



Sutton Music Service

Annual Report

September 2008 – July 2009

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FOREWORD

Sutton Music Service (SMS) is part of the Children, Young People and Learning Services (CYPLS) of the London Borough of Sutton (LBS), within the School Improvement Service (SIS). The Music Service is based at Wandle Valley School in Carshalton and provides advice and support for schools, parents and for pupils learning musical instruments.

The Whole Class Instrumental Tuition (WCIT) at KS2 Programme has been successfully delivered to pupils in 12 schools. This scheme has expanded every year, since 2003. In addition to woodwind, strings and brass, SMS introduced a 'world music' programme in 2008-9.

Other new initiatives in 2008-9 include the Musical Passport, which was introduced by SMS in July 2009, as a mechanism to track student involvement during transition from KS2 to KS3.

Building on the success of Saturday Music School, a key area for expansion will be to establish the Wednesday Music School.

In June 2009, SMS were visited by a Music Service Evaluation Partner (MSEP), as part of the Federation of Music Services evaluation programme, funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). As part of this process, comments and feedback from all stakeholders were sought. Evidence shows strong support for SMS and recognition of its values and strengths. SMS is well regarded by schools, pupils, parents, staff and volunteers. The overall effectiveness of SMS was judged to be good with some outstanding features.

Nigel Hiscock
Head of Sutton Music Service
November 2009

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1. Whole Class Instrumental Tuition

Following the Government's pledge in 2000 that '...over time, all pupils in primary schools who wish to, will have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument...', SMS launched WCIT pilot programmes in two schools in 2003, expanding to four schools in 2005. This number has continued to increase each year.

In 2008-09 SMS welcomed two additional schools to the WCIT scheme. A wide range of programmes were delivered to nearly 1000 children in 12 schools across the Borough: Abbey Primary, Barrow Hedges Primary, Brookfield Primary, Cheam Common Junior, Dorchester Primary, High View Primary, Nonsuch Primary, Robin Hood Junior, Stanley Park Junior, St Elphege's Catholic Junior, Tweeddale Primary and Westbourne Primary.

Programmes are delivered to years four and five and feature woodwind, brass, strings or world music instruments. Each programme is delivered by highly specialist instrumental tutors from SMS, working alongside the classroom teachers. Sessions are planned, organised and delivered in line with the requirements of the National Curriculum. At the end of the programme, children should be able to make an informed choice as to how they want to develop their new musical skills.

Programme	Number of Pupils
Woodwind	112
Brass	350
Strings	384
World Music	118
	964

Table 1: Number of pupils following each WCIT programme

The feedback from schools has been universally enthusiastic. Comments from Headteachers and Music Co-ordinators have included:

"Parents and Governors are very impressed with the quality produced by the children. The children have had a very rich and varied music curriculum."

"Children have worked as a team and have been proud of their performances."

"The programme is fantastic and gives every child the opportunity to play an instrument."

All schools involved with WCIT were invited to perform at the inaugural Key Stage 2 Instrumental Music Festival which was held at Fairfield Halls on Thursday 25th June. For more information regarding this event please refer to the event highlights.

In the coming years, this programme will impact significantly on the work of the Music Service and in the profile of music in many primary schools. 12% of pupils who received WCIT in 07-08 continued to learn an instrument in school in 08-09. A number of these pupils became members of an SMS ensemble during the year.

2. Instrumental Tuition in Schools

During the year, SMS appointed a further eight tutors to its panel of approved tutors. 12 schools used the Approved Instrumental Tuition scheme to either replace existing tutors or extend the range/capacity of tuition in their schools. 36 different positions were successfully filled, 7 of which were entirely new positions.

3. Music In Schools Survey

Aims

The aims of the survey were to give Sutton Music Service (SMS) an accurate account of instrumental music taking place in schools and to access data to assist with DCSF returns.

