

The spring term has certainly been a busy one! Not only have there been further developments with supporting some of the first schools with their curriculum music, but we have also had three big events held at the Hardye Theatre, involving around 800 children from 20 schools. As you may be aware, many of the DASP schools are now part of the Wessex MAT and it is likely that over the coming months, the work that we do will start to use the 'Wessex' heading. We will of course still work with all of the schools who have traditionally fallen under the DASP umbrella, but we will also be welcoming some other schools into our family of schools.

Just after half-term, we held the first ever 'Wessex MAT Music Festival', where 160 students took part in a variety of workshops and performances. At the end of February, we held our annual 'Year 4 Concerts' (3 concerts, 450 children!) and just last week we hosted a wonderful Musical Theatre workshop with visiting professionals from the West End.

It has been wonderful to see so many young people enjoying performing this term and equally wonderful to see such supportive audiences! Read on to find out what we have planned for the rest of the year....

Hanna Trevorrow
Head of DASP Music

www.daspmusic.co.uk



Musical Theatre Workshop, March 2023

DASP Christmas Concert



We had an unexpected visitor to the DASP Christmas Concert back in December! As the DASP Youth Orchestra were about to perform, the stage was stormed by a dalek! St Osmund's student, Joseph Wyr, had made an amazing replica and it was the perfect opportunity to show it off! There were many fantastic performances and it was so wonderful to be back in the theatre doing our first big Christmas Concert since Covid. Thanks to all who took helped and took part!

DASP Arts Fest Returns!



On Saturday 20th May, we are planning on holding an all-day arts festival. We ran something similar in 2019 and we thought it was about time we did it again! There will be performances (music, dance and drama), workshops, 'come and try' sessions, refreshments and much more. More information to follow, but please make a note of the date!

Charminster fiddlers perform!



Miss Greenwood, who teaches violin at several DASP schools, took her 15 violin players at Charminster into assembly to perform, this term. The concert was watched by the whole school and many proud parents. It's wonderful that we have so many young violinists in just one first school! Well done to all of them for performing so well!

Wessex MAT Music Festival



In February we held the inaugural 'Wessex MAT Music Festival'. This day included 5 schools (Thomas Hardy, St Osmund's, Dorchester Middle, St Mary's Middle and Purbeck Secondary) with students from years 5-12 taking part. The day consisted of a body-percussion warm-up session, followed by three different workshops; orchestra, choir and rock band, with about 60 students in each group. At the end of the day, all of the students performed to each other and there was also the opportunity to hear some of the more established THS ensembles.

The orchestra focussed on the piece *A Night on the Bare Mountain* by Mussorgsky. The choir learnt an acapella version of *Duffy's Mercy* and a 3-part harmony version of *Fix You* by Cold Play. The Rock bands focussed on learning *Green Onions* and *Wipeout*, and did some work on improvisation. For some of the students, it was the first time that they had had the opportunity to work with such a large group of musicians before. It was wonderful to see students from across the five schools working together and supporting each other so well. We very much hope this is the start of an annual event! [Click here to see a summary video of the day.](#)

Year 4 Concerts



At the end of February, we held our annual Year 4 concerts. 450 children came together, from all 14 DASP first/primary schools, over 3 nights to perform for family and friends, at The Thomas Hardy School Theatre. As mentioned previously, this was the first time we have been able to run this project 'as normal' since Covid, and it was really lovely to see all the Year 4s back in the Hardy Theatre. This year, the theme of the concerts was 'Peace and Friendship'. Songs included *Can You Feel the Love Tonight* from the Lion King, *One and a Million* and Ed Sheeran's *What do I Know*. The concerts formed the showcase finale of weeks of hard work by the students. Mrs Trevorrow had visited each school, three times, over the preceding 6 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

DASP Music Teachers in Spring Concert

Several of our DASP Music teachers are involved in a concert with local orchestra, Dorset Sinfonia, next weekend. Mrs Wolff will be performing as soloist, whilst the orchestra will be conducted by Mr Ansell and led by Miss Greenwood. Please consider going along to what I'm sure will be an enjoyable evening of music!

