



# Annual Review 2023-24

# west sussex music

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## Our vision

is for West Sussex to be a place where every child and young person can explore the life-changing benefits of music; on their education, their wellbeing, and their future.



# Introduction



## Welcome from the Chair of the Trust Board

On behalf of the Trustees, I am pleased to introduce this Annual Review, which reflects on the developments, successes, and challenges we have encountered over 2023-24.

It has been wonderful to look back on a year of expanding opportunities and see the number of young people starting or progressing their musical journey increasing.

This year we've seen another rise in students taking instrumental and vocal lessons, music centre membership has grown, holiday activities have become established, our first solo overseas choir tour gave a new experience to young singers and more schools than ever have been supported through our programmes.

I am indebted to my fellow trustees, the leadership team and all West Sussex Music staff who have worked tirelessly to create accessible opportunities so young people can explore the life-changing benefits of music on their education, their wellbeing and their future.

I would like to add my personal thanks to our CEO James Underwood for his enthusiasm and leadership ensuring West Sussex Music Trust is a viable and harmonious charity.

**Dr David Skipp**  
Chair of West Sussex Music Trust



## Welcome from the Chair of the Hub Board 2023-24

As Chair of the Hub Board, I am writing for the last time, following the creation in September 2024 of the new Sussex Music Hub (where I am Vice Chair) and am delighted to highlight just a few of the successes over the year.

- In January we saw the opening of a new Music Centre in Bognor Regis and the Worthing Contemporary Music Centre.
- The successful Orchestras Inc. (SEND music ensemble) started at Horsham Music Centre.
- West Sussex Youth Choir went on a very successful tour to France.
- The massed Big Sings and Sings Live! for schools have grown enormously involving nearly 6,000 children across the County.
- Partnership projects with national music organisations, including The Benedetti Foundation, Glyndebourne, and the Royal Philharmonic and London Philharmonic orchestras.

I would like to thank all the Hub Board members for their dedication and valuable work over the years, and their support to develop and increase the opportunities for children and young people. The Hub has come a long way over these years, tackling some significant challenges and I look forward with optimism to the next chapter as part of the new Sussex Music Hub.

**Duncan Mackrill**  
Chair of West Sussex Music Education Hub Board

# Music Centres

Every week hundreds of young people come together at our Saturday and evening music centres to make music in bands, orchestras, and choirs. These activities offer opportunities for developing musicians at every stage of their musical journey, to meet new friends, take part in concerts, and progress their musical skills and understanding.

One of our proudest developments has been the introduction of our SEND music group, Orchestras Inc., at Horsham Music Centre. Up until 2024 Orchestras Inc. ran in special school settings only.

Whilst the in-school offer continues, these complementary out of school sessions mean that parents and carers can also be included and feel part of our music centre family.

In January we opened two new music centres. One at Bognor Regis, based at The Phoenix Centre, to develop music engagement in Arun and an additional Worthing Music Centre, based at Northbrook College, to support young people interested in rock & pop music.

This coincided with the launch of TOP24, the third year running our innovative Tomorrow's Orchestra Programme (TOP). Over 120 primary-aged children keen to learn orchestral instruments in an ensemble setting began their musical journeys at Bognor Regis, Chichester, Horsham, and Worthing music centres.

Less than 6 months after receiving their first lesson the TOP24 cohorts from all four centres performed together on stage at Worthing Assembly Hall.

*"Music centre continues to be my son's favourite day of the week. TOP24 has basically changed his life and our home life. He has grown so much in the last eight months in his maturity, knowledge and musical ability. All thanks to TOP."*  
**TOP24 parent**

At the other end of the progression journey, it was very exciting to take 25 students from the West Sussex Youth Choir on their first solo tour to France in May. In July we were delighted to have two high profile opportunities for our County Ensembles to perform. West Sussex Youth Orchestra was invited to perform at the national finals of this year's Music for Youth Festival at Symphony Hall Birmingham and later in July, West Sussex Youth Choir performed a lunchtime concert as part of the Petworth Festival:

*"A quick note to say how wonderfully impressed I was with Saturday's concert. I'm not quite sure what my expectations were, but they were by some distance exceeded. The choir was in such great shape, the love of what they are doing clear for all to see, and the standard achieved similarly very, very impressive. And then there was the choice of repertoire which I also thought was so impressive. I won't forget the African rainstorm in a hurry! My warmest thanks and I really hope the occasion was enjoyed by the singers and the support team. We must do it again!"*  
**Stewart Collins Artistic Director  
Petworth Festival**





# Orchestras Inc.

One of the highlights of this year has been the expansion of our Orchestras Inc. (SEND) music programme. During 2023-24 an Orchestras Inc. music group has been meeting regularly at Horsham Music Centre on Saturdays. This development builds on the programme that has been running in special schools for the last five years.

Orchestras Inc. is an inclusive, creative music group for children and young people under 25 with special educational needs or disabilities.

Funded originally via a Youth Music grant in collaboration with three other music hubs in the south-east, Orchestras Inc. has, until this year, been solely school-based. The addition of a music centre offer has enabled parents and carers to get involved and enjoy making music with their children.

