

Devon Music Service  
Issue 2  
Winter 2004-5

## This Season's Events

1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> November

**Project: Ugandan Drumming and Culture**  
*Orchard Vale Community School*

Teachers and pupils from North Devon schools participate in a week-long drumming project, based at Orchard Vale Community School.

6<sup>th</sup> November

**Gathering Day: CYO, DYCO, DYJO, DYSO**

15<sup>th</sup> November

**Concert: DYJO**  
*Exeter Phoenix*

The jazz orchestra perform for a charity evening at the arts centre.

19<sup>th</sup> November

**Concert: DYJO**  
*Teignmouth Jazz Festival*

Powerful big band swing from the next generation of jazzers, with special guest Stan Sulzmann, the multi-faceted giant of the European and British contemporary jazz scene – a man of boundless creative imagination.



20<sup>th</sup> November

**Gathering Day: DYFE, DYBB, DYWO, DYCO.**

2<sup>nd</sup> December  
**Concerts: DYCC**

The Clarinet Choir give performances in three Devon primary schools.

4<sup>th</sup> December

**Concert: DYCO**  
*Brixham Theatre*

The concert orchestra perform a charity concert for *Brixham Does Care*.

**Gathering Day: DYFE, DYBB, DYJO, CYO, DYSO.**

11<sup>th</sup> December

**Concert: DYWO**  
*St John's Church, Ivybridge*

Seasonal concert from the Devon Youth Wind Orchestra.

# Hitting the right notes...

## Make a Joyful Noise!

Devon Music Service & The  
London Community Gospel Choir

Nine workshops, 50 schools, 70 teachers, 200 young people, three sell-out concerts, 1400 audience members... 'a life-changing experience', said a teacher from Newport Community School.

'Music is always inspiring, but today's event was something else!' said a teacher from Cockwood Primary School. 'It truly touched the children, not only by the amazing talents of the choir but seeing their teachers and all the Devon Music Service staff having such a good time!!'

All three evening concerts were sell-out events, and got the people of Devon to their feet, dancing in the aisles to calypso rhythms and singing their hearts out to Gospel classics such as 'Lean on Me', 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot' and

'Oh Happy Day'. The concerts also featured 'special guests', as all those involved in workshops were called up on stage to perform with the choir. Most unique of all was the opportunity given to Matthew Call, a young singer from Exeter who led a 'call-and-response' on stage with the choir, a daunting experience. 'Sometimes it's all about stepping out of your comfort zone', said Matthew. 'It's the only way you're going to grow in life. It was a brilliant experience – I'd love to do it again!'

'The morning session was inspirational and has given me loads of ideas for working with my own children's choir', said a teacher from Newport Community School.

'The evening was a moving and powerful experience for the children, adults and audience alike. In North Devon we rarely have these opportunities, so thanks again for bringing us such pleasure'.

'It was a pleasure to see so many people uplifted through the power of music', said Ken Parr, Head of Devon Music Service, 'This is just the first of many exciting projects'.



## Sing & Play

**Sing & Play 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
*South Dartmoor Community College*

This year features a performance of *Belshazzar's Feast* by William Walton. Members of the DMS County Ensembles perform alongside the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, and a choir of over 200 singers. An exceptional opportunity.

## Big Band Jazz Project

**Exeter Phoenix, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

The West Country's leading big band - **AJ's Big Band** - will be performing two concerts at Exeter Phoenix in Exeter. The programme has been designed to appeal especially to young people: the music will blow your hair back, and the audience will be meeting and talking with the musicians.

Devon schools are being given priority booking: tickets will be offered at a discounted rate to schools, and will go on sale to the general public from 13<sup>th</sup> December.

## Drumming to a different beat...

Schools in North Devon got into a new rhythm when Ugandan drummer and youth worker **Denis Kigongo** set up a base at **Orchard Vale**

**Community School** for a week. Pupils and teachers from eight schools participated,



learning about the richness of Ugandan and African culture through drumming, storytelling, singing and dance. Teachers had the chance to learn alongside the young people, and also had their own session to give them training on how they might teach drumming.

Drumming in groups improves communication and teamworking skills, and encourages both creativity and respectful listening. Three hundred pupils were given the fantastic opportunity to celebrate working as part of a group, experience and value another culture, perform before their peers, and make some new friends. People were fascinated with Denis's culture, sense of humour and way of life – we've even had a request to set up a fan club for him! Apart from all the fun, there were precious lessons on offer. In the words of the children, they learned:

“ That we have rhythm.  
Don't give up. ”  
How to do best.

Huge thanks to Jan Baker, and all the staff and students at Orchard Vale for all their work to make the week so special.



## Music Comes to Town

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2005

An event **not to be missed!** All county ensembles will be descending on the town of Newton Abbot for an open day the likes of which has never been seen before in Devon. Rehearsals will be open to visitors and each ensemble will present 'work in progress' performances during the day. African drumming workshops will be held by Denis Kigongo, and acclaimed trombonist Dennis Rollins will be working with brass students. An evening concert will be held at which Dennis Rollins will invite Devon pupils to join him on stage.

## Poetry and Music

On **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March** Dennis Rollins will be working with students from the Newton Abbot academic council exploring links between music and literacy in a workshop entitled *Poetry, Beats and Bones*. The day will be held at Highweek Primary School, and participants will be invited to join Dennis in the public concert the following night.



## Wren Music

DMS is pleased to be working closely with Wren Music this year. Supported by Devon County Council and Arts Council England, Wren Music specialises in traditional, folk and world music, and works with people of all ages in a variety of educational, social and health settings. For further information see

[www.wrenmusic.co.uk](http://www.wrenmusic.co.uk)

8<sup>th</sup> January 2005

Gathering Day: DYWO, DYCO, DYFE, DYCC, CYO, DYSO.

18<sup>th</sup> January 2005

Project: Big Band Jazz  
*Exeter Phoenix*

29<sup>th</sup> January 2005

Gathering Day: DYFE, DYBB, DYJO  
Rehearsal: Sing & Play, CYO

## Spring Events

5<sup>th</sup> February 2005

Sing & Play 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*South Dartmoor Community College*

Featuring Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, DMS musicians, and singers from across the county.

5<sup>th</sup> March 2005

Music Comes to Town!  
*Newton Abbot*

Gathering Day for all DMS County Ensembles, and so much more...

## And later this year...

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2005

DEVON SCHOOLS MIX

*Westpoint Arena*

All new festival for Devon Schools! Devon Music Service is taking over Westpoint arena for a day of celebrating music-making: classical, rock, jazz, world music – we're catering for all tastes. Workshops, performances, and a whole lot of great sounds. Evening concert open to the public. This will be an amazing opportunity... don't just sit there, get up and join in!



DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL



