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Although it doesn't seem very many weeks since the last newsletter, we have some exciting projects coming up that I wanted to share with everyone sooner rather than later.
Our main project this term is our **Summer Concert** on Sunday 3rd July at the Weymouth Pavilion. We are very excited to have the opportunity to perform in this professional theatre and hope that the bigger venue will be more befitting the number of participants and size of audience that we anticipate. Whilst it is a larger venue, we still anticipate that tickets will go quickly, so please buy them early to avoid disappointment! Tickets go on sale on Monday 13th June.
We are pleased to be able to launch some new ensembles in September – see later in the newsletter for specific details.



Students from DASP at the recent ACM Gospel Choir workshop at the Weymouth Pavilion.

Enjoy the summer when it comes!
Hanna Trevorrow
DASP Music Coordinator

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News...

DASP Orchestra light up the Queen's 90th



On Thursday 21st April, the DASP Orchestra performed at Dorchester Town Council's Beacon Lighting Ceremony to celebrate the 90th birthday of the Queen. It was a varied programme of English themed pieces including Vaughan Williams' 'The Lark Ascending' and 'Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds' by The Beatles. Thank you to Mrs Wolff, Mr Ansell and Mr Kinnersley for supporting the orchestra and well done to all involved!

Over £40 raised so far through Easyfundraising.org!

Our supporters have been busy shopping to support DASP Music. We were recently given over £40 from easyfundraising.org, earned by our supporters. It's easy to support us in this way and doesn't cost you a penny. Just visit easyfundraising.org and sign up for an account. Every time you shop online and access the websites that you want (e.g. Amazon) through easyfundraising, they donate 1-5% of whatever you spend to us. You can even earn us funds by buying your summer holiday this way! Please sign up now!

easyfundraising.org.uk

DASP rocked with the ACM Gospel Choir



On 11th April, nearly 200 students from the middle schools and THS took part in an inspirational workshop and concert, led by the Academy of Contemporary Music Gospel Choir. This choir first became known through the BBC show 'Last Choir Standing' a few years ago, and have mostly recently won the accolade of 'Gospel Choir of the year'.
The all-day workshop resulted in an evening concert at the Weymouth Pavilion where the students came together to

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perform songs in three part harmony, with choreography. This project was supported with funding from the National Singing Strategy and it is hoped that as a result of it, we will encourage more children to engage in singing and participate in all of the choirs offered through the DASP schools. Thanks to all of the teachers who supported the event – a fantastic time was had by all!
Photos and video of the event can be found on the DASP Music website.

Children's Concert and Come and Try



On 12th May, DASP Music held a Children's Concert and Come and Try session at The Thomas Hardye School. The concert featured all of the orchestral instruments that are available to learn in the DASP schools and was an opportunity to find out more and hear the instruments played by professionals, both in a solo and group context. Afterwards, the children were given the opportunity to 'have a go' on all of the instruments. The hope is that in running these events, we inspire the next generation to learn an instrument and help parents with the difficult decision of which instrument to choose. We hope to run a similar event next year. Thanks to all the peripatetic staff and THS students who were involved.

Minority Instrument Funding – Bassoon



We have now launched our Minority Instrument Funding Scheme for the next academic year, which is going to focus on the bassoon. It is hoped that we will fund two students from each of the three middle schools to learn this instrument (with a free instrument to borrow for the year). If you are currently in year 5 or 6 and are interested in finding out more, please visit our website. Applications need to be submitted by 24th June.

Calling all guitarists and drummers!



From September we are pleased to announce that we are launching two new ensembles; **guitar and percussion**.
Guitar Ensemble will be open to all students from year 5+ and will be run by Steve Wilson on Tuesdays at 4-5pm, at The Thomas Hardye School. Students will learn to play standards, improvise, compose and meet other guitarists. Steve is an experienced singer/songwriter and performer who has taught guitar within DASP for several years.
Percussion Ensemble will be open to all students in years 4-8 and will be run by Glyn Bush Wednesdays at 4-5pm, at Damers First School (this is slightly different from previously advertised). Students will learn to listen and play together, improvise and create pieces as a group. Glyn is an experienced workshop leader who often runs drum circles and other percussion workshops with our local schools.
To sign up for either of these ensembles and to find out more, please go to our ensemble page of our website.

NEW Beginner Brass group starting

From September, we will be starting a new beginner brass group (for absolute beginners) on a Wednesday 5-5.30pm at the Thomas Hardye School. If you join the group, you will be **given an instrument to borrow** free of charge. The group is aimed at children in years 3 and 4 who aren't currently learning a brass instrument. By joining the group you will learn the basics of how to play a cornet, trumpet or euphonium, learn to read notation and play as a group. The cost of joining the group will be £30 per term. Please contact us directly if you are interested and want to find out more.

Sign up now to start an instrument in September

If you are considering learning a new instrument in September through DASP, please apply online by half term, in order that we can get things sorted and ready to go in the new academic year. Remember that all instruments can potentially be learnt in all of the schools.

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Year 2 is a great time to start violin, cello, recorder, ukulele and piano.
Year 3-5 is a great time to start most other instruments.
Contact us if you want advice about hiring instruments or advice about funding options available.
Lessons start from £3.75 per week.

