



Hertfordshire
Music Service

Annual Review

2023-24



Hertfordshire

Contents

Introduction.....	4
Our vision	8
Our values	11
Timeline of key events	12
Musical achievements	14
Regional achievements	16
What our young people say about learning music.....	18
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion	20
Our people	22
Operations & Finance	24
Our valued contributors.....	26
Hertfordshire Music Hub.....	28
A look to the future.....	30



“A jewel in the crown of all good things at HCC.”

Cllr Mark Mills-Bishop
Vice Chairman of Hertfordshire County Council
May 2022 - April 2023

| Introduction

Welcome to the Hertfordshire Music Service (HMS) Annual Review, a celebration of our vibrant musical community and a reflection on a year of outstanding achievements. As Lead Organisation for the Hertfordshire Music Hub, HMS has always strived to be at the forefront of providing exceptional music education, either directly or in partnership, and nurturing the talents of young musicians both within Hertfordshire and across the country with projects like HMS Changing Tracks. This year has been no different as we have successfully created a nurturing environment for thousands of students to flourish musically, personally, and socially.

This year's review encapsulates our unwavering commitment to inclusivity and excellence in music education. Our vision is clear: every child in Hertfordshire, irrespective of background or circumstances, should have the opportunity to discover and develop their unique musical 'voice' and express themselves through the language of music. We are proud to share how this vision is becoming a reality through our innovative programs and partnerships.

As we navigate the evolving landscape of music education, HMS remains a beacon of inspiration, adapting to the needs of our students and their families. Our focus on creating musical learning opportunities of all kinds, nurturing and growing happiness and confidence, has propelled us towards our goal of becoming a Centre for Excellence in Music Education. The annual review highlights our journey, the people and partners that helped us accomplish our goals, and the milestones we've achieved.

We invite you to explore the pages of this review and join us in applauding the remarkable accomplishments of our students, the dedication of our team, and the support of both HMS and Hub partners and our community. Together, we are building a legacy of musical excellence that will resonate for generations to come. Let's celebrate the power of music and its bright future in Hertfordshire.

Lisa Quinlan-Rahman, CEO
Hertfordshire Music Service





As Executive Member for Education, Libraries & Lifelong Learning for Hertfordshire County Council, it is my distinct pleasure to introduce the Hertfordshire Music Service (HMS) Annual Review. This year has been one of remarkable achievements and inspiring musical journeys.

Our commitment to fostering musical excellence across Hertfordshire has never been stronger, and the outcomes of this dedication are evident in the breadth and depth of the musical offer HMS provides. From the youngest beginners to the most advanced ensembles, our students have shown exceptional progress and resilience.

HMS has continued to be a beacon of creativity, providing inclusive and high-quality music education that enriches the lives of our young people. I have seen firsthand the transformative power of music, not only in developing individual talent but also in building community and bridging cultural divides through the partnerships with other Hertfordshire County Council teams, including The Virtual School, Services for Young People and Public Health.

We are also rightly proud that HMS has been selected to act as the Lead Organisation in the Hertfordshire Music Hub, bringing together a diverse range of partners and stakeholders to drive musical opportunity and excellence across the County.

This review will showcase the outstanding work of our educators, the innovative approaches to learning, and the remarkable performances that have defined the past year.

As we reflect on our successes, we also look forward to the future with anticipation, ready to embrace new challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Let us celebrate the joy, discipline, and community spirit that music brings to our lives, and may we continue to support the arts as a vital part of Hertfordshire's cultural landscape.

Caroline Clapper
Hertfordshire County Council



Our vision

All Hertfordshire children and young people, regardless of background or circumstances, have the opportunity to discover their unique musical voice and express themselves through the language of music.

A woman with long brown hair and glasses is playing a harp. The harp has a wooden frame and many strings. The woman is wearing a dark top and a watch on her left wrist. The background is dark and out of focus.

Making Music Improving Lives

| Our values

We are proud to live the values of Hertfordshire County Council in our work - we bring the values to life in our county of musical opportunity.

