

'BETTER THAN A DVD!'

Concordia Foundation Educational Projects provided by
Liveryman Gillian Humphreys

One windy day last autumn, children from St Paul's Church of England School and its neighbour Shapla Primary School in Tower Hamlets came together at the historic Wilton's Music Hall to participate in a *Journey to meet Peter and the Wolf*. The afternoon was presented by Gillian Humphreys and narrated by Darren Raymond with music from the London Myriad Ensemble, Satoko Fukuda (violin) and Njabulo Madlala (baritone). Scenic artists Rosie Mayhew and Michelle Leong brought the performance to life with paintings and exciting visual aids and props.

The children had been very excited ever since the day Gillian and Rosie visited them at their schools to share what was in store: live music, singing, story-telling and even visual art. They knew that artists would be painting on a large canvas at the back of the stage, illustrating their journey deep into the forest. They too had been encouraged to bring their imaginations with them and each brought as their entrance ticket a decorated leaf with their name and that of their school. At the entrance they pinned their painted leaves to the 'tree of life'.

The programme was part of the *Young Audiences* series, which aims to bring together children of all nationalities and faiths to foster the next generation of musicians, singers, actors and artists and to inspire new audiences. The artists themselves benefit from working with both international colleagues and with children.

Gillian explains the genesis of the series: 'I was preparing to sing at a BBC Opera Gala at the Royal Festival Hall, practising in my music studio, when I suddenly heard a little voice under the grand piano whisper, 'Catherine, does your mother always shout like that?' Without even looking up, my daughter replied, 'Oh, that's just singing – all mummies sing.'

'All through the concert, the applause, and the flowers, I kept remembering the strange conversation in my studio: little Edward thought opera singing was shouting! Next day *Young Audiences* was born. I commissioned new children's songs, gave concerts and workshops here and abroad, and even took children on TV and onto the stage of the Royal Festival Hall.'

'Education is a key aspect of the work of the Concordia Foundation and one that we are keen to develop,' adds Gillian,



'MAKE MUSIC' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE

Kate Shortt is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and is a freelance cellist/singer/music teacher. She has worked for Hackney Music Service since 2000 and has recently become an assistant animator for the LSO.

When I was first approached to be involved in a new professional development course, set up and run in partnership by the Hackney Music Service and the London Symphony Orchestra, I was excited for various reasons, one being that I would now take on a role of assistant workshop leader and mentor of primary teachers within a brand new context of a pioneering course. This course aimed to reach teachers and pupils alike with music making.

'Make Music' is the name of this course, based on the principles of continuing professional development (C.P.D.). The Hackney Music Service

and LSO, with support from The Learning Trust and in partnership with UBS, have created a two-year scheme that is designed to empower primary school teachers to impart practical music making in the class. As a musician and class music teacher coming from a classically trained background, I was interested to learn of the process to be used. I knew from my own experience that musical roots and performing experience are what give the confidence to create lively music planning and lessons. I have often found that a class teacher, with whom I am working, has turned pale at the idea of having to take a group when his or her last music experience was a recorder lesson 20 years ago, or being told in choir that he or she "couldn't sing". This is not always the case but happens all too often, in my experience.

So to the course. LSO Discovery, the London Symphony Orchestra's education and community programme complements the extensive experience in delivering music provision in Hackney by the Hackney Music Service. This two year

course, run in succession, involving 9 schools and 13 teachers in the second year, and 6 teachers from 8 schools in the new first year, is a highly organised arena in which teachers are slowly and methodically taken through specific areas of performance, music notation, aural skills and recognition of repertoire. These elements are developed over time and this, alongside creative music making days, extra curricular sessions in samba, jazz, "voice foundation" workshops and using the 'Orff Schulwerk' (the Orff approach to music education), all contribute to

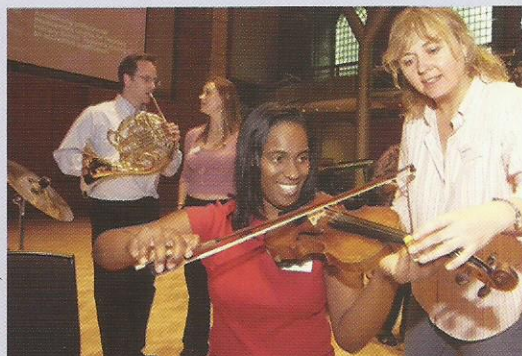


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