*"I felt happy with the calm, accepting approach of the adults. I felt relaxed which I know is so important for parents/carers of children with SEN who are likely to be on edge regarding potential triggers & how their child enjoys/accesses an activity.*

*I was happy how the parents/carers have the space to support their children & explain as we went through the sessions. I felt Hope felt positive about herself & had felt included. A big part of SEN is sadly still not inclusion and small times*

*like this really matter to the children & families."*  
**Parent/Carer of Orchestras Inc. musician**

This inspiring SEND ensemble is open to all children and young people with additional needs, including those attending special schools, those at mainstream schools or colleges with additional needs and those who are home schooled.

The Orchestras Inc. team working at the music centre also delivers the programme in special schools and has developed an approach that is centred around core musical principles but tailored to the individual needs of each participant.

*"This was a significant achievement for us! If you knew the journey to achieve that you'd be very proud of Orchestras Inc."*  
**Parent/Carer of Orchestras Inc. musician**

Orchestras Inc. has performed at the music centre's end of term presentations with the other

ensembles and has also joined forces with the West Sussex Youth Orchestra in rehearsal for a one-off performance of Strauss's *Radetzky March*.

Indeed, one of the most valuable consequences of integrating Orchestras Inc. into our music centre offer has been the growing appreciation and involvement in sessions from other musicians from the centre.

*"I liked it when everyone played together, the orchestra was absolutely fantastic. I'll definitely come again."*  
**Hannah**  
Orchestras Inc. musician

*"The orchestra were absolutely fantastic and with all the team that do it, they are absolutely amazing."*  
**Orchestras Inc. musician**



# WSYC tour

During May half term, 25 members of the West Sussex Youth Choir embarked on a 4-day concert tour to Normandy, France.

The Youth Choir, one of our prestigious County Ensembles, rehearses every Saturday during term time at Horsham Music Centre, based at Millais School, under the musical direction of Mark Bradbury. With a history spanning over 50 years, the Choir has traditionally joined other County Ensembles on previous overseas concert tours. This year, however, marked a thrilling milestone as they undertook their first ever solo tour.

The journey began on a high note when, on the ferry crossing to France, the ship's captain invited the choir to give an impromptu performance. Their spirited singing delighted passengers and crew alike, earning the Choir free soft drinks from the ship's bar!

In Normandy, the Youth Choir collaborated with singers and musicians from the Lisieux Music Conservatoire. Their performances, particularly at the awe-inspiring Basilica of Sainte-Thérèse of Lisieux, which is one of the most visited religious sites in France attracting over 2 million visitors annually, captivated audiences moving many to tears with their powerful renditions.

The tour reached another highlight with a magical evening concert at Château Canon, held in the chateau's beautiful 250-seat hall. This event featured the West Sussex Youth Choir alongside a choir from the Lisieux Conservatoire and several bands, creating an unforgettable celebration of music. The group also enjoyed some downtime exploring the stunning chateau grounds, a welcome moment of relaxation amidst their busy schedule.

*"I've had an absolute blast, it's been so much fun, we've made so many new friends, had some free time, made friends with the French choir - I would definitely recommend it. One of my favourite parts was when I got to perform with the French choir."*

**Isaac**  
WSYC member

Music wasn't the only bond formed on this trip. The coach driver, after some persuasion, reluctantly agreed to play hits from the 1980s throughout the tour enduring, and secretly enjoying(!), the Choir's enthusiastic singalongs. Lifelong friendships were also struck with members of the French choir, cementing the spirit of collaboration and cultural exchange.

*"I got to make loads and loads and loads of friends and doing the activities was really fun. My favourite part of the tour was when we were at Honfleur and we saw the harbour."*

**WSYC member**

When not performing, the students immersed themselves in local culture, exploring the Joan of Arc Museum, the magnificent cathedral in Rouen, and countless boulangeries.

They enjoyed the charm of Honfleur and had plenty of fun back at the hostel with activities like table tennis, football, and late-night dance and karaoke sessions that showcased talents of a different kind!

*"It was an absolute pleasure to watch the Choir grow and evolve during this tour. It was inspiring to see new friendships being formed and witness their performances being taken to the next level. The energy and passion they brought to every performance was truly special."*

**John Randall**  
Music Centres Manager





# Instrumental and vocal tuition

West Sussex Music’s instrumental and vocal tuition is provided by over 100 visiting music teachers or independent associate tutors in schools and colleges across the county.

Tutors have promoted the positive impact of regular music tuition on supporting and developing creativity, memory, confidence, social skills, as well as a life-long skill and love of music.

We’ve continued to maximise the capacity of teachers to enable as many students as possible to have the opportunity to learn whilst continually looking to build our teacher numbers and diversify our offer.

During 2023-24 the number of small group or individual instrumental or vocal learners taught by the Hub lead organisation increased by 21% through the year. This is because of increased teaching capacity; through the recruitment of additional tutors and the improved management of teachers’ schedules to create more efficient school visits.

Between us, we teach a huge range of orchestral instruments, including brass, woodwind, string and percussion instruments, contemporary instruments, including guitar, keyboard, and drum kit, as well as singing.

