



Hertfordshire
Music Service

Annual Review

2024-25



Hertfordshire

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| Introduction

It is with great pleasure that I present to you this year's annual review, marking a year of significant progress and renewed ambition for Hertfordshire Music Service (HMS).

2024-25 has been a year of change. As the music education landscape continues to evolve, HMS has embraced change with passion, confidence and clarity of our purpose. We've refined our focus on inclusion, progression, customer experience and sustainability as practical commitments that shape everything we do.

Our work this year has delivered a more engaging and varied service to the young people of Hertfordshire. We've refined our offer for children and young people who have traditionally faced barriers to participation. We've strengthened our partnerships with schools, community organisations, and national networks, ensuring that our offer is both responsive and robust. And we've continued to invest in our workforce, recognising that the passion and expertise of our educators is central to the success of our mission.

This review reflects the breadth and depth of our activity - from community engagement to strategic innovation. It showcases the creativity of our students, the dedication of our staff, and the impact of our partnerships. It also highlights the steps we're taking to build a service-wide culture of fundraising and development, ensuring that HMS can continue to grow and thrive in the years ahead.

As we look to the future, our ambition remains clear: to continue to be a beacon for excellence in music education, rooted in Hertfordshire but with an impact that extends nationally. We know that music has the power to transform lives, and we are committed to making that power available to all Hertfordshire's children and young people, regardless of background or circumstances, so they have the opportunity to discover or develop their unique musical voice and express themselves through the language of music.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our work. Together, we are building a more musical future.

Lisa Quinlan-Rahman, CEO
Hertfordshire Music Service





I am delighted to be able to introduce the Hertfordshire Music Service Annual Review for 2024–25, a year that demonstrated the transformative power of music in the lives of children and young people across Hertfordshire.

As Executive Member for Education, SEND and Inclusion, I am especially proud of the way HMS continues to place equity and accessibility at the heart of its work. Music is more than an art form – it is a vehicle for personal growth, emotional wellbeing, and social connection. This year, HMS has shown how inclusive music education can unlock potential, build confidence, and create a sense of belonging for every child, most particularly those with special educational needs and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The service's commitment to partnership working has been a real strength. Whether collaborating with The Virtual School, Services for Young People, Public Health, or local schools and community organisations, HMS has helped to create joined-up opportunities that support the whole child – educationally, socially, and emotionally.

I am also delighted to see how HMS is continuing to lead the Hertfordshire Music Hub, bringing together a diverse and energetic network of partners focused on developing musical opportunity and excellence. This leadership role is vital in ensuring that Hertfordshire remains one of the national leaders in music education, inclusion, and cultural enrichment.

I hope you find this review exciting and stimulating with its snapshots into the creativity, dedication, and innovation that define HMS. It celebrates the achievements of our young people, the professionalism of our educators, and the strength of its shared vision: *"All Hertfordshire's children and young people, regardless of background or circumstances, have the opportunity to discover or develop their unique musical voice and express themselves through the language of music."*

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this inspiring year. I look forward to seeing how HMS continues to grow, adapt, and lead in the years ahead.

Mark Watkin
Executive Member for Education, SEND and Inclusion



We improve lives by **creating** musical **learning** opportunities of all kinds, nurturing and **growing** happiness and confidence.



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.

- Inclusive SEND music making groups
- Internal equality, diversity and inclusion working group
- WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility standard website

| Timeline of key events

2024



September

- HMS becomes a 'Connector Hub' in partnership with Young Sounds UK to connect families who wouldn't normally engage with music education to opportunities HMS provides.
- Teacher training sessions in partnership with Sing Up and the London Community Gospel Choir held in West Herts.

October

- School choir concert with the London Community Gospel Choir held, funded by the Janet Hammond Foundation.
- Two new Steel Pan groups are formed in North Herts.

November

- HMS works with Magic Acorns and Music Train to launch a new 'Sing Make Play' early years music programme for 0-5 year olds, funded by Youth Music.
- HMS and the Virtual School's HertsArts initiative is a finalist in the Music Mark 'Talk into Action' inclusion award 2025.
- The HMS Elected Home Education service is a finalist in the Music and Drama Education Awards 2025.

December

- A partnership with IE Music enables 97 secondary students across 4 schools to engage in songwriting classes with professional musicians.

2025

February

- HMS collaborates with West Herts College to record all the finalists of the gala songwriting competition.
- A partnership with Practice Roomz in Stevenage enables HMS to facilitate 18 new bands and 13 solo artists to rehearse, supporting informal progression routes for 90 students aged 7-19.
- Caribbean music workshop held in partnership with St Albans Girls School.