We improve residents' lives

Music is proven to provide many benefits to health and wellbeing:

- boosting self-esteem and confidence
- increasing memory and focus
- connecting with others
- developing empathy and compassion through teamwork
- perseverance through learning
- opens up a world for increasing social mobility

We work with integrity

- transparent communications
- clear organisational practices
- young people as the focus

We act sustainably

Guaranteeing that we provide the best possible musical experiences in the long term and ensuring our impact on the environment is minimal we embrace and deliver:

- an instrument loan scheme
- online learning
- remote working
- upgrades of our main buildings

We champion equality and fairness

Music is for everyone; our vision and actions encapsulates this. All aspects of our organisation have equality and fairness as a core objective.

- nationally recognised inclusivity project - HMS Changing Tracks
- inclusive SEND music making groups
- internal equality, diversity and inclusion working group
- WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility standard website

| Timeline of key events

2023



August

- Hertfordshire County Youth Orchestra Loire Valley France Tour

September

- Started more than 9,000 students
- 11% increase in classes starting an instrument
- Launch of the ensemble membership offer

October

- Launched Elective Home Education

November

- Finalist in the National Music and Drama awards
- Mid Herts Wind Band performance at Hatfield Fireworks Show
- Status granted to be a Hertfordshire exam centre for music

December

- Winner of the HCC Children's Services outstanding team of the year award

2024

January

- Ran first 'Big Staff Meet' in partnership with HfL Education
- Selected as a lead partner for an inclusive music research project with the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB)
- Launched our regional 'start your musical journey' videos on YouTube

February

- Launch of the new 'Schools Music Toolkit'
- Selected as a new partner of the national 'Furthering Talent' project by Young Sounds UK

June

- Gospel Music transition project in partnership with Sing Up and the London Community Gospel Choir
- Awarded continued funding from the Hertfordshire Community Foundation

July

- Dacorum Music Festival
- HMS School Music Conference in partnership with HfL Education
- Musical performances at HCC Chairman's Summer Event, and produced an event video, as part of our production offer

May

- Named as lead organisation for the Hertfordshire Music Hub
- Exams Partnership with Trinity College London
- Established production offer to teams across HCC, producing an event video for Public Health, NHS & Office for Health Improvement & Disparities

April

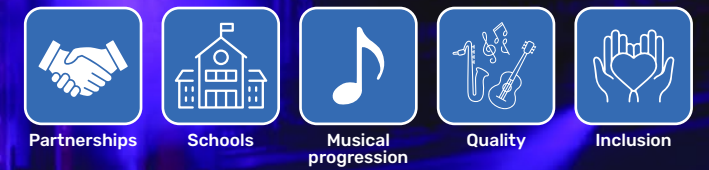
- Launch of our 'Access to Instruments' programme
- Hertfordshire County Youth Opera Gala at St Johns' Smith Square featuring alumni singers from The National Opera Studio



March

- Watford Youth Orchestra performed at the 75th Anniversary of the Commonwealth at St. Albans Cathedral
- HMS and the Virtual School presented the Herts Arts project at the MusicMark spring summit in London

Musical achievements



The past year has unfolded as a remarkable and thrilling chapter for Hertfordshire Music Service, distinguished by a series of significant accomplishments and notable events. Our constant pursuit of excellence and our dedication to nurturing the musical abilities of young individuals have allowed us to greatly enhance musical opportunities within our community and influence the musical journey of thousands of young people in Hertfordshire.

A milestone achievement was becoming the lead organisation for Hertfordshire Music Hub, enabling HMS to unlock and continue the rich variety present in our musical offerings and services. Our dedication to inclusivity and the broadening of access has led to further engagement from budding musicians of various ages, cultural backgrounds, and musical preferences, contributing to the wider musical environment.

Moreover, our educational activities have been complemented by a carefully selected array of performances, concerts, and gatherings over the year. The stages have been filled by the presence of our extraordinary musicians, whose skills have entertained audiences and left an enduring mark with their performances. These occasions have not only highlighted the musical prowess developed within HMS but have also acted as musical milestones, spreading delight and serving as a source of inspiration within our community.

