

ORCHESTRAS *Live*



# Side by side

**Evaluation Report by  
Orchestras Live**

**Spring 2016**

**Luton**

**Luton**



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

## Side by Side – a Ten Pieces celebration

Side by Side was the latest in a series of innovative projects achieved through the partnership between Orchestras Live, Luton Music Service and The Mix (Luton Music Education Hub). Each project has involved different groups of young musicians, and Side by Side focused particularly on some 200 young musicians who attend Luton’s Saturday Morning Music School.

Composer John K Miles made special arrangements of Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony (first movement) and Bach’s Toccata and Fugue, linking with the BBC’s Ten Pieces national scheme. An additional strand of the project saw a group of hearing impaired young people at Icknield Primary School create their own music inspired by Ten Pieces repertoire. The ‘re-imaginings’ and devised work were performed together with City of London Sinfonia in two concerts for school and community audiences at the UK Centre for Carnival Arts on 15 July 2016.



Photo © Stuart Bruce

*“Side by Side is one of several projects we have produced with Luton Music Service and City of London Sinfonia which have provided innovative ways for a diverse range of young people in Luton to engage with live orchestral music.”*

(Stuart Bruce, Partnership Manager, Orchestras Live)

*“This project is a fantastic opportunity for a large number of our young instrumentalists to perform with, and be inspired by, a professional orchestra and composer.”*

(Kerry Watson, Manager, Luton Music Service)



Photo © Stuart Bruce

## PROJECT AIMS

- To support Key Stage 2 instrumental and orchestral playing in Luton through collaboration with a professional composer and shared rehearsals and performances with a professional orchestra.
- To focus on the BBC Ten Pieces national programme and use some of the repertoire as the starting point for devised work and shared performance.
- To encourage more young people in Luton to take up and follow pathways of instrumental tuition, from elementary to advanced levels.
- To embrace hearing impaired young people in the creative work.

## PROCESS

Following the success of the Aiming Higher project in 2015, through which advanced music ensembles, a beginner steel pan group and disabled young people using assistive music technology worked towards shared performances with City of London Sinfonia (CLS), the partner organisations agreed to develop a new project that would support and inspire young instrumentalists who had progressed beyond the elementary stage of Whole Class Ensemble Tuition and who were learning in groups and ensembles at Luton's Saturday Morning Music School.

The plan for **Side by Side** was for John K Miles to compose some 're-imagined' versions of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony (first movement) and Bach's Toccata and Fugue, scored for the instrumental forces of 200 or so young musicians. John visited the Saturday Music School to meet the participants in order to introduce the project and gauge their technical capabilities so that the new pieces could be written accordingly. Once composed, the pieces were rehearsed by the young musicians, supported by Luton Music Service tutors. Final rehearsals were held at Stopsley High School and the UK Centre for Carnival Arts (UKCCA), when CLS musicians joined the sessions.

Over the same period of time, John and a team from CLS held a series of workshops with young people and staff at the Hearing Impaired Unit of Icknield Primary School, devising a new piece in which they could perform together with the rest of the participants. In preparation for this strand, a CPD session led by a specialist musician from Drake Music was held for the leadership team and managers from CLS, tutors from Luton Music Service, and the Partnership Manager from Orchestras Live.



Photo © Stuart Bruce

The re-imagined classical pieces and the newly devised piece were rehearsed and performed in two concerts at the UKCCA on 15 July, where a 35-piece CLS was conducted by Hugh Brunt, with John K Miles helping to direct the groups of young musicians.

## PROGRAMME

HAYDN	Trumpet Concerto, 3rd movement Luton young musicians and City of London Sinfonia
BACH arr. JOHN K MILES	Toccatina and Fugue Reimagined Luton young musicians and City of London Sinfonia
GRIEG	In the Hall of the Mountain King City of London Sinfonia
BEETHOVEN	Symphony No. 5, 1st movement City of London Sinfonia
BEETHOVEN arr. JOHN K MILES	Symphony No. 5, 1st movement Reimagined Luton young musicians and City of London Sinfonia
BIZET	Habanera and Toreador Song from Carmen Suite No. 2 City of London Sinfonia
JOHN K MILES	Side by Side * Luton young musicians and City of London Sinfonia

\* Created in collaboration with the children at the Hearing Impaired Unit at Icknield Primary School.

## SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITY

Saturday 5 March 2016	Planning meeting with project team at Saturday Music School
Tuesday 7 June 2016	CPD session for 9 members of project personnel, led by Gary Day (Drake Music) Workshop 1 at Icknield Primary School
Saturday 11 June 2016	Saturday Music School visit to Icknield High School
Thursday 23 June 2016	Workshop 2 at Icknield Primary School
Monday 27 June 2016	Rehearsal at Stopsley High School
Wednesday 29 June 2016	Workshop 3 at Icknield Primary School
Saturday 9 July 2016	Saturday Music School visit to Icknield High School
Monday 11 July 2016	Full rehearsal at UK Centre for Carnival Arts
Friday 15 July 2016	Rehearsal with young people and City of London Sinfonia at UK Centre for Carnival Arts, afternoon performance for children from Luton schools and evening performance for people connected with the young participants.

