



Our musical inclusion activities focus on providing access for those living in the most challenging of circumstances and who, as a consequence, may not have the same opportunities as others to take part in high quality music activity.

The young people we work with include:

- Looked-after-children (i.e. in foster care)
- Young carers
- Those suffering from mental ill-health or with emotional/behavioural problems
- Those with special educational needs including physical and mental/learning disabilities and communication disorders (e.g. autism, ADHD etc.)
- Visually impaired and deaf children
- Those attending pupil referral units
- NEET (not in employment, education or training) groups.

Projects are typically undertaken in partnership with a third sector agency, local authority service provider, or private sector organisation working with specific groups of disadvantaged children and young people on a daily basis. The types of activities we deliver are shaped by the views of the young people taking part. We also deliver bespoke projects for special schools, DSP units or other institutions offering alternative education provision across Northamptonshire and Rutland. Activities are delivered by a team of freelance musicians working across many music genres, styles and instruments. They work mainly in teams, but also deliver one-to-one and small group instrumental lessons. On occasion, we receive referrals through bodies such as the NHS and others to provide music mentoring and other 1-2-1 music services to achieve specific therapeutic and pastoral outcomes for their clients.

You can hear some of the music children and young people working on the Musical Inclusion Programme have created over the past three years on the “Music Forge” project online at <https://soundcloud.com/music-forge>

The programme has been running since 2012 and was initiated by the Northamptonshire Music Education Hub Delivery Partners as a follow-up to the Northamptonshire Youth Music Action Zone. In April 2015, "Music Forge", was awarded a 3-year grant by Youth Music, enabling work to continue here in Northamptonshire and, for the first time, develop new initiatives through our subsidiary charity, Rutland Music. Importantly, it means we can continue to offer a wide range of open and inclusive musical opportunities to disadvantaged children and young people free or at a greatly subsidised cost.

For further details about this area of work please contact Simon Steptoe, Musical Inclusion Programme and Partnership Manager on: ssteptoe@nmpat.co.uk

Meet the Musical Inclusion Team



Simon Steptoe is the Programme and Partnership Manager and responsible for running the Musical Inclusion Programme. Simon is a classically trained musician and a qualified secondary school music teacher. He has worked extensively in the music education sector for nearly 30 years holding positions in schools, third sector organisations and charities, as well as education departments within professional arts organisations including the Halle Orchestra in Manchester.

A formative part of his musical training was spent in Indonesia studying Javanese gamelan music. Upon returning to the UK, he found these instruments have unique potential to create immersive musical experiences for SEN/D children that have profound effects on the development of their musical skills and in enhancing their life conditions. In turn, this has influenced many aspects of NMPAT's current inclusion project, "Music Forge".

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Louise Tyrrell is the Programme Assistant, and works with Simon on the administration and finance of the programme. She has been involved in the arts in Northamptonshire for over 14 years. Her background and training is in Crafts, particularly as a silversmith, and she has supported and advised Northamptonshire arts organisations through her position at the Arts Development Team for the local authority. Louise has been with NMPAT since 2011, when the trust received its first tranche of funding from Youth Music, for the Action Zone project. She has supported and worked with colleagues to develop and run the Musical Inclusion Programme as it has evolved.



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Jon Kendall is a multi-instrumentalist and songwriter. As well as teaching a large number of guitar students each week, Jon runs workshops in song writing, guitar, percussion, and production throughout the UK. He has worked with children of all abilities including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Kate Rounding plays the flute and a range of world percussion styles and brings musical experience from folk, pop and contemporary genres. Kate enjoys combing live music and music technology to support young people with original compositions. Kate has worked as a music lecturer in FE and within SEN schools in addition to freelance work across the East Midlands. Kate is currently Project Manager for Leicester based Arts and Education charity, Pedestrian.



Daniel Johnson is a DJ/ Producer and Performing Artist who, in addition to performing, delivers a range of music workshops based around commercial, contemporary and off-the-shelf skills, techniques and instrumentation such as DJ'ing, sampling, scratching and digital music production. He also specialises in Urban style music genres and contemporary pop and is equipped with an in-depth library of music and easily able to adapt to the user's music style preference.

SEN/D Musical Inclusion Conference 20:



Greg Coulson is a multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and performer. An accomplished pianist and Hammond player, he is also a gifted guitarist and singer/songwriter specialising in Rhythm & Blues. Greg has toured worldwide with two-tone band, 'The Selector', and also played a leading role in the West End production of 'Close to You: Bacharach Reimagined' at the Criterion Theatre, Piccadilly Circus.

Anna-Marie Whitaker-Johnson is passionate about supporting young people to access and experience the arts/music, especially those most in need and has dedicated a career to Arts Education for the past 15 years. She designs and delivers singing and song writing workshops and musical ensemble experiences. Anna-Marie also provides one-to-one and group vocal coaching and has recently trained in the Estill vocal model. She is highly experienced in partnership working and works regularly with artists, local authorities, arts organisations and music education hubs and provides arts/music based projects in a range of settings including: schools, secure units, pupil referral units, complimentary education and hospital and outreach (in and out patients). Anna-Marie is an Arts Award Trainer and Support Consultant for Trinity College London and the Vice Chair/Coordinator of the Artists in Learning Network.



Joel Barford is a freelance drummer and session musician who, as well as teaching, plays all over the UK and Europe with different projects and bands. He delivers workshops for children of all ages, including those with special educational needs across a wide variety of abilities.

Reach the Stars

‘Bespoke music programs for children and young people with SEN/D and SEMH difficulties’

Breakout Session Information

Reach the Stars is a new NMPAT initiative designed to enable children and young people with additional needs to actively engage through live expressive and receptive musical experiences. Come and meet Gideon Malitskie (Music Therapist) and Emily-May Roebuck (Sounds of Intent fellow) and discover their vision for a bespoke and evolving strategy which places the needs of the individual at the heart of delivery.

This breakout session will highlight the identity of Reach the Stars as a new and unique NMPAT initiative, illuminating how we will research, consult, plan, deliver, and evaluate practical music making sessions for your children and young people. We will highlight our philosophy, an overview of techniques and our material resources specific to meet physical and/or cognitive needs.

This session intends to provide understanding of the ways Reach the Stars can help address physical, cognitive, social, emotional and behavioural needs of your children and young people through an integrated and flexible musical approach. Furthermore, we wish to communicate the bespoke nature of this program as one seeking to engage and learn from you and your school, so that we may harmonise with your own vision whilst attuning to the needs of your children in the most effective ways.

We welcome questions, encouraging active discussion at any point throughout these sessions, and very much look forward to meeting you!

To discuss this programme further outside of the conference please contact:



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