



## Case Study 2

### **BOURNEMOUTH CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY**

#### **Young Musicians Development Scheme**

The Bournemouth Chamber Music Society was formed over sixty years ago and gives six main concerts a year. We started our Young Musicians Development Scheme six years ago, with the aim of introducing chamber music to young people, both as listeners and participants.

**Why?** Young musicians have the opportunity of playing in one of the youth orchestras in the area, and to have private lessons. The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's education work takes them into schools, so we didn't want to duplicate events in this area. But there are only limited opportunities for playing chamber music, so we wanted to fill this gap. The core event each year now is a master-class for local young musicians, giving them the opportunity to receive personal tuition in the intimate art of playing chamber music. The tutors are always young professional players and music college students, who themselves gain valuable experience by working with the young people.

**What?** The scheme has evolved from the first event which was an 'open rehearsal' before an evening concert given by The Lycydas Piano Trio, then still at Trinity College of Music. The students said they would like to be able to play themselves the following year, so we organised a workshop for piano trios, and the Lycydas members proved themselves to be natural tutors. Now we invite a mix of instrumentalists and hold an all-day event at a local school which has a proper music block, providing a small concert hall and practice rooms, each with a piano. We limit the numbers to about twenty, so that they all the groups can get individual tuition. They can come as a ready made group or as individuals.

One of the difficulties when putting the students into groups is that we never know what mix we going get. For example one year we might have no clarinet players, only one viola and lots of flautists and another it could be the other way around.

We provide music borrowed from the Bournemouth Music Library or the students can bring their own music. We give them with lunch and tea, which gives them an opportunity to discuss their future careers with young professionals and the tutors still at college. We end the day with an evening recital for friends and families and members of the society, when the students play the pieces they have worked on throughout the day. Many of the students play more than one instrument, so they usually play with a different group in each of the two main sessions.

**How?** When we first started the scheme we contacted local schools and music teachers by letter, but had minimal response. Most of the applicants came through personal contacts with young people or teachers. Now we have no difficulty in filling places.

The scheme is self-financing. We are lucky that one of our members supports us financially and we have been successful in getting small grants in the past from ACESW, the SW training scheme and the local authority, to cover the fees for the tutors, and hire of the hall. We charge the evening audience a small amount and provide interval refreshments.

I have a small team of helpers, including parents of the students and members of the Society.

**What else?** There are now peripheral activities, which include providing groups of young people to play at lunchtime in the café of the local Art Gallery and Museum, at weddings, parties and other events. The young people get a small fee and we ask for a donation to the scheme. We also organise a summer recital each year in the Art Gallery given by young professional musicians, through the Countess of Munster Scheme or the Philip and Dorothy Green Trust.

We also support a local piano competition. Five years ago, the winner was Cordelia Williams, who, at the age of only fourteen impressed everyone with her musicality and professionalism. We immediately engaged her to give our summer recital and it came as no surprise to us that this year she won the piano class in the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition.

Next year we will develop the scheme further by involving former participants as 'apprentice tutors'.

Organising the scheme is hard work, but immensely rewarding.

Rosemary Allen

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