313 schools
attended
HMS CPD

A wide range of
30+ instruments
to learn

Over 130,000
hours of musical
activities
delivered

23% of students
participating
in two or more
musical activities

3,000+ students
participating in
ensembles

Engaged with
95% Hertfordshire
schools

Regional achievements



Partnerships



Musical progression



Quality



Inclusion

North Herts & Stevenage

- Five instrumental days held at SMC with over 200 pupils attending
- Hosting the Virtual School Herts Arts concert
- Woolenwick Gala concert – featuring the Year 2 Dood project set up in partnership with HMS and Nuvo

St Albans

- Development of new partnerships; 'Jazz Junction' and 'The Pioneer Centre'
- Showcase concert at The Eric Morecombe Centre
- Fantastic multi-region rock event at Berkhamsted Castle in partnership with English Heritage

Dacorum

- A town wide event, TRINGSING, bringing all primary schools together at Tring School
- Continuing partnerships with a local charity, Music at St Johns (MaSJ)
- Second Dacorum Festival taking music out to all the communities in Dacorum

Watford & Three Rivers

- WSM Youth Orchestra represented the young musicians of Hertfordshire playing in 75th Anniversary Commonwealth Service at St Albans Abbey
- Musical progression in 17 well-established ensembles with 30+ concerts and 5 musicmaking days
- Opening up further opportunities for all our children through local partnerships with organisations such as, The Maggini String Quartet, The Purcell School, Dan Tien and Amersham Brass

East Herts & Broxbourne

- The Haileybury Turnford Singing Festival
- East Herts & Broxbourne Music Centres visiting the Alberts Hall to watch the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra performing a film music concert
- Starting an outreach programme at Stortford House with adults with learning difficulties

Welwyn, Hatfield & Hertsmere

- Expanded music opportunities which increased music making by 28% in weekly centre lessons
- Expanded strategic partnerships & financial sustainability by relocating South Herts Music Centre to Cuffley School and partnering with Mini Mozart
- Strengthened school engagement by expanding First Access provision demonstrating our commitment to high quality music education and community reach

| What our young people say about learning music



39%

"music makes me feel more confident" *

"I enjoy coming to classes every week and learning from my teacher"

"I'm happy with my music lessons, my tutor is very patient and helpful while I learn"

46%

"music improves my mental health and wellbeing" *

52%

enjoy learning new skills in music *

"I love the friendships that I make and the social aspect of it is really nice"

"You feel like you've really achieved something special because you get to listen to it and perform it, and you really get to take something out"



* Percentages taken from the HMS Youth Survey 2024.

Diversity of music delivery



Our aim: Delivering a more diverse range of musical styles and traditions that meet the needs of our students and musical communities. We are also influencing the range of musical traditions offered in music education settings both locally and nationally through the continued delivery of the ground-breaking projects. HMS is developing further musical opportunities for children with SEND or complex needs including those with SEND in mainstream schools and children in care or alternative provision.

Soundabout Affiliated Inclusive Choir
HMS partnered with the music charity, Soundabout, to set up an Inclusive Choir for young people in Hertfordshire. The Soundabout Choirs are musical communities without barriers for people of all ages and all abilities, with a focus on giving a voice to learning Disabled people with complex support needs. The choir is for anyone of any ability and caters for those with SEND and complex needs.

Chipperfield Choral Society
HMS is working in partnership with London Community Gospel Choir and SingUp on completing a Gospel unit that will be available via the SingUp platform nationally. This is a great way to make our resources go further to benefit as many children and young people as possible. 183 students attended authentic Gospel singing workshops delivered by the LCGC "The difference in the children's engagement and confidence from the beginning to the end was just extraordinary."

Workforce



Our aim: Working with our staff and partners to develop their skills in inclusive music teaching.

Early Years Project - Creating spaces for children, families and artists to flourish together. Watch our project video here: youtu.be/_fKxLvIr-jl

HMS is delivering an Early Years Training program in partnership with Youth Music and Magic Acorns, Expanding the reach of HMS and increasing its role for making Hertfordshire a county of musical opportunity. Building a resilient community of early years music practice in Hertfordshire. Experiential professional development days for early years practitioners to develop their musical play practice through playful workshops.

Training days, reflection sessions and mentoring explore the importance of musical play to nurture confidence, engagement and expression in a holistic way, and to celebrate the different ways that might look for everyone.

