

Session outlines

Keynote Lecture

Vaughan Fleischfresser

Venue: GW Annenberg Centre (GWA)

We all know the immense joys and benefits that come from learning music. For many of us, it's because of these joys and benefits that we became music educators ourselves. Having said that, when posed with the question of why music is important, or why a child should learn a musical instrument, it can be hard to put it all into clear, succinct language. In this session, I'll share my approach to music advocacy, which I like to call 'The Alternate Universe We Create'. I'll explore the importance of the environment we create for young people, how we create it, and the impact it has on their lives while at school and beyond, leaving you with some advocacy ideas and reflective tools to help you build upon the great work you're already doing. You'll leave this session with a spring in your step, and a renewed passion for the greatest job in the world.

Session 1 – 11.05am-12.05pm

Mark Phillips (Former Lead HMI for Music) - Secondary and Middle Schools

Venue: GW Annenberg Centre (GWA)

In his sessions, using the published National Curriculum as his starting point, Mark will explore the importance of building a music curriculum and teaching practice that enables pupils to develop progressively in the three key areas that contribute to developing musical understanding – technical knowledge, constructive knowledge and expressive knowledge.

Mark will explain why a curriculum is more than a scheme of work, and why, however detailed and 'compliant' the scheme appears to be, musical leadership and response from the teacher is crucial. He will explore the challenges of assessment, particularly in the context of whole-school policies and initiatives that don't always seem appropriate to musical teaching and learning – and explore how to senior leaders in schools can be engaged to understand why music and musical teaching is important.

Finally, Mark will explore how additional musical activities – including whole-class instrumental teaching in primary schools – can complement and strengthen (but not replace) the musical curriculum.

Using ABRSM Curriculum 200 to develop singing in the primary classroom - Jenny Trattles (ABRSM)

Venue: Cultural Living Room (CLR)

Join us for an engaging session that explores how ABRSM's Classroom 200 can be used to develop children's musicianship in an inclusive and accessible way. This session is designed to support all learners, including those with Special Educational Needs (SEN), by using simple, interactive games that encourage movement,



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singing, and deep musical exploration. You'll discover how to adapt these activities to ensure every child can participate fully, and gain practical tips on enhancing listening and appraisal skills with an exciting piece of music. Whether you're working with a diverse group or focusing on individual needs, this session will provide you with the tools to make music education truly accessible for everyone. Register for classroom 200 in advance to get the best out of this session. [Classroom 200 \(abrsm.org\)](https://www.abrsm.org)

Accessible Musical Instruments - Jamie Read and Maxine Snape (Berkshire Music Trust) Venue: Concert Room

Berkshire Music Trust is delighted to launch our new Accessible Musical Instrument library at the 2024 Schools Conference, giving schools across the county the chance to experience, loan and receive training & workshops on the latest technology that has been designed to widen musical participation for disabled and SEN students. This session will be a hands-on experience to try out some cutting-edge new tools including the Soundbeam 6 Touchscreen, Arcana Strum, Yamaha Finger Drum Pad, and Cosmo Switch. Come and join the band!

Music as an intervention – Natalie Irons (Garland Junior School) Venue: Christopher Lee Theatre (CLT)

Natalie's workshop will be about musical interventions. She will be talking about past and present interventions in the schools she has worked in and the rewards and challenges of them all. She will be sharing examples of music enrichment groups, themed transition projects between year groups, using music to regulate behaviour and emotions, and how she makes use of the Pupil Premium Grant.

Session 2 – 1.05pm-2.05pm

Mark Phillips (Former Lead HMI for Music) - Primary Venue: GW Annenberg Centre (GWA)

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AI in Music Education – Simon Williamson & Jonathan Heeley (Wellington College)

Venue: Cultural Living Room (CLR)

Simon Williamson, Director of Music and Arts at Wellington College, will talk to Jonathan Heeley, composer and teacher, to unravel some of the best ways to use AI in teaching music students. From ChatGPT to Perplexity, there will be examples of how to use AI to help with your life.

Music Tech and sequencing – Matt Foster (Rock Academy Foundation)

Venue: Concert Room

Hub partners Rock Academy Foundation explore the benefits of using music technology as a gateway for students who don't play an instrument. Explore the process of using a music software package to explore loops, samples and synths and mix your own original track. All equipment will be provided for these sessions and you don't need any prior musical experience to be involved. Just bring your enthusiasm and creativity and learn how to create your own original music.

Inclusive Ensembles - Jamie Read, Laura Bridger, Di Prince (Berkshire Music Trust)

Venue: Christopher Lee Theatre (CLT)

Pooling our experience of supporting young musicians from both an inclusion, ensemble direction and SEND point of view, join us for a fun hands-on session as we make our own inclusive band during the session. We will discuss how to support ensembles with wide ranges of ability, unusual instrument combinations, how to remove barriers for those less able to join in traditionally and how to make ensemble playing a fun and central part of our educating of young musicians. We will delve into how to make simplistic parts fun and accessible, how to keep your most able musically fascinated and make it coherent into a musical experience that will be applauded in your concerts and classroom lessons to come.