We also offer lessons in composition, theory, and song writing. If families are worried about the cost or commitment involved in buying an instrument, our low-cost instrument hire scheme is available.

## Bursary Fund

At West Sussex Music we want to make sure nothing stops children and young people making music, and we’re committed to making music accessible for all.

The Bursary Fund uses a proportion of the DfE music hub grant to support young musicians to offer free group lessons, free instrument hire and free music centre membership for students on benefits-related free school meals, for children in care, for young carers and refugees attending school in West Sussex.

We also offered 50% off West Sussex Music prices for families on other state benefits who did not qualify for free school meals.

One parent, talking about her daughter’s bursary funded lessons, said:

*“She is thoroughly enjoying them and looks forward to it each week. Being a young carer for me she often has a lot more responsibilities at home and it’s lovely to see her be her own character and find a passion for music. This gives her an outlet to be just a child and not my carer.”*

### Parent of piano pupil and young carer

In 2023-24, 984 pupils were supported by the Bursary Fund, a rise of 53% from the previous year.

This notable increase in demand overtook the overall increase in pupil numbers. Allied with the inevitable rise in lesson costs and real terms decline in the value of the DfE hub grant, the bursary fund budget was significantly overspent.

During 2024-25 a review of the bursary fund will be undertaken to ensure that funding can become more sustainable and the barriers that learning can continue to be removed.





# Alumni

West Sussex Music is proud to have been helping children and young people discover the joy of music making for nearly 70 years. Our alumni are a wonderful reminder of the lasting impact of our work and a valuable resource to help inspire the next generation of musicians and music educators.

West Sussex Music provides comprehensive musical progression paths for all young people in West Sussex from first access programmes at primary school through to our programme of undergraduate music centre student assistants who return on Saturdays to support our music centre activities. It has been gratifying that some leavers have then progressed on to develop into visiting music teachers or support staff.

This year has been no different, with three new members of the team joining us who are all WSM alumni. The three have taken up various roles within the organisation, Billy Crook is a Customer Accounts Administrator; Tamsyn Ridgwell is an Arts Administrator and Becky Landen is an Instrument Stores Assistant.

### Billy Crook

Euphonium and tuba, West Sussex Youth Orchestras & Horsham Music Centre alumnus

*"After 10 years with West Sussex Music as a student, I've just celebrated one year as a member of staff! During the week I'm part of the*

*Customer Accounts Team where I answer parent queries, process student applications and complete various financial tasks. In the autumn term of 2024, I joined the music centre team in Horsham as a brass tutor supporting the wind ensembles. I've cultivated a fantastic skillset in finance and administration, together with building upon my teaching abilities at Horsham Music Centre. I'm excited to meet the new TOP25 brass cohort this coming January, and to continue advancing my administration capabilities!"*

### Tamsyn Ridgwell

Flute, West Sussex Youth Orchestras & Crawley Music Centre alumna

*"I've thoroughly enjoyed working with WSM since joining right after university. As a recent graduate, I was nervous about taking my first step into the professional world, but the team here has made me feel incredibly welcome and supported. As Arts Administrator, I've had the chance to work on all kinds of events and tasks, teaming up with managers and staff from different areas. Every moment has been*

*rewarding, and over the past year, my confidence and skill set have grown immensely. I can honestly say I couldn't have asked for a better team to work with."*

### Becky Landen

Cornet, West Sussex Youth Orchestras & Chichester Music Centre alumna

*"I have always enjoyed being part of West Sussex Music, from when I was a student playing for the Chichester Music Centre to progressing up to the County Youth Orchestras. I then took some time away and studied for a music degree at the University of Chichester. Once graduated I made my way back to West Sussex Music and I now work in the instrument stores in Petworth, where I clean and repair instruments that get sent out to schools for students wishing to learn a musical instrument. I find it a very rewarding and enjoyable job and look forward to where this may lead in the near future."*



## Hub projects

West Sussex Music is not just a single entity, it is also a partnership of complementary organisations and individuals working together to provide the broadest range of musical opportunities to children and young people across the county.

Our Hub partners share our vision to enable more children and young people to explore the benefits of music. In 2023-24 we were delighted to collaborate with four of our national partners to offer new projects that increased engagement amongst young people at all stages of their musical learning.

### The Benedetti Foundation

The Benedetti Foundation, a musical charity established by world renowned solo violinist Nicola Benedetti brought opportunities to schools in January as a hub partner.

The Benedetti Foundation provided workshop leaders and professional musicians to lead a weeklong residency in West Sussex.

The residency week took place in late January, with workshops in nine primary schools across three days in Bognor Regis, Selsey, and Shoreham. These interactive and fun schools' workshops introduced pupils and staff to the fundamentals of making music and covered the basics of pulse, rhythm, pitch and harmony with lots of games and songs to get everyone involved.

At Herons Dale Primary School, the children fed back they enjoyed the workshops:

*"I liked the man with the giant xylophone"*

*"I liked making lots of different sounds"*

*"The lady was funny"*

*"It was fun"*

*"Today in my assembly we sang in rounds for the first time using Row Row Row Your Boat for our first attempt and it was magical. Will record it next week for sure."*

There was a teacher training session for primary classroom teachers led by the Benedetti team hosted by Bartons Primary School in Bognor Regis.