## PARTNERSHIP

The entire project was managed by the consortium of organisations: Luton Music Service played a pivotal role in supporting the young musicians through the process as well as practicalities to do with the venue, programme design, and dealing with local media; the project schedule was co-ordinated largely by CLS; Orchestras Live held periodic planning meetings, assembled the funding partnership and managed the budget. The artistic and promotional costs of the project amounted to £27,575 which were met by The Mix (Luton Music Hub) and Orchestras Live.

## PROJECT TEAM

John K Miles	Workshop Leader
Tim Gunnell	CLS percussionist in workshops
Gillian Hunter-Gibbs	Education Manager, City of London Sinfonia
Pia Luck	Education Projects Coordinator, City of London Sinfonia
Stuart Bruce	Partnership Manager, Orchestras Live
Kerry Watson	Manager, Luton Music Service

## PROJECT OUTCOMES

188 young people took part in the workshops, rehearsals and concerts. 9 LMS instrumental tutors and 5 staff from Icknield Primary School supported the young people through the process in collaboration with John K Miles.

The afternoon concert was attended by approximately 120 young people, teachers and parents/carers from several local Primary schools. The evening concert was attended by approximately 170 adults and young people, mostly connected with the young performers. Both audiences gave very positive responses.



Photo © Stuart Bruce

Guests attending the concerts included Craig Smith, Senior Education Officer for Luton Borough Council, and Mark Bromley, Chairman of Orchestras Live.

Several older students from Luton were involved on the performance day at UKCCA, helping with event management, photography, and technical aspects of lighting and sound, supported by professionals from UKCCA and CLS.

Film maker John O'Connor was commissioned to film the final day of the project, resulting in a five-minute mini-documentary which can be seen on the Orchestras Live website.

### **Feedback from participants**

“I thought it was fantastic and very motivational for my daughter.” (parent of participant)

“It was a great opportunity to realise the quality required to make it as a professional musician. It was [...] amazing to be able to watch Haydn’s trumpet concerto 3<sup>rd</sup> movement performed live. David Blackadder, the soloist also gave me some advice on writing a trumpet cadenza for the movement, himself.” (young participant – trumpet)

“It was a great experience to sit alongside one of the best trumpeters in the country who sounded amazing.” (young participant)

“[She] said it was amazing and she got a lot of advice from the two orchestra ladies playing violins next to her, she would jump at the change to do it again and it has inspired her to work extra hard so she can start her grade exams.” (parent of participant)

“Great experience to play with professional musicians, and watch how they played.” (young participant)

### **Feedback from Luton Music Service**

Project objectives achieved	★★★★★
Orchestra met delivery needs	★★★★★
Reached new audiences	★★★★
Orchestras Live had positive impact on practice	★★★★★

“In terms of the ‘wow factor’, this project far exceeded our expectations and that of our audiences on the day. The children are so used to hearing and watching each other’s performances throughout the year and have become accustomed to a certain level of playing. The level of playing by CLS was so high that it evoked an emotional response in many of the children and certainly in their parents. It was a truly unforgettable experience.”

(Kerry Watson, Luton Music Service)

### **Feedback from Orchestras Live**

“There was a really good balance between the Ten Pieces 're-imaginings' by John K Miles and the other Ten Pieces repertoire. The hearing impaired young people in the afternoon concert stole the show with their joyful participation. CLS performed very well, but probably the biggest success was the side by side desk-sharing, when the CLS players did a great job interacting with their young desk partners. Kerry Watson, Manager of Luton Music Service, was emotional with happiness, and Craig Smith, Senior Education Officer for Luton, hadn't seen anything like it before and was impressed!”

(Stuart Bruce, Orchestras Live)



Photo © Rebecca Osborn

## LEGACY PLANS

There is a commitment for the partnership between Luton Music Service and Orchestras Live to continue. The focus for the next project will be Key Stage 1, a new development for Luton Music Service which is keen for young children to be inspired by a live orchestra and be aware of orchestral instruments by the time they reach Key Stage 2. This could have a positive effect on take-up of instrumental tuition in Luton, which has fallen at Key Stage 2.

CLS has done a lot of Early Years projects, especially the Lullaby Concerts produced with Orchestras Live, and some Key Stage 1 concerts, all led by Claire Henry. It is likely both John K Miles and Claire Henry will be involved together delivering the next project in Luton.

Orchestras Live is exploring whether the Guildhall School of Music & Drama might become involved in the partnership, perhaps by providing students to act as mentors for the young musicians in Luton. This could help to support aspirations and a pathway towards advanced tuition at conservatoire level, which has proved so challenging in the past for young people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

## EXTERNAL LINKS

Watch the video documentary of the concert day via **YouTube**: <http://bit.ly/2eCOLZD>

**Orchestras Live** website: [www.orchestraslive.org.uk](http://www.orchestraslive.org.uk)

**City of London Sinfonia** website: [www.cityoflondonsinfonia.co.uk](http://www.cityoflondonsinfonia.co.uk)

**Luton Music Service** website: [www.thelutonmusicmix.com/](http://www.thelutonmusicmix.com/)

**BBC Ten Pieces** website: <http://bbc.in/1lrlo8j>

For further information contact Stuart Bruce, Partnership Manager  
Orchestras Live, The Music Base, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9AG  
[stuart@orchestraslive.org.uk](mailto:stuart@orchestraslive.org.uk)