



Impact Report 2022-2023



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Welcome from our CEO

2022-23 was our best academic year to date in many ways, and as we start approaching our big anniversary (in 2024 Music of Life will turn 20!) the excitement is building up. We have seen some important milestones this year, not only in our own organisation and in our students' achievements, which this report is mostly about, but also in our engagement patterns with external organisations. There is a lot of work to be done to progress all the exciting opportunities that are opening ahead of our young people, but we are thrilled to be in this place and are determined to raise to the challenge.

We are making Music of Life's work with choirs at special needs schools more widely known, through increasing the number of public performances and collaborative partnerships. This is leading to a further growth in projects delivered by our teams of expert practitioners which will open the world of music-making to many more children who would not otherwise have access to it.

We achieved an important development in our teacher training scheme as part of our Music for Deaf Children Programme through which we are going to pilot a special needs teaching module at the Royal College of Music from September 2023. Our students in all participating schools for deaf children are thriving musically and growing in confidence through learning instruments and attending group sessions, and we look forward to using this continuous success to create a positive and reassuring experience for young musicians from the College who are exploring their prospective career opportunities.

This year has been the busiest ever for school and ensemble performances ranging from intimate in-class presentations and singing assemblies for parents to participating in spectacular festivals and joint inclusive projects. Two of our schools appeared at the Royal Albert Hall and some of the more advanced students performed solo at Birmingham Conservatoire and Birmingham Symphony Hall.

In this report you can read: the case study of an exciting first work experience opportunity we created for a young musician with special needs; find out more about shadowing and participation sessions for young musicians as part of our Choirs in Special Schools programme; learn how our team was invited to rehearse and perform with over 150 primary aged children at the Arts Fest presented by the Education Impact Academy Trust; and how two of our choirs performed by invitation at an event launching new SEND initiative by Birmingham City Council in July 2023.

I would like to thank: our all our programme leads, teachers, workshop leaders, volunteers, partners at schools and supporters for their tireless efforts in making our programmes a success for the young people. We are also grateful to the parents and schools for their help and cooperation and all our young people for the magic of music they let us see every day in the most unique way.

Maria Teterina, Chief Executive

Music of Life Charity Overview



The Charity was established in 2003 and since then has supported over 5,000 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

26,110

INDIVIDUAL MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES
PROVIDED BY MUSIC OF LIFE IN
THE 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR

Year to Year Comparison

Academic Year	2019 - 20	2020 - 21	2021 - 22	2022 - 23	Change over past 2 academic years
Individual beneficiaries	456	686	816	1123	64%
1:1 lessons	87	90	102	108	20%
Attendance of group sessions	332	651	781	1073	65%
School choirs	5	6	7	10	42%
Schools for deaf children	5	5	5	5	—
Music practitioners trained	—	10	2	5	—
Performances	12	50	69	82	64%
Total individual opportunities	12290	17140	23252	26110	52%



2022-23 ACADEMIC YEAR IN NUMBERS

1123

DIRECT
BENEFICIARIES

5

SCHOOLS FOR DEAF
CHILDREN

10

SPECIAL SCHOOLS
CHOIRS

108

STUDENTS RECEIVING
1:1 LESSONS

17

SCHOOLS WITH
INDIVIDUAL LESSONS
PROVISION

1073

ATTENDING
GROUP SESSIONS

82

CONCERTS, PERFORMANCES,
ASSEMBLIES AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

2,886

INDIVIDUAL LESSONS

244

CHORAL SESSIONS
IN SPECIAL
SCHOOLS

156

DAYS OF CLASSROOM
MUSIC PROVISION IN
DEAF SCHOOLS

2022-23 Key Facts and Figures

Our beneficiaries' primary conditions*

PMLD (Profound and Multiple Learning Disability)	68%
Deaf / Hard of Hearing	20%
Physical disability	8%
Blind / Visually Impaired	4%

*Many of our students have more than one condition, with 61% also on autistic spectrum
82% of our students are on Pupil Premium



Summary of music provision





Fatima (6.5 yrs) arrived this year from Pakistan with little language. The piano, and reading rhythm cards have been used to introduce her to sound with visual resources. She smiles every week, always looking forward to music. She is a fast learner, and I am looking forward to continuing with her next year. Working with Fatima has proved to me beyond doubt that music has no bounds.