There was a teacher training day for visiting instrumental and vocal teachers, hosted by West Sussex Music at Worthing Assembly Hall led by Benedetti Foundation violinist Rachel Cooper.

The training sessions built a new sense of community where teachers from all musical disciplines came together to be inspired and to learn and develop their approaches to creative teaching.

To end the week Rachel Cooper led an amazing team of Benedetti tutors and student ambassadors from music conservatoires, to run a Strings Day for violin, viola, cello, and double bass pupils from all over the county at Worthing Assembly Hall.

Players from recent beginners up to Grade 3, or equivalent, worked together on some joint pieces that were performed to families in the afternoon.

*"I just got on the train back to London and felt compelled to message you and express my sincere gratitude and adoration for you and your simply magical team! I have had the best two days with you all. It's been such a joy to be with you. Thank you so very much for your leadership, direction and organisation for clearly spreading quality and beautiful music education. There is sooo much hope. You stand amongst the best I've seen."*

**Rachel Cooper**  
The Benedetti Foundation







# Hub projects

## Glyndebourne

Throughout October, November, and December, musicians from Glyndebourne worked with three Crawley schools - Hazelwick, Northgate Primary and Three Bridges Primary - on a composing and singing project inspired by Haydn's *The Creation* called Creative Crawley. The autumn term workshops held at the schools led to a concert at Worth Abbey in December where students shared their compositions and sang with members of the Glyndebourne Chorus and Sinfonia.

*"I was so proud of the children, and my staff, who have also learned so much from the experience. It was such a beautiful performance from start to finish; the writing was simply stunning. We were so thrilled to be part of it. Thank you for inviting us."*

### Headteacher

Three Bridges Primary School

*"I am so pleased you enjoyed the performance. Our students were beaming the whole way home! Wednesday was such a magical day and one that will stay with our students for the rest of their lives. Today, there was a real buzz about the place, with those students that took part beaming from ear to ear and chatting enthusiastically about the opportunity."*

### Head of Music,

Hazelwick School

## London Philharmonic Orchestra

A group of young instrumentalists had the chance to play with the London Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) and get a glimpse of what it feels like to be part of one of the greatest orchestras in the world.

The LPO Junior Artists Overture Day, which took place at Worthing High School, was run by West Sussex Music partner London Philharmonic Orchestra and enabled young instrumentalists aged 10 to 15 yrs to perform with them as an ensemble.

Junior Artists Overture days are free, fun orchestral skills days where participants play alongside LPO musicians as one big orchestra, get tips on musicianship in smaller group sessions, and find out what happens behind the scenes of a professional orchestra.

LPO has been a hub partner of West Sussex Music since October 2023 and as well as the Overture day has provided opportunities for young musicians from West Sussex to see professional musicians perform at Brighton Dome.

*"I just wanted to thank you for organising the LPO. It was a privilege for Elsie to attend the rehearsal and meet the soloists and conductor. It was also a fantastic performance opportunity for the quartet."*

### WSM parent

## Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

Seventy children and young people took part in workshops with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) in Crawley in February, as part of a partnership with West Sussex Music.

These Saturday workshops were kindly hosted by Three Bridges Primary School. In the morning 32 children from Crawley primary schools took part in a creative music workshop led by Sam Mason and supported by professional musicians from the RPO. Over the course of the workshop, they used their instruments to respond to music from *Sleeping Beauty* with a performance to families at the end.

In the afternoon 38 young people from across West Sussex had the opportunity to take part in an orchestral workshop for more advanced instrumental students of grade 5 and above where they worked on another aspect of Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet*.

The following weekend, participants from both workshops along with their parents and carers had the exclusive opportunity to watch the RPO in rehearsal where many took the chance to take part in a question and answer session with performers and find out more about what it takes to be a professional musician.

