



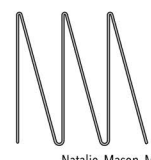
Multicultural Music Making



National Foundation for
Youth Music



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



What is MMM?

Multicultural Music Making is a high-quality music in education programme for young people in the West Midlands. Now in its fourth year, the project began in September 2015, in partnership with three primary schools in the Ladywood area of Birmingham. Each week small groups of Key Stage 2 young musicians explore a range of music traditions, compose original work, and engage critically with international sounds. The choice of repertoire is primarily based on the heritage of the young people, as we seek to connect to our parents' and grandparents' cultural and musical traditions, and better understand the global journeys of people, stories and music. As the musicians grow in confidence and skill they perform to one another's schools, families and neighbours, sharing what they've learned and created in their communities. **MMM** is a partnership between Natalie Mason and Friction Arts.



“When you're from another country, you can learn more about your country. Because I actually did!”
Ada



Many Perspectives

Multicultural Music Making draws on the strengths of the young musicians taking part, who live in and around Birmingham and Walsall and have connections to all the corners of the world. The project creatively celebrates the international journeys that music and the young musicians themselves have made, with participant-led sessions based on our *principles of practice*, developed and supported by high quality ethnomusicological research. Visiting musicians from many different musical disciplines also participate in **MMM**, introducing instruments, songs and narratives from across the globe.

Project Leader- Natalie Mason

Natalie is a multi-instrumentalist, researcher and composer with extensive experience both in the UK and abroad. Following her classical training, she spent several years living in South Africa. Her work in Cape Town as a creative musical facilitator with early childhood development groups, ex-street youth and adults in hospital settings, continues to inspire and shape her practice today. Whilst working on music in education programmes in the UK she realised that more could be done to allow young people to engage with international music to a deeper level, also helping their creative, musical and social development. With mentoring from Friction Arts she has developed the **Multicultural Music Making** methodology.



“ We are all part of the same solar system ”
Wiktorja



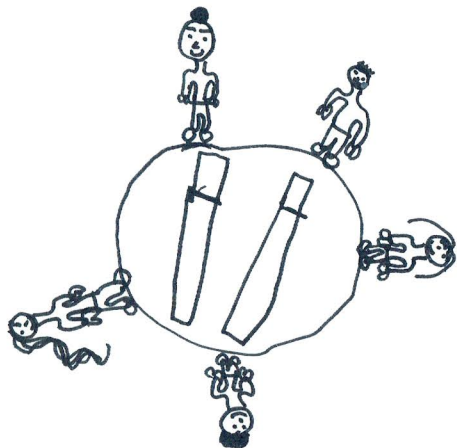
Partnerships

Friction Arts have created a framework with Natalie Mason to develop **MMM**. Natalie is project leader, supported by associate professional artists; she has devised the core programme, structure and content. Co-Director of Friction Arts, Sandra Hall, is the artistic mentor for the project, providing strategic and creative support. She is also responsible for the development of partnerships and creative ways that **MMM** can connect to a range of projects in Friction Arts' current portfolio.

Our partnerships with our schools has inspired new projects that speak directly to, and positively impact, broader aspirations of school and community settings to connect with people. Projects such as *Recipes & Stories* were created as a response to the passion and generosity of **MMM** families who were contributing food to events and demonstrate the lateral cross-art, inter-generational approach that Friction Arts embed in their work. We have also co-financed a two year programme of drama in three of our schools, developing imagination, verbal, presentation skills and self-confidence with, and for, children.

Strategic partnerships for **MMM** include Youth Music, THSH, BCMG, Arts Connect West Midlands and macBirmingham. In 2018 Friction Arts were invited to join the Arts Council's National Portfolio Organisations.

For more information please visit: www.frictionarts.com



Our Settings

We are currently working with St. Patrick's and St. Edmund's Catholic Primary Schools in Ladywood and Blue Coat C.E. (A) Junior School and Caldmore Community Garden in Walsall. Headteachers, staff and community workers have welcomed, supported and positively collaborated on key aspects of the project. We are privileged to work with these extraordinary organisations, developing new ways of working with music education and finding opportunities to extend and 'art' partner via additional CPD and drama opportunities. Excitingly this year we reconnect with **MMM** musicians as they progress to Secondary school, and welcome our 2018 trainees to join the **MMM** team as support artists.



“ I think the performance was amazing. The children sang beautifully and they have learned some amazing skills. ”

Mrs Roman, Teaching Assistant

The Future

This programme provides a depth of thinking, sharing, skills and engagement for multicultural music that is bespoke, responsive and vital in our changing world. Now in its fourth year, the project continues to demonstrate a range of successes from pure joy, to significant personal and academic impact for our students. We continue to develop the **MMM** programme to include training, research and academic partnerships, to evaluate and inform how music education can be positively influenced by the project's *principles of practice*. We are committed to the continued development of **Multicultural Music Making** and associated projects, seeking creative opportunities and partnerships to enable us to deepen and share the work.

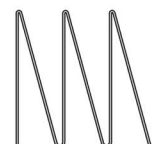


For more information please contact: mmm@frictionarts.com



YOUTH MUSIC National Foundation for Youth Music

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Natalie Mason Music