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It has been a while since our last newsletter, and this is partly due to the continuing impact of COVID on our activities. However, as we move into the warmer weather, it does feel as if we may be able to start to plan to move forward again with our various events and activities.

Whilst we have been a little bit quieter than normal, we have been busy making plans for the future, and quietly keeping everything going in regards to music lessons and ensembles.

In the last few weeks, we have had a glimpse of normality with two ventures which we have worked on in collaboration with Dorchester Arts; the Songlines project launching with Year 4 students across DASP, and our wonderful 'Mars under Mars' evening. You can read more about both of these projects below.

I am optimistic that we have more exciting music making ahead!

Hanna Trevorrow  
Head of DASP Music

## Christmas Performances 2021



We were able to hold a scaled-down version of our usual Christmas Concert this year, with many of the DASP Ensembles performing. The concerts took place in the Thomas Hardy Sixth Form Centre (as the theatre is being refurbished). There were some wonderful performances including 'Frosty the Snowman' performed by the Brass Ensemble, 'Dance of the Mirlitons' performed by Flute choir and 'Mission Impossible'

performed by the DASP Youth Orchestra.

In addition, our Guitar Group and Skylarks & Nightingales choirs, were invited to perform at the Dorchester Christmas Cracker event. They entertained the crowds brilliantly!

Well done to all who were involved in both performances and a huge thank you to all of our ensemble leaders who worked with (and continue to work with), our students.

All of the DASP Ensembles will be sharing their spring term's work with parents at an informal performance before Easter, but the next big performance for them all will be at our Summer Concert at the Weymouth Pavilion on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. We can't wait!



"Mars under Mars" – March 2022

## Mars under Mars



On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 40 students from across DASP joined forces with 60 adults from two local orchestras; Dorchester and Dorset Sinfonia. They rehearsed and performed a fantastic arrangement of Gustav Holst's 'Mars', whilst sitting under Luke Jerram's art installation of the same name, which had been visiting Dorchester Arts that week. The result was an orchestra of ages 9-93! To play such powerful music in such an atmospheric setting was truly wonderful!

Comments from the participants revealed that both the students and the adults very much enjoyed the experience.

A lovely example of collaborative working across the community, to the benefit of many.

Huge thank you to organisers at Dorchester Arts, Dorchestra and Dorset Sinfonia for making it happen and a special thank you to Mrs Wolff for conducting it so brilliantly.

If you'd like to hear a snippet of the rehearsal, please head across to our facebook or twitter page.

## Dorset Songlines Project



This term we have launched a new exciting project called 'Dorset Songlines' which is taking place in collaboration with Dorchester Arts and the Dorset Museum.

Together with local composer, Geof Edge, the children in Year 4 across all of the DASP schools are composing songs inspired by their visits to the Natural Dorset gallery at the Dorset Museum.

The children, alongside several adult community choirs, are going to be performing their songs in Maumbury Rings on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

We hope you will be able to join us for the performance and also hope the sun shines!

## Nightingales to join Nadia Eide



On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, singing students from DASP schools are joining together to form the 'Nightingales Chorus' for a concert at Dorchester Arts. They will be joining Nadia Eide, recent finalist of The Voice UK 2021, for her solo concert that evening.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our young singers to both perform and watch a professional singer in action.

If you would like to attend the concert, please contact Dorchester Arts directly for tickets.



## DASP Summer Concert Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July @ Weymouth Pavilion 3pm

Come and join us for an afternoon of music, performed by students from across DASP!

More information about tickets will be available soon....

### Applications for 2022-23 are now open!

If you would like your child to start learning an instrument in September, please apply for lessons now.

Children in Year 2 can learn piano, recorder, violin, cello and ukulele. Other instruments may be able to be learnt in Year 3 and 4 depending on teacher availability.

From Year 5, we are able to offer a full range of instrumental lessons at the middle schools.

We are particularly keen to recruit more students learning woodwind and brass instruments.

If your child already has lessons on an instrument, please do consider them joining a school or DASP Ensemble. Performing music together is a lot of fun and children who take part in groups often progress more quickly and enjoy learning for longer.