Methodology

In February 2009 SMS wrote to all LBS maintained Infant, Junior, Primary and Secondary schools asking them to complete a survey of Instrumental Music taking place in school. In total, 28 replies were received representing 54% of Infant, Junior and Primary Schools and 43% of Secondary Schools.

Findings

Primary

- Instrumental teaching is taking place in 82% of the 22 Primary Schools that responded
- The number of pupils learning an instrument in each school ranges from 4 to 173 pupils
- The most popular instrument was the violin which was learnt by 234 (26.7%) pupils

Instrument	Number of Pupils
Violin	234
Piano/Keyboard	151
Guitar	124
Flute	79
Recorder	73
Trumpet	59
Drum Kit/Percussion	57
Clarinet	44
Cello	33
French Horn	6
Baritone	5
Saxophone	4
Trombone	4
Oboe	1
Cornet	1
Double Bass	1
TOTAL	876

Table to show number of pupils learning each instrument in Infant, Junior and Primary Schools that responded

- Ensembles were provided at 19 of the 22 schools (NB 2 of the 3 schools where there was no ensemble activity were Infant schools)
- 1600 pupils rehearsed and performed with 45 school Ensembles/Choirs throughout the year
- The number of pupils attending each ensemble ranged from 9 – 80
- The number of minutes of National Curriculum Music varied a great deal across all year groups in Primary Schools:

	Reception	Yr1	Yr2	Yr3	Yr4	Yr5	Yr6
Average	54	58	60	56	56	57	57
Range	0 - 150	30 - 120	30 - 120	30 - 85	30 - 90	30 - 85	30 - 85

Table to show the number of minutes taught in National Curriculum Music lessons

Secondary

- Instrumental teaching is taking place in 100% of the 6 Secondary Schools that responded
- The number of pupils learning an instrument in each school ranges from 46 to 190 pupils

- The most popular instrument was the guitar which was learnt by 158 (23%) Pupils

Instrument	Number of Pupils
Guitar	158
Piano/Keyboard	124
Voice	117
Drum Kit/Percussion	75
Violin	57
Flute	47
Clarinet	30
Sax	29
Trumpet	15
Oboe	12
Trombone	11
Cello	7
French Horn	4
Double Bass	1
TOTAL	687

Table to show number of pupils learning each instrument in Secondary Schools that responded

- Ensembles were provided at all 6 of the schools that responded
- 861 pupils rehearsed and performed with 40 school Ensembles/Choirs throughout the year
- The number of pupils attending each ensemble ranged from 5 – 200
- The number of minutes of National Curriculum Music varied a great deal across all year groups in Secondary Schools:

	Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	Yr11	Yr12	Yr13
Average	63	70	80	153	143	245	245
Range	45 - 90	60 - 90	60 - 120	120 - 180	120 - 180	180 - 270	180 - 270

Table to show the number of minutes taught in National Curriculum Music lessons

Conclusions

This survey shows that there is a vast amount of instrumental and vocal music taking place within schools.

The number of pupils taking part in an ensemble is greater than the number receiving instrumental tuition in school. This indicates that ensembles are open to those receiving tuition outside school, such as through a Borough Music Service or privately.

4. SMS Ensembles

During the year, SMS offered a variety of ensembles for orchestral and band instrumentalists. These ranged from the Young Musicians String Group (YMSG), aimed at beginners, to the Sutton Youth Symphony Orchestra (SYSO), a full sized symphony orchestra catering for pupils of the highest ability. Over 350 pupils (an increase of 7% from 07-08) attended an SMS ensemble and players' ages range from young primary school children to university students. The ensembles are a great way to enjoy music making and to make new friends.

Young Musicians String Group – (YMSG)

YMSG members are beginners with a minimum of two terms' experience of learning their instrument. The group rehearses for one hour every week on a Monday evening (term-time) and consists of violins, violas, cellos and double basses. When sufficiently experienced, and upon the recommendation of the conductor and tutors, members of YMSG move on to Young Musicians Training Orchestra (YMTO). The ensemble performed in end of term concerts at St. Mark's Church, Purley on 24th November and 23rd March and at Dorking Halls on 5th July. YMSG were also invited to perform at the Seacombe Centre on 19th May as part of the Stanley Park Juniors Music Extravaganza.

