

Very Well Connected!

ViVA's Education Manager Marianne Barraclough explains how the *Connected to Music* project in Northamptonshire has galvanised students, staff and musicians alike



Connected to Music in Daventry, Northamptonshire is one of five national Music Partnership Projects funded by the Department for Education and ViVA is a key partner in this project. The project which is led by Orchestras Live also involves Northamptonshire County Council (Schools Improvement Service), Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Service, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Royal & Derngate, alongside sinfonia ViVA.

The project is being led by Creative Director Tim Steiner and spans the entire academic year - and as well as being a longer project than ViVA would usually participate in, it is also set up quite differently. The project was established to reinvigorate the music making in Daventry, by working with the two secondary schools, five primary schools and the Daventry Music Centre and this was to be achieved by

establishing a creative ensemble involving representatives from ViVA, RPO, class teachers from each of the schools, peripatetic music teachers, student volunteers and music centre staff.

The creative ensemble first met in October 2009 for two days of planning workshops to get to know each other and to establish a strong plan for the first phase of the project. This was followed by an introductory day for all the participants at the Royal & Derngate - during which the creative ensemble performed material as an inspirational starting point and then the participants worked in small groups to create something they could add to the ensemble piece. The day concluded with a massed sharing of what each group had devised which fired the participants up for the next stage of the project.

Following this session the creative ensemble split into two teams - the ViVA team and the RPO team - with each involving a mixture of professional orchestral musicians, instrumental teachers and primary and secondary classroom teachers. Each team worked with half the participating groups and delivered a monthly series of workshops during which the participants responded to Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and Manuel De Falla's *El Amor Brujo* - and created new pieces based on the repertoire.

The project included a schools concert which was given by the RPO in March and then a collaborative performance at the Derngate in May which saw approximately 280 participants join with sinfonia ViVA, conductor Stuart Stratford and mezzo soprano soloist Kim-Marie Woodhouse (who used to live in Daventry and went to three of the schools participating in the project) for a wonderful and exciting evening of music.

The creative ensemble has met to continue to plan, reflect and solidify as a unit throughout the year and will continue to do so until the end of the academic year.

The project teams are returning to each of the participating groups for a final series of sessions during which each group will run their own small scale creative project, without the pressure of a large scale performance at the end of the process. We are all looking forward to returning to the schools to find out how the Connected performance at the Derngate has impacted on them.

over... participants share their impressions



INSIDE ~ ~ ~ Staying Connected - a review by Orchestras Live of the Connection concert... The wraps come off ViVA's New Year's Eve 2010 programme as tickets go on sale... PLUS the next 3 months of concerts in detail ~ ~ ~



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Ros Peet, one of the class teachers involved (pictured with ViVA's Dave Ayre), shares excerpts from her project diary

1 March 2010

I conceded - I took my Double Bass along to the training session and boy am I glad I did. The professional musicians were exceptionally patient with me and seem genuinely keen for me to

succeed. I even got my first ever blister on my finger from playing so much... If you'd told me 6 months ago I would be taking part in a music project where I would play a musical instrument and read music, I would have said you're having a laugh!!! That all changed. I love every opportunity I get to play my Double Bass... I have joined the Junior Strings and Junior Orchestra at the Music Centre. And finally I don't dread the thought of teaching music. I wish I had done this years ago!!!!

28 April 2010

Today I have broadened my horizons. I went to see sinfonia ViVA play - my first ever live orchestral performance. The concert was amazing. I particularly enjoyed the intimacy of the venue. I think I have a new bug. Do orchestras have groupies? If not I'm about to start a new trend!

24 May 2010

What I have really noticed is the growing confidence of my children. They no longer need verbal reassurance but a quick smile/wink from me gives them the confidence to know they are doing OK. Even more interesting is there are very few instances of children not stopping as Tim directs. This again proves their growing ability to focus.

25 May 2010

A TRULY AMAZING DAY!!!!!!!!!! The children from all the schools have pulled it off. After a day of rehearsals the children have performed to a virtually full theatre and have done us all proud. The end result was a unique performance that will inspire children to want to get involved in music. It has provided parents and headteachers the insight to see how music can enthuse, motivate, inspire and develop children's aspirations. Whilst not all of them will want to continue on the music path, what it has taught them is that with determination, focus and practice great things can be achieved.



I feel that my job in the creative ensemble is to use my skills and experience as a professional musicians to inspire and support the group and share my expertise in the workshop scenario with all the other members of the creative ensemble, not just those that are less confident / musical etc, but also to help develop skills between all the professionals.

One of the most inspiring elements of the project has been seeing the transformation of the teachers - the change in how they now comfortably deliver creative music activities to the class. Great project - needs to be rolled out across the nation.

