

Impact Report 2021-2022





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Welcome from our CEO

It's been wonderful to be back working face-to-face in all our projects this year. We had many months of tricky arrangements with all of our schools and partners to continue providing music activities during the pandemic. Demand for our services continues to increase and it makes me incredibly thrilled to be presenting this report that boasts record numbers of beneficiaries and projects across all our programmes.

We have been using new online tools to gather feedback from teachers, workshop leaders, schools, parents, students and carers. We are trying to find out as much as we can about how music changes our students' lives and learn from our amazing young people who are an endless source of inspiration for us. We continue to develop and refine our approach to programme planning as a result of our findings and are grateful to all our respondents who took time to answer our questions thoroughly and thoughtfully.

This year we provided music opportunities in schools for Deaf children, ran choirs in special schools, delivered 1:1 lessons and contributed to many performances and partnership projects. We saw our older students shine musically, achieving awards and grades, appearing on TV and embarking on higher education. We welcomed some of our youngest students into their first group

music sessions and witnessed their joy as they discovered the wonders of sounds and rhythms. It's been a great year to talk to all the parents as families emerged from lockdowns.

A massive highlight of the year was the concert in Birmingham Town Hall that brought together several Music of Life choirs and many students from our Individual Lessons Programme. We have been most excited that this event, postponed twice in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19, was also part of the filming process. We are looking forward to a new film about our choirs to be released later in the year.

I would like to thank all our teachers and workshop leaders for their tireless work, our partners for their most wonderful and fruitful collaborations our schools for their support and cooperation and the parents of our students for trusting us to work with their children. Most importantly, thank you to our students for taking music in so readily, so open-heartedly, so naturally. I hope you enjoy the report

Maria Teterina, Chief Executive

Music of Life Charity Overview



The Charity was established in 2003 and since then has supported over 4,000 children. Our vision is of a world where disabled children and young people have the same access to music-making as any other child. Through long-term engagement, the children experience the joy of making music, which positively impacts their academic performance, social life and health. Their schools, families and local communities also benefit from the improved health and well-being of the children.

We support children and young people aged 5 to 25 with a wide range of physical and learning disabilities, both individually and in group workshops in special needs schools. When they are ready, we help them to integrate into community-based activities such as joining a youth choir or playing in a band, which helps to widen their social circles and gain acceptance from their non-disabled peers. It also helps non-disabled groups learn how to accommodate the needs of our students and to value their contribution.



Our Mission

Our mission is to build and strengthen the life skills, well-being and confidence of disabled children and young people through music-making

Our Vision

Our vision is for all disabled children and young people to be able to access, and benefit from, music-making opportunities.

Our Programmes

Choirs at Special Schools
Music for Deaf Children
Individual Music Lessons
Teacher Training & Work Experience
Community Integration

23,252

INDIVIDUAL MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES
PROVIDED BY MUSIC OF LIFE IN
THE 2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR

Year to Year Comparison

	2020	2021	2022	2021 to 2022 Change
Total beneficiaries	456	686	816	+19%
1:1 lessons	87	90	102	+13%
Attendance of group sessions	332	651	781	+20%
School choirs	4	6	8	+33%
Schools for deaf children	4	5	5	—
Views of Music of Life educational videos on YouTube	8600	9024	10242	+13.5%



2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR IN NUMBERS

816

DIRECT
BENEFICIARIES

5

MUSIC FOR DEAF
CHILDREN SCHOOL
PROGRAMMES

7

CHOIRS IN
SPECIAL NEEDS
SCHOOLS

102

STUDENTS RECEIVING
1:1 LESSONS

15

SPECIAL SCHOOLS WITH
INDIVIDUAL LESSONS
PROVISION

780

STUDENTS ATTENDING
GROUP SESSIONS

39

CONCERTS AND MUSIC
ASSEMBLIES

NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES PER PROGRAMME

156

CHOIR SESSIONS
IN SPECIAL
SCHOOLS

2,852

1:1 MUSIC LESSONS

172

DAYS OF CLASSROOM
MUSIC PROVISION FOR
DEAF CHILDREN

71

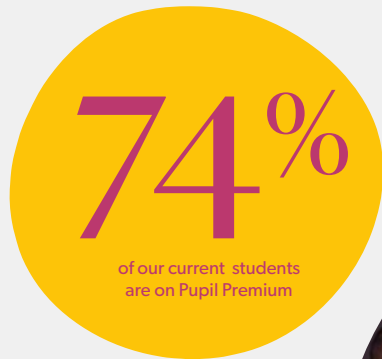
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT
PERFORMANCES