BBC Concert Orchestra Workshop

We are really excited about our forthcoming workshop day with members of the BBC Concert Orchestra on 25th June. We are one of about 40 groups in the country who have been offered this opportunity. If you play an orchestral instrument and would like to be involved, please sign up via our website by the end of May. The day will be suitable for all players from grade 2 to grade 8, with invited lower grade students taking part in some of the day as well.

Calling everyone who enjoys singing!



We have lots of opportunities for vocalists within DASP.
Vocal lessons are available at all schools and we are keen to recruit more singers across all schools.
Vocal lessons not only train you in singing technique, but also help you to internalise sounds and improve your aural skills – these skills greatly enhance your ability as an instrumental player and are very beneficial if you are considering studying music at GCSE or A-level standard. If you are interested in your child having lessons, please get in touch!
Most schools have their own school choirs running and it would be lovely to see more students getting involved in these. The Thomas Hardye School is keen to encourage more students to join The **Thomas Hardye Singers** who not only take part in two large scale concerts per year with the Imperial College Symphony Orchestra, but also tour various cathedrals throughout the year, performing Even Songs – in July they are off to St Paul's Cathedral in London! Such opportunities are not offered by many state schools and I strongly recommend anyone interested in singing to get involved!
We also have many vocal groups run through DASP.
Skylarks is aimed at students in years 2-6. They sing a variety of music and focus on singing with good technique and producing a beautiful sound. Entry is by a short audition.
Classics Choir is aimed at students in years 5-8 and focuses on learning repertoire to join in with large scale choral concerts in the local community. To sing with a large choir with an orchestra is a fantastic experience for anyone and this is an opportunity not to be missed!
Harmony is aimed at students in years 5-13 and focuses on pop repertoire learnt by ear. The choirs rehearse at each middle school and at THS, then join together for concerts to sing in three part harmony. Entry is by a short audition.
Treblemakers is a boys vocal group for students in years 4-8. They learn pop/rock repertoire by ear and hope

With so many opportunities on offer both in and out of school, I urge everyone to get involved!

Events to Come…

25th June – BBC Ten Pieces Orchestra Workshop day with members of the BBC Concert Orchestra.

3rd July – DASP Summer Prom Concert at The Weymouth Pavilion featuring all of the DASP Ensembles and more. Tickets will be on sale from the DASP Music office from June 13th.

7th December – DASP Christmas Concert (get it in your diary now!)

Raffle prizes wanted for the Summer Concert.

If you are able to donate a raffle prize for our concert (or know a local business who might), please get in touch!

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Congratulations!….

To Dillon Phillips (Puddletown First), Emily McFarlane (THS), Rachel Walsh (DMS), Leonie Cobban and Elise Griffin (St Os), for being awarded DASP Music Awards (sponsored by Weyprint) this year for outstanding progress, commitment and attitude to their musical studies.

To Jamie Riddoch (THS) and Amy Dutson (THS) for being awarded The Christine Page Award for Singing (sponsored by The Solo Trust), for outstanding attainment and commitment to singing.

To Noah Warnes (THS) for taking part in the finals of the national 'Young Drummer of the Year' competition in February.

To Lucy Bone (THS) and Jodie Tripp (THS) for achieving distinctions in their recent London College of Music Musical Theatre exams. These are the first students that we have entered for this exam, which showcases singing, acting and movement, and we hope that we will be entering many more in the future.

We had lots of excellent exam results in the last set of exams. Whilst it's not possible to name every student, congratulations go to all who took exams.

If there are any particularly special achievements that you'd like us to celebrate in the next newsletter, please let us know!

DASP Music Ensembles now recruiting for September 2016 – Sign up soon!

DASP Music runs the only weekly music centre for young musicians in West Dorset. We have 16 weekly ensembles, most of which meet at our Wednesday 'Music Night' at The Thomas Hardye School. We have groups, both for complete beginners and those for more advanced players. If you play an instrument, why not come along and give one of our sessions a go? We are particularly keen to recruit new members in our Orchestra and Jazz Band in September!

Wednesday 'Music Night'
4-4.45pm: **Stringendos, Clariphones, Brass Ensemble, Flute Choir** (all grade 2+), **Training Windband, Stringalings** (both grade 0-2)
5-6pm: **DASP Youth Orchestra** (grade 2+), **Uke Troupe Beginners, Theory**
5.30pm: **Uke Troupe Intermediate**
6.15pm – **Theory**
6.15pm – **Jazz Band** (grade 2+)

Other Groups
Treblemakers Boys Vocal Group – Tuesdays, 3.45-4.45pm @ Dorchester Middle School (boys years 4-8)
Classics Choir – Fridays 4-4.30pm @ The Thomas Hardye School (years 5-8)
Harmony Pop Choir – Various times/days/venues (years 5-13)
Skylarks Choir – Thursdays 3.45-4.45pm @ Manor Park First School (years 2-6)
NEW!!! **Percussion Ensemble** – Wednesdays 4-5pm @Damers First School (years 4-8)
NEW!!! **Guitar Ensemble** – Tuesdays 4-5pm @ The Thomas Hardye School (years 5+)