Young Musicians Training Orchestra – (YMTO)

This is the first full orchestra for young players of string, woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. The orchestra rehearses for one hour every week on Monday evenings (term-time) and performs a wide ranging repertoire including classical, film and pop music. Upon the recommendation of the conductor and tutors, members can join the Young Musicians Orchestra (YMO). The ensemble performed in end of term concerts at St. Mark's Church, Purley on 24th November and 23rd March and at Dorking Halls on 5th July.

Young Musicians Orchestra – (YMO)

This orchestra has the same instrumentation as YMTO but performs a more challenging repertoire that includes music of many different styles. The ensemble rehearses weekly for 2 hours on a Friday evening (term-time). With sufficient experience, and upon the recommendation of the conductor and tutors, players can audition to join Sutton Youth Symphony Orchestra (SYSO). The ensemble performed in end of term concerts at St. Mark's Church, Purley on 27th November and 26th March and at Dorking Halls on 5th July.

Sutton Youth Symphony Orchestra – (SYSO)

SYSO is a full symphony orchestra for advanced orchestral instrumentalists and all players are required to audition. The repertoire is demanding and varied and

senior players are often invited to perform solo concertos with the orchestra. The orchestra rehearses weekly for 2.5 hours every Friday evening (term-time). The orchestra takes part in annual European concert tours (year 9+) and regularly plays at prestigious venues in the UK. The orchestra performed in end of term concerts at St. Mark's Church, Purley on 28th November, All Saints Church, Carshalton on 27th March and at Dorking Halls on 5th July.

SYSO performed the following repertoire throughout the year:

Karelia Suite – Jean Sibelius
Cello Concerto No.1 – Camille Saint-Saens
Symphony No.9 – Antonin Dvorak
Peterloo Overture – Malcolm Arnold
Capriccio Espagnol – Nicoli Rimsky-Korsakov
Symphony No.3 “Organ” – Camille Saint-Saens
Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra – Benjamin Britten
Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story* – Leonard Bernstein

Sutton Youth Training Band – (SYTB)

SYTB is for woodwind, brass and percussion instrumentalists and performs a wide-ranging repertoire. Members should have a minimum of two terms' experience of learning their instrument. The ensemble rehearses for one hour every week on Monday evenings (term-time). When sufficiently experienced, and upon the recommendation of the conductor and tutors, players move on to Sutton Youth Symphonic Band (SYSB). The ensemble performed in end of term concerts at St. Mark's Church, Purley on 24th November and 23rd March and at Dorking Halls on 5th July.

Sutton Youth Symphonic Band – (SYSB)

SYSB includes the same instrumentation as the Training Band. The level of playing is higher with a varied repertoire that includes film, TV and show music, jazz and swing, as well as traditional wind band compositions and arrangements. The ensemble rehearses for one hour every week on Tuesday evenings (term-time). When players have reached an appropriate standard, and upon the recommendation of the conductor and tutors, they can join Sutton Youth Wind Orchestra (SYWO). The ensemble performed in end of term concerts at St. Mark's Church, Purley on 25th November and 24th March and at Dorking Halls on 5th July.

Sutton Youth Wind Orchestra – (SYWO)

SYWO is for advanced woodwind, brass and percussion players. The repertoire is challenging and extremely varied including arrangements and original works for wind band drawn from many styles of music. The ensemble rehearses for 2 hours every week on Tuesday evenings (term-time). SYWO takes part in annual

European concert tours and has performed at many prestigious venues in the UK. The ensemble performed in end of term concerts at St. Mark's Church, Purley on 25th November and 24th March and at Dorking Halls on 5th July.

SYWO performed the following repertoire throughout the year:

Prelude for an Occasion – Edward Gregson

Miss Saigon – Claude-Michel Schoenberg arr. Warren Barker

Tall Ships – Ron Goodwin

Paris Sketches – Martin Ellerby

Sleigh Ride – Leroy Anderson arr. James Curnow

Prelude for Youth – Ralf Uhl

Chorale and Shaker Dance – John Zdechlik

Music-Hall Suite – Marcel Peeters/Bob Gay

Indiana Jones Selection – John Williams arr. Hans Van Der Heide

Stephenson's Rocket – Nigel Hess

Highlights from *Moulin Rouge* – arr. Michael Brown

Seven Years in Tibet – John Williams arr. John Moss

Circus Ring – Paul Hart

King Kong Soundtrack Highlights – James Newton arr Jay Bocock

Toccatina in D Minor – J S Bach arr. Ray Farr and Kevin Lamb

Ensemble	Number of Pupils
YMSG	39
YMTO	50
YMO	66
SYSO	61
SYTB	47
SYSB	52
SYWO	64
	379

Table 2: Number of pupils attending each SMS ensemble in 2008-09

There are 379 pupils playing the following instruments:

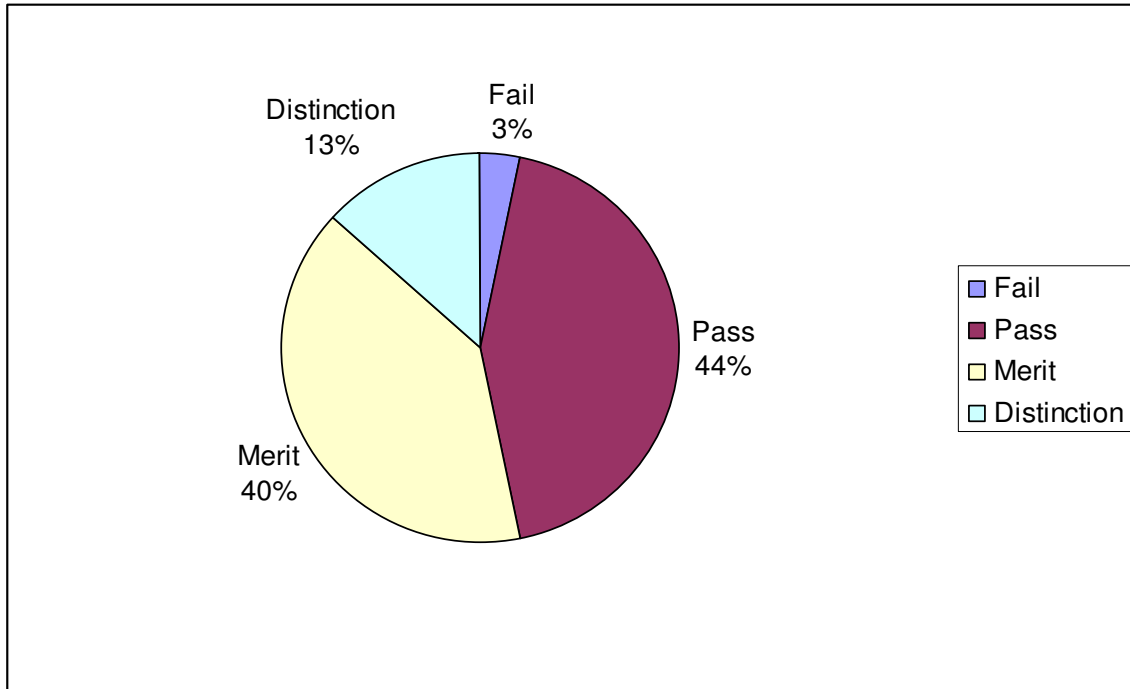
Instrument	Number of Pupils
Violin	82
Viola	18
Cello	25
Double Bass	8
Flute	43
Oboe	15
Clarinet	38
Bassoon	5
Saxophone	15
French Horn	25
Trumpet	54
Trombone	20
Baritone	3
Euphonium	1
Tuba	5
Percussion	22
	379

Table 3: Number of pupils playing each instrument in SMS ensembles in 2008-09

5. Saturday Music School

Saturday Music School was established in January 2000 with funds from what was then the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE). Based at Wandle Valley School, the Music School takes place on Saturday mornings and provides lessons on viola, double bass, oboe, bassoon, french horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba and percussion. There is also a Percussion Ensemble which is open to pupils who are having lessons on percussion at Saturday Music School or elsewhere. The highly subsidised cost of £35 per term also incorporates theory and aural tuition as well as instrument hire where necessary. All pupils are required to join a borough ensemble after a period of two terms' tuition.