2021-22 Key Facts and Figures

Our beneficiaries' primary conditions*

PMLD (Profound and Multiple Learning Disability)	38%
Deaf / Hard of Hearing	36%
Physical disability	14%
Blind / Visually Impaired	12%

*Many of our students have more than one condition, with 57% also on the autistic spectrum.



Summary of music provision





My non-verbal autistic pupil is much calmer and less angry at the end of our first year of lessons. His parents and his support carer at school all noted that he sometimes spontaneously starts to sing the tunes he learnt in situations where he previously would have started banging his head.





Individual Lessons Programme

Music of Life provides weekly 1:1 music tuition on a wide range of instruments and in various music genres.

Our lessons are delivered in a number of settings:

- Schools where we run choirs
- Schools for Deaf children as part of the music curriculum
- In partnership with local music services
- In partnership with other organisations, such as youth ensembles
- By individual arrangement

Individual Lessons Programme

Individual Lessons Programme caters for children with a wide range of conditions, including deafness, autism, visual impairments and severe learning difficulties as well as those who are deaf-blind or have multiple disorders. Often they have no prior experience of music when we first meet them.

Consequently, the range of challenges our teachers are tackling is as wide as the range of abilities we are striving to nurture and support.

What do music lessons help achieve?

- Improved learning skills
- Reduced social isolation
- Improved emotional well-being



Support workers at the school and my fellow Services for Education colleagues were impressed with Jerry's learning ability in the lessons and with his performance at the recent Music of Life concert. I believe the lessons have unlocked some previously untapped potential and given the student a clear outline and goal for their future, musically and socially.



Individual Lessons Programme

Insights from our teachers



Salman is full of joy each week when he comes to the lessons. He loves the overlap time with the Music of Life student before him when they have opportunity to sing and play together.

“

Kabir has improved massively from the start of the year. After coming out of lockdown Kabir was highly anxious. He struggled to leave the house and go to places. Kabir was part of the Azaad Dhol ensemble where he was able to meet some older children. This really helped him a lot.”

”

“

Fadumo really benefits from her vocal lessons. She is always very happy and enthusiastic to sing and perform songs she has learnt for others. Fadumo is keen to learn new songs and vocal technique as accurately as she can and is very proud of herself when she achieves this. Her confidence is continuing to grow.

”

“

Since Zayna took part in the Music of Life concert last month, she has been more confident in playing and enjoying more playing. It gave her a great sense of achievement.

”

“

Lennox has had been doing brilliantly since he has been given lessons from Music of Life. He has become more confident in his playing. He has very good hearing and working out the pitch without problem. He has been getting better working as a team, playing in a band and responds well with constructive feedback from others. It was not only through my teaching and observation, but from other good feedback from other teachers about Lennox.

”

“

Kabir is much more grounded and calmer since having piano lessons. His class teacher informed me that he was surprised how good the pupil was in his music class and how musical he was. Teachers have noticed a huge difference with Kabir since doing piano lessons. He goes back to class in a happier mood. He is hardly able to answer the questions I ask, but he responds well in music at all times.

”

