



## LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION REPORT FOR FUNDERS 2024

This last year (from September 2023) we have continued to deliver and develop our L&P offer guiding many of our projects towards the Festival in July as well as delivering regular sessions across the year. We have also introduced new groups, a series of lunchtime concerts, new practitioners and new ways of working. Learning happens incrementally in bite sized chunks as well as in wonderful one-off experiences. We aim to facilitate regular high-quality arts provision in music and the related arts whilst also offering some shorter projects and sometimes one-off workshops and concerts too. We work with our partners in and out of schools to do this drawing on the skills of our splendid team and focusing on the key skills of listening, performing and composing. We want to support creativity whilst challenging our participants to aim high, try new ideas and help realise their ambitions. We are keen to do the following through our projects and regular work.



- Explore music with beginners and inexperienced musicians of any age, gender, background or ability
- Provide access to those who have barriers to learning such as financial, learning disabilities and cultural deprivation
- Offer routes of progression from musical beginners to a lifelong artistic ownership
- Offer different styles of music making in jazz and improvisation, reading music, wind band music, singing and small group instrumental playing
- Explore the key skills of listening, performing and composing
- Work where possible with groups of people of different ages.
- Strengthen our projects within the festival and further develop the DMA audience

Below is a brief report on each project.

### **Bold As:** brass and woodwind project

We have been working with 6 primary schools in the Deal and Dover areas making use of the Music Plus scheme run by Kent Music. This allows young children (approx. 300) aged 10/11 years to have an instrument and learn weekly. We have developed our own learning booklet for clarinet as well as brass and the project is valued by schools and offers beginners a musical starting point. We bring the schools

together for a gala performance performing new arrangements of music and joining forces with both Kent Youth Brass and the White Cliffs Symphonic Winds. To inspire the young people, we have also put on concerts by 'Old Bones' (a trombone group) and Brass and Woodwind musicians from Trinity Conservatoire and The Royal College of Music. The project is led by Phil White.



**Bold As**

Participants: 300 in 6 schools B

**Bold As Concerts**

Audience: 350 adults (outside school time) and school concerts 1000 children (in school time)

**Purcell School of Music**

This year we have begun to develop our work with the famous Purcell School bringing them to Dover for three days to collaborate with three schools and performing a lunchtime concert to over 250 children. The group spent time in each school helping them to compose, sing together and perform. Some children from each school then performed in the concert at the end of the week. It was great to see teenage young people mentoring primary age children and spending time to explore the real details of composition and how that relates to being a musician. They had a profound effect on the children and for some it has allowed them to realise what their musical ambitions are. We hope to replicate this project in 2025.

**Purcell School of Music workshop**

Participants: 90 children  
Audience: 250 at the concert from 5 schools

**Chineke! Composition Project**

The nationally recognised orchestra, Chineke! visited secondary schools in Dover and worked with a group of 10 students to compose two pieces which were played in a festival lunchtime concert. Students were able to discuss and devise the new pieces and use their skills as musicians to perform together. It was great to have such a prestigious string quartet visit Dover and see such a diverse group perform in St Mary's Church. Secondary school teachers were also very supportive of the project and this has enabled us to talk to them about future projects in Dover next year.



### **Chineke! workshop**

Participants: 10 secondary students and 200 primary age children in the concert

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### **Transition Youth Band (Dover)**

From February we led a pilot project to try and encourage pupils in Years 6 and 7 to play together after school. Although we had around 8 young people participating, and the secondary host school was very supportive, we did not feel this project was successful and after discussions we believe it will work better as a junior school project next year which works with a school orchestra in the summer term. We are keen to try these things as many young people, having started an instrument in junior school, do not carry on at secondary school. We will work with schools to remedy this problem.

Participants 8-10

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### **Jazz Academy (including Jazz journey and Creative Jazz day)**

For some years we partnered with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra to develop our 'Jazz Journey' schools' jazz visits into a more substantial out of school ensemble. This was very successful and we have continued that this year. DMA have developed the programme and work with a wider age group and more diverse range of schools. We want to include people of any background or age and so we reached out to the renowned Tomorrow's Warriors. They came down and led a jazz workshop and lunchtime jazz concert and we hope to develop work with them in the future as well as other jazz inspired organisations. Our Jazz Academy continues to be led by Joe Browne and we continue to draw on a wide selection of jazz practitioners too.

It was great to reach out to new players this year and see the DMA Jazz Academy grow in number and skill with our fine tutors. Our outreach work continues with Jazz Journey in 4 secondary schools where we introduce jazz music to young people who have little experience of it. These workshops help to populate our Academy and other projects too. Our Creative Jazz Day was also popular and helped to raise awareness of our Academy with adults and young people alike.

### **NYJO concert in St George's Church**

Academy Participants: around 20 with about 190 in the audience in the festival.

Jazz Journey participants: 100 (in schools)

Creative Jazz Day participants: 16



### **Dover Lunchtime Concert Series for Schools**

This year we piloted the idea of a series of lunchtime concerts which any school, primary or secondary, could attend. Our aims were:

- Give schools in Dover access to high-quality concerts performed by young groups or professionals in a neutral venue (ie a local church in the centre of Dover)
- Make the concerts as relaxed as possible
- Give opportunities for schools to work with the musicians beforehand where possible
- To link concerts to elements of the national curriculum where we can
- To inspire young players to take part in music and recognize a progression path which is a gateway for them into the world of music.