Music Conference 2024
94 delegates attended the HfL and HMS Music Leaders' and Music Teachers' Development Day, aimed at music leaders and teachers of music from all schools and academies. Brought together colleagues who maybe newer and/or less experienced with more experienced and specialist teachers, to create a community and shared musical experience. The day was designed to be inclusive, and aimed to build confidence, develop knowledge and be an enjoyable experience for all who attended.

Leadership



Our aim: Reflect the diversity of Hertfordshire within its leadership, policies, partnerships and recruitment. We are ensuring the voice of young people influences everything we do, and young people have an opportunity to meaningfully participate in decision making.

Herts Arts serves as a beacon of empowerment and creativity for children in care. A collaborative initiative between Herts Music Service and the Virtual School, it endeavours to provide weekly music groups, performance opportunities, and celebratory events for children looked after in Hertfordshire. Through the medium of music, HertsArts seeks to nurture not only musical skills but also confidence, relationships, communication abilities, leadership qualities, and a profound sense of self-worth among its participants.

Two young music leaders presented the outcomes and learning from the HertsArts project at the Music Mark Spring Summit on 22nd March 2024 in London. Read the case study online at musicmark.org.uk/news/hertsarts-a-beacon-of-creativity-for-children-in-care

Learning pathways



Our aim: By offering inclusive learning pathways, HMS aims to enable all students to pursue their interests and achieve their potential, including accessing social music making and the opportunity to progress professionally.

Open Orchestra started at Lonsdale on Oct 5th with a one-hour session initially

Start with six students in pairs, exploring what instruments they gravitate to and will then slowly add more students through the year to create an orchestra by the third term, which can then continue to grow in Yr2 and beyond.

The Open Orchestra project at Lonsdale is going well. The ensemble will be performing at the Funky Pie celebration event 19th June 12.45-13.45 at Trestle Theatre, St Albans.

Equity



Our aim: Promoting a better understanding of the barriers to accessing musical opportunities and influencing the development of solutions locally and nationally. We are also providing accessible musical instruments to those that need them so anyone can discover their musical voice.

The Changing Tracks National Inclusion Strategy Group focussed on developing inclusive ensembles in collaboration with hubs from across the country, open orchestras and youth voice. As part of the work done by this group we are able to share the resource with practical steps to take to make ensembles more inclusive.

Our people

People are the heart and soul of all that Hertfordshire Music Service does. We recognise that passionate and talented colleagues are critical to our continued success and transformation. The dedication, repertoire of skills, professionalism and inspirational commitment to music education shown by colleagues every day continues to underpin the pursuit of our musical purpose.

Furthermore, colleagues adaptability and growth mindset means that together, we continue to ensure that together, we can further improve outcomes and experiences for children and young people, recognise and respond to the financial challenges present and play our part in the vital need for us to minimise our environmental impact.

