

I hope that this newsletter finds you all well in these very different circumstances that we find ourselves in. Normally at this time of year, many of our students would be mid-exams and there would be lots of preparations for end of term concerts and productions. The sad truth is that this year is quite different.

However, we were lucky enough that some of the larger scale events that we had planned this year, did manage to happen before lockdown began and I hope that the reports and photos in this newsletter will remind you of happier music-making times.

Going forward, we have no idea what music-making in the local area will look like in the near future. We keep in our thoughts all the local musicians, teachers and performers who have lost large parts of their livelihoods over these months and hope that it is not too long before we can all be together again. Wishing you and your families all the best

Hanna Trevorrow
Head of DASP Music

Year 4 Concert



At the start of March, we held our annual Year 4 singing concerts. 400 children came together, from all 13 DASP first schools, over 3 nights to perform for family and friends at The Thomas Hardy School Theatre. This year, the theme of the concerts was 'the environment', and all of the songs linked to the natural elements and eco-friendly messages. Songs included Jack Johnson's '3 R's' (complete with junk percussion accompaniment!), 'Be Cool' by Bob Chilcott (a song about global warming), and 'Together we can change the world'.

The concerts formed the showcase finale of weeks of hard work by the students. Mrs Trevorrow had visited each school, four times, over the preceding 8 weeks and

worked with the children on learning the songs. Thanks to all of the teachers and parents who worked with the children to make the concerts such a great success. Video excerpts of the concerts will hopefully be available on the DASP Music website soon.

Musical Theatre Workshop



On March 9th, 120 students from the Dorchester Middle, St Osmund's Middle, St Mary's Middle and Thomas Hardy School, were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to take part in a musical theatre workshop with

www.daspmusic.co.uk



Musical theatre workshop, March 2020.

four professional actors, at the Weymouth Pavilion. The workshop was partly funded by the Dorset Music Education Hub and formed part of DASP Music's singing strategy this year; to encourage more children to continue to engage in singing as they grow up, particularly boys. The students had all spend time preparing songs in advance and during the day-long workshop, the professionals worked with the students to choreograph and rehearse the songs. The result was a full-length show of group numbers and solos for friends and family to watch.



DASP Music lessons continue online



We are pleased to be able to announce that most of the DASP Music teachers are now offering online 1:1 music lessons via Skype or similar, during these months when the schools are not open to all students. We have heard some excellent reports of students showing particularly good commitment to their music making over these last few months during lockdown. As it looks as if this state of affairs is going to continue for at least the next few months, we strongly recommend considering online music lessons for your children if you have not already done so. Please do contact your child's music teacher via email if you would like to arrange online lessons, or contact the DASP Music office for any other enquiries.

Celebrating music via social media



During these times, social media has become an excellent way to keep people connected. Over the last few weeks, DASP Music has put out several challenges to encourage and inspire people to share their musical achievements during lockdown. We have challenged people to make a recording using the A Capella App to multi-track a performance, we have asked for videos of things you have been practising, and also anything you have composed. It has been a pleasure to see these videos and recordings and we know it has brought joy to many people. Please keep sending us your musical achievements and please also follow us on facebook and twitter so that you can see the things we have been sharing.

Here are some good music education resources to access from home:

Mathsciencemusic.org

Teamtutti.org – interactive music making platform for KS2

Muscore.org – free score – writing software.

www.beatgoeson.co.uk – daily online body percussion workshops
BBC Ten Pieces – lots of resources and films to help young people to engage with classical music .

Learning through music (on youtube) – weekly lessons for KS1/2

There are also lots of online performances to watch at the moment for free or a small charge:

Wind in the Willows Musical (willowsmusical.com)

Beauty and the Beast at Chichester Festival theatre (www.cft.org.uk)

The Shows must go on (on youtube channel)

London Symphony Orchestra 'play' immersive web experience (on their website)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES – 2020-2021

As all planned dates for the rest of this academic year have been cancelled, I wanted to share with you our proposals for next year (obviously these are subject to change depending on government advice):

2 nd Dec 2020	DASP Christmas Concerts @ Thomas Hardye School Theatre
1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd Mar 2021	DASP Year 4 Concerts @ Thomas Hardye School Theatre
1 st July 2021	DASP Pop/Rock Concert @ Thomas Hardye 6 th Form Centre, 6pm. (involving DASP Jazz Band, all DASP ukulele groups, St Mary's Rock Group, DASP Guitars)
4 th July 2021	DASP Summer Concert @ Weymouth Pavilion, 3pm (involving all other DASP Ensembles not performing on 2 nd , plus various other groups).

Music for Youth Concert



On 14th March, students from the DASP Skylarks and Nightingales choirs, along with the choir from St Mary's First School, Charminster, took part in a concert with the Dorset Chamber Orchestra. They performed a new piece by Liz Sharma called 'Zoo Tales', which was narrated by Martin Clunes. The concert also included a concerto played by Year 13 student Charlotte Ballard, from The Thomas Hardy School. The students all performed brilliantly and the concert was very enjoyable. Many thanks to Walter Brewster, Kathie Prince and Jane Joy for all of the organisation and rehearsing!

DASP Ensembles in September 2020

The majority of the DASP Music Ensembles have not been able to meet this summer term, for obvious reasons. Looking ahead, it is unlikely that the groups will be able to rehearse as usual in September (although we imagine that things will become clearer over the coming weeks). We are in the process of making plans for how we can still offer an element of ensemble experience in September as well as providing the important social side of music making for our young musicians. More will be announced once we have a firm plan in place – watch this space!

Weymouth Music Festival



The Weymouth Music Festival went ahead as planned this year and several DASP Ensembles took part. The Stringalings, Training Windband, Brass Ensemble and Flute Choir all took part and had lovely constructive feedback from the adjudicators. It was lovely to see several students from DASP schools also entering as soloists. Well done to all who took part and particularly to the Flute Choir who were highly commended in their performance. Thank you to Ms Greenwood, Mr Ansell, Mr Goodwin and Mrs Olson for supporting our students with this.

Thank you!

We wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has supported DASP Music this year, in order to allow us to provide as many musical opportunities as possible for the young people in this area. In addition to the many excellent teachers who teach our students and lead our ensembles, there are also many other people who have supported us in other ways. We have some wonderful volunteers who come every week to assist with our ensembles and we are very grateful to them for all of their support.

There are some very kind individuals and businesses who have made financial contributions to DASP Music this year to allow us to run particular projects (such as our Young Musician Festival and Minority Instrument Funding Scheme) or support individuals with their music-making, and we thank them for their generosity. We are continuously grateful for all of the parents who support our concerts and fundraising in order that we can continue to provide these wonderful opportunities year after year.

Although the outlook is uncertain at this present time, we look forward to the time when we can create more fantastic music making with your children in 2020-21!