Dave Ayre
ViVA Musician

I enjoyed the splitting up of schools into instrumental families aspect of the Connection event. Being part of a larger, more powerful team was irrepensible to the younger children especially. The younger participants emulated the older students and professional musicians in terms of behaviour, concentration, performance skills, which was extremely positive. They so obviously wanted to join in with anything that sounded genuine and convincing.



I have loved being part of this effort. I have grown personally (although my hair has shrunk) and relished the thought of an elongated time period being attempted. I think it has worked well. I like the possibility of passing the baton to year 6 teachers and the use of music centre. I like the connection of year 6 pupils with year 7 music teachers and peripatetic teachers. I like the change of behaviour through musical games / exercises. I like having two culminations, neither of which was a culmination.

Thank you for having me along.

Anthony Thompson
ViVA Musician



Tuesday 20th July

St John's Church, Buxton 5.00pm
 Tickets: £10 (children £5) from the Buxton Festival Box Office: 0845 1272 190

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-07-20-buxton.shtml

Floratorio at Buxton Festival

sinfonia ViVA
 Conductor: David Lawrence

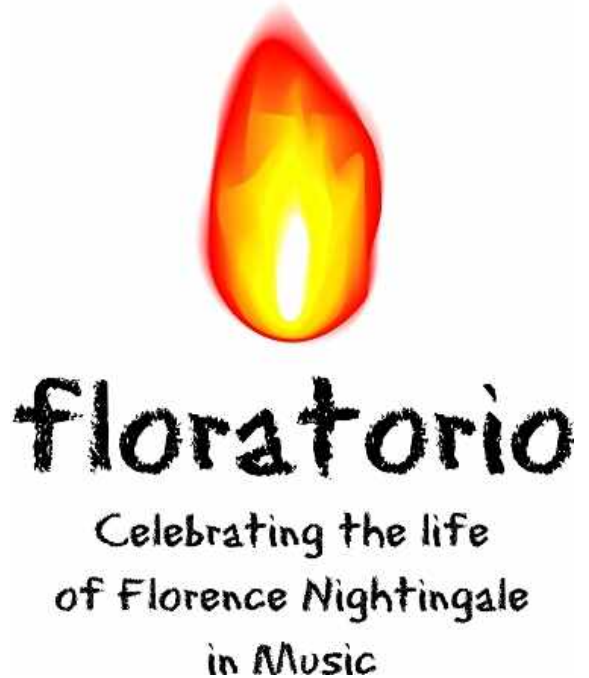


Floratorio celebrates the life of Florence Nightingale in the 100th anniversary year of her death. Nationally acclaimed composer **James Redwood** leads a team of sinfonia ViVA musicians in four local schools to create a series of new songs inspired by the life of the famous 'Lady with the Lamp'. 120 young people will perform this major new oratorio incorporating their own compositions.

Peter Roberts and **James Redwood** have been commissioned to write *Floratorio* following great success with *More Glass Than Wall*. Their work will be performed here for the first time by the massed choir, vocal soloists and sinfonia ViVA in the culmination performance.

Visit the Buxton Festival website <http://www.buxtonfestival.co.uk/> for more details of the Festival.

Floratorio has been generously supported by Buxton Festival, sinfonia ViVA and Arts Council England



Weds 21st July

St John's Church, Buxton 3.00pm
 Tickets: £18 (children £9) from the Buxton Festival Box Office: 0845 1272 190

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-07-21-buxton.shtml

sinfonia ViVA ensemble at Buxton Festival

Mozart: Divertimento K136
R.Strauss: Metamorphosen
R.Strauss: String Sextet from Capriccio, Op 85
Verdi: String Quartet (version for String Orchestra) arr. Yuli Torovsky

A terrific ViVA ensemble conducted by **Nicholas Kok** entertains this afternoon as part of the Buxton Festival.

Mozart's Divertimento K136 is one of a collection of three divertimenti he wrote in Spring 1772. Its warmly resonant themes have a youthful nature, and the piece displays a lively energy.

Metamorphosen was composed at the conclusion of WW2 and epitomises the despair Strauss felt both at the physical destruction of Germany – embodied particularly in the ruined architecture of many famous music venues beloved to him – and also the shattering of the German artistic and cultural society. Whatever Strauss's personal feelings towards the regime that had led Germany to this point, the music is a powerful lament which grows in intensity and tells its own story.

The Strauss opera Capriccio was begun in 1940 and completed the following year. It was to be his final operatic composition, and one that he professed he could never better. The opera opened with a prelude in the form of a string sextet, heard offstage, the musicians rehearsing a piece. Today we get to hear that String Sextet music played centre stage!

Verdi wrote his one and only chamber work in spring 1873 during an enforced break in the production of a revival of Aida in Naples when a soprano fell ill. Its low-key April premiere to friends in the hotel where he was staying was reinforced by Verdi's own comments at the time, suggesting he attributed little importance to it beyond being an academic study. However, over time, the significance to history of both it and the chamber orchestra version has grown.