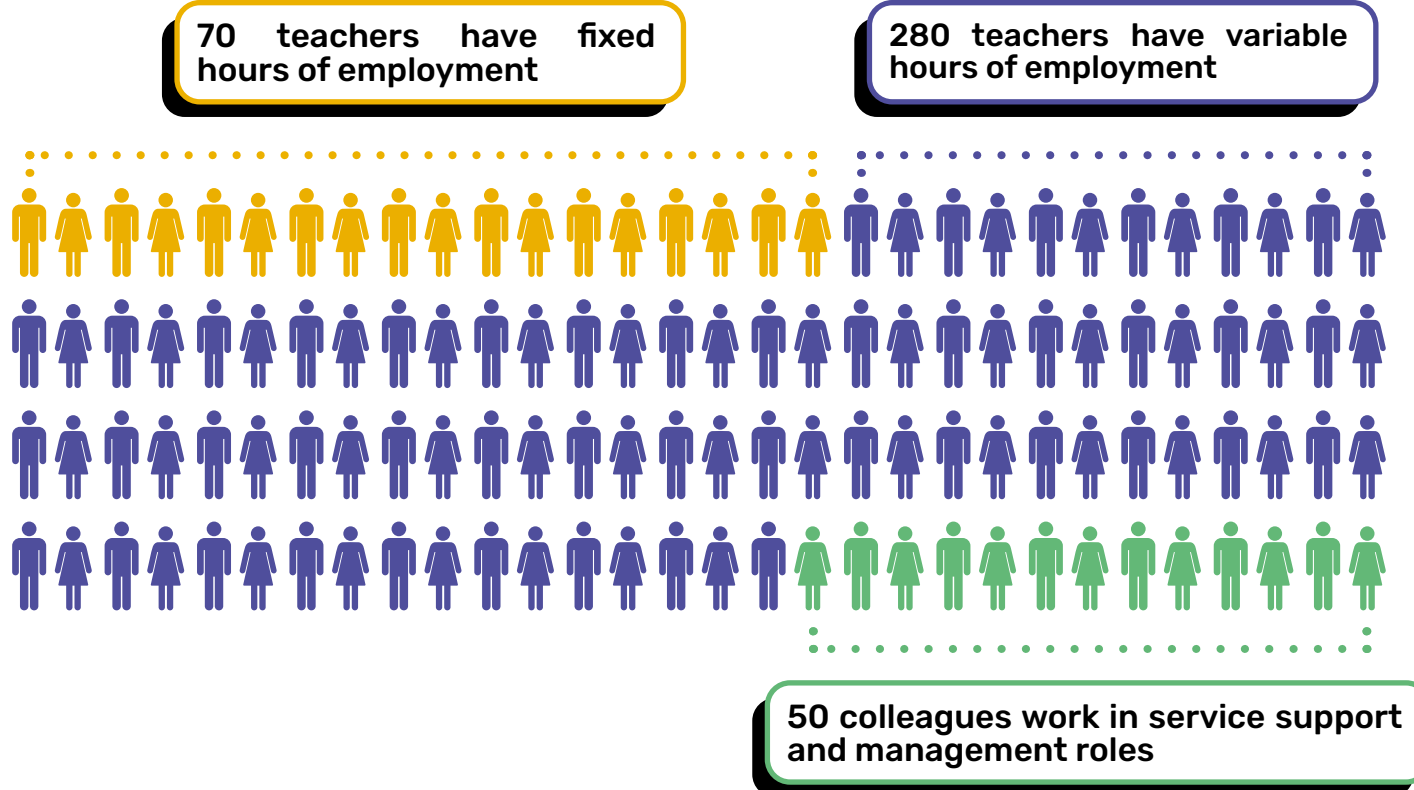
Throughout the 2023/24 academic year, the HMS workforce has demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability, overcoming numerous challenges and embracing new opportunities. The HMS team brings together a rich ensemble of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives, creating a dynamic and inclusive environment that fosters collaboration and sparks creativity. We firmly believe that a diverse workforce leads to greater innovation, better decision-making, and ultimately, superior outcomes for all.