Stringalings at Weymouth Music Festival



Congratulations to the DASP Stringalings, led by Rachel Greenwood, who were highly commended after their performance at the Weymouth Music Festival at the start of March. Several other children from DASP took part in the festival, performing individually or in small groups and we would like to say a big 'well done' to them all too. Playing in a festival is a great way to gain experience of playing in front of an audience, without the pressure of having to 'pass' and exam. A special mention to these students who were all highly commended and invited to perform at the Festival concert: Isabella Hill (Manor Park), Myeongsuk Ha (St Osmund's), Tamsin Rake (THS), Danny Davy (DMS), Joe Ansell (DMS), Mia Wright (THS) and Lydia Norbury (THS). Thank you to all staff who supported our students to take part.



DORSET SINFONIA
A Spring SYMPHONY

BEETHOVEN
6th Symphony (Pastoral) / Romance No. 2 in F

BRAHMS
Hungarian Dance No. 5

TCHAIKOVSKY
Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture

Conductor: David Ansell Leader: Rachel Greenwood
Soloist: Johanna Wolff

SATURDAY MARCH 25th at 7.30pm
St Mary's Church, Weymouth DT4 8PU

TICKETS ADULTS £10, Under 16s free. Available on the door and to book via www.ticketsource.co.uk/dorset-sinfonia/t-gajazov or QR code

Gabrieli Roar



On 29th November, 85 students from Thomas Hardy and the three middle schools took part in a spectacular performance at Portsmouth Cathedral as part of the Gabrieli Roar project. The project involved 3,000 young singers participating in eight performances across the country, alongside the Gabrieli Consort's world-class musicians. The concert, entitled 'In Dulci Jubilo', was a Christmastide treat featuring the spectacular flamboyant polychoral music of Michael Praetorius in belated celebration of the 400th anniversary of the great composer's death. The students all performed magnificently and it was a wonderful opportunity to experience working with these professional musicians up-close.

Musical Theatre Workshop



On 6th March, we were lucky enough to be visited by four visiting professional Musical Theatre actors. The professionals worked with 140 students from across 6 schools throughout the day and then performed with the students in an evening show for parents. Throughout the day, the students rehearsed six numbers, complete with choreography. Several students also had the opportunity to work 1:1 with the professionals to gain some input on solo and duet work. It was a very tiring day, but the amount that the students achieved was phenomenal.

Thank you to all of the staff who worked with the students in preparation for this experience and thank you to all the students for showing such dedication and professionalism! We hope to be able to repeat this event again in the future. Videos of this event will be available to view on the DASP Music website very soon.

Join a DASP Music Ensemble!

Students who play in groups often make quicker progress than those who don't, and also benefit from developing other musical and social skills. There are many instrumental and vocal ensembles available in the middle schools and at Hardyes (there are groups of various different genres suitable for all instruments, including guitars, drummers and pianists!).

In addition to the free offer of ensembles available in the schools, DASP Music is also able to offer a selection of cross-school ensembles.

We are currently looking for new students to join our ensembles after Easter.

Weds

4pm - 4.50pm *Stringalings (Training Strings) (Grade 0-2) @THS*

4pm - 4.50pm *Bandemonium (Training Windband) (Grade 0-2) @THS*

5pm - 6.00pm *DASP Youth Orchestra (approx Grade 2+) @THS*

Thursday

3:45 - 4:30pm *Skylarks Choir (Years 2-4) @ Prince of Wales*

Friday

4pm - 5pm *Nightingales Choir (Years 5-8) @ THS*

If you think your child might be interested in joining one of these groups, please complete an online [application form](#)

If your child learns an instrument or plays in a group and is looking for some further inspiration, please consider bringing them along to the Hardyes Spring Fundraiser Concert – open to all!



The Thomas Hardye School Presents

Spring Fundraiser Concert

Featuring performances by all
the school ensembles & choirs



WEDS 22 MARCH 2023
7:30PM, THE THOMAS HARDYE THEATRE
FREE ENTRY, RETIRING COLLECTION TO
FUND SCHOOL MUSIC ENSEMBLES