“

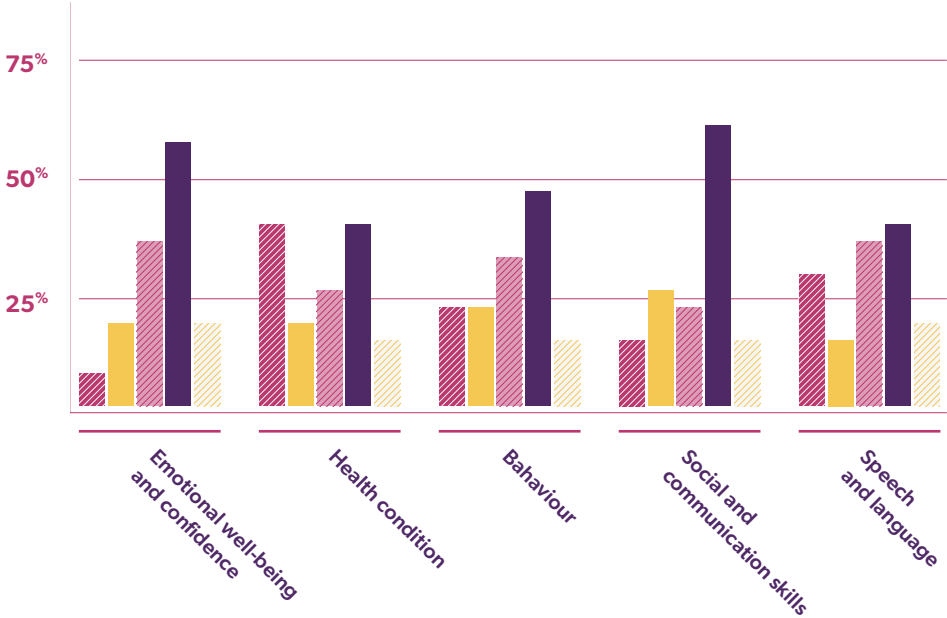
Marian is non-verbal, in terms of using speech, however is fluent in using BSL to communicate. This year I have been doing a lot of work on phrases, tonguing, timing and melody. All this falls under emotional expression, the extension of her voice, and I have also noticed, as she is a cochlear implant user, she knows if the note she is playing is not clear, and she will be consciously aware of it and will pay attention to improve on her sound. Music helps her with active listening and raising expectations.






”

Individual Lessons Programme

Impact beyond music

Our new online questionnaires were completed by 38 teachers on behalf of over 90 students this year. Here are the overall scores for the main categories in which our lessons are believed to have made a positive difference.



-  Not at All
-  Signs of improvement have begun to emerge
-  Some improvement observed by teachers or family
-  Noticeable improvement observed by everyone
-  Lessons helped to solve a specific problem the student had in this area



Music for Deaf Children

Music for Deaf children has been designed and for several years exclusively implemented by professional Deaf musicians. Now it also enables hearing musicians to learn to work with Deaf children.

It includes:

- Classroom provision
- Working in small groups with activities tailored very specifically for the needs of each age group
- 1:1 instrument tuition for KS2 students – currently on piano, woodwind, percussion and string instruments
- Support for schools to enable Deaf students’ participation in major music partnership projects

Music for Deaf Children

Music for Deaf Children is a fast-growing and dynamic programme designed and led by professional Deaf musicians. It now also gives opportunities to hearing musicians to train to work with Deaf children.

This academic year Music of Life have been able to work in 5 schools for Deaf children delivering music sessions in the classroom and individual music lessons:

- Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children (Camden)
- Roding Primary School (Woodford)
- Blanche Neville School (Haringey)
- James Wolfe School (Greenwich)
- Heathlands School (St Albans)



Ruth Montgomery is a professional Deaf Musician, Flautist, Music Educator & Artistic Director for Audiovisability.

Since 2017 Ruth has been designing and delivering music teaching programmes to Deaf children in several schools for the Deaf for Music of Life, leading its vision of increasing music opportunities for Deaf children and introducing them to the social, emotional and educational benefits of music making.

Ruth's visual music teaching and approach to learning are strongly driven by the fact that she was born profoundly Deaf; she is a fluent British sign language user. As a flautist, she earned her Bachelor of Music Honours Degree at the Royal Welsh College of Music in Cardiff in 2005. For more than 16 years she has taught in a wide range of educational and community settings on a professional basis, from music for babies with Deafness to flute students from beginners to diploma level.



There has been a vast improvement in the children's music ability since being part of this project. Pupils can now fully access and participate in sessions. They are being taught by an inspirational Deaf role model which has been massively empowering for our pupils. They are making great progress compared to when they joined mainstream sessions.



Music for Deaf Children

Feedback from our Head Teachers



Concert and lessons have had a really positive impact. Parents are beginning to recognise the benefits of music and are supportive of their children learning.



The children really enjoy music lessons with Eloise. They are a fun way for them to learn and use new language.



The children absolutely loved having a DEAF adult teaching them music and be excited again by music by exploring different ways of how to enjoy/listen/feel the music.



