



Sutton Music Service

Annual Report

September 2007 – July 2008

FOREWORD

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

There are a range of programmes in schools including Whole Class Instrumental Tuition, which has widened the opportunity to learn an instrument to many more children in Primary schools. This scheme has expanded every year to include more schools, since the launch of the initiative in 2003. In addition, the Approved Instrumental Tuition provides instrumental teachers to schools, as required.

The Music Service runs seven different ensembles to allow children of all ages to experience music-making together and to develop as musicians. All members of ensembles have the opportunity to learn to play a wide range of music, to perform at the end of term and to take part in a residential trip. The senior pupils also have the opportunity to take part in a summer tour abroad.

In 1999 the Saturday Music School was established, providing subsidised lessons on instruments not commonly taught in schools and this has proved highly successful. Music theory and aural lessons are also available.

An Instrument Hire scheme is available to allow any pupil having lessons at a Sutton School to hire an instrument on a termly basis. The Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme also allows students at London Borough of Sutton schools to purchase a new instrument.

The Music Service continues to grow annually and I am currently a member of the National Executive of the Federation of Music Services, representing the London Boroughs and a Music Service Evaluation Partner.

Nigel Hiscock
Head of Music Service
March 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...', Sutton Music Service launched Whole Class Instrumental Tuition pilot programmes in two schools in 2003, expanding to four schools in 2005.

In 2007-08 the Music Service delivered a range of programmes to over 800 children in 10 schools across the borough: Abbey Primary, Barrow Hedges Primary, Brookfield Primary, Cheam Common Junior, Dorchester Primary, Nonsuch Primary, Robin Hood Junior, Stanley Park Junior, St Elphege's RC Junior and Tweeddale Primary.

Programmes are pitched at years four and five and feature woodwind, brass, strings or world music instruments. Each programme is delivered by highly specialist instrumental tutors from Sutton Music Service, 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	133
Brass	302
Strings	270
World Music	108
	813

Table 1: Number of pupils following each WCIT programme

The feedback from schools has been universally enthusiastic. Comments from Head Teachers have included:

'The project is fantastic!'

'We are delighted...the children are thoroughly enjoying learning to play an instrument.....it is a great opportunity.'

'The children love it and are making great progress.'

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. Over 100 of the 813 pupils who experienced WCIT in 2007-08 have signed up to a continuation programme in 2008-09. Programmes will be delivered in a further 2 primary schools in 2008-09. A celebration of music making is to be held at Fairfield Halls in June 2009, to enable children involved in next year's programmes to join together to perform to each other the pieces they have been learning.

2. Ensembles

During the year, the Music Service 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 attended a Music Service ensemble, players' ages ranged 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)

String Group members are beginners with two terms' experience of learning their instrument. The group rehearses for one hour every week on a Monday evening and consists of violins, violas, cellos and double basses. When sufficiently experienced, and upon the recommendation of the conductor, members of YMSG move on to Young Musicians' Training Orchestra (YMTO). The ensemble performed in end of term concerts at Wallington Girls School on 8th December and 29th March and at Dorking Halls on 6th July.

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 and performs a wide-ranging repertoire including classical, film and pop music. Having gained Grade 3, and upon the recommendation of the conductor, members can join the Young Musicians' Orchestra (YMO). The ensemble performed in end of term concerts at Wallington Girls School on 8th December and 29th March and at Dorking Halls on 6th July.

On Monday 23rd June, forty members of YMTO spent the day performing to appreciative pupils at Barrow Hedges Primary School, Stanley Park Infants School and Stanley Park Junior School. The orchestra introduced the children to pop music through the ages; from Shakespearian, Victorian and modern times, 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 Whole Class Instrumental Tuition programme had the opportunity to play with the orchestra, while others had a go at conducting.

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. With sufficient experience, and upon the recommendation of the conductor, players can audition to join Sutton Youth Symphony Orchestra (SYSO). The ensemble performed in end of term concerts at Wallington Girls School on 8th December and 29th March and at Dorking Halls on 6th 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. This year's repertoire included Ralph Vaughan Williams' *A London Symphony* and *Symphony No. 5* by Dimitri Shostakovich, a variety of film soundtracks such as *Spiderman* and *Chronicles of Narnia* as well as Kabalewski's *Violin Concerto in C* and *Concerto for Viola d'amore* by Antonio Vivaldi performed by David Larkin and Felicity Myerscough respectively. The orchestra rehearses weekly for 2.5 hours every Friday evening. The orchestra takes part in annual European concert tours (year 9+) and regularly plays at prestigious venues including the Royal Albert Hall, Fairfield Halls and Dorking Halls. The orchestra performed in end of term concerts at Wallington Girls School on 7th December and 28th March and at Dorking Halls on 6th July.

Sutton Youth Training Band – (SYTB)

The Training Band is for woodwind and brass instrumentalists and performs a wide-ranging repertoire. Members should have two terms' experience of learning their instrument. The ensemble rehearses for one hour every week on Wednesday evenings. When sufficiently experienced, and upon the recommendation of the conductor, players move on to Sutton Youth Symphonic Band (SYSB). The ensemble performed in end of term concerts at Wallington Girls Schools on 9th December and 30th March and at Dorking Halls on 6th July.

