

# newburyspringfestival

EDUCATION REPORT 2018





## **EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY WORK REPORT – SPRING 2018**

One of the Festival's aims is to raise the profile of live music in schools, giving children the thrill of experiencing live music and working with, and learning from, professional musicians.

We hope these opportunities will provide inspiration and therefore broaden the experience and horizons for younger children and older students alike. In 2018, our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, we were delighted to engage more artists than ever for pre-arranged free workshops and children's performances, some took place prior and some during the Festival in May 2018.

We were also delighted to welcome for the first time, pupils from Horris Hill, Newbury and Rookwood School, near Andover to our afternoon children's performances. We always take delight in introducing new Schools/music students to our afternoon and lunchtime free performances.

We were also privileged to have with us eight Tashi Lhunpo Monastery Monks from Tibet, along with their UK Manager Jane Rasch, who stayed for a Residency during the second week of the Festival. During that week we organised many children from local Schools to go and see them making a Sand Mandala out of coloured grains of sand at the Room in the West Berkshire Museum in Newbury. Please continue to read more below.

None of this would have been possible without all our sponsors, supporters and Trusts supporting our education and community programme in 2018. We sincerely thank them all and, as you will see, the children's reaction speaks for themselves!

## Free Tickets Scheme 2018 - Young Artists Programme of Lunchtime Recitals 12.30pm – Corn Exchange

All children of school age were invited to attend six lunchtime recitals free of charge and the numbers of children/students who attended were as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Artists</b>	<b>Number of children attended and from which Schools</b>
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> May Corn Exchange	Misha Mullov-Abbado (Jazz)	Mrs Sarah Ashley (Home Educator) x3 Mrs Anabel Holmes (Home Educator Network) x6 Cold Ash St Mark's Primary School x34 St Bartholomew's School x15 St Gabriel's School x17 St Nicolas CE Primary School x72 Winchcombe CE Primary School x10
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May Corn Exchange	Flauti d'echo (Recorder duet)	Mrs Sarah Ashley (Home Educator) x3 St Bartholomew's School x15 St Gabriel's School x16 Winchcombe CE Primary School x10
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> May Corn Exchange	Barbican String Quartet	Mrs Anabel Holmes (Home Educator Network) x6 Winchcombe CE Primary School x10
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> May Corn Exchange	Sheepdrove Piano Competition Winner Recital	Mrs Anabel Holmes (Home Educator Network) x3 St Bartholomew's School x15 Winchcombe CE Primary School x10
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May Corn Exchange	Timothy Ridout (Viola with piano)	Mrs Sarah Ashley (Home Educator) x3 St Bartholomew's School x15 St Nicolas CE Primary School x72 Winchcombe CE Primary School x10
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May Corn Exchange	James Newby (Baritone singer with piano)	Mrs Sarah Ashley (Home Educator) x3 Cold Ash CE Primary School x34 Shaw-cum-Donnington Primary x31 St Bartholomew's School x15 St Nicolas CE Primary School x72 Winchcombe CE Primary School x20
<b>TOTAL FREE TICKETS USED 2018</b>		<b>523</b>
Total free tickets used 2017		454



## Outreach Workshops - Primary School Tours

### **“Travelling by Tuba” – “Best of British” Show – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

We were delighted to engage Travelling by Tuba, being Stewart Death and Chris Cranham, who toured three primary schools, being St Mary's Primary School, Kintbury first, then Inkpen Primary School, and finally Chilton Foliat CE Primary School, nr Hungerford, with their show “Best of British” demonstrating the fun to be had blowing a wide range of home-made hosepipes and medieval brass instruments.



St Mary's Kintbury –  
whole School attend-  
ed 190 children took  
part.





