



LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION REPORT FOR FUNDERS 2025

INCLUSION PROGRESSION CREATIVITY ENJOYMENT PERFORMANCE

This year has been a great year of change for Learning and Participation. Cathy Morrison our Project Co-ordinator retired and Charlie Hughes has replaced her. The General Manager of Deal Music and Arts is also retiring and Peter Bolton will be taking on the role – Peter has been CEO of Kent Music for 16 years so we are delighted that he will be joining us.

We are looking at embracing a Model of Change for L&P which is work in progress but we have agreed that the problem we face is: *"People, particularly young people, in East Kent have limited access to regular, affordable and inclusive music and creative arts programmes, which constrains their opportunities for social interaction, skills development, personal growth, creative output and the physical and mental wellbeing and enjoyment that creative engagement provides. We know that we provide a lot of what is required within the area but obviously want to look at what more we can do and are working more closely with Kent Music to ensure that we use our funding to the best advantage for the region."*



Our L&P offer extends across the year with over 12 projects plus some one off workshops in festival.

Our **Bold As** Project runs in collaboration with Kent Music throughout the year and this year we held two concerts one in Dover and one in Deal. 300 children performed at Charlton Church in Dover and St George's Church in Deal to over 600 parents and siblings. They were joined by musicians from The Royal College of Music. The decision to hold these concerts immediately after school instead of the evening ensured that children with physical difficulties and challenging behaviours were also able to be involved. A testimonial to the experience given to the children from one of the schools *"As the Headteacher of Warden House Primary School, I am delighted to share our heartfelt appreciation for the incredible opportunities provided by Deal Music and Arts and the Bold As! Project. Over the years, our school has thoroughly enjoyed taking part in many inspirational opportunities - particularly those offered through the Bold As! initiative. The inclusivity of Deal Music and Arts and the Bold As! teachers has been particularly impressive and has allowed children from all backgrounds and abilities, including those*



Bold As Project - Phil White (Player with Philharmonia Orchestra)

with significant special educational needs and disabilities, to fully participate and thrive in the musical experiences offered. The chance for our children to engage with professional musicians and collaborate with their peers has not only enriched their musical skills but has also fostered a sense of community and belonging and given many clear aspirations for their future musical learning. We are grateful for the dedication and passion that Deal Music and Arts brings to our school and the wider community. Your commitment to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to make music is inspiring and has made a profound impact on our children's lives. Thank you for your continued support and for helping to nurture a love of music in our young learners."

Some Bold As children performed at the newly renovated Maison Dieu (Dover Town Hall) with Coastlines 1 – An Oratorio of Gulls written by Luke Styles with Libretto by Hazel Gould – this was accompanied by White Cliffs Symphonic Winds and singers from Warden House School, Deal and St Edmunds Roman Catholic School in Dover. An audience of over 300 people enjoyed this amazing experience.

The Creative Jazz Orchestra meets monthly at The Astor Theatre and this year they were involved in a Festival Project linked to Coastlines working with Jazz Icon Norma Winstone in a new commission by Joe Browne. This was performed at The Astor Theatre with her Trio, Nikki Iles, piano and Mark Lockheart Saxophones. The orchestra is intergenerational and attracts around 30 performers across the year.



The **Music Centre** remains a very popular project and the project leaders for this are Peter Cook and Ben Royston. Because of its success it has been possible to have two bands, a Junior Band with around 15 young people and a Community Band with around 20 participants. They are in demand for performances and performed during the Festival with a concert with a new commission by Phil Self

based on the theme of Coastlines inspired by the stunning landscape between Deal and Dover. Many of the young people involved and some from other project are given a bursary for one to one lessons through the kindness of a funder.

Sky's the Limit is a project working with those with physical and mental disabilities and works with Leaps and Bounds – sessions are held month. This year participants had the opportunity to perform at St George's Church in a project led by Trish Vella-Burrows and Music4Welling.



Saxophone Saturday with project leaders Peter Cook and Ken Peers works with more experienced Saxophone Players monthly and this year performed in The Captain's Garden in Deal during the Festival to an audience of over 600 people. One of their pieces was by Blasio Kavuma DMA Young Composer in Residence.

Our **Photographic Project** linked to Tony Nandi ARPS works with schools to invite them to produce photographs linked to the theme of Coastlines – 42 entries were received and the first ten were displayed in a The Linden Hall Studio for the whole of the Festival. The three winners were presented with prizes at The Young Persons Concert.



The judge for the competition was Ranald MacKechnie and the adviser was Julie Nandi.



The winning photograph

Dover Lunchtime Concerts – this has been a highlight for the schools in Dover with them having the opportunity to walk to Charlton Church and enjoy a concert – the interaction between musicians and audiences has been a highlight with children asking so many questions – a child asked a member of The Royal College of Music how old were they when they had the confidence to perform on stage!. These concerts attract as many as 200 young people and they have been entertained by:

Old Bones Trombone Ensemble, Joe Browne Jazz Quartet, RCM Brass group (10 piece);

Hoda Jahanpour (Young Artist in Association), The Purcell School, One World Orchestra ,

The Purcell School (12 young people aged about 17/18 years old) also lead a 3 day residency in 3 schools in Dover performing to over 350 children and leading composition workshops with over 100. Young people loved having such talented musicians amongst them and were inspired to become composers themselves too. Some of the pieces they composed were entered for a national competition and received highly commended awards.

The final Sunday of the Festival saw the Young Person's Showcase concert where young people from projects could entertain and perform to a live audience. All the music for this was chosen and arranged by them, responding to the theme of the festival. It is a chance for them to shine on a professional platform and feel a valued part of the festival. Plans are well advanced for our annual summer School which will be held at Northbourne Park in August. This year it will be led by Phil White and a final concert will be held on the final Friday of the week.

As we evaluate our projects we seek to redesign and refine our offer alongside a closer relationship with the DMA Festival. At the moment 7 out of 12 projects have





Jamie and a tutor perform at the 2025 showcase concert

festival outcomes. We want to build on the projects we see as most successful and with most impact on our communities.

Peter Cook

July 18 2025

Deal Music and Arts would like to thank all those who make it possible for us to do this

Arts Council England . The Bernard Sunley Foundation . The Cavatina Music Trust . The Countess of Munster Trust . Deal Rotary Icebreakers . Dover Town Council . The Arts Society of Dover, Deal and Sandwich . Esperanza Syndicate . The Foyle Foundation . Sir Graeme Odgers . Guy and Elinor Meynell Trust Bursary Fund . John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust . Julie Nandi . Kent Community Foundation . The Keyboard Trust . The Mary Farrell Trust . The Oak Foundation . Port of Dover Charitable Fund . Southeastern Railways . St Andrew's Church . The Vaughan Williams Foundation

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