

# CLASSICAL MUSIC ROCKS

An independent not-for-profit community organization, funded by private donors and Norfolk Music Education Hub. Supported by Sir Henry Bellingham, MP, and Borough Cllr Avril Wright, Heritage Champion and viola player,

## Objectives

- To enable *primary school children in West Norfolk* to hear live classical music in their school setting.
- to inspire an interest in hearing more classical music
- to encourage children to learn to play an instrument
- to help build audiences of the future
- to advocate for children to have improved access to classical music

High quality, young, professional musicians, and suitable skilled volunteers introduce their instruments and play short pieces in inter-active presentations and smaller groups. We also offer workshops and child friendly short concerts. There is a real opportunity for children and musicians to meet and talk about making music. Our fee is 50p per child, but most of the cost is borne by Classical Music Rocks.

## Our Organisation

CMR is a unique not-for-profit community organisation in West Norfolk, specialising in bringing classical music to all primary schools. We are fully independent. Our administrative and organisation costs are nil as we rely entirely on volunteers. All our funds are utilised to hire musicians plus some travel costs.

We offer the following service:

- Close liaison with schools, identifying the musical needs of children
- Recruiting artists from a range of sources including musicians themselves, Kings Lynn Festival, Kings Lynn Music Society, London music colleges and local contacts.
- Matching artists with schools and providing a varied and balanced programme of music education.
- Time tabling events for our artists and schools.
- Operating a chauffeuring and support service for artists on the day of events, including providing free accommodation.
- Networking in the local community and fund raising. The public can join from £1 per month. Monthly donations currently range from £3 to £40 pcm.
- Overall management and operation of the project through our committee.

## Events so far

Since our founding in October 2016 we have carried out a dozen school visits and reached 1,200 primary school children. A number of our visits have been to some very small schools with 80 children or less.

Feedback from all schools, staff and pupils has been uniformly enthusiastic:

“We were all impressed with the professionalism and skills that the musicians brought to our school. Experiencing different types and styles of live music first hand was really powerful for the children and makes them want to learn to play an instrument”.

“It was the best day of my life. I loved all your instruments. Please come back.”

“The children were enthralled by the performances, they made excellent observations and asked pertinent questions- real awe and wonder!”

“It was really nice to see the violin since I had never seen one played before.”

### **Future Plans**

For our new “season” commencing in September 2017, we expect to add to our team of musicians and carry out at least 25 school visits, varying the content to include workshops and short concerts. Some schools will be revisited, though ultimately we aspire to reach most primary schools in West Norfolk i.e. more than 40. This will require an expansion of our volunteer base and funding.

### **Biographical details:**

**Founder & Chair of Classical Music Rocks**

Peter Barker is a Cambridge graduate and a qualified social worker, now retired. His career has included 30 years in the Probation Service and 7 years with CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Advisory Service), working with children involved in family breakdown. In retirement he has set up a new Child Contact Centre in West Norfolk and led a national campaign to place centres on a statutory basis. He is the author of a book and various articles on private law. (DBS checked).

### **Music Adviser and performer:**

Joo Yeon Sir is a graduate of the Royal College of Music and has developed a career as a solo violinist. She has won the Karl Jenkins Award and performed at both the Royal Albert Hall and Royal Festival Hall with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. She performs in chamber music and orchestral concerts throughout the

UK, this including a complete cycle of Beethoven’s sonatas for violin and piano. She has also appeared on BBC Radio 3, recently performing her own composition on International Women’s day. In April she played “The Lark Ascending” at the Royal Festival Hall. Her recent CD “Suites and Fantasies” has been very favourably reviewed and extracts have been broadcast live on Radio 3.

Joo Yeon came to the UK from South Korea at the age of nine and is a British citizen. She is committed to music education for young people and has also run workshops in Lincolnshire schools. Joo Yeon is a key performer and adviser, identifying suitable musicians for the envisaged extension of this music education project.

### **Safeguarding of children**

CMR's musicians are observed at all times by teaching staff in every location. The Chair, Peter Barker, has a DBS check and is an expert in risk assessment issues as a former CAFCASS officer. He is usually present at all events. Risk assessments are carried out at every school in conjunction with the Head Teacher in regard to safety of musicians and pupils.

### **Some recent remarks by a leading conductor about the importance of classical music**

Saki Oramo, chief conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, was recently interviewed (2016) by the Daily Telegraph. The newspaper comments:

Oramo is clearly bothered by the way classical music is becoming invisible...In schools, "classical music has become something only done as a footnote....if the schools don't guarantee at least some contact with classical music for every child, where will they have that encounter? .....Classical music is such a huge world in itself, with so many strands. It makes a system of meaning without words which affects our feelings and thoughts in an incomparably powerful way. Other cultural forms are made from things you can touch, but music affects body and spirit and mind in an immaterial way. That is why I believe it is the most powerful cultural form we have. If we lose touch with it, I think we are in danger of losing touch with who we are."

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Chair: Peter Barker, Vice-Chair: Simon Bower, Treasurer: Adrian Cosker, Secretary: Marian Abramovich. This organisation is supported by Sir Henry Bellingham MP and Cllr Avril Wright