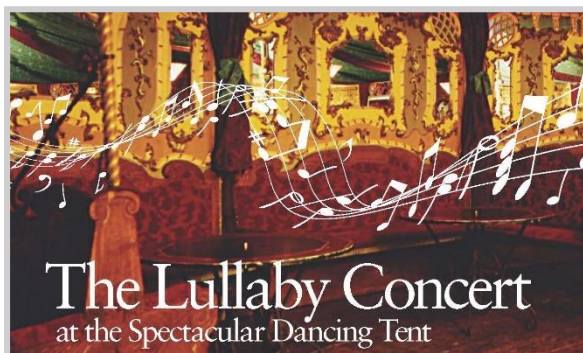




ORCHESTRAS *Live*

THE LULLABY CONCERTS

2009-2018



AN OVERVIEW OF THE LULLABY CONCERTS

Orchestras Live developed the Lullaby concert series in partnership with City of London Sinfonia, as a response to the need for **Early Years music making opportunities in rural and culturally undeserved areas** in the east of England. Our aim was to develop **inspiring, interactive and relevant** ways to engage very young children (aged up to 7 years) in first-time experiences of live orchestral music. This included a long-term approach to artistic exploration with our creative partners, **responding to the needs and priorities of the communities** where the work was based.

Evolving from a series of pilot projects started in 2003, the Lullaby concerts reached over 20,000 young children and their families in Suffolk and Essex over 10 years. For many this was their first experience of live orchestral music, and these encounters have often inspired children to take up an instrument or other creative activity, as well as encouraging families to experience more live music together. Each year the concert series, performed by City of London Sinfonia and led by presenter Claire Henry, engaged children through vivid worlds such as animals, forests and science; telling musical stories through everyday themes. After each concert the children in the audience had a chance to try orchestral instruments, supported by professional players and tutors.

Over the 10 years the programme involved 727 Early Years practitioners in a CPD training development strand linked to the Lullaby concerts; the Lullaby artistic team shared appropriate skills and ideas which practitioners could take back and use in their nursery settings. A leader in best practice, the Lullaby concerts won Best Family Event 2017 in the Family Arts Campaign Fantastic for Families awards, and in 2018 were finalists in the Music Teacher Awards for Excellence in Early Years, as well as contributing to Arts Mark awards with schools.

10 years of Lullaby in numbers

- **105** orchestral concerts, **474** workshops and **22** CPD training sessions.
- **727** Early Years practitioners were involved in training sessions and workshops.
- **50** young instrumentalists gained experience of performing alongside City of London Sinfonia professional musicians.
- **9,631** children and **6,899** adults attended concerts and workshops.
- Overall nearly **20,000** people engaged with this unique initiative by Orchestras Live (including pilot projects).

“

Lullaby has been a special journey for me over many years. The starting point was a desire to explore whether professional orchestras could be relevant to very young children, at a time when hardly any orchestras were doing such work. It evolved into an increasingly interactive model of orchestral performance with strong theatrical narratives which captured the imagination not only of children but also accompanying adults who took part. The potential was quickly realised by our local authority partners in Suffolk and Essex who saw it as a way to develop arts activity and audiences in their rural communities, and a production consortium evolved in this part of the East region which gave a particular identity to the annual projects. At its height, a consortium of 11 organisations collaborated with Orchestras Live to produce a tour of concerts, associated workshops and CPD sessions.

One of the most gratifying things was seeing families return year after year, eager to enjoy our latest production, all thanks to their positive first experiences of live orchestral music. This occurred in numerous places where access to the genre was limited or non-existent. My belief that we sowed many seeds of interest and participation in music was borne out when one of the local young musicians we had invited to perform alongside the orchestra revealed she had attended a Lullaby concert some years earlier and it had inspired her to take up an instrument. We had come full circle!

A particularly positive development over the years was the way in which the orchestral players became increasingly involved in shaping and delivering the content of the performances, encouraged by our experienced presenter. This was important in building a shared commitment to making vibrant high-quality shows amongst all the players, engendering a real sense of company during the tours. It was also significant in the development of the orchestra itself, and part of the legacy of Lullaby, with players now taking ownership for creating and leading their own performances. The project impacted on the lives of everyone involved - musicians, audiences and production partners including myself.