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



Leah is 14, she has a visual impairment and a speech impediment and suffers from anxiety. Leah has really benefitted from receiving individual lessons as opposed to singing with her year group. Her anxiety levels have lessened and she is more focussed and confident.

She recently rose to the challenge of learning a tricky, wordy medley of songs from The Little Mermaid, listening to the songs at home and even watching the film to help.

Leah loves to play the piano and the 1:1 time gives her the opportunity to work out melodies on the piano of songs we have been singing. She also practises these at home."



Individual Lessons Programme

Insights from our teachers



The pupils in this group made excellent progress on the piano this year, demonstrating levels of musicality, note reading, and working through the book. Their playing is largely secure. Azaan, Brody, and Abida performed some simple Christmas tunes for other pupils at a music class.



These children are making astounding progress. It is always a delight for me to watch them understand the rhythm, time signatures and beats while making a pretty tune, and controlling their sounds. They have not undertaken any festivals or performances as yet, but they are making such promising progress that I would like to try and set up a small concert during assembly for the school.



Children are keen to learn their lesson in 1-1 sessions. Their concentration has improved and they are proud of what they have achieved. The attention skills of our lower ability group have greatly improved and they have become more engaged with music.



When Oscar first started, his attention was very low and he couldn't remember any patterns he had learnt on the piano. He struggled to copy patterns as well. He then showed improvement on his second year where he started to be able to copy simple short patterns. This year, he managed to remember the small sections without any prompting and this is a tremendous improvement from his side. He is able to focus longer during the lesson.



Massive progress. Attendance is now excellent. Pupil is excited to show me new music he has been practicing at home. More engaged.



When Amelia first started, I notice she might have perfect pitch. She would sing the tune and then tried to match the pitches on the piano. Last year, Amelia was having difficulty in concentrating, she would wander off just after 2/3 minutes of lesson. This year, her attention level has increased. She managed to sit and play for more than 10 minutes and was really keen in learning songs she likes.



Massive progress since started having lessons. Student was not patient or would not want to engage when first started. Now is listening, concentrating, talking. Is able to improvise with a good sense of rhythm. Is able to play pieces of music from the notes C-G with the correct fingering. Confidence is 100% improved.



I've only worked with her for two terms but so far she seems to show great interest in music and always come to the sessions with enthusiasm. We started learning the song When I Grow Up from Matilda and it has been going really well. She's able to focus and learn everything I taught her.



Individual Lessons Programme

Impact beyond music

Our online questionnaires were completed by 45 teachers on behalf of over 100 students this year. Here are the overall scores for the main categories in which our lessons are believed to have made a positive difference.



Effect of the lessons beyond musical skills





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.



Some of our pupils have improved greatly and shown excellent music ability, we hope they continue to build on these skills as they move to secondary school.

The children now have a wider understanding of music. They love their Thursday sessions with Ruth and look forward to their weekly sessions. She's a talented musician as well as a wonderful deaf role model and inspiration for our pupils.



Music for Deaf Children

Feedback from our Head Teachers



Parents are now looking into more musical opportunities for their children. Our end of year music concert was a huge success and many parents were blown away by their child's music ability.



The project has been excellent. Ruth is amazing and her natural enthusiasm for music has been passed onto our pupils. This is an opportunity that our children would not have had if it were not for the project. They find other music lessons difficult, but Ruth has been able to engage them and help them make excellent progress. Many of our children would also not be able to afford these lessons, if they had to pay.



There is nothing I would improve, I just hope we are able to continue having these lessons, it is such a wonderful opportunity for us, our children and our families, who have enjoyed sharing their children's achievements.



Our children love sharing their music together and are proud that they are learning an instrument alongside their peers



Royal Albert Hall



Two of our schools appeared at their local school festivals at the Royal Albert Hall within a week of each other in April.

Once again in April 2023 our collaboration with Camden Music Services and Trust enabled Frank Barnes students to take part in the Camden School Festival alongside over 2000 children and young people from primary and secondary schools across Camden, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Camden youth bands. Claiming centre stage for a BSL performance, a group of Deaf students from Frank Barnes School led the massed choirs in a signing version of the song that Ruth Montgomery had helped all the participating schools to learn in preparation for the event.