January

- A scholarship programme for the County Youth Choir launches with the first successful students offered support for lessons and choir membership.
- HMS commissioned by HfL Education to provide music subject lead training.
- Pilot project to test a new trial lesson service launches.

March

- Hertfordshire Schools' Gala performance held at the Royal Albert Hall with over 2,300 young people taking part.
- 300 students from 17 schools attend our GCSE music concert at the Gordon Craig Theatre in Stevenage.
- Chorister Outreach Project performance held at St Albans Cathedral with two schools.
- Music making days held across the county with hundreds of students taking part.

April

- HMS announces the new Lead Schools for Music scheme, with 10 school representatives from a range of different settings across the county.

May

- Over 40 schools begin to engage with HMS services and musical opportunities for the first time.
- Over 450 musical instruments are on hire to enable students learn more easily.

June

- Janet Hammond Foundation confirm funding for singing activities for 2025-27.
- 41 schools attend training for inclusion and rhythm & notation.
- Singing festivals held in East, West and North Herts with over 400 students taking part.

July

- Rock band concert at the Pioneer Club in St Albans with surprise guests – The Zombies!
- Over 2,000 students are enabled to perform across 52 concerts in the summer term alone.
- HMS exams service grows to a second location, facilitating 30 exams in the summer term.

August

- County Youth Music courses include a performance of The Planets at Smith Square Hall in London.



| Musical achievements

The past year has marked an inspiring and transformative chapter for Hertfordshire Music Service (HMS), defined by a wealth of musical accomplishments and memorable moments. Our unwavering commitment to excellence and inclusivity has continued to shape the musical journeys of thousands of young people across Hertfordshire.

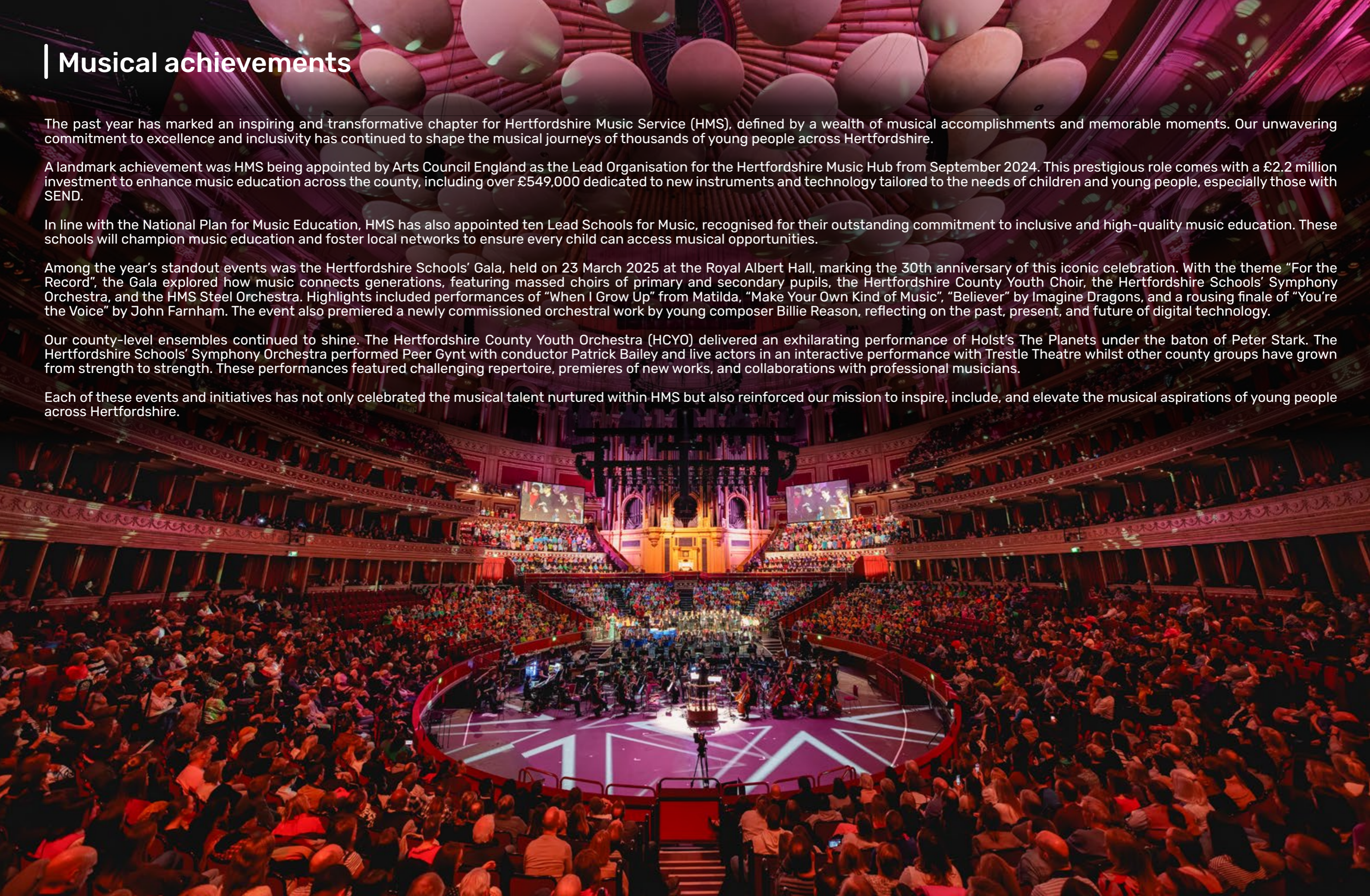
A landmark achievement was HMS being appointed by Arts Council England as the Lead Organisation for the Hertfordshire Music Hub from September 2024. This prestigious role comes with a £2.2 million investment to enhance music education across the county, including over £549,000 dedicated to new instruments and technology tailored to the needs of children and young people, especially those with SEND.