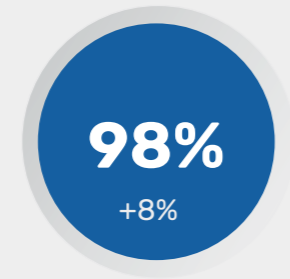




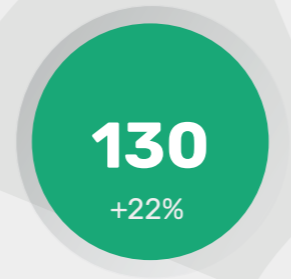
# Our year in numbers



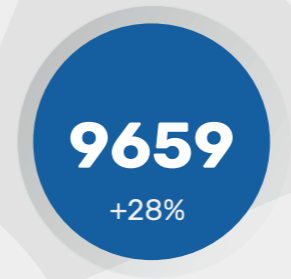
Students involved in Hub activities



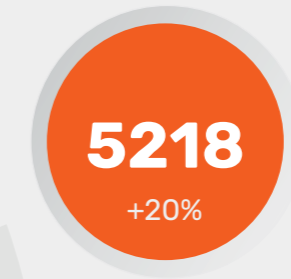
Schools engaged with the Hub



Schools engaged in CIL



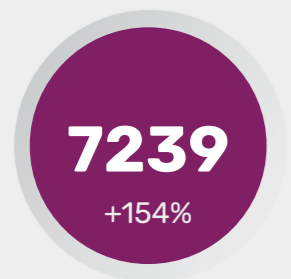
Students engaged in CIL



Students in tuition



Students financially supported



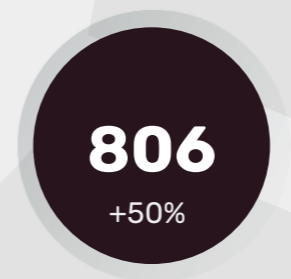
Students at live music performances



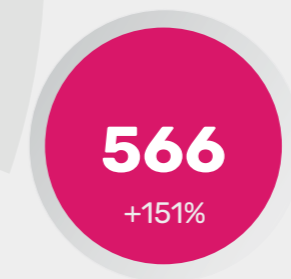
Students engaged in singing



Students involved in large scale events



Students in ensembles



Holiday activity attendees



Teacher training attendees

### Our mission is to:

- Encourage and develop the musical potential of all children and young people, with opportunities for them to progress as musicians and as people.
- Support young people and those who work with them to improve social, personal and wellbeing outcomes through music.

- Work collaboratively in partnership with and for children and young people to develop and signpost, high quality, accessible and diverse musical learning opportunities for them.
- Increase the music provision available for all children and young people in West Sussex.



## Holiday activities

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) scheme is funded by the Department for Education, via West Sussex County Council, and offers young people who are entitled to benefits related free school meals the opportunity to attend free holiday activity clubs and have a free meal.

We have been running holiday activities for two years, since their inception in December 2022. Our Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) funded courses have been embedded into the Hub's offer and this year 32 workshops offered 566 places to young people where they accessed a range of workshops and received a midday meal.

The holiday activities took place in Bognor Regis, Crawley, Littlehampton and Worthing. Workshops were open to young people aged 8-16 with half of all places being completely free to families in receipt of free school meals, funded through the HAF scheme and other places being subsidised through the music hub grant. The objective of these activities was to offer high quality music provision and increase participation of young people of these areas and offer a nutritious lunch.

Activities that were run included DJ & Music Production, Rap & Lyric Writing, Pop Choir and Rock & Pop Band.

Attendees made valuable friendships, improved their lyric and songwriting, learned how to produce a song, recorded music using digital audio workstations, played as part of a band, mixed music using software, and developed performance skills. The social connections and bonds have been a huge aspect of these activities. There were great collaborations and an inevitable integration of technology to help with learning.

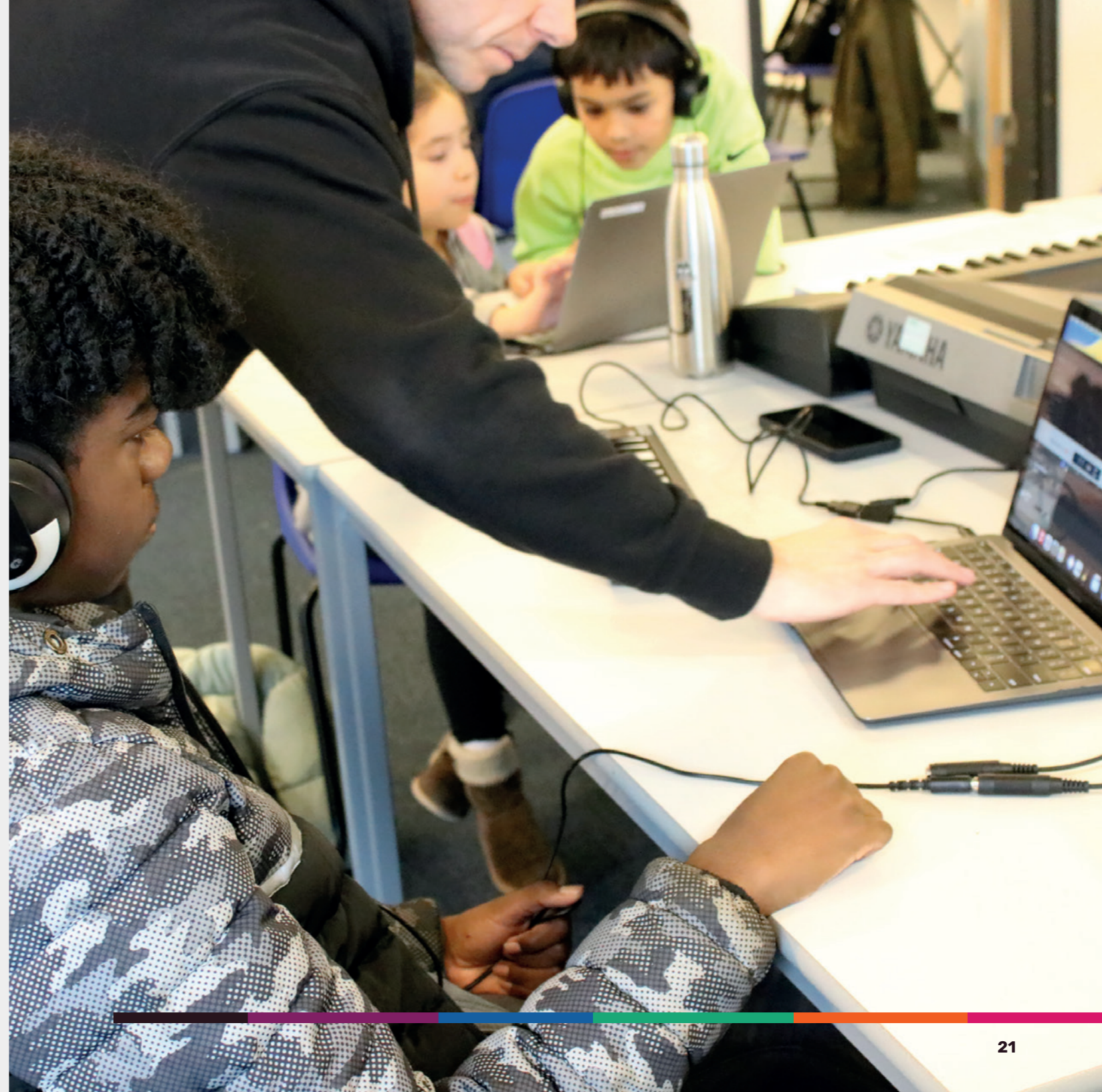
*"I loved meeting new friends and engaging in music. I love singing and was very happy giving out my best on our performances. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of these workshops. I'm looking forward to more workshop in the future. I enjoyed it a lot!"*  
**2024 participant**