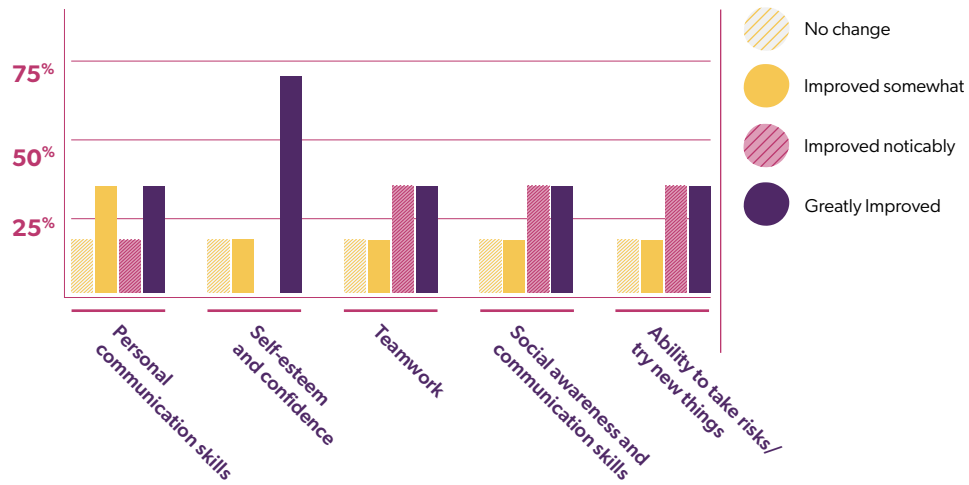
Only a week later, the Heathlands school pupils appeared at the Royal Albert hall in the 2023 Hertfordshire Schools' Gala Give Life to Music that celebrated the quality and diversity of music-making in the county's primary and secondary schools and network of music centres and ensembles.

A massed choir of primary and secondary singers alongside the County Youth Choir was supported by the Hertfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra with additional performances by instrumental and dance groups from secondary schools and the Hertfordshire Music Service Suzuki Violin ensemble.

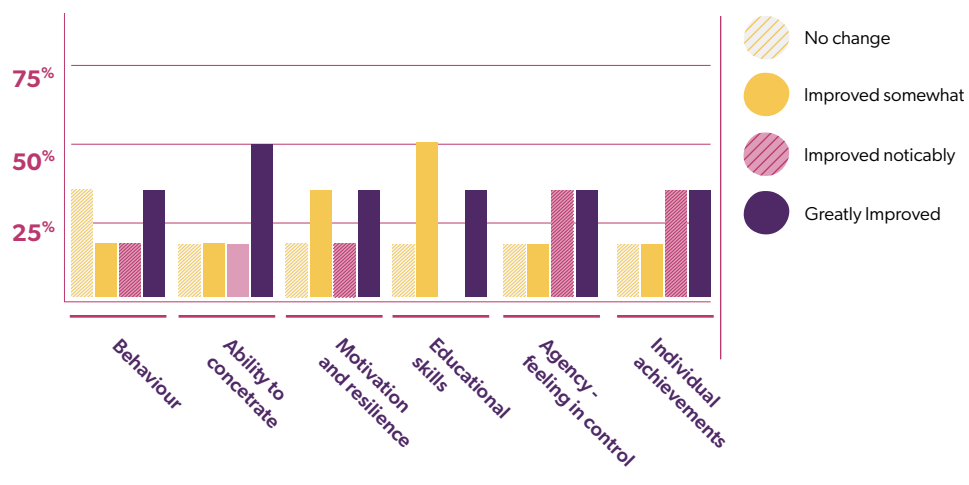
Music For Deaf Children

Feedback from headteachers, teachers and teaching assistants on behalf of a total of 172 students in schools for Deaf children where Music of Life programmes are delivered.

