

As I'm writing this, the sun is shining and spring is looking more like it is on the horizon!

We have lots of exciting events coming up this term and are planning many more projects for the future (hence the rather large newsletter!).

Just before February half term, we were thrilled to be part of the opening celebrations of Dippy the Dinosaur coming to Dorchester – you can see a full report below.

We have various other performances at music festivals and pub gigs lined up and some exciting projects planned for the summer term, including a return of our orchestral workshop and our new DASP Fest!

If your child is learning an instrument, please do consider joining a DASP ensemble – we have many available for beginners to more advanced players.

Hanna Trevorrow
DASP Music Coordinator



DASP Youth Orchestra play at the opening of Dippy on Tour

www.daspmusic.co.uk

DASP Young Musician of the Year Festival



On Saturday 25th November, the first ever DASP Young Musician Festival took place. The event saw students of grade 4 standard and above take part in classes during the day, which were adjudicated by our guest adjudicators, Andy Baker and Andy Fawbert. Ten students were invited back to perform at an evening concert which also featured the Thomas Hardy School Concert Band, conducted by Mr Trevorrow.

There were many fantastic performances and the winners of all categories are pictured here, but the overall winners were

James Osborne-Jackson (Intermediate) and Lydia Bennett (Advanced).

Well done to all who took part. We very much hope that this is something that we can continue to run into the future.

Imperial College Symphony Orchestra and THS Singers Concert



The 11th November saw the annual ICSO/THS Singers concert take place in St Mary's church. This year, 30 middle school singers joined the main choir to sing the children's-choir

part in Rutter's *Mass for the Children*. In addition, the THS Singers performed Finzi's *Low the Full Final Sacrifice*. ICSO performed selections from Bizet's *Carmen*, for which they were joined by several THS instrumentalists and then ended the concert with the rousing overture from Wagner's *Die Meistersinger*. All who took part in the concert performed magnificently.

The concert was extra special as it was the farewell concert for ICSO's conductor, Richard Dickins, who has been visiting Dorchester with the orchestra for about 20 years. It is a very special partnership and we very much hope that it is something that can continue in some form into the future.

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.org.uk

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BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition



Congratulations to Hannah McFarlane who last term, reached the final 25 string players, in the national BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition. We were delighted this term to award Hannah a grant, given by the Solo Trust, to assist her to pursue her career as a professional musician.

Hannah had this to say about the Young Musician of the Year experience:

“When I entered BBC Young Musician 2018 last summer my ambition was to get into the second round of the competition, the category auditions. The first round – the Regional auditions - was held in the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff. Following this I had a very nervous week waiting for the result and sat glued to the computer for a day in half term awaiting the email. Fortunately I was selected - I was thrilled to be one of the final 25 string players.

I returned to Cardiff at the end of November and played my heart out – the judges have to keep “a neutral exterior” so you have no idea what they are thinking! As I came out of the audition I was interviewed by the BBC which was great fun – I cannot remember what I said!

The many hours of practice and rehearsals with my accompanists had paid off, not to mention all the lessons in New Milton with my teacher, Lionel Handy. Sadly I didn't get to the televised round but to have got as far as the last 25 string players was amazing. One of the adjudicators described my performance as “really impressive playing conviction in spades!”.

My accompanists were Howard Evans (first round) and Heather Reed (second round). Not only do they have to accompany my pieces but they have to keep me calm and relaxed in the warm-up session – they did a grand job especially when my cello strings had gone haywire just before the second audition.

Was the whole experience fun? Yes, fantastic.....plus the meal at Zizzi's overlooking Cardiff bay! Will I enter BBC Young Musician 2020? DEFINITELY!!

I now have some exciting ventures coming up; the first of these is in March when I am the curtain-raiser for a concert to be given at the Corn Exchange in Dorchester by the BBC Young Musician of 2014.

I am so grateful to the Solo Trust for this very generous and totally unexpected award. It is a great privilege to receive it and will help enormously towards my future cello studies.”

DASP Christmas Concert 2017



On 6th December, children from across DASP came together to perform at the DASP Christmas concerts at the Thomas Hardy School theatre. There were performances from all of the DASP Ensembles and several Thomas Hardy School groups. All students performed excellently and the concert got everyone firmly in the Christmas spirit. Video clips and photos of the concert can now be viewed on our website.

Forthcoming Events...

3rd March – Weymouth Music Festival

7th & 8th March – Yr 4 DASP Singing Concerts, 6.30pm @ St Osmund's

16th March – Jazz Band and Guitar Group gig, 5.30pm @ The Ship, Upwey

23rd March – THS A Night at the Movies Dinner Dance

16th June – Orchestral Workshop 10-4.30pm

28th June – DASP Fest, 6pm @ THS theatre

Sunday 8th July – DASP Music Summer Concert 2018 @ Weymouth Pavilion (All DASP Ensembles)

DASP Jazz Band and Guitar Group Gig

The DASP Jazz Band and Guitar Group are excited to announce that they will be playing a gig at The Ship in Upwey on Friday 16th March at 4.30pm. Please do go along and support them!

Jazz band are always on the look out for new members – anyone who plays guitar, drums, piano, sax, trumpet, trombone, clarinet or flute of about grade 2 standard and above is welcome to come along for a taster session on a Wednesday 6.15 – 7pm.

