

# EDUCATION MANAGERS MEETING

WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2006, 10.30am – 4.00pm  
FOUNTAIN ROOM, BARBICAN, LONDON

Chaired by Keith Stubbs, *Education and Projects Manager, City of Birmingham  
Symphony Orchestra*

## R E P O R T

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Keith Stubbs, *Education and Projects Manager, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra* welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited attendees to do brief introductions. Apologies were given for Marshall Marcus, who was unable to attend the meeting.

No actions were outstanding from the last meeting.

### Music Manifesto Pathfinder projects

Steve Pickett, *Education Director, Hallé Orchestra*, presented to the group and outlined what the project entailed. There were three pathfinder projects located at the Sage Gateshead, Hallé and the Roundhouse. The Government had provided funds of £2million pounds to the project, of which £1 million had been allocated to the Sage and £1 million shared amongst the Hallé and the Roundhouse. The project had been viewed as a new strategic alliance across Greater Manchester, exploring music education provisions.

The aims were:

- To examine a new group for music education provisions by getting involved in a more strategic way.
- To improve co-ordination of existing funding schemes.
- To develop formal links within all sectors of music across Greater Manchester.
- To develop a choral programme amongst the ten boroughs with its own music support system.

The Hallé's involvement in the project was intended to build on the relationships with other organisations on an educational basis, with the aspiration of having a single music service for Manchester.

Naomi Elliot-Newman, *Coordinator: Music Manifesto Pathfinder Project NW, Hallé Orchestra*, presented the key points of the project, stating that the project would end in March 2008.

Steve Pickett highlighted the possibilities after 2008 as :

- The project had not achieved it's objectives
- The idea of professional musicians playing alongside children
- The development of the objectives; access, opportunity and efficiency
- The potential for a shared premise amongst the educational departments

### Music for Life Project

Becca Linton, *Music for Life Projects Manager, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra*, presented information about her project. It was started in 2003 with the aim of regenerating a certain area through music. Based in Kensington, a neglected part of Merseyside, the project had received funding from numerous organisations as well as funds from the RLPO. Each school in the area had adopted a musician from the Philharmonic, who offered new experiences and opportunities for the local children. Over 50 children were now learning the double bass, which was the highest number in the whole of the UK. Throughout term time, there had been several workshops displaying the cultural diversity of the city, through presentations from artists from all over the world. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra had provided training for non-specialist teachers and extended the reach of the orchestra into the community - in youth centres and through the creation of a community choir for the over 50s.

## RNCM collaboration

Charlotte Spencer, *Head of Learning and Participation, Manchester Camerata* informed the group that from June 2007 they would be moving into the Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) at the Royal Northern College of Music. This would provide the Manchester Camerata with a dedicated rehearsal space and provide a close relationship for the students at the college with the professional musicians. Charlotte also referred to the Manchester Camerata working towards extending their work into rural areas such as Moss Side.

There followed a general discussion about Cumbria. With the fact that there was no one central organisation based in Cumbria the orchestras were tending to overlap when working in the local schools. The main issue was that music was not reaching those further rural areas.

## Listen Up! 2006 and Annual Conference 2007

Owen Mortimer, *Acting Projects Manager, Association of British Orchestras* informed attendees that the Musicians on Call scheme, as part of Listen Up! 2006, had received 196 nominations and the support of 28 orchestras.

Attendees were then given a conference overview and were invited to outline vital issues that should be included in the conference programming.

- Steve Pickett spoke of the Hallé's partnership program with Youth Music, which was focused on Young Offenders Units and was highlighted by their Gamelan project.
- Several attendees mentioned the importance of the Governments involvement with the sector and the need to convince them of the importance of youth work and music, within sustainable projects.

## Play it Again : [www.bbc.co.uk/music/playitagain/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/music/playitagain/)

Sophie Duncan *Learning Project Manager, BBC* informed the group about a new six episode programme that had been commissioned by the BBC, teaching celebrities to play different instruments.

In conjunction with the programme, they had also organised a series of workshop events for the public, allowing them to learn an instrument, whether they were beginners or more advanced. This had also been highlighted with a website that allowed the audience to engage in music participation.

Several attendees mentioned the endangered species scheme, whereby instruments like the Double Bass, Viola, Trombone and Bassoon were not being taken up by musicians anymore and referred to the BBC's lack of acknowledgement of this cause.

## Early Years Work: ABO/Youth Music Cluster Programme

Fiona Harvey, *Early Years Project Manager*, informed the group about the pilot that the London Symphony Orchestra had undertaken during 2006 and the current evaluation of that programme.

## The Sphinx Organisation: [www.sphinxmusic.org](http://www.sphinxmusic.org)

Aaron P. Dworkin, *Founder/President* gave attendees a brief introduction into the history of the organisation, revealing his personal experiences that led to the formation of The Sphinx Organisation. He outlined that although Latinos had the largest demographic group in the United States, they along with African Americans only make up 1.5% of the classical music sector, whereby Asian Americans make up 3.5%. Cultural diversity was an aim of the Sphinx that was being realised by the New York Philharmonic and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

**Date of next meeting: to be confirmed**