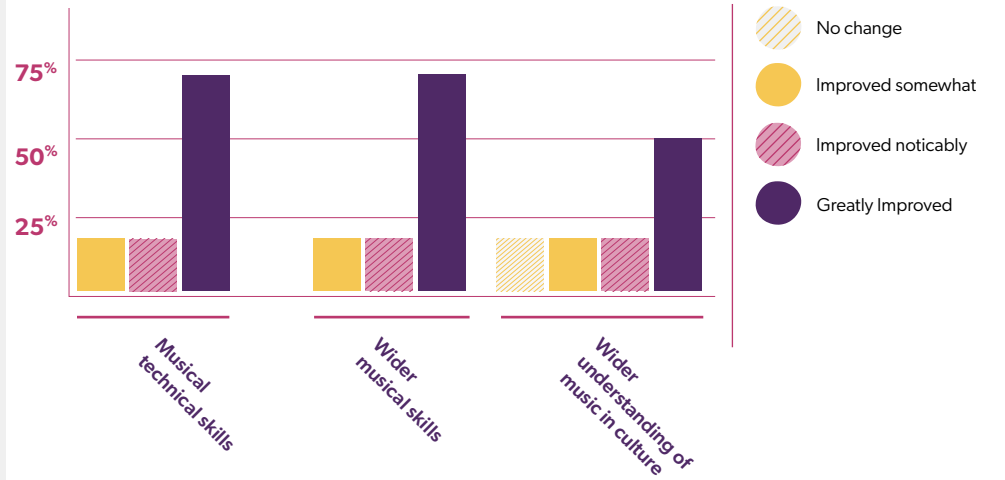
Improved Social and Communication Skills



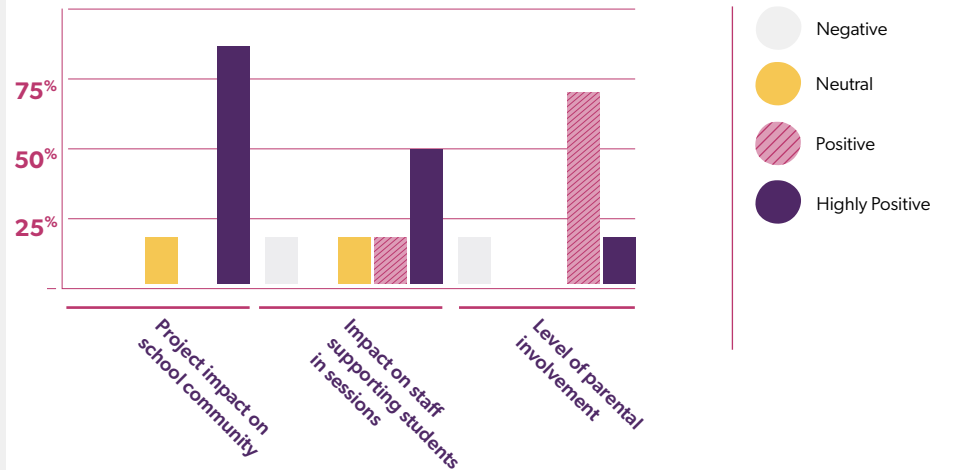
Improved Learning Skills and Academic Performance



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.

Choirs at Special Needs Schools

In 2022-23 Music of Life ran weekly choral sessions at a record 10 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
- Wilson Stuart School, Birmingham
- Mayfield School, Birmingham
- Queensbury School, Birmingham

“

The staff that accompany the students join in with gusto. The buzz around the school on a Music of Life morning is palpable. We are a very happy school after our session. Everyone involved in rehearsals and performances are engaged and appreciate the positive impact it has on our learners and their wellbeing.

”

Choirs at Special Needs Schools

Music of Life film

We are so proud and excited to present this eagerly awaited documentary about our wonderful choirs! Inviting you to look behind the scenes and witness the amazing musical and personal transformation of our young people, hear what they and their teachers say about their experience and of course listen to some of the most catchy tunes!



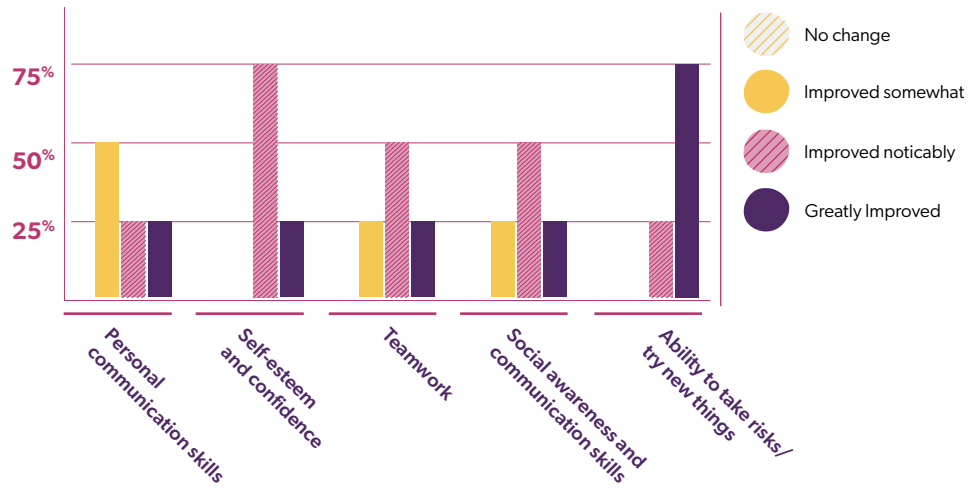
Use your smartphone camera to scan the QR code to watch our Music of Life Film