All Inkpen School = 104 children

The show opens with a flag-waving British procession before stepping back in time with two of the early invaders; the Vikings with the animal horn and the Romans with their Cornu. From the Tutor period they featured a Sackbut and Cornett playing a typical courtly dance. Then then introduced the first of the Tuba, the snake-like Serpent originally used in the church. In the Industrial Revolution the children saw how the valve developed with the uniquely made valve machine. The Victorians performed music in their parlours; hear tunes from that time and see how they would have dressed. World War II songs were full of optimism – the children learnt two of them and clapped along while they finished with the patriotic theme in our tribute to “The Last Night of the Proms” in a special suite with an exploding Tuba!



All Chilton Foliat School = 180 children

The children were all involved at every stage, from getting up and being chosen to blow various funny tubes and instruments, from listening carefully for various noises and conducting the musicians in an attempt to speed up and slow them down! Lots of fun was had by all....

## Secondary Schools Outreach – Hannah Kendall “composing Workshop”

### Trinity School

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 Newbury Spring Festival, invited all 30 Trinity School Year 9 and 10 music GCSE students including musically gifted students to participate in a one day “composing” workshop, hosted by Hannah Kendall. It took place in the Music Department class rooms of Trinity School, being the Performing Arts status school in Newbury.



Hannah Kendall is a British Composer who previously worked for London Music Masters and the composer of the Newbury Spring Festival 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary new commission, “Baptisty” which was performed by the Philharmonia Orchestra on the first night of the Festival 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018. She led the workshop with senior music students explaining how she got inspiration for music, and gave tips, and ideas and asked them to “think outside the box” about music composition and harmony. It was a fun but imaginative and thought-provoking day. The students were then invited to attend the 12<sup>th</sup> May Philharmonia Orchestra’s rehearsal

at St Nic’s Church in the afternoon of the opening night, to hear Hannah’s new piece performed.

At the end of the day their work was recorded digitally in order for them to have them and include them in their GCSE music exam assessments for this next year. Huge thanks must go to Mrs Suzanne James, Head of Performing Arts and her Assistant at Trinity for allowing us to use the music classroom and provide 16 keyboards and 4 practice rooms and lunches all of which were much appreciated.





## Secondary School Outreach – Kabantu with St Bartholomew’s School, Newbury

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Newbury Spring Festival invited the Music Department to invite 30 Key stage 3, music students including musically gifted students to participate in a one day “making music with Kabantu”, hosted by Delia Stevens from Kabantu. Due to GCSE exams taking place, it could not take place in the school, however St John’s Church and hall was available and the workshop took place there, with thanks to the Rector and Church Warden.

“Kabantu” means “of the people” and are a quintet from Manchester who unravel new marriages of music from around the globe to celebrate the space where different cultures meet. Vocal harmonies from South Africa coexist with everything from Celtic reels to Brazilian sambas and beyond. They are a young selection of excellent musicians who are:

Delia Stevens Drums/Percussion/Workshop Leader, Katie Foster Violin/arranger, Abel Selaocoe Cello/arranger, Ali McMath Double bass, banjo Didgeridoo and Ben Sayah Guitar.

Dear Jane,

Thank you so much for your hospitality and flexibility, allowing this workshop to take place yesterday. The pupils had a wonderful time, were really engaged and gained a lot from the experience, and the fantastic acoustic of the nave in St John’s really made the sound of their voices and instruments bloom.

Again, thank you. With Kind Regards,  
James Maunders, Music  
St Bartholomew’s School, Newbury





## Children's Afternoon Performances during May 2018 Festival

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May – Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers**

**Corn Exchange 1.30pm – 2.30pm**

All local Schools were invited to the Corn Exchange for an hour long demonstration by the drummers of this trilling Japanese performance art, with a chance to learn about the making and history of their amazing instruments.



A total of 360 children came to see the afternoon show, which included for the first time students from both Horris Hill School in Newbury, who bought 15 and Rookwood School near Andover who bought 16 students. Other schools that attended were: Beedon CE Primary School (61), Compton CE Primary School (40), Speenhamland Primary School (83) with 2 disabled children in wheelchairs, Welford and Wickham CE Primary School (17), St Gabriel's School (35), Cold Ash CE Primary School (34), Winchcombe CE Primary School (35) and Shaw-cum-Donnington CE Primary School (24).