An additional french horn tutor was appointed in September 2008, to give more pupils the opportunity to have lessons at Saturday Music School. During this academic year 10 tutors delivered over 1000 hours of instrumental tuition to over 80 pupils at Saturday Music School and 180 hours of theory and aural training were given. 30 Saturday Music School students took either instrumental or theory examinations – the results were Pass = 13, Pass with Merit = 12, Pass with Distinction = 4.



This chart shows examination results for Saturday Music School pupils during 2008-09

Saturday Music School Percussion Ensemble were featured during the SMS Autumn Concert Week. Selected Saturday Music School pupils were showcased as soloists during the Spring Concert Week. Furthermore, several pupils attended the Junior Guildhall Big Bassoon Day at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama on Saturday 14th February.

Saturday Music School end of term concerts featured over fifty pupils. All pupils were invited to participate in an improvised composition workshop led by Claire Hasted and Michael Poyser to end the summer term.

6. Event Highlights

The Mahler Orchestra

On 5th and 6th September the Music Service hosted rehearsals for The Mahler Orchestra. 22 current or former members of Sutton Youth Symphony Orchestra, along with 8 members of staff joined forces with former members of The Surrey Mahler Orchestra to rehearse Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 6*, conducted by Keith Willis and *Pines of Rome* by Ottorino Respighi, conducted by Nigel Hiscock. A performance of these works was given on 7th September at Farnham Maltings.

It is planned that the Music Service will host rehearsals for the 2009 Mahler Orchestra when the programme will include Mahler's *Symphony No.7*, conducted

by Keith Willis and the Overture from Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, conducted by Nigel Hiscock.

Halls Green Residential Weekends

For several years SMS have organised residential weekends to the Halls Green Activity Centre near Sevenoaks in Kent for pupils in years 3 – 9. Since its formation this weekend has increased in popularity, therefore this year SMS ran two residential weekends aimed at different age groups.

The first of these weekends was for pupils in years 7-9 and took place Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th October. The course was attended by 37 members of SMS ensembles and included at least one representative from every secondary school in the Borough. The young musicians performed as an orchestra and had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities, including a low ropes assault course, canoeing and raft building. The pupils gave the following feedback at the end of the weekend:

'I made a lot of new friends and really enjoyed the activities. I would love to come again.'

'This has been my first trip to Sevenoaks with Sutton Music Service and I have really enjoyed it. I had fun on the assault course and had a great time canoeing. I have made some great new friends and have really enjoyed the music. Thank you.'

'This has been my second visit to Sevenoaks. I thought it was really fun and I enjoyed all of the activities. It was a bit cold though!'

'It was amazing! I had a great time and made lots of new friends.'

'It was a great weekend, I really enjoyed the activities. I enjoyed playing music I had heard of before. The best part of the weekend was meeting people from other bands.'

This is the first time that SMS has staged a course of this sort purely for Years 7-9 and it is hoped that many of the players involved will be joining SMS for our European concert tours in the next couple of years.

The second weekend was attended by 42 pupils in years 3-6 and took place Friday 15th May – Sunday 17th May. The children performed a variety of music as an orchestra. Some pupils learnt jazz improvisation skills and everyone joined together to sing and dance to songs from High School Musical, accompanied by a staff band. The main purpose of the weekend was to allow time for the orchestra and band members to make friends through making music together and just having fun. Aside from music, other activities included swimming, arts

and crafts, a camp fire and the ever popular assault course. This weekend remains popular with the youngest pupils:

'It was fun, creative and overall brilliant. I loved making new friends'

'It was really fun at Halls Green. I have come here before but this time it was even better. All the staff are very nice – they always look out for you. The food is lovely as well.'