At the core of holiday activities is community engagement created through links with local councils, community music providers, industry experts, arts educators, offering this access to music at a grassroots level, and going up.

Engagement patterns vary depending on the backgrounds of young people. People in receipt of free school meals are three times more likely to engage in musical activities such as Music Production, Rap, DJ or write songs (Youth Music; Ipsos MORI, 2018). These activities have proved extremely popular and successful this year so we will continue developing these into 2024-25.

We're indebted to our visiting music teachers, our associate tutors and Hub partners for their leadership and creativity in developing the programme during the year.

*"Hi, I just wanted to say my son had an amazing time at the Bognor session the last two days. He definitely wants to do it again the next time you are running the sessions. He really did have the best time ever!"*  
**Parent of 2024 participant**





# Curriculum support and CPD

West Sussex Music offers a wide range of free curriculum advice for school music leaders and leads continuing professional development sessions for music teachers. This support was via a programme of face-to-face and online opportunities and culminated in two music education conferences in the summer term.

Our CPD offer covered topics such as Ofsted “Deep Dives”, updates on the National Plan for Music Education and the Model Music Curriculum, music theory, singing for the curriculum, composition, exam moderation sessions, strategies to support first access classroom instrumental lessons, and support for new music leads.

Schools were supported to connect with the wider music education sector through free Music Mark membership which also offers a CPD and networking programme.

*“I was very nervous at the beginning of the training, but thoroughly enjoyed myself and learnt so much, Jane was so helpful and enthusiastic.”*

**Teacher**  
Castlewood Primary School

Schools were brought together through two music education conferences: the Sussex Secondary Music Conference: working in partnership with Create Music, the music education hub for Brighton & Hove and East Sussex, and the University of Sussex.

This free event welcomed music teachers from secondary schools across Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, West Sussex, and University of Sussex partner schools.

Keynotes and workshops focused on curriculum, inclusion, musical identities, the music industry, progression pathways, funding, and Ofsted’s recently published Music Subject Report, as well as the National Plan for Music Education and how schools can engage in partnership working for the benefit of all pupils.

WSM also organised the West Sussex Primary & SEND Music Conference in July. This free event welcomed over 100 delegates from primary and SEN(D) schools as well as Hub partners, visiting music teachers, and associate tutors.

The event featured keynote speaker Jimmy Rotheram (Music Leader at Feversham Primary Academy) and three further experts in music education to lead workshop including Rachel Maby (WSM’s Schools Singing Lead).

Andrew Ferguson (Education and Bass) and Emily Barden (Singer/Songwriter).

*“Thank you for a revitalising and inspiring day. It was great to share ideas and inspiration with fellow music people. I have loads of new ideas for EYFS from Jimmy Rotherham, and a refreshed way to embed music tech into my curriculum.”*

**Jonny Mott, Music Lead**  
Steining Primary School

Curriculum support also takes the form of individual school visits to discuss music curriculum and enrichment opportunities with school leaders.

Together with headteachers and music leads, we co-design a bespoke programme of support to implement their School Music Development Plan to embed high quality, inclusive music provision throughout the school.



# Singing

There are so many reasons to start singing. West Sussex Music is committed to enabling all children and young people to access high quality singing opportunities by providing a comprehensive programme of massed singing events and teacher training and through its music centre choirs.

2023-24 saw the full return of our massed singing programme with a total of 65 schools, 5,843 children and young people, and 294 teachers participating in the schools' singing programme. Our Schools' Singing Leader curated an offer of locality massed singing events for all primary schools - Big Sings (Key Stage 2) and Little Big Sings (Key Stage 1) - and all secondary schools via Sings Live!