Ruth feels like a member of the team at Blanche Neville! Her sessions have impressed so many parents and they comment on the change in their child's attitude towards learning music.



Ruth is an excellent role model for our children and inspires us all. Her lessons are varied and engaging for all. It's been wonderful and a privilege for us to have her teaching our children.





Any Dream Will Do

In March 2022 the Music of Life choir in Frank Barnes School did a project for Camden Music Festival. They recorded a song with the hearing choir from the primary school next door, Kings Cross Academy.

Children from both schools signed and sang the song together.

Led by Ruth Montgomery and Eloise Garland, all the students have done fantastically well, contributing to the all-Camden online marathon of performances by school bands and choirs.

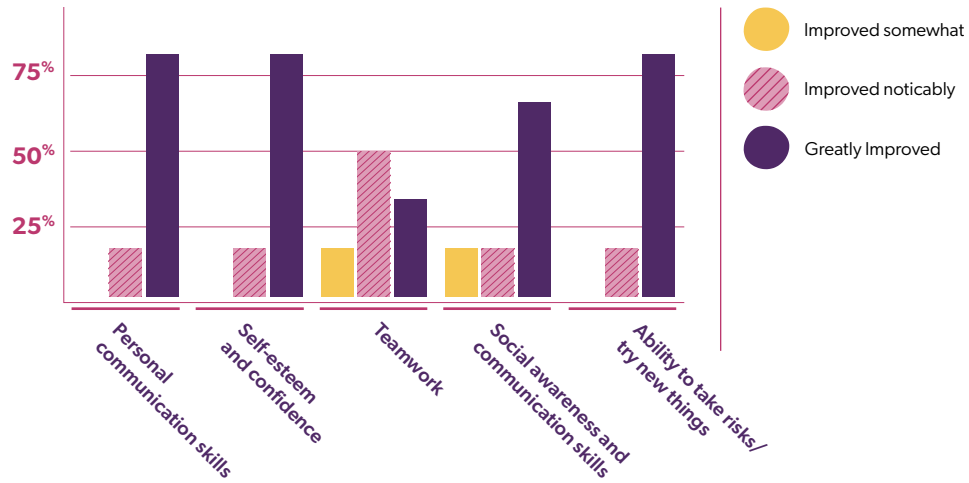


Use your smartphone camera to scan the QR code and watch the performance!

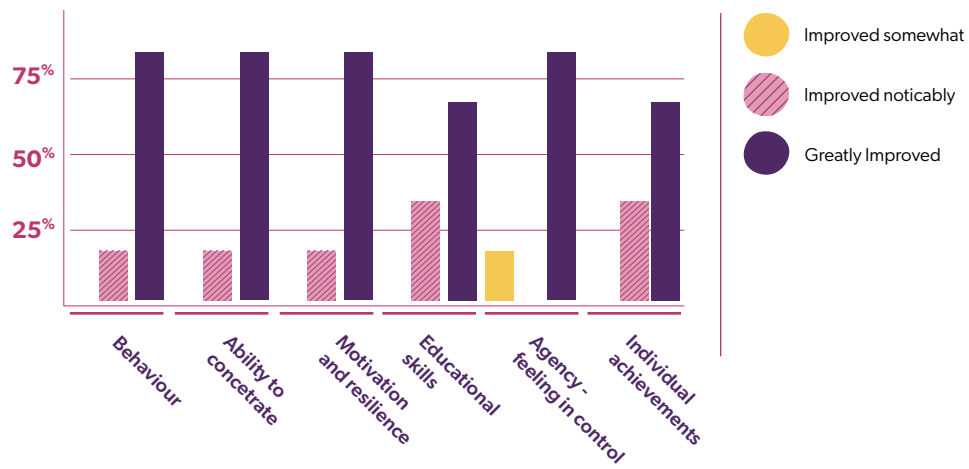
Music For Deaf Children

Feedback from headteachers, teachers and teacher assistants on behalf of a total of 259 students in schools for Deaf children where Music of Life programmes are delivered.