'I have really enjoyed my time at Halls Green. I loved the assault course because there are loads of obstacles and I have enjoyed making music with my friends'

Autumn and Spring Term Concert Weeks

SMS Ensembles performed in the end of term concert weeks held at St. Mark's Church, Purley and All Saints Church, Carshalton. Over 370 young people took part in the 8 concerts that were given during the weeks of 24th – 28th November and 23rd – 27th March.

In addition to the regular Borough Ensembles the Sutton Youth Brass Ensemble, Sutton Junior Brass Ensemble and Saturday Music School Percussion Ensemble were also featured during the Autumn Concert Week. Selected Saturday Music School and SYSO pupils were showcased as soloists during the Spring Concert Week.

London Welsh Brass Ensemble Christmas Performances

On 17th and 18th December the London Welsh Brass Ensemble gave 7 concerts in 5 schools across the Borough: Barrow Hedges Primary, Cheam Common Infants, Cheam Common Juniors, Cheam Park Farm Infants and St. Cecilia's RC Primary. In two of the schools the ensemble performed with pupils receiving instrumental tuition within school. The concerts were designed to demonstrate the brass instruments and to promote brass playing within schools.

Sutton Youth Brass Ensemble Christmas Busking

A brass ensemble formed of players and tutors from our SMS ensembles were invited to perform festive music in Sutton town centre on 19th, 22nd and 23rd December. The performance attracted large crowds of enthusiastic shoppers who gave generously towards Sutton Youth Music Supporters Association (SYMSA). This is the third occasion that the brass players have given up their time over the Christmas period to raise money for SYMSA and this year they exceeded funds raised in the previous year by collecting nearly £1200.

Music for Youth

Sutton Youth Brass Ensemble participated in a regional event of the National Festival of Music for Youth at Morley College on Monday 23rd February. The ensemble performed a short programme consisting of *Comedy Tonight*, *Trumpet Voluntary* and *Just a Closer Walk*.

Key Stage 1 Music Festival

On Monday 9th March, over 400 excited 5 and 6 year old pupils took to the stage of Fairfield Halls, Croydon to take part in the London Borough of Sutton Key Stage 1 Music Festival. The theme for the evening was 'Enchanted' and each school had prepared an individual item to perform to the packed auditorium, as well as several massed choir items conducted by Nigel Hiscock, Head of Music Service. The event was designed to showcase music making within schools for the younger years and was organised by a committee headed by Rachel Jacob, Headteacher of Stanley Park Infants School.

The schools that participated in the Festival were: All Saints Benhilton Primary, All Saints Carshalton Primary, Bandon Hill Primary, Barrow Hedges Primary, Beddington Infants, Culvers House Primary, Foresters Primary, Robin Hood Infants, Stanley Park Infants, St Elphege's Catholic Federated Schools and St Mary's Infants.

Sutton Youth Jazz Orchestra also performed in this event. 17 members of the Sutton Youth Wind Orchestra and Sutton Youth Symphony Orchestra were invited to join this ensemble along with 5 members of staff. The Jazz Orchestra were led by leading Jazz Trombonist Jon Stokes. The ensemble performed a number of pieces including *American Patrol*, *Jumping Jack Jive*, *Oh Lady Be Good*, *Spain* and *Say What?*

Flute Workshop

On Saturday 25th April, Sutton Music Service hosted a free event for all flautists in association with the organisation Flutewise. This event followed the success of other instrument specific workshops hosted by the Music Service and was attended by 39 pupils of all ages.