In line with the National Plan for Music Education, HMS has also appointed ten Lead Schools for Music, recognised for their outstanding commitment to inclusive and high-quality music education. These schools will champion music education and foster local networks to ensure every child can access musical opportunities.

Among the year's standout events was the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala, held on 23 March 2025 at the Royal Albert Hall, marking the 30th anniversary of this iconic celebration. With the theme "For the Record", the Gala explored how music connects generations, featuring massed choirs of primary and secondary pupils, the Hertfordshire County Youth Choir, the Hertfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra, and the HMS Steel Orchestra. Highlights included performances of "When I Grow Up" from Matilda, "Make Your Own Kind of Music", "Believer" by Imagine Dragons, and a rousing finale of "You're the Voice" by John Farnham. The event also premiered a newly commissioned orchestral work by young composer Billie Reason, reflecting on the past, present, and future of digital technology.

Our county-level ensembles continued to shine. The Hertfordshire County Youth Orchestra (HCYO) delivered an exhilarating performance of Holst's The Planets under the baton of Peter Stark. The Hertfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra performed Peer Gynt with conductor Patrick Bailey and live actors in an interactive performance with Trestle Theatre whilst other county groups have grown from strength to strength. These performances featured challenging repertoire, premieres of new works, and collaborations with professional musicians.

Each of these events and initiatives has not only celebrated the musical talent nurtured within HMS but also reinforced our mission to inspire, include, and elevate the musical aspirations of young people across Hertfordshire.



Regional achievements

North Herts & Stevenage

- Three successful instrumental days hosting over 200 children at the Stevenage Music Centre leading to an increase of sign ups for the centre ensembles.
- Two Steel pans groups and Sing Make play sessions started at North Herts Music School.
- Organised and ran the Primary Schools Singing Festival as part of the Stevenage Arts Festival at the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage. 10 primary school choirs performed Nigel Hess's "To the Stars" in collaboration with the Hertfordshire County Wind Sinfonia and the Hertfordshire County Youth Choir.
- HMS evening at the Gordon Craig Theatre as part of the Stevenage Arts Festival showcasing ensembles run and supported by HMS.
- Annual Priory Picnic held at the Priory School, Hitchin with performances from ensembles from all the regional centres and local schools.