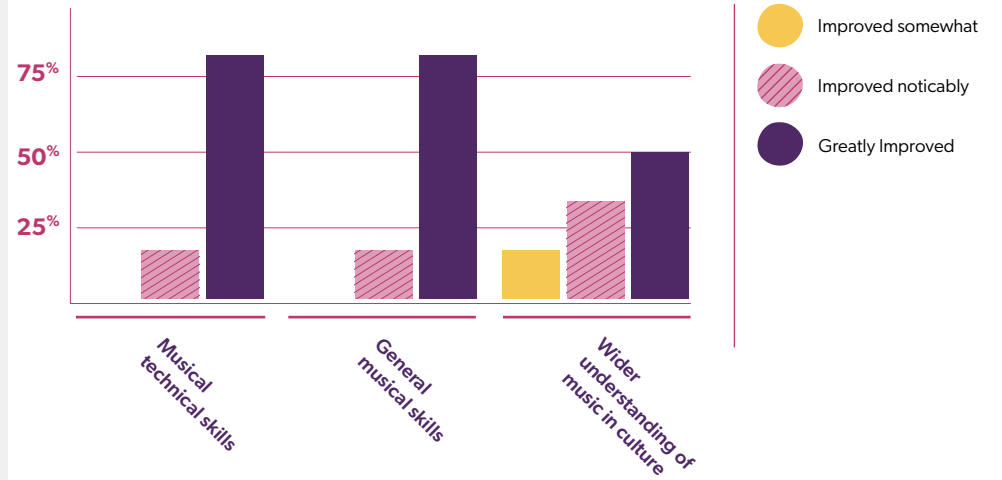
Improved Social and Communication Skills



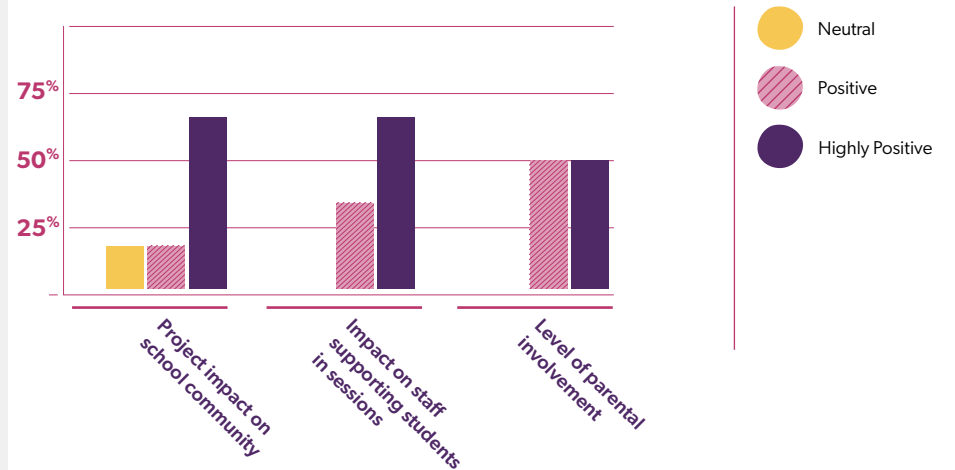
Improved Learning Skills and Academic Performance



Improved Musical Skills



Overall Impact on School, Parent Engagement Level, Staff and Student Relationships





Choirs at Special Needs Schools

Choirs at special schools have been running in the West Midlands since 2014. The project is an ongoing programme of weekly choral workshops delivered by a team of professional musicians.

Choir sizes range from 20 to 60 students, with choral workshops joined by many of the school staff. It's a very "all together now!" approach and a lot of fun.



In 2021-22 Music of Life ran weekly choral sessions at a record 7 schools:

- Evergreen Primary School, Warwick
- Evergreen Secondary School, Warwick
- Selly Oak Special School, Birmingham
- Woodlands Special School, Coleshill
- Calthorpe Academy, Birmingham
- Bridge School, Birmingham
- Castle School, Cambridge



The excited buzz coming from the school hall on a Music of Life day is extraordinary! Pupils and staff participate with enthusiasm and everyone has a voice. The social interactions are wonderful to see and after 2 years of being apart, it was one of the first opportunities to come back together. The performance skills of the pupils who were involved in the concert were brilliant, we were all so proud!