In the spring term three Sings Live! massed secondary school choral events were arranged at public venues across West Sussex; The Drill Hall Horsham, The Hawth Crawley, and Worthing Assembly Hall. The format consisted of an afternoon workshop followed by an evening public performance. Participation in Sings Live! was free for the participating schools and was supported by a CPD programme for teachers.

*"Our students will often not get the opportunity to be part of something like this, particularly with mainstream peers of the same age, or have the opportunity to perform*

*in a venue like this evening, so giving them that experience, I'm sure will definitely stay with them forever. Thank you both for being so supportive of our students and really including them in the pieces!"*

**Kenny Park**  
Lead Teacher for Arts, Oak Grove College

In addition to the Sings Live! concerts we ran a further 13 workshops involving 509 pupils for schools that could not participate in one of the public performances.

*"I thought it was a superb event. Thoroughly enjoyable. I am always very glad to advocate the power of music in education - it is a real force for good for our young people as last night demonstrated so brilliantly."*

**Lee Walker**  
Headteacher, Imberhorne School

In the summer term we ran a total of 36 massed singing events for primary aged pupils, bringing together multiple schools at a host school for a half-day singing workshop, led by one of our specialist singing leaders.

38 schools, 2,224 pupils and 90 teachers took part in a Little Big Sing event, our Key Stage 1 singing offer for 4-7 year olds. Our Big Sings events, for Key Stage 2, were attended by 59 schools, 2,692 pupils and 135 teachers.

These events launched with a free CPD session to explore the repertoire and share singing warm-ups. Schools were provided with resources for two songs to rehearse and perform as a massed choir on the day and invited to perform a song of their choice - a wonderful opportunity for pupils to experience performing to a large audience!

*"One of the children said 'that was awesome' when we finished the 4-part round."*

**Music Lead**  
Estcots Primary School

*"Rachel's love of music is inspiring and contagious - the children and adults learnt so much from her!"*

**Music Lead**  
Holy Trinity CE Primary School,  
Cuckfield





# Classroom instrument lessons

Free instrumental music lessons have been enjoyed by thousands of primary school children in West Sussex over the past year, thanks to our subsidised whole-class programmes. Learning an instrument is a fantastic experience with a wealth of educational, personal, and social benefits.

Our classroom instrumental lesson (CIL) programmes offer pupils a fantastic free musical opportunity, and are designed to enrich a school's music curriculum, and through the supporting resources and CPD give the opportunity for class teachers to learn new skills. Schools may choose from either 1Term2Learn, for one term, or Key2Music (Key Stage 2) or GetIn2Music (Key Stage 1) for a year.

The ten-week 1Term2Learn whole-class sessions run across one term. They include the free loan of instruments, free CPD for the class teacher with weekly sessions led by West Sussex Music approved staff, supported by the class teacher. We have delivered lessons in recorder, clarinet, cornet, djembe drums, guitar, trumpet, ukulele, and violin with singing, musical games, and fun at their core.

During 2023-24 we used music hub funding to offer a subsidised 1Term2Learn programme for all Year 4 classes, as well as free programmes for schools in Adur, Arun, Crawley, south Chichester,

and Worthing which have previously had lower school engagement in CIL.

We successfully increased school engagement with 130 schools running CIL, up from 106 in 2022-23, and increased the number of pupils engaged in CIL by 28% to 9,659 pupils up from 7,521. The coverage was 58% of all Key Stage 2 schools.

Feedback from school staff and pupils has been positive.

*"The children love starting off their week with music on a Monday morning and always attended with smiley faces. Nick consistently planned for lessons well and all lessons ran very smoothly. All children knew what was happening in each lesson. Children are now able to read basic music notes and understand where and how the djembe drums were made. Incredibly. I now have lots of warm up songs up my sleeve to use. I also would feel confident to teach the children a musical instrument."*

**Class teacher**  
Storrington Primary School

Schools that had wanted to offer music lessons in some form to its children but did not have funds for a music teacher used CIL to provide lessons so all children in the class could benefit including those with additional needs.

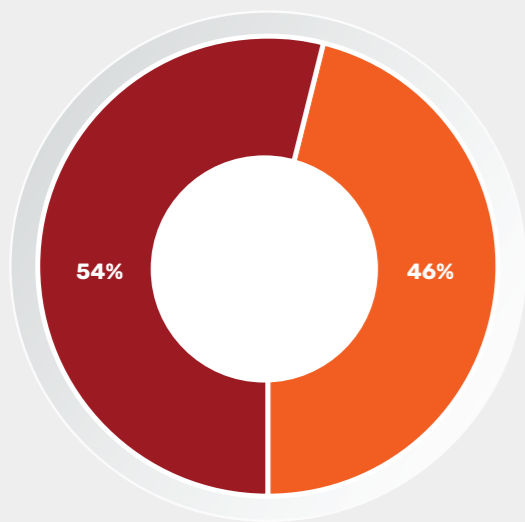
*"The children were incredibly enthusiastic about their learning, and this was down to Rebecca's fantastic interpersonal skills. She was very inspiring, and the children responded very well to her teaching approaches. The progress all children made from the first lesson to their last was impressive. They finished the course with the knowledge and skills to perform in an ensemble and they did this very well. All children were engaged and participated well, including those with significant SEND and behavioural needs. I absolutely have lots of ideas about how to incorporate games into lessons."*