”

Stuart Bruce, Senior Creative Producer for Orchestras Live and
Producer for the Lullaby Concerts



LEARNING AND OUTCOMES

This series was remarkable not only for its longevity but especially for the way it became increasingly collaborative, inclusive and artistically distinctive. Musicians' played an increasing role in devising the content and delivering the performances with presenter, Claire Henry. This allowed them to gain new experiences beyond the music stand. Significant project learning outcomes include:

1. The strength of the consortium approach.

The Lullaby concerts partnership brought together local authorities, music education hubs and artistic organisations to take a collective ownership of Lullaby and a genuine stake in its strategic development. Collaboration with regional companies like Dance East and the East Anglian Traditional Music Trust brought a depth of local knowledge to the consortium, which improved our ability to respond to local needs and ensured the series was rooted in the localities.



Lullaby originated in Suffolk and enables local authorities like Forest Heath to access the very best of classical music in a district that has very low arts engagement. It's a credit to the very strong partnership that these concerts have continued from their conception years ago, and as a group we strive to find something new for the performance each year.



Lizzi Cocker, Forest Heath District Council



2. The development of a sector-leading Early Years concert series model.

The Lullaby concerts have influenced promoters beyond the series 'home' territories of Suffolk and Essex, with Lullaby projects held in other parts of the country. Aspects of the interactive theatrical model has influenced other orchestras in their own Early Years work. The concerts have been recognised by Arts Council England for their merits.

“ The project is a fantastic example of drawing together many priorities and strands of work such as providing training opportunities for musicians and music educators, engaging in meaningful partnership working with local Music Education Hubs and partners, and involving young local musicians in the project - all while maintaining extremely high artistic and educational values for the young children and families taking part. ”

Fran Matthews, Arts Council England



3. The importance of considering pricing when taking a long-term approach to audience development.

This was especially true in the most culturally under-served areas such as Clacton-on-Sea, Lowestoft and Newmarket, which saw gradual increases in audiences and repeat attendance by families, often for several years. Low-cost ticket prices meant there was a reduced ‘risk’ barrier for the audiences, many returning year after year and encouraging friends and family to attend too. This helped build audience loyalty for the concert series.

“ It was very good value and we would have happily paid more given the quality of the concert. I think though that the price made us come along as it wasn't a huge amount to spend if we hadn't enjoyed it. ”

Audience feedback

“ Such good value, nice to be able to afford something that's so beneficial and fun. So many shows etc for children can be £50 for a family of 4, so that's just not possible for most. ”

Audience feedback

4. Evidence of the link between children attending concerts and then going on to learn instruments and participate in other arts activity.

One of the young musicians involved in the 2018 tour, performing alongside City of London Sinfonia, had attended a concert as a small child years earlier and was inspired to take up an instrument as a result. Audience feedback over the ten years has consistently pointed to the lasting inspirational impact of the Lullaby concerts.

“ Brilliant introduction for my son (4) to orchestral music. He loved the story line and was dancing along the whole time. The chance to try the instruments at the end was amazing, he is still talking about playing the trombone a week later. ”

Audience feedback

“ Being able to try the instruments at the end was just magical, it was like a fire was lit in my daughter and she has not stopped asking me for a violin and a clarinet! Things like that are precious now children seem to be so interested in screen time, so I best get saving! ”

Audience feedback



“ My daughter fell in love with the cello at a lullaby concert & is now learning her Grade 3 pieces. ”

Audience feedback

“ My 6 year-old has recently started learning the trumpet after trying instruments over the last 2 years at the concert. He decided last year he wanted to learn the trumpet and this year really enjoyed seeing it played by the guy on stage. ”

Audience feedback

5. Increased demand for inclusive concerts and workshops.

From 2017, the Lullaby concerts introduced deaf flautist Ruth Montgomery as assistant music leader and concerts were BSL interpreted by Sign Language Interpreter Tina Holmes.

“Orchestras Live leads the way nationally in inclusive and accessible approaches to orchestral music.”

Charly Richardson,
Essex Music Services

“I felt honoured and proud to be involved last week... with Orchestras Live I felt I was out in public, promoting a positive message on diversity.”