### **Workshops with Tomorrow's Warriors The Purcell School, Chineke!, Royal College of Music and Trinity Laban Conservatoire**

Audience: roughly 250 per concert =  
1250

We were delighted with this pilot and will now consolidate the relationships with local secondary and primary schools next year.

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### **Dance Fusion**

Despite two schools dropping out of the project we were able to work with Ash Mukharjee and RN Prakesh who specialise in South Asian Dance. It was wonderful to see young dancers working together with fabulous practitioners and exploring a whole new style of dance and live, authentic percussion music. We were able to film the results and have a good record of the work but for the project to be developed we need to find participating schools who can commit better to the process. Our relationship with Canterbury Christ Church University is strong but the department is having difficulties with funding (as are many universities) and it is questionable whether the project can continue in the same way in the future.

Participants: Canterbury Christ Church University, Dover Christchurch School and Goodwin Academy.  
30 students in workshop, 15 in performance.

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### **Tony Nandi ARPS Photo Award**

This year's award was judged by photographers Chloe Burgess and 'Mani' and we had some great entrants who were exhibited in the Linden Hall Studio Gallery during the Festival. It was wonderful to see their work expertly framed and valued in this way and the students were thrilled. Their teachers and pupils came to the launch in July and were keen to say that this kind of project encourages and inspires them. We wish to develop this work and attract more keen budding photographers.

Participants: 15, Gallery footfall Estimate 1500

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### **Young Person's Festival Showcase Concert**

It was a joy to see 19 of our young people perform at the Astor Theatre during the Festival this year. These are all from our L&P projects, past or present, and what is fascinating is to see how they develop

and grow in their learning. Some have just been playing for a couple of years while some are now at University or Conservatoire. Several of the young people have been beneficiaries of our Meynell Trust bursary scheme, now in its second year which offers 10 or more lessons to young people.

Participants: 19

Audience: 80



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### **Composer in Residence and Young Artist in Association**

Increasing numbers of projects are the result of new initiatives linked to the Festival and the composer in residence and young artist in association are two of them. It was great to have Florence Anna Maunders work with the Community Band and also with the Summer School writing new pieces for both. These were performed during the Festival and at the Summer School. The young artist in association, Lizzie Knatt, also worked in primary schools delivering short workshops as well as concerts in the Festival and earlier in the year. Both projects can grow now and we will be exploring ways forward with Luke.

Composer Participants: 90 and audience over 300

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### **Deal Music Centre**

Our music centre runs on a Tuesday evening and comprises a Youth Band and a Community Band.

Each band has grown this year and the music they have been playing has been changing too with arrangements by the tutors composed to suit the instrumentation. The youth band now incorporates drums, guitars and keyboards as well as brass and woodwind instruments and we are excited about how this has changed the music now possible. Singing has also become a component in each of the bands with solo singers and some group singing too.

Both bands perform regularly through the year to parents and friends and then during the festival. We were also very pleased to host the composer in residence who wrote the community band a challenging, but hugely enjoyable piece, that stretched them to try new ideas and a different way of performing together. For an arts organisation I believe it is important to be doing this and we hope to include many new compositions in the future.

Junior band participants: 12-14

Community Band 25-35

Community band audience estimated at 1500 (for the community stage during the festival)

Junior band audience: 300 at the Bold As concert and 75 at the festival Concert

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### **Irene Taylor Trust Project**

Working with adult ex-offenders and practitioners from the Irene Taylor Trust and the Community Band, we took part in a concert during the festival playing new work composed by the Irene Taylor Trust participants and an arrangement from the community band. The trust had also been working with NEET young people (teenagers) on a number of songs which were also performed. This was a great concert and I hope we can develop work with them in the future. To see and hear concerts like this with

such a diverse and talented group of musicians is heartwarming and a delight.

Participants: 32

Audience: 80

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### **Sky's the Limit**

Another new initiative is this monthly group comprising adults with learning disabilities, their carers and family and friends. It is early days for this group who meet monthly but the numbers have grown over the year and the singing is getting better and better. We are trying new ideas to involve music making with voices, keyboards, glockenspiels and percussion. We hope to perform in public in November 2024 and also hope to take part in other community events as the year continues.

Participants: 12-20

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### **Saxophone Saturdays**

This monthly group is mainly an adult group of saxophonists and we have established a regular group who wish to learn together and perform publicly too. The group performed this year during the Festival.

Participants 14

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### **Summer School**

This year DMA appointed a new music director, Ben Marshal, and also two new tutors as well as working with our Composer in Residence, Florence Anna Maunders. The result was a vibrant week of music making, exploring new ideas, new works, singing and related activities like Qi Gong (to aid relaxation, breath control and body movement). Tutors helped musicians of all ages from 8 to 75 negotiate the written parts and play together to great effect. It was a thrilling week which ended with a wonderful concert and a standing ovation.

Participants 60

Audience 230



## Conclusion

It has been a great privilege to lead DMA L&P this year and see many new projects and initiatives come to fruition. We have helped grow the organisation and facilitate many events in areas of deprivation where young people and older would not have had the chance to take part. We have encouraged a greater diversity of age, gender balance and ability in the leadership of our projects as well as the participants and we have offered many opportunities for free to those who cannot afford them. I am proud of the team I work with and the enthusiasm shown by the participants who make great music and help the community come alive. We have a resilience to continue with projects despite the barriers we sometimes face. We look to build on our successes, to help our society be more inclusive and kind, with music available to all.

## Peter Cook

13 August 2024



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

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