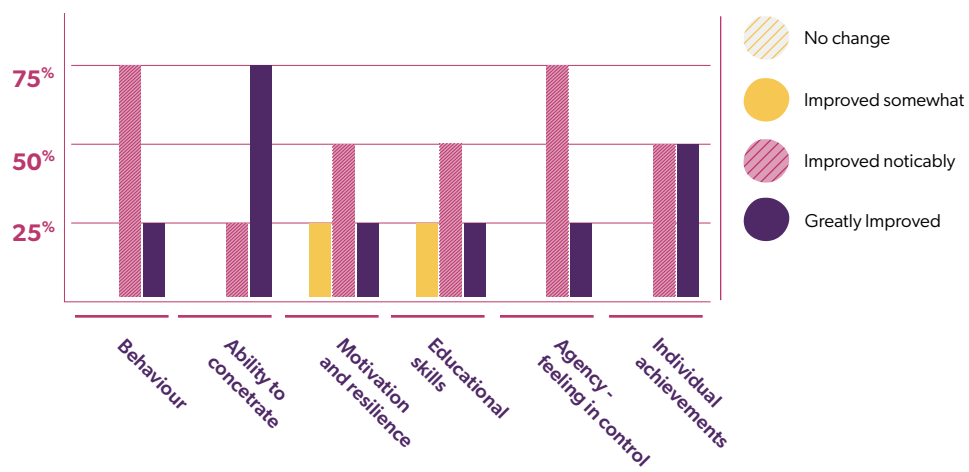
Choirs at Special Needs Schools

Feedback from headteachers, teachers and teaching assistants on behalf of a total of 882 students in special schools singing in Music of Life choirs.

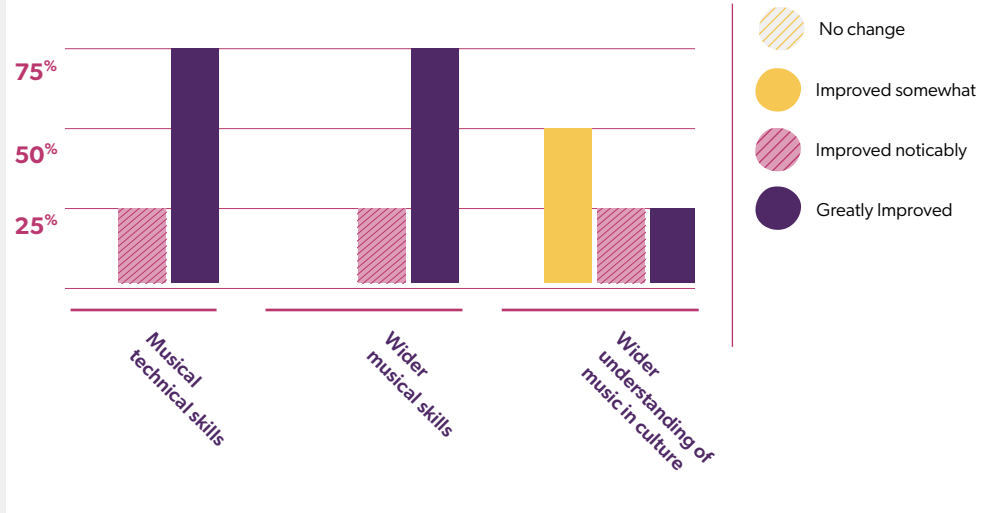
Improved Social and Communication Skills