Schools Concert Day

On Tuesday 16th June, 61 members of YMTO and SYSB performed to appreciative pupils from All Saints Carshalton, Camden Junior and St Mary's R C Junior. The two concerts took place at All Saints Church, Carshalton. The orchestra and band introduced the children to various styles of music ranging from classical to film music, as well as demonstrating how each instrument works and what the role of a conductor is. Some pupils who have been learning an

instrument at school through the WCIT programme had the opportunity to play with the orchestra, while others had a go at conducting.

Key Stage 2 Instrumental Music Festival

SMS held its first ever festival for KS2 Instrumentalists at Croydon's Fairfield Hall on Thursday 25th June. Over 400 young musicians performed, with the majority drawn from schools participating in WCIT projects.

The schools that participated in the festival were Abbey Primary, Barrow Hedges Primary, Brookfield Primary, Cheam Common Junior, Dorchester Primary, Federation of St Elphege's, Nonsuch Primary, Robin Hood Junior and Stanley Park Junior.

The concert also featured guest choirs from All Saints CofE Primary School, Carshalton and Federation of St Elphege's, as well as Sutton Youth Brass Ensemble, conducted by Nigel Hiscock.

Dorking Halls

On Sunday 5th July, SMS staged two end of term concerts at Dorking Halls. The afternoon concert featured the junior and intermediate level ensembles who were well received by a capacity audience. The evening concert was shared by the two senior ensembles: SYSO and SYWO. Over 370 young people performed in the concerts.

Summer Concert Tour

78 young musicians from SMS ensembles went on the Summer concert tour to Rome and Florence in Italy. Appearing as Sutton Youth Concert Band, conducted by Neil Thomas, and Sutton Youth Concert Orchestra, conducted by Nigel Hiscock the young musicians gave concerts in Piazza Navona in Rome, Norcenni Girasole in Tuscanny and finally in beautiful Piazza Santa Croce in the heart of Florence. The ensembles performed a wide variety of music, ranging from original compositions to arrangements of popular movie soundtracks for both symphony and wind orchestra.

In previous years summer tours have visited a wide range of countries including the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Holland, Spain and Switzerland. It is anticipated that the 2010 Summer Concert Tour will be to Prague in the Czech Republic.

7. Music Service Evaluation

During the year all Music Services were visited by a Music Service Evaluation Partner (MSEP) as part of the Federation of Music Services (FMS) evaluation programme funded by the DCSF. In June, the MSEP appointed by FMS observed a wide range of SMS activities and judged the overall effectiveness of the Service to be good with outstanding features:

“Sutton Music Service is an effective organisation that supports the partnership of schools and other London music services. Leadership is strong and management is well informed and equipped to meet the needs of all stakeholders. The provision of ensembles is strong and meets the needs of all levels of playing. Students have access to regular performance opportunities.”

8. Parents Survey

Aims

The aims of the survey were to give Sutton Music Service (SMS) an accurate account of parents views regarding a number of aspects of the service.

Methodology

Questionnaires were distributed to parents attending the end of term concert at Dorking Halls on 5th July 2009. 84 replies were received which represents 35% of parents with a child in an ensemble.

Findings

- 74% of parents who responded strongly agree that their child enjoyed being a member of a borough ensemble
- 25% of parents who responded are parents of a child who attends Saturday Music School. All parents agree or strongly agree that their child enjoys attending Saturday Music School, 86% strongly agree with this statement
- 39% of parents who responded hire an instrument from the music service. All parents agree or strongly agree that they were satisfied with the Instrument Hire Service, 88% strongly agree with this statement
- 66% of parents who responded strongly agree that that the billing system is effective
- 100% of parents who responded agree or strongly agree that the Music Service provides good value for money, 78% strongly agree with this statement

- 63% of parents who responded have visited the Music Service Website, 97% agree or strongly agree that the website is useful and informative
- 100% of parents who responded would recommend the services provided by Sutton Music Service to other parents and carers.

Conclusions

The survey shows that parents view Sutton Music Service in a positive light and share these views with others. A range of suggestions were made by parents which will be discussed by the management team.