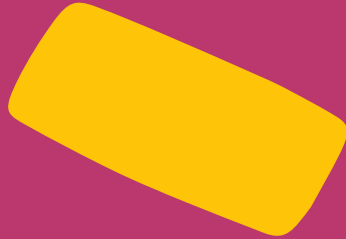


Choirs at Special Needs Schools

Insights from the Schools



Amazing progress. Pupils' concentration level and motivation highly increased.



The standard of behaviour and ability to concentrate improved and I noticed this in the way that they were able to remember huge amounts of lyrical content of songs and remembered musical direction.

The motivation resilience was exceptional in the concerts and the pupils were determined to learn the content in extended periods of time in lessons. It was also great to see that the pupils clearly felt able to interact with the teacher and were in control of the sessions so that it was a two-way communication process and the individual achievements of the concert were absolutely fantastic.



Each pupil gained confidence in different areas of their personality.

One boy finds it particularly hard to listen to claps or be celebrated in any way. We took a chance on taking him and had to have a strong behaviour support plan in place. He was absolutely golden. The performance gave him a chance to be celebrated without feeling he was the main focus and he thrived in the environment.



It has helped some students retain information and be able to come back to class and talk about what they have been doing in their session.



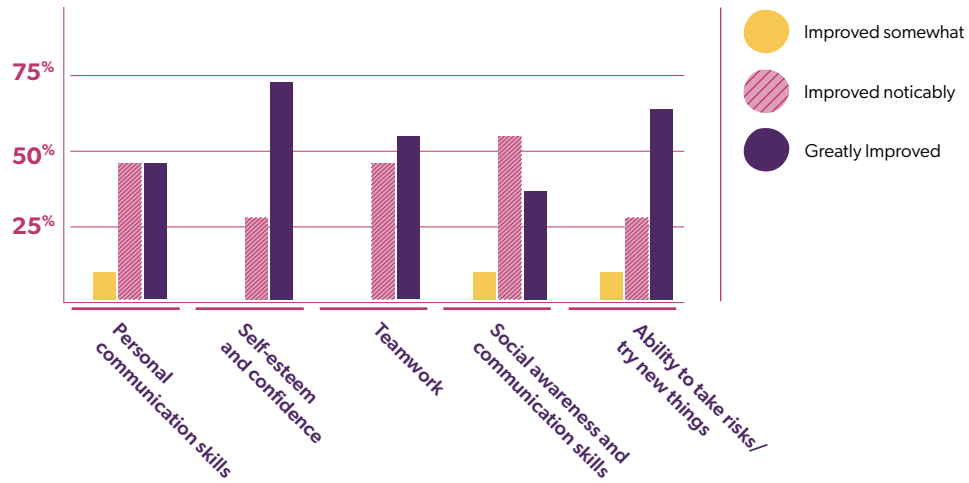
During rehearsals the behaviour and focus of pupils was excellent. They look forward to the Music of Life sessions and put a lot of effort into the sessions



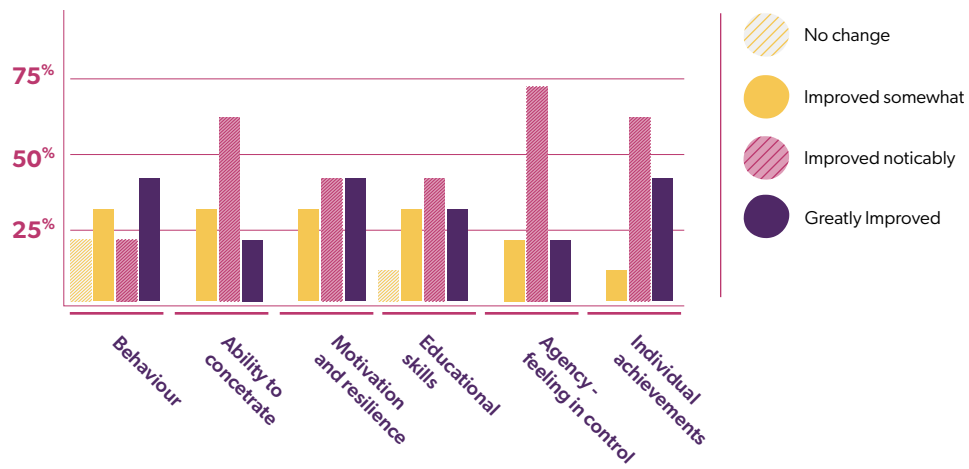
Choirs at Special Needs Schools

Feedback from headteachers, teachers and teacher assistants on behalf of a total of 522 students in special schools where Music of Life choirs are running.