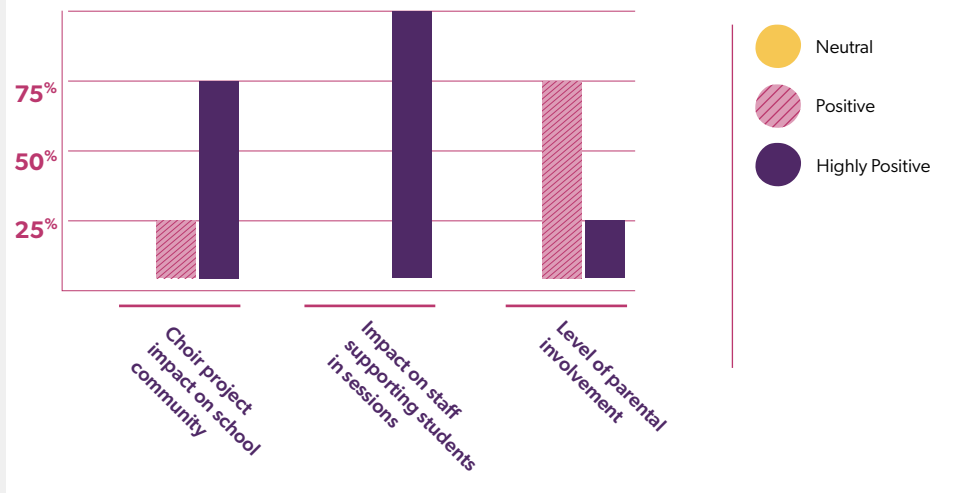
Improved Learning Skills and Academic Performance



Improved Musical Skills



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



Better Together

The Music of Life choir based at the Castle School, Cambridge, participated in a wonderful inclusive project called “Better Together” that was a term-long collaboration between them and a local primary school.

The inspirational choir leader at Castle, Sofia Hunt, presented and conducted a truly stunning concert in which about 70 children from both schools performed together to a packed hall of parents with the Mayor of Cambridge in attendance. Earlier in the term, children visited each other in their schools and developed lovely friendships, supported by many of the school staff in both schools, who were part of all workshops and the performance, and looked as enthusiastic and excited on stage as the kids themselves!

Inspiring the sector: Music of Life choirs at the launch of the Birmingham SEND

On the 10th July, Music of Life choirs from Calthorpe Academy and Selly Oak Trust School performed at the launch of Birmingham’s SEND and Inclusion Strategies in front of an audience of >500 school headteachers, charity representatives and various organisations working in the field.

The enthusiasm, confidence and skill of our young people absolutely captivated the room for the duration of the performance. Our team consisted of the usual mix of professional musicians – singers and a pianist, but also included Barney, a young percussionist with special needs who has been attending Music of Life sessions at his school for many years and gradually became part of the band. With support from his family and the Music of Life team, Barney is currently on a work experience placement with Music of Life, supporting our choirs at their performances.



In the Summer term 2023, the Music of Life team of choral workshop leaders was invited by the Education Impact Academy Trust Birmingham to work with primary pupils from their three special schools to put together a performance as part of the EIAT Festival that took place on the 11th July. Pupils from Wilson Stuart School, Queensbury School and Mayfield School delivered a smashing performance of songs they learned with our team in just 3 weeks.



Organisational Summary

A copy of the full 2022 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

Stefano Filippi

Kunal Jhanji

Harvey Jones

Lily Harriss

Tristen Hennigs

Alex McHardy

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, Naomi Berry, Elsie Gibbs, Lucy Hollins, Gina Baker, Charlotte Galloway, Sofia Hunt, Olga Elbourn, Jessica Lawrence-Hares, *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

Education Impact Academy Trust



Music of Life Foundation

statement of financial
activities for the year
ended 31 December 2022



Use your smartphone camera to scan the QR code
for a full copy of our 2022 Annual Accounts

TOTAL INCOME

£212,123

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

£235,040



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.



Trust and Foundations supporting us in 2022-23

The City Bridge Trust
The Karlsson Játiva Charitable Foundation
John Lyon's Charity
The Foyle Foundation
The Brian Murtagh Charitable Trust
The Childwick Trust
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
The Eveson Trust
The Edward Gostling Foundation
The Green Hall Foundation
The Headley Trust
The Leathersellers' Foundation
The National Lottery Community Fund
The Grey Court Trust
Masonic Charitable Foundation
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
The Norton Foundation
The Helen Rachael Mackaness Charitable Trust
Schroder Charity Trust

Individual donors 2022-23

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Rosalyn Shaw
Barry Short
Anne Taylor
Inigo Ugarteburu
Marylin Vincent
Charles Watts
Paul Weston





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

www.musicoflife.org.uk

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