Orchestral workshop in June



On Saturday 16th June, we will be running another large scale orchestral workshop. We have run these over the past two years, once with members of the BBC Concert Orchestra and once with members of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

This year we will be running it using various local musicians to support the students. The aim is to give students the experience of playing in a large orchestra and to inspire them to join THS orchestra or a county group, as they progress. The workshop will be open to all students who play an orchestral instrument from grade 2 and above and will run from 10am – 4.30pm. (Beginner

players who are members of Stringalings and Training Windband will be invited to take part in the afternoon session only).

We will be asking people to sign up after Easter, but please do put the date in your diaries now if you think your son/daughter might be interested in taking part.

DASP with Dippy on Tour!



At the start of February half term, DASP Youth Orchestra and Skylarks choir had a fantastic time, performing at the opening celebrations for Dippy on Tour at the Dorset County Museum.

The Friday night saw the orchestra perform at the formal opening of Dippy on Tour. This was a highly prestigious event, and the orchestra were delighted to have been involved. They performed 'Jurassic Park' and 'Largo from New World Symphony' as background music, whilst the VIP guests viewed Dippy and enjoyed champagne and canapés. In addition to the orchestra, James Osborne-

Jackson, Sam Lawson, Joe Lyndley and Zach Stevens all performed solos/duets. The orchestra then performed 'The Fossils' as a special show-cased performance straight after Dippy was formally opened by the special guests. It was all very exciting, especially when we found out that we were to appear on the national BBC 6 o'clock news!!!! The students all performed brilliantly and showed exemplary behaviour throughout. Huge thank you to Mrs Wolff and to all the other adult helpers who helped to make the performance possible.

The Saturday night, saw DASP Music return to Dippy for a special performance by Skylarks Choir. This event was a family-friendly VIP event for local people. The choir were able to have exclusive access to Dippy and take part in various Dippy-themed activities. They performed a special Dippy song that had been written by Mrs Trevorow, especially for the event. It is hoped that many other schools will learn the song over the coming months as they prepare for their own Dippy visits. Again, the choir performed with great enthusiasm and there were many positive comments from everyone who was there. Special thanks to Kathie Prince for rehearsing and enthusing the choir! Photos and video of the event can now be viewed on the DASP Music website.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE:
DASP Music Summer Concert
Sunday 8th July
@ Weymouth Pavilion**

DASP Fest 2018



We are excited to announce a new DASP Music venture – DASP Fest. This will be a concert on Thursday 28th June at THS Theatre, aimed at students in years 5 – 9 who perform in a popular music genre. The concert will provide a performance platform for bands, small groups and soloists who rehearse together, in or outside of school.

We will announce more details nearer the time, but will be looking for students to submit 'audition' videos between Easter and May half term. We will then choose a selection of acts to perform on the night. Hopefully this will be a fun, entertaining and inspiring night, so get the date in your diaries now!

Concerts for Children this March

There are two concerts which I'd like to draw your attention to, taking part in the coming month.

The first is The Dorset Chamber Orchestra's 'Music for Youth' concert at 4pm on Saturday March 10th at St Mary's Church. This will feature narration by Martin Clunes with the orchestra performing 'Carnival of the Animals'. It will also feature several young soloists including Lydia Bennett who recently won the DASP Youth Musician Festival.

The second is Dorset Sinfonia's 'Music for Young Minds' concert at 2pm on Saturday 24th March at the United Church. This concert is suitable for all ages (including very young children) and will feature a range of recognisable pieces for children to engage with.

Both involve peripatetic music teachers who work for DASP Music and both are definitely worth checking out!

Support DASP Music...

We are always on the look-out for people who can support the work that we do. If you think that you might be able to help us in the future, please get in touch.

Here are some ways that you can support us:

- Volunteer to help with an ensemble (it's really helpful having musical adults around who can help to support various groups).
- Volunteer to help at a concert.
- Donate towards an event.
- Sign up to Easyfundraising.org and donate every time you shop online.
- Donate any old (working) instruments that you have at home – we can always find children who can make use of them.
- Spread the word about the DASP Music Ensembles – they are open to anyone in the local area, not just those who attend a DASP school.

DASP Music Ensembles – it's not too late to join!

DASP Music runs the only weekly music centre for young musicians in West Dorset. We have 14 weekly ensembles, most of which meet at our Wednesday 'Music Night' at The Thomas Hardy School. We have groups, both for complete beginners and those for more advanced players. If you play an instrument, why not come along and give one of our sessions a go? Even though term has now started, we are still keen to welcome new members to any of our groups.

Wednesday 'Music Night'

3.30: **THS Uke Troupe**

4pm: **Stringendos, Clariphones, Brass Ensemble, Flute Choir** (all grade 2+), **Training Windband, Stringalings** (both grade 0-2)

5pm: **DASP Youth Orchestra** (grade 1+), **Uke Troupe Beginners** (suitable for complete beginners)

5.30pm: **Uke Troupe Intermediate**

6.15pm – 7pm: **Jazz Band** (grade 1+)

Other Groups

Treblemakers Boys Vocal Group – Tuesdays, 3.45-4.45pm @ St Mary's First School (boys years 4-8)

Skylarks Choir – Thursdays 3.45-4.30pm @ Manor Park First School (years 2-6)

Guitar Ensemble – Tuesdays 4-5pm @ The Thomas Hardy School (years 5+)

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