

National Plan for Music Education & OL Partnerships

Introduction

Orchestras Live co-produces inspirational orchestral projects that enrich delivery of our partner Music Hubs' strategic and local priorities for children and young people's musical learning.

Our partnerships with Music Hubs are a vital part of our programme, ensuring a wide range of children and young people have access to:

- first time experiences and the 'wow' factor of hearing a live orchestra.
- age-appropriate family performances to inspire and enjoy.
- participation projects that nurture creativity, support skills development and growth in confidence.

With the publication of the new National Plan for Music Education and current Music Hub investment round, Orchestras Live has drawn together a summary of how our partnership programmes with Music Hubs support their strategic functions for delivery of the NPME and Arts Council England's *Let's Create* strategy. We hope this will be useful for Music Hubs to draw from in the preparation of new Music Hub investment round proposals over the coming weeks.

1. Partnership

Orchestras Live believes that long term partnership working is key to ensuring that work achieves sustained impact. We support our partners to deliver high quality orchestral music making involving young people as creators, performers and producers, demonstrating that orchestras are for everyone. Through collaboration and our partnership network we:

- match our sector expertise with individual Music Hubs' expertise and in-depth knowledge of their area, to **create bespoke programmes and projects that meet identified needs** and achieve the desired impacts for young people in local areas.
- provide Music Hubs with a **strategic link into the orchestral sector** to support their delivery.
- identify **shared priorities**, create connections and deliver work across multiple hubs and partners. E.g. [Share Sound](#), [The Wish](#), [Sound Around](#).
- **maximise opportunities across regions**. E.g. early years and family programming touring networks.
- broker links across our portfolio to enable **new creative conversations and connections** to support strategic delivery.
- utilise long term experience and partnership learning to effectively grow and develop individual partnership programmes and **support sector wide learning**.



Working with OL brings gravitas to the project [...] as well as the years of professional production experience. Working in partnership is very important to us as we learn something new from every new orchestra and production team.

Current Music Hub Partner



2. Schools and Cultural Communities

Partnership orchestral projects enable schools to:

- **raise the status of music** within schools and with families/carers through working with professional orchestras and musicians in workshops and performances.
- bring teaching and **musical creativity** closer together.
- effectively **engage with school teachers / leaders** as part of project teams, harnessing their artistic and teaching skills whilst enabling them to experience first-hand what music can enable their young people to do.
- support the growth of young people's **cultural capital**.
- **engage families** in high quality cultural experiences through children and young people's participation in orchestral projects.



We really value the work we can do with Orchestras Live and can see the HUGE benefit to the children. This then means that we can build stronger relationships with schools and build on working together and supporting them in their music education.



Current Music Hub partner

3. Progression, Musical Development and Creative People

Partnership orchestral projects enable:

- children and young people to participate in high quality, professional orchestral experiences, fostering a **lifelong love of music**.
- children and young people to **create**. Putting **youth voice** at the heart of the creative orchestral projects provides a vital opportunity for young people to be active decision makers in shaping their creative work and musical development.
- inspirational moments with a 'wow' factor that keep children, young people and families **engaged with their musical learning** and reinforce the learning in their regular music making.
- Music Hubs to **provide pathways** through music education from early years to conservatoire level and enable students to see their teachers as creative artists and musicians in their own right.
- Music Hubs to **engage with parents, families and the wider community** in celebrating and supporting their young people's musical journey. Being part of high quality professional orchestral events demonstrates to families what can be possible for their young person given the opportunity.
- projects actively **demonstrate creative career pathways** to young people.

Find out more by watching our project films:

- [Share Sound digital productions playlist](#) (national project with 6 Hub partners)
- [Able Orchestra](#) (Nottinghamshire)
- [Encountering Wordsworth](#) (Cumbria)
- [Leics Create - Celebration](#) (Leicestershire)
- [Share Sound 2](#) (Norfolk)
- [Song of the Skerne](#) (Darlington)
- [We have to Move on](#) (Suffolk)

“ We have been able to make a significant difference to the lives of our children and young people living in localities who would not otherwise be able to experience music making of this level. Our partnership remains strong and works to support engagement across the county as a whole but more specifically building upon practise over years of work in specific areas.

Current Music Hub partner

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4. Inclusion

Partnership projects enable partners to bring different groups of children and young people together in **equitable spaces to create and make music** together with professional musicians. This can include a wide range of groups from across a community, e.g. SEND, schools, community groups of all ages, music ensembles, health and wellbeing groups. Through our workforce development, we aim to work with partners to draw on a **diverse group of music leaders and practitioners** to reinforce positive representation.

Orchestras Live supports the development of **inclusive ensemble models** through programmes like [Able Orchestra](#). Through creative conversations, we work with our partners to ensure projects actively support their inclusion strategy.

“ The approach of OL to all aspects of Diversity and Inclusion is a driver in our own thinking as we develop and refine our own strategy.

Current Music Hub partner

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5. Sustainability

A **long-term partnership and co-investment model** ensures working with Orchestras Live adds value to programmes and leverages inward investment to bring additional resources to Music Hubs delivery. The **trust built** within partnerships enables the continuation and development of new approaches.

Project delivery enables Music Hubs to:

- bring new professionals and creative voices to **complement and enhance** existing programmes.
- benefit their workforce through **extending and adding value to their role as instrumental/vocal teachers** through joining project delivery teams as creatives on an equal footing. This brings their detailed knowledge to the project and ensures the legacy with the children and young people can be effectively built on.
- involve highly skilled music teachers alongside music leaders and orchestral musicians in project delivery teams creates vital space for all professionals **to support and develop each other's practice**.
- utilise Orchestras Live's approach to **evaluation and understanding impact** to ensure Music Hubs, orchestras and Music Leaders continue to learn, refine and develop the effectiveness of creative project delivery models.

Our Music Hub partnerships over the last 3 years:

- Cambridgeshire Music
- Cumbria Music Hub
- Durham and Darlington Music Hub
- East Riding Music Hub
- Essex Music Hub
- Inspire Music (Nottinghamshire)
- Leicestershire Music
- Lincolnshire Music Service
- The Mix - Luton Music Hub
- NMPAT (Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust)
- Peterborough Music Hub
- Norfolk Music Hub
- Suffolk Music Hub
- Tees Valley Music Service
- Thurrock Music Hub