**Class teacher**  
St Marks CE Primary School

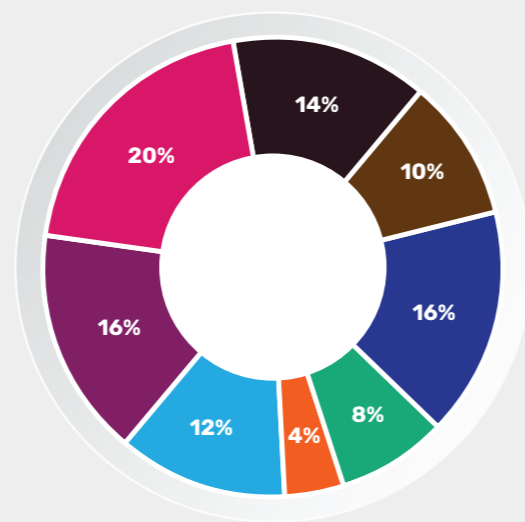


# Finance

During 2023-24 West Sussex Music had funding from the Department for Education, administered by Arts Council England, as the Lead Organisation for West Sussex Music Education Hub to deliver the National Plan for Music Education. Additionally, West Sussex Music has traded income from its provision to parents/carers and schools, as well as other grants and charitable fundraising.



West Sussex Music income 2023-24



Use of the DfE Hub grant 2023-24

The chart below demonstrates how the Hub funding was used to support the seven objectives of the National Plan for Music Education and the proportion allowed for overheads.

■ DfE Hub Grant
 ■ Traded income and other grants

■ Bursary
 ■ Ensembles  
■ Concerts
 ■ Instruments  
■ CIL
 ■ Overheads  
■ CPD
 ■ Projects



# Looking forward

During 2023-24 two governance groups supported the leadership team at West Sussex Music. The Board of Trustees, who are the directors and legal owners of the organisation, shoulder the financial and statutory responsibility for the charity. The other was our advisory group the West Sussex Music Education Hub Board - chaired by Duncan Mackrill - which helped steer the strategy of how the DfE's music hub funding was used.

2024-25 heralds a new era for music education across England following the government's review and reorganisation of music hubs. In September 2024 West Sussex Music became a consortium partner of the new Sussex Music Hub led by Brighton Dome & Festival Ltd.

I would like to use this opportunity to pay a special tribute to the West Sussex Music Education Hub Board members for their invaluable support and hard work in supporting me and the leadership team over the last few years. As we move into the new governance structure, I am delighted that a number of members will continue their support by joining the new Sussex Music Hub Board.

The programme of activity and innovations to kickstart new opportunities for children and young people are being further embedded into our programme of activity for 2024-25. This will include the following exciting developments:

- A new cohort of beginners for the Tomorrow's Orchestra Programme (TOP25) will be recruited for a January start at four music centres.
- Worthing Music Centre will re-establish its Saturday sessions and expand its activities to young musicians.
- Orchestras Inc., our SEND ensemble, will expand its accessibility by offering rehearsals at two music centres, building on the sessions run at Horsham Music Centre.
- We will develop the use of digital badging across our activities to recognise and validate students' skills, achievements, goals, and experiences.
- We will develop a series of pilot projects to increase the continuation into instrumental lessons following CIL programmes.

I look forward to reporting on the success of these initiatives and our other achievements in 2024-25.

**James Underwood**  
Chief Executive, West Sussex Music



# Staff and governance

## West Sussex Music

James Underwood	Chief Executive
Lee Hume	Head of Finance
Lou Pickett	Head of Operations
Alison Sutton	Head of Learning
Paul Smyth	Head of Participation
Jane Swindells	Primary Curriculum Manager
John Randall	Music Centres Manager
Lynelle Harding	Finance Manager
Elizabeth Leondaritis	Youth Engagement Manager
Rachel Maby	Schools Singing Leader
Mike Hart	Stock Control Manager
Heather Downie	Arts Administrator
Aimee Fudge	Arts Administrator
Tamsyn Ridgwell	Arts Administrator
Jo Anderson	Schools Administrator
Shelley Young	Schools Administrator
Billy Crook	Customer Accounts Administrator
Mandy Gibbard	Customer Accounts Administrator
Maddie Maddison	Customer Accounts Administrator
Rebecca Landen	Instrument Stores Assistant

## Trust Board

- David Skipp - Chair
- Claudia Golden - Vice Chair
- Margaret Evans
- Christina Guillaumier
- Tim Riches
- Gina Stainer

## Music Education Hub Board 2023-24

- Duncan Mackrill - Chair
- Emily Barden
- Jane Bowen-Melfi
- Sally Gibbins
- Christina Guillaumier
- Amanda Harrison
- Claire Hayes
- Nicola Hughes
- Mike Jacot
- Nicole Matthews
- Kenny Park
- Laura Robertson
- Dale Rooks
- James Underwood



# 2023-24 Hub partners