Session 3 – 2.10pm-3.10pm

Resonant Horizons: Integrating Music and Technology in schools - Jack White (Conductive Music) Venue: GW Annenberg Centre (GWA)

Introduction to Digital Music Resources (15 minutes):

- Overview of Conductive Music's approach to integrating music and technology in schools.
- Links to user-friendly digital music tools such as Chrome Music Lab, Blob Opera, and others suitable for Key Stages 1, 2, and 3.

Interactive Musical Video Game Activity (30 minutes):



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- The concept of a Musical Video Game as a hands-on activity.
- Step-by-step guide for participants to create part of the game using their phones, tablets, or laptops.
- How this activity can be adapted for various educational settings and student age groups.

Q&A and Future Opportunities (10 minutes):

- Discussion on challenges and ideas related to implementing digital music tools in education.
- Information on available slots for summer term workshops, particularly focusing on the transition period from Year 6 to 7.

Royal Opera House: Create & Sing Taster Session

Venue: Cultural Living Room (CLR)

Join two artists from the Royal Opera to find out more about the award-winning Create & Sing programme.

Create & Sing is FREE, curriculum-led and available to all schools across the nation. It includes full day teacher training, comprehensive lesson resources, and digital live lessons to bring the Royal Opera into your classroom.

In this practical taster session you will:

- Be introduced to the building blocks of dramatic singing. Create & Sing combines music and drama to build pupils' self-expression, creative collaboration, performance confidence, voice, movement, and memory skills
- Explore how the programme meets the music curriculum outcomes and progression for KS1-3
- Find out about new SEND resources and CPD, launching in January 2025 - and gain early access!

www.rbo.org.uk/schools

A practical introduction to Steel Pans - Mary Genis (Culture Mix)

Venue: Concert Room

Let CultureMix Arts transport you to a Caribbean style carnival with a RASPO Steel Band music workshop.

Participants learn how to play the steel pans and how the ensemble is put together thinking about harmony, melody and of course, rhythm. The session leaders will give you a taster of a steel band workshop ideal for class groups at all ages and levels.

Teaching notation in the primary music curriculum - Mel Hopkin (Berkshire Music Trust)

Venue: Christopher Lee Theatre (CLT)

This session, aimed at primary teachers, will explore how we can use a holistic approach to teaching musical notation to children. Music is a language that anyone can learn if taught in the right way. We will explore how children can, from an early age, learn about musical concepts unconsciously, through the use of carefully selected songs and games, before progressing in a natural way towards understanding musical symbols and notation. Whether you're new to teaching music and don't know where to start, or an experienced music



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teacher looking for new ideas, this session will equip you with practical ideas to create a pathway to musical literacy for the children you teach.

Session 4 – 3.40pm-4.30pm

Come and Sing! – KS2-KS5 vocal ensembles– Bimbi Shaw-Cotterill and Jamie Read, Berkshire Music Trust
Venue: Cultural Living Room (CLR)

Right from the outset we will sing! - Quick learn songs, age-appropriate rounds for fast and effective harmony alongside advise and song sharing of repertoire at KS2, 3, 4 and 5. Advise on hormonal changes in ALL students and how to keep teenagers singing through the changes.

MIXMKR – Blended learning: a successful project in an alternative setting – Josef McCormack (Berkshire Music Trust)

Venue: Concert Room

MIXMKR is BMT's creative digital music production programme for learners aged 11+, designed and created by our Youth Engagement and Contemporary Music Lead, Joe McCormack. You students learn to make the music they love from day one, with an accessible and flexible approach combining recorded and live learning content. As well as running in our Reading Music Centre, MIXMKR has seen very positive results in PRU and AP settings where young people are able to engage on their own terms, and express their voice and feelings through music without the need for a traditional musical instrument.

Come and try out the tech in this interactive session and find out why the programme is so engaging and accessible.

Panel Discussion - How can all partners work together to successfully deliver the National Plan for Music education? - Ella Foster (Berkshire Music Trust), Mary Genis (Culture Mix), Sharon Lester (Berkshire Music Trust), Luke Coventry (Ranelagh School) & Alexandra Butler (Whitegrove Primary)

Venue: Christopher Lee Theatre (CLT)

Join Berkshire Music Trust and friends as they discuss the benefits of working in partnership to deliver the National Plan for Music Education. We will hear from school leaders and teachers as well as hub partners, Culture Mix. Come prepared to be challenged and inspired, and bring your questions to ask the panel.