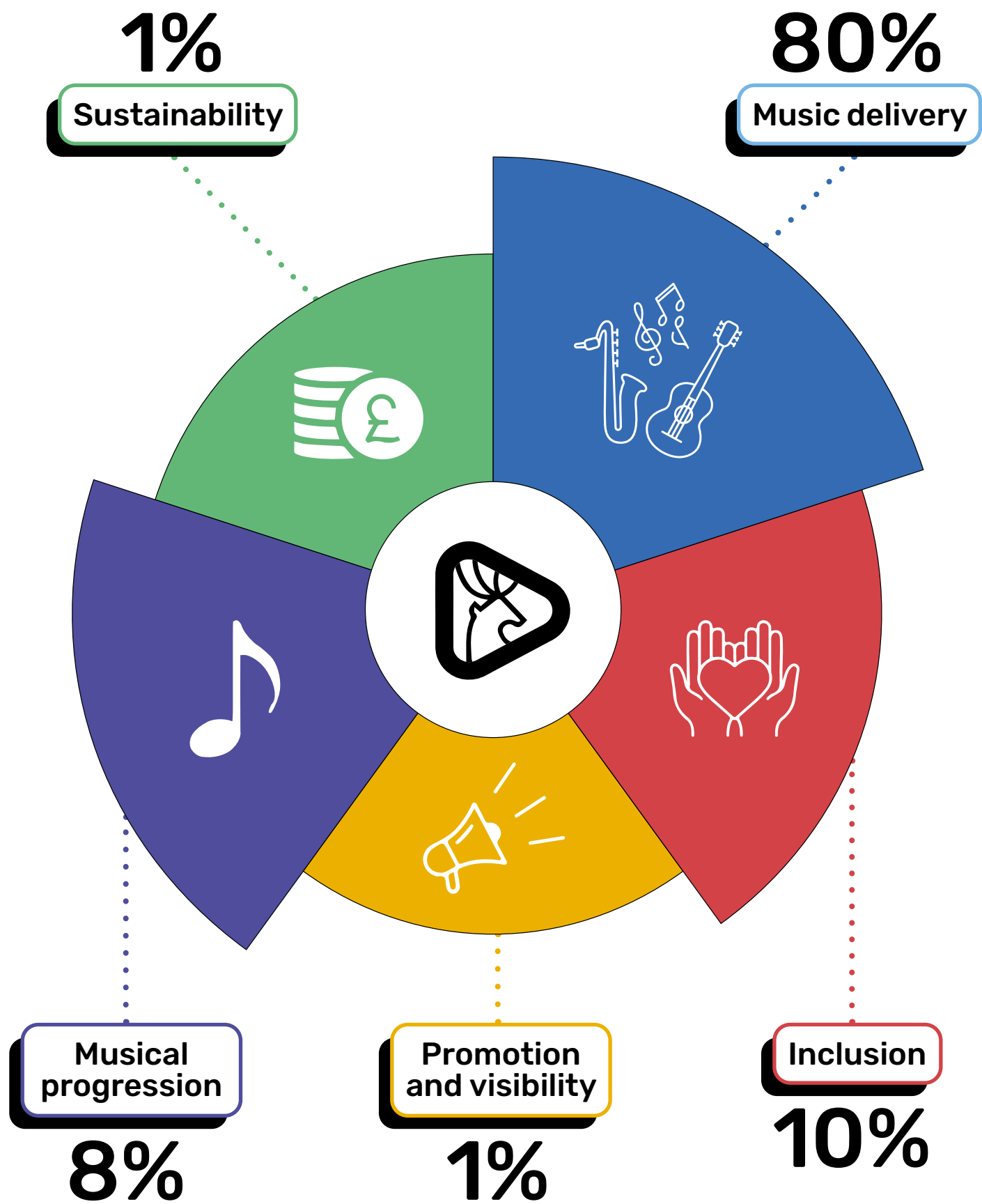
HMS remains deeply committed to the growth and personal development of the team. We strive to provide the resources, training, and support colleagues need to reach their full potential. By empowering our team, we empower our organisation, fostering a culture of continuous learning and personal growth.

Furthermore, we recognise the importance of maintaining a healthy work-life balance. Wellbeing is of utmost importance to us; by prioritising wellbeing, we aim to foster and maintain a creative environment where colleagues can thrive, personally and professionally. Because of all of the above, as one team, we continue to strive to the realisation of HMS's purpose, to improve lives by creating musical learning opportunities of all kinds, nurturing and growing happiness and confidence.



400 colleagues are part of the Hertfordshire Music Service team.





Our valued contributors

Hertfordshire Music Service would like to thank Hertfordshire County Council, The Hertfordshire Music Education Hub Forum, partner organisations and everyone who supports music making for young people in the county.

This consistent support enables thousands of children and young people to discover their musical voice and express themselves through the language of music.

Hertfordshire County Council

- Chairman**
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- Vice Chairman**
Cllr Lesley Greensmyth
- Leader**
Cllr Richard Roberts
- Deputy Leader**
Cllr Fiona Thomas

Executive Member, Education, Libraries and Life Long Learning
Cllr Caroline Clapper

Children’s Services

- Executive Director**
Jo Fisher
- Director of Education**
Simon Newland

Hertfordshire Music Service

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Lisa Quinlan-Rahman
- Director of Music**
Ben Stevens
- Deputy Executive Member, Education, Libraries and Life Long Learning**
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Owen Mapley
- Deputy Chief Executive / Executive Director of Resources**
Scott Crudgington
- People, Culture and Business Development Director**
Michael Mabbitt
- Head of Operations and Finance**
Jeff Clarkson



