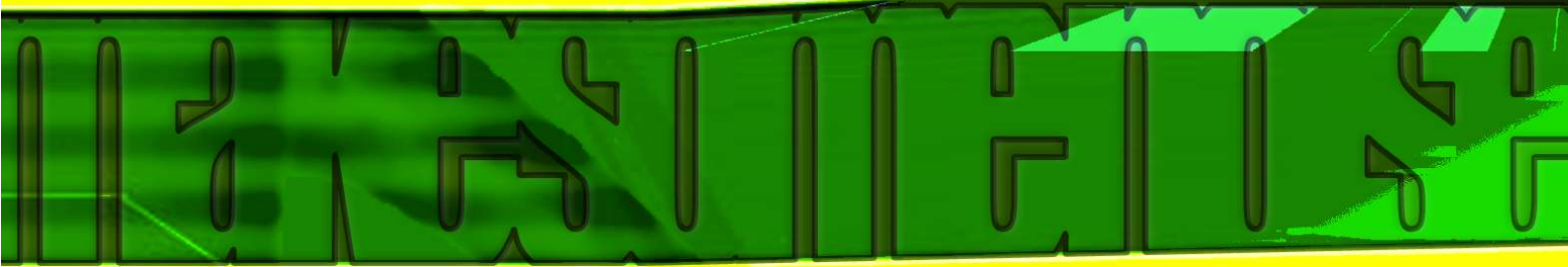


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update



YOUTH MUSIC
ACTION
ZONES

GLYNDEBOURNE OPERA MASTERCLASS



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Young people from Stoke on Trent were given the opportunity to work side by side with performers from the world famous Glyndebourne Touring Opera.

This four day workshop, held at Victoria Hall, "was very enjoyable and a great way to spend a Saturday morning". The young people aged 11 – 18 learned about opera and the skills required to sing the choruses from the three operas that Glyndebourne had been presenting at the Regent Theatre; Mozart's Idomeneo, Handel's Theodora and Verdi's La Traviata.

One of the participants, attended Mozart's Idomeneo the night before, and said; "it was the first opera I had ever seen and it changed my outlook on opera. It was really good! ...Thank you Glyndebourne!"



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ZONE MANAGER:
Make Some Noise has achieved a lot over the past few months. One of the most successful highlights has been the Local Showcase in Hanley. Young people from all over Staffordshire and Stoke performed to over 300 peers, parents, families and funders - a massive thanks to the Planet Sound Team for their organisation of the event.

The Early Years project, which will begin in the Spring of 2004, aims to give Early Years workers practical skills in delivering music to 0 - 5 year olds.

The Generation Training Project that we ran in partnership with Sound Futures and New Roots Youth Music Action Zones and Sound It Out Community Music has finished the first season of courses and we're planning the second. Thanks to all the music workers, project managers & organisations who continue to make the work we're all doing such a success.

"The vocal workshop was fab. My favourite thing was doing the quartet exercise when we had to choose to join a singing type from Bass, Tenor, Alto or Soprano, and work on a piece of opera in that style. It was difficult to begin with but when we reached the next stage it felt as though we had really achieved our goal. Learning the actions to the words was good too to give us a real sense of performance. I really loved learning the Italian song, with pronunciation, and I am now using Italian songs in my A-level music at school."

CRE8

Make Some Noise recruited young people from Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent to participate in a national music-making project called CRE8 with fellow musicians from Sound Futures and New Roots, the two other Youth Music Action Zones in the West Midlands

These talented young people worked in a music recording studio, alongside Kwame Kwaten, an extremely successful artist and producer, and had 5 days to create a song of their own. The result was the track, 'Shades of Grey' (soon to be on the Make Some Noise website) which is now on a compilation CD showcasing the different productions from all Action Zones in England. The final eight, highly original tracks on the CD are influenced by a fusion of different music, including hip-hop, folk, rap, indie, jazz, dance, gospel, and acid jazz.