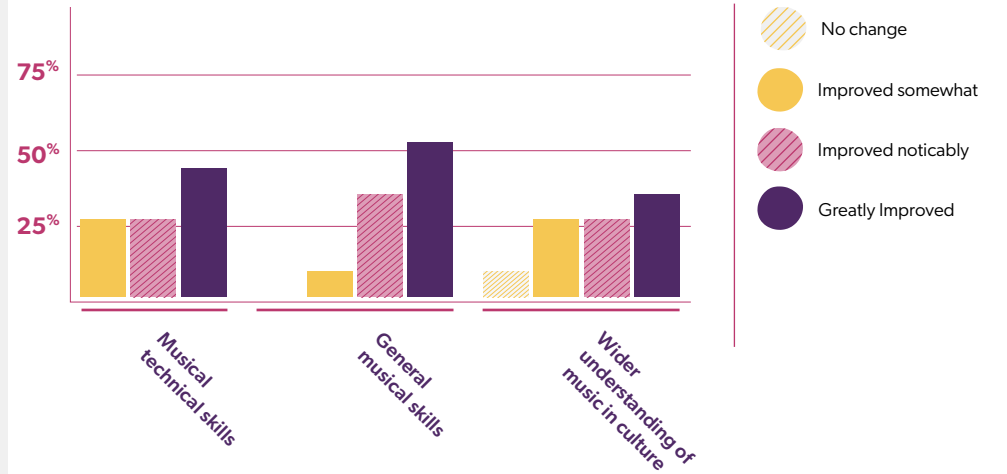
Improved Social and Communication Skills



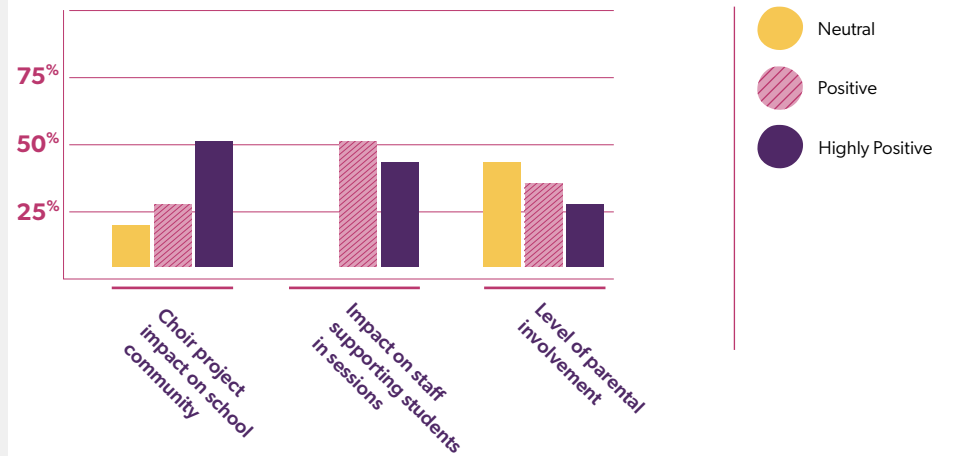
Improved Learning Skills and Academic Performance



Improved Musical Skills



Overall Impact on School, Parent Engagement Level, Staff and Student Relationships



With a Smile and a Song:

Music of Life Celebration concert in Birmingham Town Hall

On 13th June 2022, Birmingham Town Hall was brimming with talent, joy and enthusiasm as we finally brought our choirs and individual students together to perform The Concert originally planned for 2020.

With interlude performances by Denise Leigh, Papagena and Gabriela Liandu, our choirs delivered a smashing set of songs, including the World Premiere of "Music of Life" by Suzzie Vango. Some of the choirs on stage have been running for many years whilst others were only formed earlier in the academic year.

Our partner, Services for Education, facilitated participation of a large group of Music of Life students playing instruments on stage and our workshop leaders took turns conducting.



Use your smartphone camera to scan the QR code and watch the concert in full!

A major highlight of the concert was solo performances by some of our most advanced students, including a pre-concert duo foyer performance and amazing vocal solos with the choirs.

