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*Helping people to live happier, healthier lives
through musical participation.*

MC ON THE ROAD!



biggest smiles, they visited 30 of our members for some doorstep singing of Louis Armstrong's "What A Wonderful World" (and to have a socially distanced chat and a cup of tea!).



Since the start of the lockdown, there has been a huge increase in our use of online material to try and fill the session-shaped hole in our lives... Zoom, Singstream, weekly music recordings, you name it! Sadly though, not all of our members are able to access these extra activities and so when the restrictions eased, Abby and Charlotte leapt at the chance to go and share some music with those who have been missing out over the last few months.

Armed with recording equipment, personalised T-shirts, and their

It was such a fantastic time for everyone involved and as Stan, one of our Tower Court members said, "At least I have my friends at Musical Connections to help me

through the difficult times - when you turned up and recorded with me, I just loved it!' We're now collating each of the individual recordings to produce a very special version of the song which will premiere on our upcoming CD in November; a wonderful celebration of the infinite strength and unity of our Musical Connections community.



“One tomato, two tomato, three tomato, four!”



The saying goes that if you ‘Teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime’, but if you ‘Teach a man to garden, the whole neighbourhood gets tomatoes’... and this couldn’t be more true for the lucky neighbours of Acomb Singers’ Jim Dales. At the beginning of the lockdown, Jim planted one Sainsbury’s Taste the Difference cherry tomato and we’ve been following its progress over the course of the last few months. We’re very excited to announce it’s now yielded over 50 plants... a very impressive effort, and a tasty one too!

“One Love, One Heart”

Our fortnightly Zoom rehearsals have been a great success over the last few months and we now have a fantastic team of ‘regulars’ that join us on a Friday afternoon! One of these, David, likened our efforts to those of ‘Playing for Change’ and suggested that we cover their recording of ‘One Love’ together. The ‘Playing for Change’ movement is based upon the common belief that music has the power to break down boundaries and overcome distances



between people, whilst Bob Marley’s ‘One Love’ is an expression of unity and inclusion – key characteristics of our wonderful Musical Connections family. We collated video recordings from our members, encouraged students from the University of York’s Music Education Group to get involved and proved that whatever the circumstances, Cedella Marley was right, “Even in a time when we aren’t able to get together, we can get through this global crisis if we come together through **one love and one heart.**” For those of you reading this online, please use the following link to see the recording:

https://youtu.be/Sf3OEyB_lac

Here It Goes... Songs from the Shows!

The beginning of September marked the launch of another one of our online song raffles. Emma, our resident musicals Queen, decided on a selection of 100 of her favourite West End show tunes, from Oliver! to Wicked. Not surprisingly, it was a popular theme and our members got thoroughly involved with all of the excitement, raising nearly £200 in the process! Barstow House and Rolling Tones' member, Yvonne Bentley, was the lucky winner, as her choice, 'The Circle of Life' was picked out of the bucket. Look out for the musicians' version which will be released very soon!

Celebrating the Joy in the Everyday

Our members have been giving us some very welcome inspiration for making the most of daily life in our 'new normal', with some wonderful photos that we've been sending out in our emails. Here is just a small selection of them; creative pastimes, stunning scenery and even some gorgeous throwbacks too! Please keep sending them in!



Thank you for reading – and stay tuned for the release of our CD!