Visit the Buxton Festival website <http://www.buxtonfestival.co.uk/> for more details of the Festival.

Supported by Rolls-Royce plc, Orchestras Live and Arts Council England



Photo: Marco Borggreve

Saturday 14th Aug

Meridian Park, Cleethorpes at 5.30pm
 Tickets: £12 Box Office: 0844 847 2426

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-08-14-cleethorpes.shtml

||| sinfonia ViVA: Meridian Classics in Cleethorpes

The programme (subject to change) includes -

Tchaikovsky:	Polonaise (Eugene Onegin)
Bizet:	Toreador Song (Carmen)
Mozart:	La ci darem (Don Giovanni)
Saint-Saëns:	Mon coeur s'ouvre a ta voir (Samson et Dalila)
Delibes:	Flower Duet (Lakmé)
Smetana:	Dance of the Comedians
Camilla Kerslake Set - - -	She Moved Through The Fair - How Can I Keep From Singing? I Can't Help Falling In Love - Rule The World (Il Mondo e Nostro)
Suppé:	Light Cavalry Overture
Bizet:	Habanera (Carmen)
Massenet:	Vision Fugitive (Herodiade)
Bernstein:	Tonight (West Side Story)
Lloyd Webber:	All I Ask of You (Phantom of the Opera)
Offenbach:	Barcarolle (Tales of Hoffman)



The Meridian Classical concert returns to Cleethorpes' Meridian Park on Saturday 14th August promising an exceptional evening of classical music starring the vocal excellence of **Camilla Kerslake** along with **Tim Hamilton** and **Kate Warshaw**, plus sinfonia ViVA with engaging conductor **James Holmes**. The popularity of Meridian Classical continues to grow year-on-year and is fast becoming Cleethorpes' very own proms. This open-air evening of wonderful music and entertainment for the whole family ends the night with a spectacular firework display. Terrific music, and a real outdoor spectacular - come and be part of the great atmosphere!

Supported by sinfonia ViVA and Arts Council England

Sunday 5th Sept

Darley Park, Derby - event starts 6.00pm
 Admission is FREE: parking and other restrictions apply

www.vivaorch.co.uk/concert-2010-09-05-derby.shtml

||| The Darley Park Concert

The programme (subject to change) includes:

Wagner:	Flying Dutchman Overture
Wagner (arr. Hall):	Spinning Chorus
Mendelssohn:	Hebrides Overture
Verdi:	La Donna e Mobile
Elgar:	Variation V111 "W.N." and Variation IX "Nimrod" from Enigma Variations
Puccini:	Nessun Dorma
Coates:	Dambusters March
Steiner:	Charge of the Light Brigade
Duncan:	March from Little Suite
Lehar:	Girls were made to Love and Kiss
Botsford (arr.Hall):	Black and White Rag
Strauss:	Bahn Frei
Lennon/McCartney:	Yellow Submarine
Strauss:	Music of the Spheres
Løvland/Graham:	You Raise Me Up
Freedman/Myers:	Rock Around the Clock
Mussorgsky:	Babayaga and Great Gate of Kiev



What a great way to end the summer holidays! The Darley Park Concert - the biggest FREE concert of its kind in the whole of Britain - is here to raise the spirits with a sparkling selection of favourite classics and a peppering of musical surprises... This year's theme is famous people associated with Derby so expect tributes to the likes of Joseph Wright, Florence Nightingale, Samuel Plimsoll, Steve Bloomer and Samuel Johnson. Come along and see if you can work out the musical connections! **James Holmes** returns to conduct sinfonia ViVA in this annual spectacular concert and they are joined by guest singer **Philip O'Brien**. Events start at 6.00pm and the whole evening is wrapped up with the traditional music and firework display as the sun sets over the perfect natural setting that is Darley Park. Come along and be part of a musical celebration of Derby's famous sons and daughters!

PLEASE OBSERVE PARKING AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS. Car Parking £5 at St. Benedict's School on Duffield Road. In the interests of safety, please do not bring barbecues, sparklers, animals (a firework display is scheduled to take place as part of the evening) tents or gazebos to the park. A torch and suitable outdoor clothing may be useful. Help to keep the park tidy by disposing of your rubbish carefully. Further details from Derby Tourist Information Centre 01332 255802 Minicom 01332 256666.

Supported by Rolls-Royce plc, Derby City Council, Derby LIVE, RAM FM, East Midlands Trains and Arts Council England

sinfonia *VIVA!* **New Year's Eve Classical Gala 2010**

Friday 31st December 2010, 7.30pm Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham

Land of the Midnight Sun

Featuring

Grieg Piano Concerto in A minor, Op 16
& In the Hall of the Mountain King

Wagner Ride of the Valkyries

Sibelius Finlandia

Nielsen Maskarade Overture

plus a seasonal selection of Strauss pieces !