Ruth Montgomery, Assistant
Music Leader

Throughout the evolution of Lullaby concerts, a relaxed audience environment has been encouraged to help make the performances more accessible to a wider range of audiences.

“It was Arthur's first concert - he is one and has Downs syndrome. He loved it!”

Audience feedback

“My son is autistic and was thoroughly mesmerised by the orchestra.”

Audience feedback

6. Mentoring of young and emerging artists and promoters.

Pilot projects and Lullaby tours led young and emerging artists to experience and be involved with a professional artistic event, as well as non-traditional, immersive ways of engaging new audiences. Lullaby activity has involved the mentoring and participation of: 12 young and emerging music leaders; 50 young instrumentalists performing alongside the orchestra; 11 young promoters gaining music industry skills.

“It was great fun and I'm most grateful for the opportunity to play with professional musicians. It strengthened my desire to become a professional musician, and I was delighted to see how the young audience enjoyed the performance.”

Guest young musician



7. The importance of providing relevant content to engage young children.

The Lullaby concerts incorporated a different theme each year, always proving overwhelmingly popular with audiences. For example, the science theme (2013) explored principles of how orchestral instruments make sounds, in fun, interactive ways for the audience. The 'Mission to Launch' theme (2017) used different techniques of creating energy alongside the instruments (blowing, pumping, pedalling, clapping) to produce enough power to launch a rocket prop into the air in the culmination of the concert.

“ I thought it was exciting for the whole family. ”

Zach, aged 7

“ It was super. I liked everything. ”

Fraser, aged 4

“ That was AWESOME. ”

Thomas, aged 5 &
Jess, aged 2



8. Use of taster workshops to trial artistic ideas.

Workshops were used to gather input from children, adults and from the orchestral musicians, all helping to trial ideas for interaction and hone the subsequent performances. The workshop audiences were used to trial and refine these ideas, which meant that these young audiences were helping to design the content of the shows through their reactions and interactions during the workshops.

“ I got the impression the children were not expecting it to be so fun and interactive - I heard one child say “this is so cool, I wish she was our music teacher!” ”

Claire Henry, Music Leader

9. Development of specific CPD training sessions for the Early Years workforce.

Training sessions were developed for Early Years practitioners looking to introduce or develop music-making in their work with young children, parents and carers. Sessions were open to all with no prior musical experience required, and focused on creative learning, child-led play and turn-taking, as well as exploring emotions through music.

“ I came in with great trepidation – I went out with the confidence to share my new learned skills with others. ”

Early Years practitioner training day feedback

10. Sustainability through legacy resources.

These included bespoke music resource boxes and ‘sound-books’ linked to the concert themes and/or orchestral instruments, which were provided for nursery settings to continue music activity beyond the Lullaby workshops. These were commissioned by Orchestras Live to help sustain music activity after each year’s tour and were important to local partners as part of the legacy of the project.

“ There was definitely a sense of legacy when we returned to previously visited settings. Many practitioners told me they were still using the material provided from the last time the Lullaby workshops had visited. This seemed to be more deeply engrained in the education settings. ”

Claire Henry, Music Leader



THE EVOLUTION OF THE LULLABY CONCERTS

The evolution of the Lullaby Concerts has been a remarkable story of discovery and sector development, with an interactive concert experience for young children and family audiences becoming an award-winning model with a cult following in rural and coastal parts of the East of England.

The origins go back to 2003 and a commitment towards developing orchestral activity in the context of Early Years learning that was shared by Orchestras Live (previously Eastern Orchestral Board) and its partner local authorities and organisations, predominantly in Suffolk. This began with **Adventures in Sound**, a pilot project with the London Mozart Players, involving a series of workshops at nursery settings linked to a family concert at the Marina Theatre, Lowestoft. Two local musicians took part as trainees in the artistic team, signalling the start of a mentoring thread for emerging music leaders that would run through subsequent projects.