Sutton Youth Symphonic Band – (SYSB)

The Symphonic Band includes the same instrumentation as the Training Band with the addition of percussion. 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. When players have reached an appropriate standard, and upon the recommendation of the conductor, they can join Sutton Youth Wind Orchestra (SYWO). The ensemble performed in end of term concerts at Wallington Girls Schools on 9th December and 30th March and at Dorking Halls on 6th July.

Sutton Youth Wind Orchestra – (SYWO)

This is the senior band 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. This year's repertoire included *East Coast Pictures* by Nigel Hess and Samuel Hazo's *Rush* as well as Danny Elfman's *Music for a Darkened Theatre* and *Opening Night on Broadway* arranged for band by Michael Brown. The ensemble rehearses for 2 hours every week on Tuesday evenings. SYWO takes part in annual European concert tours (year 9+) and has performed at many prestigious venues, including the Royal Albert Hall,

Fairfield Halls, Dorking Halls and Birmingham Symphony Hall. The ensemble performed in end of term concerts at Wallington Girls Schools on 9th December and 30th March and at Dorking Halls on 6th July. SYWO also performed at a Music for Youth Regional Festival held at Morely College in March.

Ensemble	Number of Pupils
Young Musicians' String Group	29
Young Musicians' Training Orchestra	41
Young Musicians' Orchestra	50
Sutton Youth Symphony Orchestra	70
Sutton Youth Training Band	34
Sutton Youth Symphonic Band	55
Sutton Youth Wind Orchestra	76
	355

Table 2: Number of pupils attending each ensemble in 2007-08

Those 355 students play the following instruments:

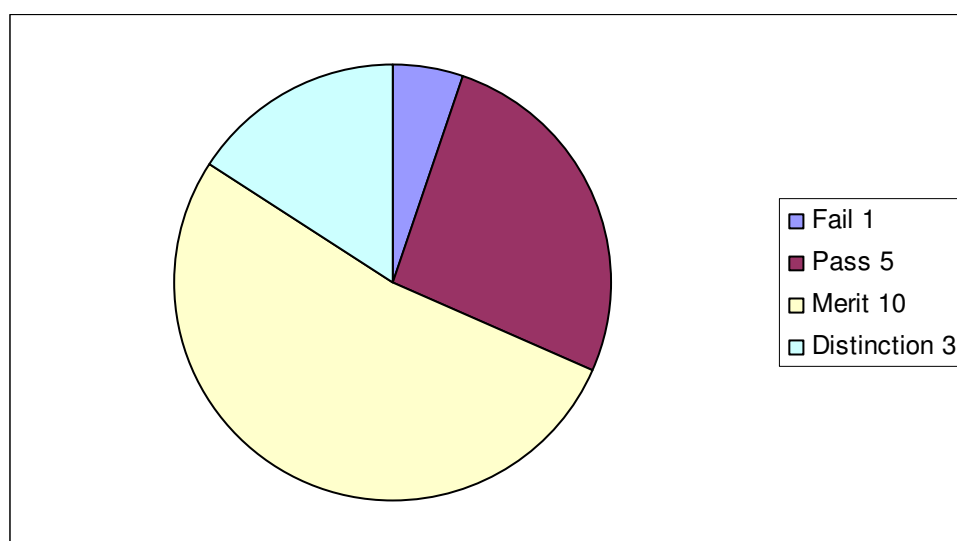
	TOTAL
Violin	76
Viola	14
Cello	23
Bass	4
Flute	48
Oboe	9
Clarinet	45
Bassoon	7
Saxophone	20
French Horn	18
Trumpet	52
Trombone	18
Euphonium/Baritone	3
Tuba	5
Percussion	13
	355

Table 3: Number of pupils playing each instrument in ensembles in 2007-08

3. Saturday Music School

Saturday Music School was established in 1999 with funds from what was then the Department for Education and Skills. 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 or drums 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.

During the year 10 tutors delivered over 800 hours of instrumental tuition to 70 pupils at Saturday Music School and 180 hours of theory and aural training were given. 19 Saturday Music School students took either instrumental or theory examinations. 53% of those students passed with merit and a further 16% passed with distinction.



This chart shows examination results for Saturday Music School pupils during 2007-08.

4. Instrumental Tuition in Schools

During the year, the Music Service appointed a further seven tutors to its panel of approved tutors. 18 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, 13 of which were entirely new positions

5. Event Highlights

The Mahler Orchestra

On 7th and 8th September the Music Service hosted rehearsals for The Mahler Orchestra. 23 current or former members of Sutton Youth Symphony Orchestra, along with 6 members of staff joined forces with former members of The Surrey Mahler Orchestra to rehearse Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 5 in C# minor* and *Fountains of Rome* by Ottorino Respighi. A performance of these works was given on 9th September at St. John's Church, Waterloo.