**On sale
from
5th July !**

Photo courtesy of Patrick Kelley / US Geological Survey

**Book a Premium Seat and receive
a Programme plus a Bar voucher !***

Ticket Prices: £31 to £9

*Vouchers sent with tickets and redeemable at concert on 31st December only Conditions apply - ask at time of booking



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**The
Chief
Points
from
Peter Helps**



First off, in the wake of our Big Screen performance in Derby this year, another innovative Derby screening event to alert you to - not ViVA this time, but a live relay at QUAD of Berlin Philharmonic from the Olympic Park in Berlin on June 27th (featuring conductor Ion Marin with special guest Renee Fleming). Ticket and further programme details are at <http://www.derbyquad.co.uk/whats-on/cinema-listings/pg17>. Events such as these really help to present classical music in a new light and by doing so open up possibilities for us all.

On the subject of what is going to be possible in the future, last month I spoke about the anticipation of things to come given the new government's warnings of cuts. Well, we've had the 'emergency budget' now and things are a little clearer - and a little more intriguing...

Beyond the figures themselves, there are interesting pointers about the

direction in which the government sees society moving. The emphasis on the role of charities in picking up some areas of activity that were formerly the preserve of government is not entirely unexpected. But what does it mean for us at ViVA?

ViVA is a registered charity, of course, and much of our work is already concerned with the contribution music can make to the wellbeing of communities - as this month's lead article and the review below demonstrate. We have both experience and expertise to draw upon which should stand us in good stead should new opportunities for work of this kind emerge as a result of changes in priority by central and local government policy makers.

While we cautiously welcome a recognition of the increasing role we have to play - even, as the sceptical might say, one arising through expedience and necessity - it is important to be pragmatic. We can do more only if we continue to be supported - both financially and artistically. The full effects of the budget decisions will not be clear until the government's comprehensive spending review in the autumn filters through to the departments, arts organisations and businesses with whom we have closest contact.

Peter Helps

**In
Review:**

**Connection
Royal & Derngate, Northampton
Tuesday 25th May 2010**



Culmination events usually signal one thing, the end. Not for Connection, the celebration event for the Connected to Music in Northamptonshire, one of the five current Music Partnership Projects. Rather than an end, the performance on 25 May provided the springboard and inspiration for the next phase of the project where the classroom and peripatetic teachers take over the leadership of the creative programme from Tim Steiner and the musicians from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and sinfonia ViVA.

Something magical happened on 25 May. After eight months of workshops with a creative team of classroom and peripatetic music teachers, young music leaders and musicians from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and sinfonia ViVA, led by Tim Steiner, 350 children and young people from Daventry, some experienced instrumentalists others barely familiar with the new instruments they so proudly held, came together at Royal & Derngate to perform music that they had created, together on equal terms with a professional orchestra, sinfonia ViVA. The young musicians' compositions, inspired by Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, Charles Ives' Tone Roads and Manuel de Falla's El Amor Brujo and orchestrated by Tim, were carefully woven into a stunning programme which featured sinfonia ViVA, conducted by Stuart Stratford, and Daventry-born mezzo soprano Kim-Marie Woodhouse.

Jan Ford, Partnership Manager for Orchestras Live, the national development agency for orchestral music in England and lead partner in the project described the Connection event as "an inspirational milestone" in the project's development for all six partners - Orchestras Live, Northamptonshire County Council, Royal & Derngate, sinfonia ViVA and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra as well as the Daventry partner schools and Music Centre.

Hilary Miles, Advance Skills Teacher and Creative Ensemble member has found working alongside professional musicians inspirational. "Hearing a child say that they want to play an instrument makes it all worthwhile. I have seen a change in behaviour, concentration, listening skills and general musicianship from all the children that I have worked with, and have been lucky enough to share many exciting performances both in schools and this one tonight."

Henry Little, Orchestras Live's Chief Executive believes the project is a clear illustration of what an effective partnership can achieve and what Orchestras Live is all about. "Every Connected to Music partner has generously contributed their skills, knowledge and resources to create something that is truly greater than the sum of its parts, possibly something even as significant as a new model of music education delivery. Despite the current difficult financial conditions, we are determined to sustain the work in Northamptonshire, linking venues, professional orchestras and educators to deliver high quality music experiences for young people."

Ros Peet, Creative Ensemble member and teacher at Falconer's Hill Junior School summed up the entire concert experience: "We all loved the concert experience and our parents were so impressed. I collapsed in bed last night exhausted but exhilarated. I am more inspired than ever, as I am sure the children are, to continue playing. I'll be practising my Grade 1 pieces later, despite the blisters!!!!"

Reviewed by Orchestras Live website

Visit www.orchestraslive.org.uk/default.asp?id=346 to see photos of the event and read the programme booklet

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André de Ridder**