



Friends of DASP Music – Detailed Information

Dear Fellow Musician,

DASP Music is a charity which aims to enhance the musical education of young people in Dorchester and the surrounding area.

DASP Music is launching a new fundraising campaign in the form of 'Friends of DASP Music'. By making a donation in the academic year 2015-2016 and becoming a 'Friend of DASP Music' you will be supporting the musical education of young people in the local area, which will help towards ensuring the longevity of all of the local music groups in the future.

What challenges are we facing?

There are currently a number of challenges which DASP Music is facing in order to sustain the tradition of excellent music provision within the local area:

- Music is being given less importance in schools due to pressures to focus on core subjects.
- Numbers opting for music aged 14+ have dropped nationally due to the introduction of the EBacc.
- Many schools in Dorset have removed A Level music and music technology provision citing it as an unviable option financially. We are lucky that The Thomas Hardy School has not done this.
- First schools do not all have specialist music teachers and struggle to offer quality music provision, despite wanting to.
- The recession has dramatically decreased the numbers of young people learning an instrument due to financial pressures on families.
- The numbers of students achieving the higher levels of attainment in music have dropped over the last few years.
- The Dorset Music Service had a lot of its funding removed several years ago and is now only able to offer a fraction of the services previously in place.

What does DASP Music do?

- DASP Music is partly funded by the Dorchester Area Schools Partnership (DASP). They support DASP Music by providing administration support and employing a DASP Music Coordinator to manage and develop the service.
- We coordinate instrumental lessons within the DASP schools, arranging for peripatetic teachers to visit the schools to teach students a full range of instruments. Due to administration being funded, costs to parents are kept significantly lower than that of other music services.
- From September 2015, we have started to run 13 weekly ensembles for young people in the local area (not just those who attend a DASP school) at an affordable price (£2.50 or less per session). Ensembles include Training Windband, Orchestra, Ukuleles, Jazz Band, several choirs and more. Many of the ensembles are run at our new Wednesday 'Music Night' at the Thomas Hardy School.

DASP Music is a registered charity (CIO) No. 1162919

Telephone and Fax: (01305) 259721

E-mail: music@dasp.org.uk

Address: DASP Music, The Thomas Hardy School, Queens Avenue, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 2ET

Website: www.daspmusic.co.uk **Twitter:** @daspmusic **Facebook:** /daspmusic



There are no other local music centres providing this sort of weekly service anywhere in West Dorset.

- We produce two large-scale concerts per year with approximately 200 children taking part in each; we are very excited that this year's summer concert is to take place for the first time at the Weymouth Pavilion!
- We help to organise a Year 4 singing concert once a year, providing a platform for every child in Year 4 to perform.
- We co-ordinate a group of middle school children to take part in the annual THS/ICSO concert in Dorchester, which allows these children to experience singing with a large choir and symphony orchestra. It also encourages them to join a classical choir in the future.
- We run an Instrumental Roadshow Concert which tours the DASP schools and provides an opportunity for students to see a variety of instruments played to a high standard and exposes them to a range of quality live music, to inspire them to take part in music themselves.
- We organise a variety of projects which enhance and promote singing in all of the DASP schools (using money from the National Singing Strategy).
- We offer support to schools with their curriculum music and share/promote teaching resources with them.
- Through specific sponsorship from The Solo Trust, we have been able to run a 'minority instrument funding scheme' where ten students have been sponsored to learn the less common instruments (cello, double bass, French horn and trombone) and have organised instrumental demonstrations to promote this.

We do all of this because we believe that music education is important to young people and we are passionate about providing as many opportunities in our local area as possible.

Why do we need extra-funding?

- Due to the financial pressures on schools, it is likely that our budget provided by DASP will be reduced in the future.
- Our new ensembles are currently running at a loss. We have been given a temporary grant by the Dorset Music Hub to subsidise the groups, but this will be discontinued in April 2016. We would like to be able to maintain the breadth of groups available, whilst still keeping them affordable to all. We are currently looking to raise £1000 per term from April 2016 onwards to keep all 13 weekly ensembles running. We are hoping that as word spreads and more people join our ensembles, we will need to subsidise them less.
- We would like to be able to buy resources (such as sheet music) which can be used by the ensembles.
- Some of the schools within DASP are lacking in resources or lacking the money to maintain resources, in order to help us to provide the instrumental lessons that we can offer.
- We would like to be able to run an annual 'Come and Try' event so that students and parents can get a taste for different instruments to help them to decide which one they are most suited to.

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- We would like to be able to continue to sponsor the minority instruments.

By becoming a 'Friend of DASP Music' your sponsorship would go directly towards ensuring that we can continue to provide the opportunities that we currently do, and hopefully to develop them further.

An example of how a donation might be used:

A £20 donation would allow us to buy some sheet music for use with our ensembles.

A £50 donation would allow one musician to perform the Instrumental Roadshow at one school.

A £100 donation would subsidise one ensemble for one term.

A £150 donation would sponsor a child to for two terms to learn a minority instrument.

How to become a 'Friend of DASP Music'

You can become a 'Friend of DASP Music' by donating any amount in the academic year 2015-16. Every penny donated will go directly to the above projects. As a Friend you will receive a termly newsletter to update you on our progress and you will also be listed in our concert programmes as a 'thank you'.

To become a Friend, and donate online, please visit our website (www.daspmusic.co.uk) Alternatively, complete the attached form and send it with a cheque payable to DASP Music (address can be found at the bottom of the page).

Other means of supporting us:

- Support DASP Music through Easyfundraising.org which donates money to us every time you shop online (and doesn't cost you a penny!). Just go to the website and search for DASP Music.
- Donate any instruments that you have lying in the attic, for use in the DASP schools.
- Volunteer your musical group to do a performance in one of our schools.
- Volunteer to help with front of house duties at one of our concerts.
- Encourage a business to take out an advert in one of our concert programmes.
- Promote our DASP Ensembles to all people who you know who have musical children in the local area (especially those in Weymouth and Bridport!).

I thank you in anticipation of your kind support and hope that together we can ensure that a new generation of musicians thrives in the Dorchester area.

Kind regards,

Hanna Trevorrow
DASP Music Coordinator

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