Hi Jane,

Thanks again for the tickets to the Mugenkyo Taiko drumming concert. Please remember us for next year.

As promised, below are some of the children's comments, a parent comment and my comments:

"The comedy section was really entertaining. It was a really good experience to learn and to enjoy." **Kirsten Y6**

"It was all fantastic." **Poppy Y6**

"Very loud but very enjoyable." **Harriett Y6**

"A lot of fun to watch." **Harriet Y6**

"I really liked being told all about the instruments and then hearing them." **Rhian Y6**

"It was very visual." **Alfie Y6**

"The time sped by. It was great!" **Cameron Y6**

"Very entertaining!" **Sam Y6**

"Super! Awesome to watch. Very entertaining too!" **Clara Y6**

"I really enjoyed today - thanks so much for the invite! What lucky children to have been able to experience that!" **Lynne - Y6 parent volunteer.**

"A real spectacle to watch. The children loved learning about the instruments and then hearing them in action. The comedy element was fantastic too! Thank you." **Mitch - Y6 teacher**

**Mitch Warrender, Deputy Headteacher,  
Cold Ash St Mark's Primary School, RG18 9PT**


## St Gabriel's School for Girls, Newbury. Spring Newsletter on their school website for parents to see.

St Gabriel's School - Newbury



Not secure | www.stgabriels.co.uk/newburyspringfestival2018

St Gabriel's  
Your Route to Success

menu



### Newbury Spring Festival Events




Newbury Spring Festival is one of the most popular and successful music festivals in the South of England and with the huge variety on offer, our pupils have enjoyed a range of unusual performances.

On Monday 14 May our Senior School Music Scholars and GCSE musicians were inspired by the Misha Mulloy-Abbado Group at the Corn Exchange, Newbury. Misha Mulloy-Abbado is a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist and award winning musician, under his direction the group perform his original jazz compositions and arrangements. From hearing and seeing his talent on the double bass it was clear why the group's debut album *New Ardoria*, was included in 'Best Jazz Albums 2015' of both *The Telegraph* and *BBC Radio 3*.

On Tuesday 16 May, Year 3 and 4 enjoyed a very loud and exciting performance by the Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers at the Corn Exchange as part of Newbury Spring Festival. They learnt how to say the rhythms in Japanese, and enjoyed a very funny demonstration of how not to play the Taiko drums! Nathan was lucky enough to go on the stage with the drummers to show us his newly learnt rhythm. This was an excellent opportunity for our Junior School pupils to see and hear a genre of music beyond their usual experience.

On Tuesday 22 May, Year 7 were incredibly lucky to watch a demonstration of traditional music, dance and prayer by the monks of the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in Tibet. They were also invited on stage to be shown how to do the 8 important hand gestures that monks use as a blessing. It was amazing to see this ancient culture come to life, thank you to the Newbury Spring Festival for the opportunity.



LINKS IN THIS SECTION



**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May (10am – 12pm) – FREE Saxophone Masterclass and Jazz Workshop – with YolanDa Brown and her musicians**



The Saturday morning Masterclasses/workshops have proved very successful and are now integral parts of the education programme.

This year we were delighted invite YolanDa Brown and her double bass and percussionist to join all levels of Sax students from Berkshire Maestros, both from West and East Berkshire and Hogan Music Academy. Thanks to secured funding, this was a free event for the general public and once again we were very pleased to welcome six brave Sax students with various abilities and experience from Berkshire Maestros to participate in the Masterclass.



The first hour allowed the six students to perform their various pieces that they were currently learning to YolanDa and enabled her to sit with us in the auditorium and watch and listen to the performances. She then got on stage and worked her way through the pieces with each individual, giving them tips and advice on posture, breathing and notation.

