local communities but are involved in Fiddle Frenzy and Shetland Arts Fiddle School and Festival, to provide visitors with the opportunity to learn about Shetland's rich musical traditions.

Over the last year monthly sessions have been held in five locations across the Isles - Cullivoe, Aith, Ollaberry, Sandwick and South Nesting.

Linda Irvine, a high profile young Whalsay fiddler who had no previous teaching experience has been working with one of the last remaining fiddlers in the Whalsay style, Gibby Hutchison (89) and his son John Hutchison, to learn the intricacies of the style. This experience has helped develop her teaching skills and allowed her to pass on the traditions to a regular group of 12 to 15 young players.

Feedback from the project has been extremely positive and has helped enthuse young tutors and encourage young people who played the fiddle as a child to take up playing again.

Commenting on the success of the project so far Richard Wemyss of Shetland Arts said: "It has been fantastic to see the confidence in the young tutors grow and the enthusiasm the players have for tunes and styles that are no longer heard. In particular the feedback the parents have been giving me is that for days after the sessions the fiddlers hardly put their instruments down - surely a sign of success..."

For more information visit:

www.shetland-music.com

www.shetlandfiddlefrenzy.com

YMI...the story so far

In 2003 the Youth Music Initiative (YMI) was established to put music at the heart of young people's lives and learning. By March 2011 a significant £66.9 million will have been invested in music programmes by the Scottish Government.

The YMI has been a resounding success and has had a huge impact on the provision of music making activities for children and young people across Scotland.

Amongst its key achievements are that children now have access to one year's free music tuition by the time they reach Primary 6, as well as increased opportunities for out of school hours participation providing Scotland's young people with the opportunity to develop musical skills and appreciation and experience the personal, social and educational benefits that accompany these activities.

Latest YMI Awards

Ferguslie Park Housing Association - £28,231

Towards a high quality music programme for young people including songwriting, band development & performance.

Station House - £29,012

To enable young people from under-privileged backgrounds to participate in music making, production and broadcasting.

Carrick Rural Arts Group - £4,180

Towards samba percussion tuition for children and young people in the South Carrick area.

St Ronan's Silver Band - £4,401

To give young people the opportunity to learn a brass or percussion instrument with a professional tutor while giving volunteer tutors the chance to learn from a professional.

Shapinsay Community Association - £4,221

Towards tuition for young musicians aged 5-18 in traditional fiddle, keyboards and guitar.

City of Edinburgh Council - £5,000

To deliver an early years music project for children aged 3-5 which will allow them to experience different genres of music.

Sounds of Progress - £4,025

For Bucket of Brass, a project to help children with special educational needs learn trumpet, trombone, French horn and tuba.

Scottish Music Centre - £5,000

Towards the provision of an outreach music project for the EU/Czech/Slovak youth group in Govanhill.

Live Music Now - £5,000

For a series of workshops and performances for children who are deaf and/or have serious speech and language difficulties.

Other funds

Clore Duffield Foundation - Performing Arts Awards

These awards fund performing arts education initiatives aimed at children and young people aged 0-18.

For more information visit: www.cloreduffield.org.uk/page_sub.php?id=71&parent=35

Deadline: 17 September 2008

Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland – Standard Grants Scheme

The Foundation distributes its funds to recognised charities in Scotland which focus on improving the quality of life and creating equality of opportunity for people in Scotland.

Funding: up to £2,500/over £2,500

For more information visit:

www.ltsbfoundationforscotland.org.uk

Deadlines: 19 May/12 July/15 September 2008

Tesco Charity Trust Community Awards

Community and voluntary groups whose core work involves supporting children's welfare or education, elderly people and people with disabilities are eligible to apply for grants of £1,000 - £5,000

For more information visit: <http://digbig.com/4wrcj>

Deadline: 30 June 2008/31 January 2009



Sound Start – North Ayrshire Council: Brian Craig

Scottish Music Centre: McAteer Photograph

For further information about YMI:

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The Scottish Government