

Summer Music Courses 2018

In this, our sixth year of summer music courses a total of 105 musicians of all ages participated in one or more of the four weeks. We were hosted again by Parkroyal Community School with their amazing facilities and supported financially by Love Music Trust.

At each course players participate in a variety of sessions comprising instrumental playing in ensembles of varying sizes, sectional rehearsals and broadening the development of musicianship through singing and Dalcroze eurhythmic sessions. For the first time this year we held masterclasses for musicians in orchestra week with Martyn Parkes. We were also treated to a short recital, talk and rehearsal help by Rhiannon and Mark from the RNCM on trombone and trumpet respectively.

At **jazz week** this year players learned a wide range of music from jazz standards such as Duke Ellington's *In a Sentimental Mood* through to the funky *Chicken* by Alfred James Ellis. Sessions on jazz



theory gave weary lips and fingers rest whilst working the brain cells, informing the practical sessions on improvisation. The end of course concert, held at the United Reform Church on Park Green raised the rafters with a superb finale rendition of Sing, Sing, Sing by Louis Prima.



We had a good mix of instruments at **winds and brass week** including flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, saxophone and trombone. The end of course concert opened with James Brown's *I Got You* which the children had learned without music as an ear training exercise. Musicianship and ensemble rhythm were explored by learning the Cups Song and other pieces learned were taken from classical, show and film music.





Italy was the theme of **strings week** where all the pieces studied were by Italian composers. We also brushed up on Italian terms used in music, learning and expanding our repertoire through games, drama and quizzes. The young string players aged 7-13 worked hard and made a fantastic rich sound. Small and large ensemble sessions resulted in the final concert featuring six violin soloists playing movements from Vivaldi's early L'Estro Armonico series alongside favourites from



Italian opera such as La Boheme.

Less experienced players had plenty of help from our teenage volunteers who also organised a treasure hunt.

Our fourth and final week was for **orchestral players of grade 5+ standard**. Mussorgsky's *Pictures At An Exhibition* was the focus for study. The C instruments grappled with multiple #s and bs all week with the 40+ strong orchestra delivering a very convincing performance at the end of course concert at the United Reform Church at Park Green. The concert opened with the orchestra singing the Irish blessing *May The Road Rise Up To Meet You* in 4-part harmony.



The percussion section wowed the audience with a follow on from last year's Steve Reich's *Clapping Music* with his mesmerising *Music for Wood Blocks*, the winds performed a Fanfare, the strings a piece inspired by English folk music whilst the brass played *When You Believe* from *The Prince of Egypt*.

One afternoon we also had a visit from some brass students from the Royal College of Music who gave a short recital and answered questions on life as a musician and helped out in sectional and full orchestra rehearsals.

Interested in our courses for 2019?

July 29 - August 2: JAZZ (ages 11+, grades 3+)

August 5 - 9: WINDS and BRASS (ages 8-13, grades 1-5)

August 12 - 16: ORCHESTRAL STRINGS (ages 7-13, grades 1-5)

August 19 - 23: SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (ages 11+, grades 5+)

Register an interest with Nicola Bright, nicola.bright@maccmusiccentre.org.uk. Please note that wind and brass places at Jazz and Orchestra week are restricted to maintain a balance of instruments.