Building on these positive beginnings, a long-term programme of creative work and skills development, **Flights of Fancy**, was held through 2006-07. Teams of artists from three orchestras - City of London Sinfonia, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Philharmonia Orchestra - each with integrated trainee musicians and overseen by project director Catherine Johnson, led regular workshops and training sessions at Children's Centres, schools and nurseries in different areas. Supported by Youth Music, the project formed part of Orchestras Live's strategy to extend existing 'hubs' of orchestral activity and achieve work in parts of Suffolk where there was little or no provision. **Flights of Fancy II** followed in 2008, consolidating the skills of two trainee music leaders through a mentoring programme with amateur John Webb.

The first Lullaby Concerts were held in July 2009 by City of London Sinfonia, presented by Catherine Johnson, marking the beginning of the development of Early Years concerts with this orchestra over 10 years. Held at Easton Farm Park inside Dance East's Spectacular Dancing Tent, the concerts followed a series of workshops at nearby nursery settings and a one-day course for Foundation Stage practitioners. In light of the positive outcomes and interest from local authorities, Orchestras Live gradually built a consortium of partners that co-produced annual tours reaching numerous parts of Suffolk and Essex.



2010 – animal-themed concerts were held at Sudbury, Debenham, Halesworth and Bury St Edmunds. Presentation and artistic leadership was taken over by Claire Henry (née Bloor) who had been one of the music leaders involved in Flights of Fancy. Workshops at nursery settings and a training day for practitioners were also held, with a particular focus on supporting the 'Every Child a Talker' speech development programme at certain settings.

2011 – the theme of *Magic* was enhanced through the involvement of a local young magician in the concert presentation. This tour saw the introduction of post-concert instrument workshops facilitated by the County Music Service, as well as local young musicians performing an item alongside the orchestra. Venues were Bury St Edmunds, Sudbury, Halesworth and Thurston, with preliminary workshops and a training day. Bespoke resource boxes were produced for every setting to encourage sustainability of music-making.



2012 – *Water Music* was the theme, with performances at Newmarket, Sudbury, Stowmarket, Felixstowe, and Clacton-on-Sea. In addition to the preliminary workshops, two music training days were held to meet demand for CPD from nursery practitioners and child minders. An award from Youth Music enabled the project to reach new areas over several years, including Thurrock, as well as *Music of Dreams* - a more in-depth series of music leader CPD sessions, workshops at nursery settings and a family music day at Newmarket.

2013 – *The Science of Music* enabled simple technology and principles of sound to be explored through the narrative of concerts held at Hadleigh, Clacton-on-Sea, Newmarket, Ipswich and Stowmarket. Three music training days were held as well as the workshops. A partnership with Barnardo's enabled additional workshops to be held at Children's Homes in Jaywick and a separate day of concerts based on Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* at Clacton-on-Sea earlier in the year, a project which was repeated at Bolsover in Derbyshire.





2014 – *The Enchanted Forest*, linked to the CLS season focusing on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In addition to involvement of local young instrumentalists, a young ballerina from Dance East made a surprise appearance and danced with the orchestra during the concerts at Clacton-on-Sea, Hadleigh, Felixstowe, Lowestoft, Newmarket and Stowmarket.

2015 – *Claire's Musical Party* saw concerts held at Clacton-on-Sea, Felixstowe, Great Cornard, Lowestoft, Newmarket and Stowmarket. Orchestras Live introduced a social media campaign to engage and establish an online relationship with family groups in the venue areas. Primary schools hosting workshops started achieving Arts Award Discover accreditation with their children.



2016 – *A Day at the Fair* was based on the mixing of folk and classical genres, including collaboration with three artists from East Anglian Traditional Music Trust. For the first time, Lullaby went to Stroud in Gloucestershire and Rayleigh in Essex as well as Clacton on Sea, Newmarket, Stowmarket, and to Lowestoft where BTEC students acted as 'young promoters' of the concerts. The tour was winner of Best Event in the national Get Creative Family Arts Festival.

2017 – *Mission to Launch* creatively explored different ways of generating power to launch a rocket into space, through taster workshops and concerts held at Clacton-on-Sea, Haverhill, Newmarket, Rayleigh, Lowestoft and Stowmarket. The concerts were co-presented by Claire Henry and Deaf flautist Ruth Montgomery. The project was nominated for the Excellence in Primary / Early Years Award in the 2018 Music Teacher Awards for Excellence.