The second hour allowed all budding Saxophonists onto the stage with YolanDa and her musicians to try and improvise around a beat. YolanDa taught them what to listen for and how to try. All had a go at playing something, as she said “Even a “burp” means something in jazz!”

It started tentatively but then as they gained more confidence the participants let go and really enjoyed themselves. We all thanked YolanDa and her musicians for time and kind comments. Berkshire Maestros emailed over some feedback and comments from the participants.

Dear Jane,

I just wanted to say thank you so much for organising Saturdays workshop with YolanDa. Once again the students were treated to a fantastic opportunity courtesy of the NSF. I think that Saturdays was my favourite to date!

These are some comments that I have received from parents following the workshop.

Kind regards

Tracey Oldman

Music Centre Manager – Newbury and Hungerford,  
Berkshire Maestros



*Thank you so much for inviting Alexander to take part in the workshop today. YolanDa was amazing - she was really inspiring and encouraging for the students. We loved how she got them to think about their stage presence and playing to the audience in the masterclass. The improvisation workshop was great fun and showed her talent for making music come alive. Alexander, despite being nervous about performing, had a brilliant time and feels very inspired to play.*

*Abi thoroughly enjoyed the sax masterclass on Saturday. At the end of the session, Abi told YolanDa that she had made something that Abi had previously found intimidating & scary a whole lot easier & more fun. Throughout the session, there was plenty for all the students to learn from YolanDa around performing & engaging with the audience and YolanDa's relaxed, friendly & personable interaction with everyone allowed all the students relax.*

*As parents, we also found the session really enjoyable and YolanDa's passion & enthusiasm was clear for all to see.*

*Many thanks for arranging & please pass on our thanks to YolanDa and her band.*

*Joe's first words afterwards were "it was awesome". YolanDa had a great, enthusiastic and engaging personality that meant it was one of the best workshops he had been involved in and he wished that the workshop could have been longer, as YolanDa had so many amazing and useful tips on performing and improvisation. He would love to participate in this again if the chance arises. He was blown away by her concert the night before.*

*As members of the audience at the workshop we were able to watch YolanDa work "magic" in enhancing all of the student's confidence. YolanDa's engagement with the audience and students was fantastic throughout.*

*YolanDa has obviously inspired Joe because he has spent the last two hours this evening improvising non-stop. Truly inspiring! He is still buzzing about it hours later.*



## Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Festival Evensong, St Nicolas Church, Newbury

All the general public were welcome to this special service conducted by the Rev Will Hunter-Smart at St Nicolas Church, Newbury at 3.30pm.

A reduced Festival Chorus came together to perform the traditional service of Evensong, drawing on some of the finest English choral music.





## Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Tashi Lhunpo Monks from Tibet – children's concert

Local Schools were invited to the Corn Exchange for 1.30pm until 2.30pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 to meet the Monks in their costumes and discover how prayer, spirituality and dance inspire their daily lives. The concert was hosted by Jane Rasch, UK Manager and Trustee of the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery Trust.

The children were asked to sing the traditional songs and join in with the celebration dances.

305 children came to see the show.

Schools/Home Educators who brought children to this were:

Mrs Anna Holmes (Home Educators Network for W Berks x6), Mrs Sarah Ashley (Home Educators x3) Burghclere Primary School (35), Falkland Primary School (68), St Nicolas Junior School (72), St Gabriel's School (26), Speenhamland Primary School (60 + 2 wheelchair pupils), Winchcombe Primary (35).

Comments from some of the children who came were:



*"I found the Monks really interesting to watch. I loved learning about them praying and watching them play their instruments and my favourite part was when they danced in their costumes." Poppy aged 9 (St Nic's Juniors)*



*"I'd like to inform you that I loved the Tibetan Monks and was excited to learn about their culture. Thank you for inviting us." Arpit aged 9 (St Nic's Juniors)*

*"I just wanted to thank you for letting our school be a part of the Newbury Spring Festival. We all thoroughly enjoyed watching and learning about the Tibetan Monks. I was an experience that I will never ever forget. Thank you." Meg aged 10 (St Nic's Juniors)*

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018 - FREE Ballet Central open “Ballet Company Class”  
Corn Exchange 12.30pm – 1.30pm**

We were delighted to welcome Ballet Central to Newbury, as part of their 2018 graduate student tour, for their eagerly awaited annual visit with an exciting programme of ballet, contemporary, jazz and traditional. The varied repertoire features a mix of new commissioned works and much loved revivals, e.g. Cinderella showcased the talent of the company's graduate year.