Hertfordshire Music Education Hub Forum members

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Michael Taylor
- Deputy Chair of Forum**
Alison Saunders MBE
- Observer – County Councillor – Executive Member, Education, Libraries and Lifelong Learning**
Cllr Caroline Clapper
- County Councillor – Deputy Executive Member, Education, Libraries and Lifelong Learning**
Cllr Mark Mills-Bishop
- County Councillor – Liberal Democrat spokesperson for Education Libraries and Lifelong Learning**
Cllr Mark Watkin
- Headteacher – Roselands Primary School, Hoddesdon**
Jane Carson
- Director of Learning & Performing Arts – Longdean Secondary School, Hemel Hempstead**
Karen Cheney
- Headteacher - Leventhorpe School, Sawbridgeworth**
Malcolm White
- Subject Leader – Music – Haileybury Turnford Secondary School, Turnford**
Sally Nicholson
- Executive Headteacher - Howe Dell Primary School, Hatfield**
Tracy Prickett
- Independent Member**
Peter Hewitt
- Observer – Director of Finance and Business Support, Hertfordshire County Council**
Rachael Adler
- NEU Representative and Regional Manager, HMS**
Nyree O’Brien
- Observer – Relationship Manager, Music – Arts Council England**
Adrian Cooke
- Chief Executive Officer, HMS**
Lisa Quinlan-Rahman
- Director of Music, HMS**
Ben Stevens
- Observer – People, Culture and Business Development Director, HMS**
Michael Mabbitt
- Observer – Head of Operations and Finance, HMS**
Jeff Clarkson

Former members during 2023/24 academic year

- Observer – Director of Education, Children’s Services, HCC (until April 2024)**
Simon Newland

Hertfordshire Music Hub

Hertfordshire Music Service is proud to be the Lead Organisation for the Hertfordshire Music Hub.

Music Hubs are partnerships that support, deliver and enable access to music education for children and young people within a local area. These partnerships are co-ordinated by a Hub Lead Organisation and can include schools, local authorities, community groups, music organisations, industry and more.

As the Lead Organisation, Hertfordshire Music Service will deliver the three aims set out in the National Plan for Music Education:

1. To support schools and other education settings to deliver high-quality music education
2. To support young people to further develop their musical interests and talent, including into employment
3. To support all children and young people to engage with a range of musical opportunities in and out of school

The National Plan also outlines five strategic functions for Music Hubs:

- Partnerships
- Schools
- Progression and musical development
- Inclusion
- Sustainability