9. Edith Murphy Foundation

SYMSA has been awarded a grant which will enable young people from low-income families in the London Borough of Sutton to learn to play an orchestral instrument. The Edith Murphy Foundation provides funding that will enable a child to have group or individual lessons at school, hire an instrument if required and after two or three terms of tuition join one of the Borough ensembles. The scheme is available to low-income families in receipt of Income Support or similar benefits.

10. Instrument Hire & Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme

SMS runs a very successful instrument hire scheme, hiring over 1,000 instruments to parents of pupils at London Borough of Sutton maintained schools. During this academic year, 369 instruments were hired out to parents and carers for the first time.

SMS offers an Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme which enables students who receive tuition at a Local Authority maintained school or at the Saturday Music School to purchase a new instrument. These instruments are VAT exempt.

11. Student Council

The Student Council meets once a term and is a forum for the members of the Borough ensembles to voice their opinions. Every year, each of the ensembles elects two representatives to sit on the Council.

In collaboration with the Sutton Youth Music Supporters Association the Student council staged a BBQ and Ceilidh for all members on Saturday 11th July 2009.

12. Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

South West London Music Services Joint Staff Training

Once again members of SMS staff were invited to join with colleagues from 6 other South West London Music Services to take part in the Instrumental and Vocal Teaching Conference held at Braithwaite Hall in Croydon on Friday 12th September. Members were addressed by the Chief Executive of the Federation of Music Services, John Witchell and National Music Participation Director Dick Hallam MBE.

Members were also given the opportunity to attend a variety of seminars. The subject areas included: An Introduction to Wider Opportunities, Teaching Children with Special Educational Needs, Using Sibelius Software and Connecting to Young Peoples' Music.

KS2 Open University/Trinity Guildhall CPD Programme

In September 2007 the Open University and Trinity Guildhall launched their Key Stage 2 CPD programme. The main aim of the course was to improve professional practice at KS2 within the context of whole class instrumental and vocal work. Two members of SMS staff are mentors of this programme.

Primary Music Co-ordinators Network Meetings

The Music Service once again staged termly meetings for Primary Music Co-ordinators. These meetings are designed to give Primary Music Co-ordinators further training and to enable them to share experiences with colleagues.

Secondary Schools Networks Meetings

These also took place termly with similar aims to the Primary Music Co-ordinators Network Meetings.

13. Website Development

The SMS website, www.suttonmusicservice.org.uk was re-launched in May 2008 and has continued to provide information for pupils, parents/carers, staff and schools on all aspects of the work of the music service. In the last twelve months, the website has received 13304 visits from 4395 unique visitors. On average, the website is visited 36 times a day for around four and a half minutes per visit. The most popular download from the website remains an ensembles application form while 244 people downloaded last year's Annual Report.

During the year, the website was developed to include a password protected staff area which allows staff to access a wide range of relevant information and documents.



Website home page

14. Sutton Youth Music Supporters Association

SYMSA is a registered charity which was created ten years ago to support Sutton Music Service in its aim to bring music to the young people of the Borough. Parents and carers of our players are all SYMSA members and the SYMSA committee encourages every family to become involved. The SYMSA committee and many of the members play a significant role at rehearsals and concerts, on tours abroad with our senior players and at weekends organised for our younger players. Committee members are elected annually in October and SYMSA welcome all new members.

15. Glossary of Terms

CPD – Continuous Professional Development

EMF – Edith Murphy Fund

FMS – Federation of Music Services

KS1 – Key Stage 1

KS2 – Key Stage 2

MSEP – Music Service Evaluation Partner

SMS – Sutton Music Service

SYMSA – Sutton Youth Music Supporters Association

SYSB – Sutton Youth Symphonic Band

SYTB – Sutton Youth Training Band

SYSO – Sutton Youth Symphony Orchestra

SYWO – Sutton Youth Wind Orchestra

WCIT – Whole Class Instrumental Tuition

YMO – Young Musicians Orchestra

YMSG – Young Musicians String Group

YMTO – Young Musicians Training Orchestra