



Empowering people to lead happier, healthier lives through participating in music.

www.musicalconnections.org.uk

October 2019

Grab Some Wings, it's the Little Sing!

After the long summer break, it was wonderful for Musical Connections to be able to renew our longstanding relationship with the children at Hob Moor Primary School. Not keen to



abandon the thought of the holidays just yet, we were delighted to be able to join together for an afternoon of singing and dancing themed around various exotic locations across the world! First, a quick stop in Hawaii and Emma treated us to a fantastic rendition of some traditional folk music on the 'jumping flea'... otherwise known as the ukulele... who knew!

Next, a brief touch down in Sweden and everyone was determined to be crowned the 'Dancing Queen' as Clair, one of our brilliant volunteers, taught everybody the choreography for a 'Mamma Mia' inspired dance routine. All of the children threw themselves into the action with smiles and laughter... as did our beneficiaries... I think ABBA might suddenly find themselves with a couple of new members! Watch out Benny and Björn! You'd have thought that we might have tired ourselves out but fortunately, there was still time for a trip to India and a chance to show off our best Bollywood moves. A big thank you to Emma for organising such an enjoyable afternoon, to Margaret for taking such lovely photos and to all of the Year 3/4 pupils at Hob Moor – what fun we had!



A New Home for Honeysuckle Singers!

Our wonderful Honeysuckle Singers have recently relocated and are now thoroughly enjoying rehearsing at St Edward the Confessor Church on Tadcaster Road. The group is always keen for new members, so if you know of anyone who would like to join this friendly and relaxed group of singers, then please contact us on [01904 373011](tel:01904373011).



‘Music is the
message of peace,

ONE DAY ONE CHOIR
A global choral project for peace



and music only brings peace’



These beautiful words from Zubin Mehta, Director of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, seem a particularly apt description for the wonderful atmosphere in the waiting room of Tower Court as our York Medical Singing Groups joined together to celebrate the One Day One Choir event at the end of September. This inspiring global peace initiative uses the harmonious power of singing to unite people around the world in response to growing unrest and conflict across the world. Successfully united and with their priorities in order, our two groups thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each other over a steady supply of tea and cake... and even did some singing too! It was fantastic to have the opportunity to hear the fruition of all of their hard work with Emma and Abby over the last half-term; each group performed some of their favourite pieces to each other and then joined forces for some beautiful part singing. Flushed with success after their first performance together, the two groups are thrilled to be taking to the Tower Court “stage” once again on 18th December – everyone is VERY welcome to join us for an afternoon of chatter, carols and mince pies!



Cake, Concerts and Camaraderie...

...the Musical Connections recipe!

It is the combination of these three fantastic things that allows our project to continue to run so successfully; celebrating birthdays, friendships and memories with our wonderful beneficiaries is just as important as the brilliant concerts that we organise each term!

‘Thank you for the FUNDING, the songs we’re singing, thanks for all the joy they’re bringing’



The eagle-eyed amongst you may have noticed that they are not quite the lyrics that Benny and Björn famously wrote, but arguably it’s the most important ‘thank you’ that we have to make! Without the constant support of our many funders, we would be unable to continue successfully delivering our sessions to the huge number of children, university students and vulnerable and socially isolated older people that benefit from them each year. Multi-year funding makes a particular difference to our ability to sustain our groups and with that in mind, we would like to say an **ENORMOUS** thank you for two new multi-year funding grants which we have received from the **Masonic Charitable Foundation** and the **Two Ridings Community Foundation**. With additional support from the TRCF’s ‘A Life Less Lonely’ fund, our group at Barstow House sheltered housing scheme are able to continue enjoying their gospel music sessions with some students from the University of York... spirits are lifted, friendships are formed and life is definitely a little bit less lonely!

We were delighted to hear from Jonathan Smith, a senior representative of Freemasonry in the Provincial Grand Chapter of Yorkshire North and East Ridings, who said, “We are so pleased that our financial support over the next three years will assist the work of Musical Connections in engaging with vulnerable older people and children to achieve their musical aspirations. The benefits to all are immeasurable.”



Thank you for reading! October 2019