It is planned that the Music Service will host rehearsals for the 2008 Mahler Orchestra when the programme will include Mahler's *Symphony No. 6* and Respighi's *Pines of Rome*.

London Welsh Brass Performances

During the year the London Welsh Brass Ensemble gave 11 concerts in 9 schools across the Borough: All Saints C of E Primary (Carshalton), Cheam Fields Primary, Dorchester Primary, Hackbridge Primary, Manor Park Primary, St. Mary's RC Infants, Stanley Park Infants, Stanley Park Juniors, Westbourne Primary. The concerts were designed to demonstrate the brass instruments and to promote brass playing within schools.

Concert Weekends

All seven of the Borough ensembles participated in the end of term concert weekends held at Wallington High School for Girls. Over 350 young people took part in the 6 concerts that were given on the weekends of 7th, 8th and 9th of December 2007 and 28th, 29th of March 2008.

Jazz Orchestra

The Sutton Youth Jazz Orchestra met for a day of rehearsals on Sunday 2nd March and performed as part of the Key Stage 1 Music Festival at Fairfield Hall in Croydon. 20 members of the Sutton Youth Wind Orchestra and Sutton Youth Symphony Orchestra were invited to join this ensemble which was led by Jazz trumpeter Claude Deppa. It is anticipated that the Sutton Youth Jazz Orchestra will perform at the 2009 Key Stage 1 Festival.

Key Stage 1 Festival

On Monday 3rd March the Music Service hosted the inaugural Key Stage 1 Festival. The event was designed to showcase music making within schools for the younger years and was held at Fairfield Halls. The schools that took part were All Saints C of E Primary (Carshalton), Bandon Hill Primary, Barrow Hedges Primary, Beddington Infants, St. Elepheges Infants, St. Mary's R C Infants and Stanley Park Infants.

Sevenoaks Residential

Over forty members of the bands and orchestras in Years 3-6 spent the weekend of 16-18 May 2008 at Halls Green Activity Centre near Sevenoaks in Kent. The children, who represented many different schools from across the borough, performed as an orchestra and had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities, including football, swimming, arts and crafts and an assault course.

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. The following comments were made by children during their time at Halls Green:

“My time at Halls Green has been really great. The greatest thing was making new friends. I have learned a lot and not just on drumming. I will be really upset when I have to go.”

Pupil from Stanley Park Junior School

“My favourite part of Halls Green was making cool new friends and playing great pieces. I would love to come back next year.”

Pupil from Holy Trinity CE Primary School

Dorking Halls

On 4th July Sutton Music Service staged two concerts at Dorking Concert Halls. All seven of the Borough ensembles performed in these concerts. Repertoire varied from original compositions to arrangements for the various ensembles. Over 350 young people performed in the concerts which were attended by over 200 supporters.

Summer Concert Tour

Over 60 members of the Sutton Youth Symphony Orchestra and Sutton Youth Wind Orchestra took part in a highly successful concert tour of Switzerland and Germany from 19th – 26th July. The ensembles gave concerts in Villars, Montreaux in Switzerland, Evian in France, as well as a performance in Kehl in Germany. Students performed a wide range of repertoire, from original compositions to arrangements of popular movie soundtracks. In previous years summer tours have visited a wide range of countries, including Czech Republic, Estonia, Holland and Spain.

6. Continuing Professional Development

South West London Music Services Joint INSET

Once again members of Music Service staff were invited to join with colleagues from 6 other South West London Music Services to take part in the joint INSET held at Braithwaite Hall in Croydon on Monday 10th September. Members were addressed by the retiring Chief Executive of the Federation of Music Services, Colin Brackley Jones and were given the opportunity to attend a variety of seminars. These included *Using the Voice in Instrumental Lessons*, *Key Stage 2 Wider Opportunities*, *Changes in Key Stage 3 Music* and *An Insight into the Open University/Trinity Guildhall CPD Programme*.

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. One member of Music Service staff was selected as a mentor, and two further members of staff successfully completed the course.

Primary Music Coordinators Network Meetings

The Music Service once again staged termly meetings for Primary Music Coordinators. These meetings are designed to give Primary Music Coordinators 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 Coordinators Network Meetings.

7. Website Development

The Music Service website, www.suttonmusicservice.org.uk was launched on 15th May 2008, since when it has received 5,496 visits from 2,153 unique visitors. On average, the website is visited 29 times a day for around five and a half minutes per visit. The website includes information for pupils, parents/carers, staff and schools on all aspects of the work of the Music Service.



Website home page

8. Sutton Youth Music Supporters Association

Sutton Youth Music Supporters Association is a registered charity set up 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 encourage 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.

9. Edith Murphy Foundation

The Sutton Youth Music Supporters Association 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. Please contact the Music Service office for more information.

10. Instrument Hire & Assisted Purchase Scheme

The Music Service runs a very successful instrument hire scheme. During the year 398 instruments were hired out to parents and carers.

The Music Service supports the Assisted Purchase Scheme which enables students who receive tuition at a Local Authority school or at the Saturday Music School to purchase a new instrument without having to pay VAT.

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.