157 children and dance students attended and were given an opportunity to see the Company Class at work, and ask the dancers questions before the evening show.

Children and Dance students came from the following places:

Anna Holmes (Home Educator Network 14), Cold Ash Primary School (34), Linden Ellicott Dance Company (22), Inkpen Primary School (30), St Gabriel's School (22), Winchcombe Primary School (35).



***Dear Jane***

***Thank you so much for the opportunity to see Ballet Central class.***

***My students were in awe!***

***They loved the class so much - comments included 'I want them to do a longer class' 'please can we stay to the performance'!***

***'They get their legs so high it's impossible'***

***Older students said they were impressed by how much they could understand and possibly do (though not to this standard - or to this speed!), and had a lot of fun picking out which dancers they liked best for slow work/jumping/turning etc and finding reasons why they liked the dancer that they could apply to their own performance.***

***My adults were absolutely stunned, they were very impressed and said they liked how the teacher explained the progression of the class build up and could really understand what it was trying to achieve. They liked seeing the dynamics and also the characters of the dancers which aren't so pronounced in performance.***

***I really hope to see some progress in my student's own class this term after such a great outing.***

***Many thanks again.***

***Linden***

***Linden Ellicott Dance Company***

Dear Jane,

Thank you so much to yourself and Ballet Central for reorganising our experience today. The Ballet Class was excellent to watch, it showed how hard they train, how carefully they listen and how professional they are. The children were spellbound. Although we all love the dress rehearsals, this was an experience to have seen what it is like on the inside. Please thank everyone for me.

Yours

Jane Obin  
Inkpen Primary School



**FREE attendance - Festival Residency – Tibetan Monks from the  
Tashi Lhunpo Monastery – Mon 21<sup>st</sup> – Sat 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

A company of Tibetan monks from the Tashi Lhunpo Monastery is in residence for the second week of the Festival. They worked at the West Berkshire Museum creating a Medicine (Mela) Sand Mandala over the course of the week. Its construction involves millions of grains of sand painstakingly laid in place over a period of days by this team of monks.



There were opportunities for local primary schools (Speenhamland, Winchcombe Primary, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School) to meet the monks and engage with their work on the mandala, while learning more about Tibetan culture, history and tradition during the week. Festival audiences were also encouraged to drop in and visit the monks during the course of the week to see how the mandala was created and how it evolved.



The culmination of the residency was the destruction of the mandala. This was a calm spiritual ceremony, rich in history, and was remarkable to witness. The Destruction Ceremony was on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm from the Museum.



## **Conclusion**

**The following numbers of children/students attended the 2018 Education Programme:**

**Travelling by Tuba (outreach only) = 474**

**Young Artists Lunchtime Six Concerts = 523**

**Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers = 360**

**YolanDa Brown Sax Jazz Workshop = 8**

**Tashi Lhunpo Monks (both concert and residency) = 355**

**Ballet Central = 157**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN INVOLVED = 1,877**

**NONE OF THE ABOVE COULD BE DONE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT FROM OUR GENEROUS  
SPONSORS AND FUNDERS TO WHOM WE ARE HIGHLY GRATEFUL.  
THANK YOU ALL FROM THE NEWBURY SPRING FESTIVAL, OUR ARTISTS INVOLVED THIS YEAR  
AND ALL THE CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED THE ABOVE.**

Jane Pickering,  
Education Co-ordinator,  
Newbury Spring Festival.  
Spring 2018.