It was incredible to see the children coping with the demands of a long day of rehearsals before the concert and performing with such zest. They gave it everything. Now we are back to all our schools working with choirs and looking forward to future concerts!



With a Smile and a Song

Feedback from the Choir



“ Learning much more difficult pieces of music than would otherwise have been possible in normal school music lessons was the hallmark of the programme this year. The pupils’ technical skills in music improved in their ability to sing in harmony and also take on solos that were dipping in and out of the arrangements.

There was a massive impact on their musical skills in terms of increasing memory and also expressively interpreting songs in a sensitive and musical way. The wide breadth of the material enabled pupils to explore different expression in the music and gave them the opportunity to become involved in a wider range of musical styles.

The wider impact of the programme has been to allow pupils to experience music making in different settings. I think participation in the rehearsal as well as the performance was really good because it enabled them to interact with people from other schools with similar abilities, bearing in mind that our pupils have SEN. It also allowed them to interact with pupils that have no disability. Also, the amazing opportunity to be in a live concert situation with professional musicians of such a high standard was an amazing opportunity for our people to have.

”

Organisational Summary

A copy of the full 2021 Report and Accounts can be obtained from www.musicoflife.org.uk, the Charity Commission or Companies House. Registered Charity number 1102827; Company number 4963498



Patrons

Evelyn Glennie CH, DBE

Denise Leigh

John Lubbock OBE

Trustees

Ray Longbottom (Chair)

Catherine Clarke (Vice Chair)

Sarah Kolkman (Treasurer)

Sophie Bruggemann

Kunal Jhanji

Harvey Jones

Clare Salters

Team

Maria Teterina, *Chief Executive*

Suzzie Vango, *Head of Choirs at Special Schools programme*

Ruth Montgomery, *Music for Deaf Children Programme Leader*

Emma Cockbill, Eloise Garland, Naomi Berry, Elsie Gibbs, Lucy Hollins, Gina Baker, *Workshop Leaders*

Birgitta Clift, *Fundraiser*

Shruti Soni, *Accountant*

Diana Cripps, *Financial Manager (volunteer role)*

>50 music teachers and support musicians

Our Delivery Partners

Birmingham Services for Education

Camden Music Hub, London



Music of Life Foundation

statement of financial
activities for the year
ended **31 December 2021**



Use your smartphone camera to scan the QR
code for a full copy of 2021 Annual Accounts

TOTAL INCOME

£163,330

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

£172,607

FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD

£142,695

Thank You

With no public or statutory funding, we rely entirely on donations from individuals, trusts and foundations to support our work. The generosity of our benefactors helps us to ensure the sustainability and further development of our long-term programmes during this challenging period in the funding of music education.



Supporters of our work in the 2021-22 academic year:

Bruce Wake Charity
Co-Op Birmingham
David Family Foundation
D'Oyle Carte Charitable Trust
Eveson Charitable Trust
Foyle Foundation
George Henry Collins Charity
George Perkins Charity
Gowling WLG (UK) Charitable Trust
Grey Court Trust
Helen Rachel Mackaness Charitable Trust
James Howard Charitable Trust
John and Ruth Howard Charitable Trust
John Thaw Foundation
Karlsson Jativa Charitable Foundation
Mercers' Company
Michael Marsh Charitable Trust
National Lottery Community Fund
Norton Foundation
Pilkington General Fund
Rix Thompson Rothenberg Foundation
Roger and Douglas Turner Trust
Sobell Foundation

The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
The Ashley Family Foundation
The Brian Murtagh Charitable Trust
The Claude Ballard Southhall Memorial Charity
The Edward Gostling Foundation
The Grantham Yorke Trust
The London Community Fund
The Masonic Charitable Foundation
The Norton Foundation
The Rowlands Trust
Warwick Relief in Need Charity

Mr B Short
Ms Marilyn Vincent
Mrs K Puffett
Mr M J Crane Q.C.



Support us

You can donate to Music of Life on our website musicoflife.org.uk/support-our-work/donate-to-our-work/donate-online.

If you would like to find out more about how to support our work, including sponsoring a student or a school, please contact Maria Teterina, Chief Executive at mteterina@mofl.co.uk

Find us @musicoflifeuk



Contact us

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mofl@mofl.co.uk

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