The chance to write and record in a professional environment has been an opportunity of a lifetime for these young people. Sarah Miller, Project Co-ordinator for the West Midlands said: “the whole process from start to finish was the best project I have worked on. It was very rewarding to see the young people rise to the occasion and their dedication was amazing. It was a good learning curve for all involved and working with a professional producer provided an important insight in to the music industry”.

The young people from this project then went down to attend a star-studded event at the CC Club in central London back in November to celebrate the launch of CRE8, the compilation album written and recorded by young people from across the country with the support of some of Britain’s best-known music producers.

There was no shortage of famous guests, with the likes of DJ and MTV presenter Trevor Nelson, Morcheeba, Jamelia, So Solid Crew, Big Brovaz, Popstars favourites Javine and Darius, Pop Idol judge Dr Fox, and urban music legends Jazzy B and Goldie, all turning up to support the work of these young people.

Mickey D, executive producer of the CRE8 album, comments: “I find young people receptive to the whole creative process as they are hungry to get involved – it’s a dream come true for them.”

Christina Coker, Chief Executive of Youth Music, comments: “CRE8 is not like the reality TV shows that set out to find commercially viable pop-stars for chart success. It is more about giving young people a positive, life-changing experience. Youth Music has offered these young musicians an insight into the professional music industry and an extraordinary opportunity to showcase their talents.”



To hear all the tracks on the CD visit www.soundstation.org.uk The website is Youth Music’s new interactive resource for young music-makers nationwide.

CITY SONGBIRDS

City Songbirds has been working with over 9 local Primary Schools, with boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 7. So far this project has been extremely successful in providing these young pupils with the opportunity to be really creative. The project has helped to raise the aspirations of teachers, pupils and has promoted inclusion through a musical atmosphere. A Christmas concert for massed Songbirds choirs was performed at St. Peter’s Church in Stoke on 12th December and was a great success. The children performed as part of the massed choir and as individual choirs to a very large audience.

Below are a couple of comments from the pupils on the City Songbirds sessions and their 2003 Christmas Concert: “My Songbirds class and others went to St Peters church to do a concert. I was very nervous as the church was big. We all took our seats and practised the songs. When all the guests came in to the church it was a scary time, as there was so many people. As the choir got under way I started to enjoy myself. Mrs Hallam has worked really hard with us, and I think our Songbirds class did our best. We all really enjoyed it, and our parents enjoyed it too.”

“I love going to songbirds because I learn new songs and because I go to songbird concerts. Our music teacher is called Mr Hitchen. My favourite song is called the Teddy Bear Rock and Roll. It’s fantastic.”

COMMON GROUND SHOWCASE

Planet Sound Community Arts celebrated the success of the Access All Areas project with, 'Common Ground', a high profiled evening performance at the Mitchell Memorial Theatre on 24th Jan 2004. Access All Areas is match funded by the Children's Fund, Stoke on Trent.



FALSE
IDOL

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Access All Areas is a collaborative project with Beavers Arts, the New Vic Theatre and Planet Sound Community Arts. Three themes for the Access All Areas programme were devised, using the ideas of, "Dreams", "Rights" and "Barriers". These themes were central to the workshops and all the young people were encouraged to think of their own dreams, to examine what rights meant to them, and to consider what barriers exist in their lives. The participants then used these initial thoughts and ideas to produce a 3 track CD that will be launched and distributed at the Common Ground showcase.



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There was a selection of musical performances incorporating vocal, dance and video on the night. The evening showcased the achievements of all the young people and organisations involved in this project during 2003.

The evening was a real success and gave all the participants the opportunity to perform, some for the first time, in front of a large audience. The 300 seater theatre was completely filled with the parents and friends of the performers turning up to show their support and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

"Dozens of youngsters will be descending this Saturday to make some noise with a variety of musical instruments...Young people from across the county will be showing of their new found skills."

Express and Star



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