2018 – *The Musical Puzzle* had a narrative in which the audience helped the orchestra to make shapes through solving musical challenges in order to complete a giant puzzle. Concerts were held at Haverhill, Newmarket, Clacton-on-Sea, Lowestoft, Stowmarket and, for the first time, Chelmsford and Harlow, along with taster workshops and a music CPD day.

All photography © Paul Coghlin, ShowCapture photography

Ten years of Lullaby were made possible by:

ORCHESTRAS *Live*



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Claire Henry

Ruth Montgomery

Tina Holmes

Catherine Johnson

Access to Work
Adnams Charity
Alfred Williams Charitable Trust
Barnado's
Bolsover District Council
Chelmsford City Council
Dance East
East Anglian Traditional Music Trust
Essex Arts Development
Essex County Cultural Development
Essex County Early Years & Childcare
Essex Community Foundation
Forest Heath Locality Fund
Ganzoni Charitable Trust
Geoffrey Watling Charitable Trust
Golsoncott Foundation
Grassroots (Colchester & Tendring
Community Trust)
Haverhill Locality Fund
Haverhill Town Council
Marina Theatre, Lowestoft
Music Sales Charitable Trust
Nichol-Young Foundation
Patrick Rowland Foundation

Philips Avent
Pre-School Music Association, Norwich
Rochford District Council
Rochford Extended Services
Royal Opera House – Thurrock
Scarfe Charitable Trust
St Edmundsbury Council Locality Fund
St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Stowmarket Locality Fund
Stroud District Council
Suffolk Coastal District Council
Suffolk Community Foundation
Suffolk County Music Service
Suffolk Early Years & Childcare Service
Suffolk Giving Fund
Suffolk Locality Fund
The Thistle Trust
Thurrock Council Early Years
Improvement Team
Thurrock Music Services
Waitrose Sudbury Community Matters
Woodwinds of Stortford
Youth Music

Lullaby in numbers: attendances and participation from Lullaby pilot projects, main Lullaby tours and related projects.

	Concerts	Workshops	CPD events	Presenters	Trainee music leaders	Orchestral musicians	Dancers	Other artists	Young musicians	Young promoters	Child participants	Adult participants	EY practitioners	GRAND TOTAL
Adventures in Sound 2003	1	24	0	1	2	35	0	0	0	0	286	145	10	
Flights of Fancy	0	270	0	1	5	12	0	3	0	0	140	10	18	
Flights of Fancy 2	0	34	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	266	56	22	
TOTAL	1	328	2	1	9	47	0	4	0	0	692	211	50	
Lullaby Concerts 2009	2	9	1	1	1	12	1	0	0	0	260	180	26	
Lullaby tour autumn 2010	8	39	1	1	0	12	0	0	3	0	896	804	67	
Lullaby tour autumn 2011	8	39	4	1	0	12	0	0	3	0	1,046	857	75	
Music of Dreams spring 2011-12	1	124	1	1	1	12	0	28	4	0	199	98	36	
Lullaby tour autumn 2012	10	45	3	1	0	13	0	0	6	0	935	648	102	
Clacton Barnardo's project spring 2013	2	9	1	1	0	13	1	0	0	0	120	70	31	
Thurrock project spring 2013	2	9	1	1	0	13	0	0	0	0	132	45	24	
Lullaby tour autumn 2013	10	44	3	1	0	13	0	0	3	0	794	499	92	
Bolsover project 2014	1	12	0	1	0	13	1	0	0	0	98	25	8	
Lullaby tour autumn 2014	12	45	1	1	0	13	1	0	6	0	999	713	61	
Lullaby tour autumn 2015	12	36	2	1	0	13	0	0	6	0	1,045	707	56	
Lullaby tour autumn 2016	11	19	3	1	0	13	1	2	4	11	1,007	713	73	
Lullaby tour autumn 2017	12	19	0	1	1	13	0	0	6	0	947	678	17	
Lullaby tour autumn 2018	14	25	1	1	1	13	0	0	9	0	1,153	862	59	
TOTAL	105	474	22	2	4	178	5	30	50	11	9,631	6,899	727	
TOTAL all activity	106	802	24	2	13	225	5	34	50	11	10,323	7,110	777	19,482