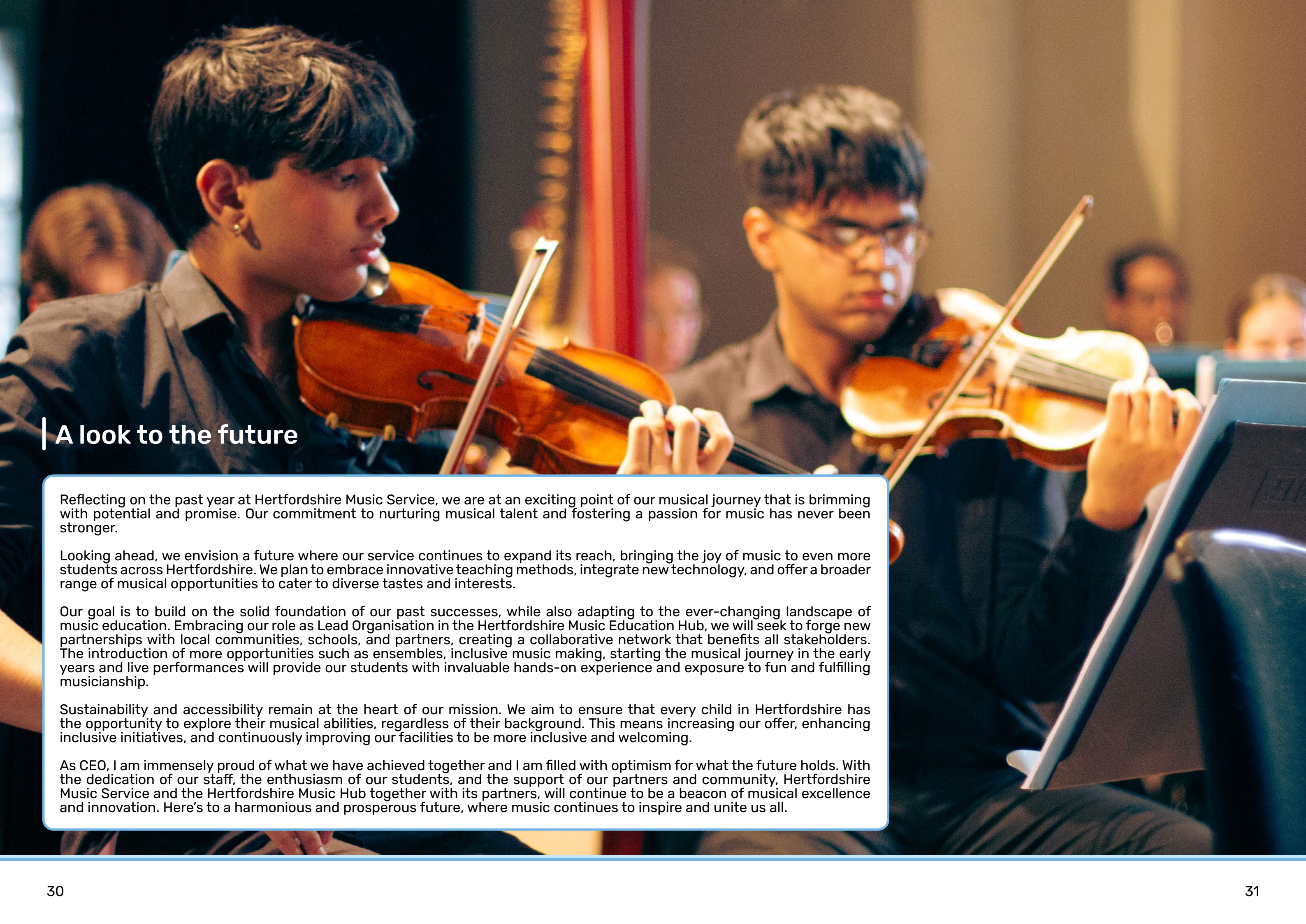
We could not achieve this without working in partnership with our partner organisations who also enable young people in Hertfordshire access to high quality music education – thank you.

Supported using public funding by



Supporting cultural education, endorsed by Arts Council England





| A look to the future

Reflecting on the past year at Hertfordshire Music Service, we are at an exciting point of our musical journey that is brimming with potential and promise. Our commitment to nurturing musical talent and fostering a passion for music has never been stronger.

Looking ahead, we envision a future where our service continues to expand its reach, bringing the joy of music to even more students across Hertfordshire. We plan to embrace innovative teaching methods, integrate new technology, and offer a broader range of musical opportunities to cater to diverse tastes and interests.

Our goal is to build on the solid foundation of our past successes, while also adapting to the ever-changing landscape of music education. Embracing our role as Lead Organisation in the Hertfordshire Music Education Hub, we will seek to forge new partnerships with local communities, schools, and partners, creating a collaborative network that benefits all stakeholders. The introduction of more opportunities such as ensembles, inclusive music making, starting the musical journey in the early years and live performances will provide our students with invaluable hands-on experience and exposure to fun and fulfilling musicianship.

Sustainability and accessibility remain at the heart of our mission. We aim to ensure that every child in Hertfordshire has the opportunity to explore their musical abilities, regardless of their background. This means increasing our offer, enhancing inclusive initiatives, and continuously improving our facilities to be more inclusive and welcoming.

As CEO, I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together and I am filled with optimism for what the future holds. With the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our students, and the support of our partners and community, Hertfordshire Music Service and the Hertfordshire Music Hub together with its partners, will continue to be a beacon of musical excellence and innovation. Here's to a harmonious and prosperous future, where music continues to inspire and unite us all.

Making Music

Improving Lives

**Thank you to all
colleagues, residents and
organisations who feature
in this publication and to all
those who support music
education in Hertfordshire.**

Hertfordshire Music Service
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