East Herts & Broxbourne

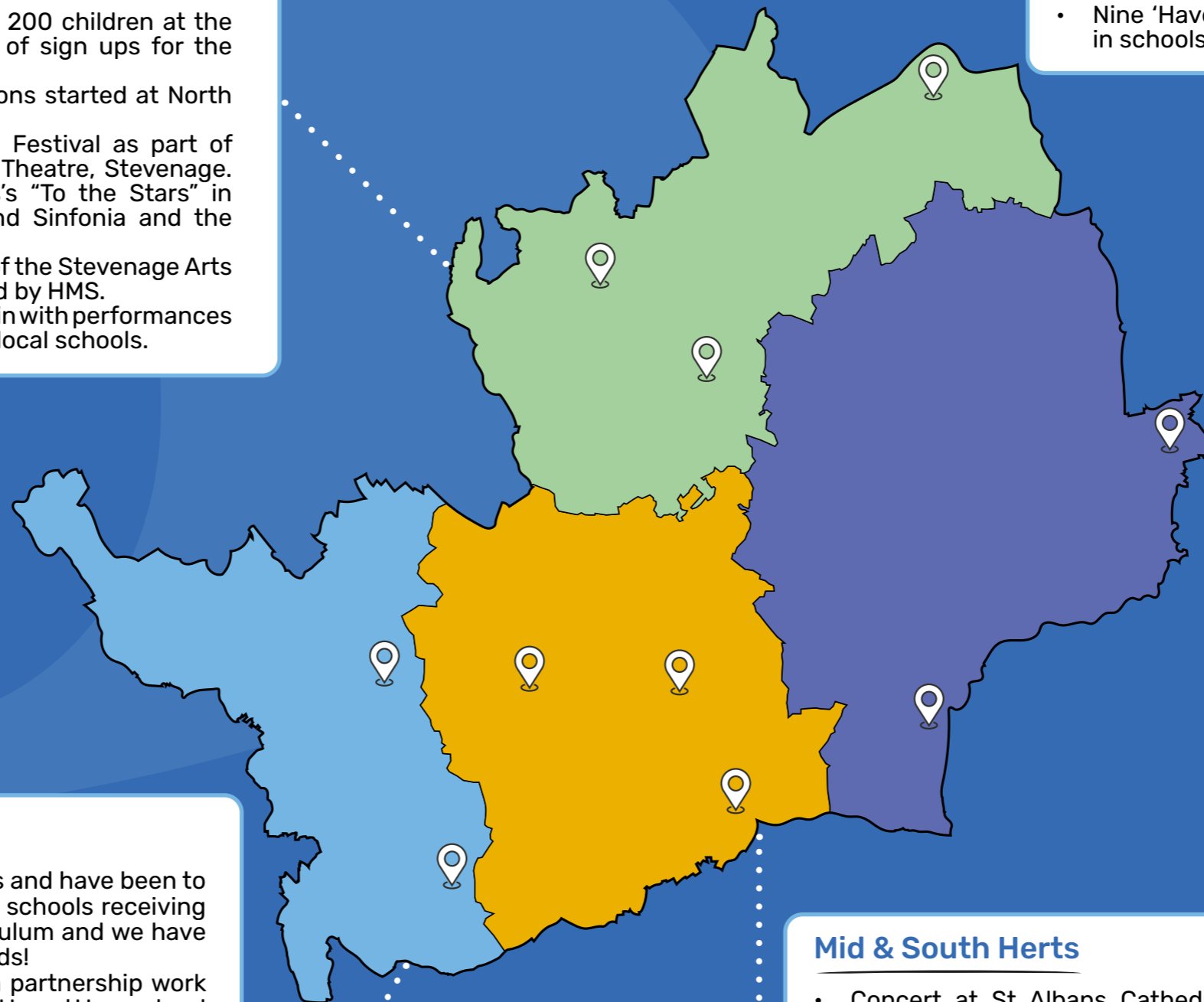
- The outreach programme at Stortford House continues to flourish.
- Eight Musical Workshops have taken place at Bishop's Stortford Music Centre and East Herts Music Centre.
- Nine 'Have a Go' Sessions have been delivered in schools in East Herts.

West Herts

- We have developed new relationships with schools and have been to visit 45 schools across the region. This has led to schools receiving funded support for singing and their music curriculum and we have had the chance to meet all the fabulous music leads!
- We have delivered workshops to schools through partnership work with local and national partners: Music at St Johns, Hemel Hempstead Brass Band, Wooden One-octave Organ for Young Technologists and The Institute of Physics.
- We have hosted music making days for children who are already learning, and offered 'Have a go' sessions for new learners.
- We have delivered concert opportunities for all our ensembles groups from those at the start of their musical journey to more experienced players who have been showcasing their skills and are now looking onwards beyond education to where their own musical journey may lead.

Mid & South Herts

- Concert at St Albans Cathedral was a fantastic celebration of the musical journey through HMS, from first access to solo piano sonatas.
- Multi-region rock event at the Pioneer Club, strengthening our partnership with The Pioneer Centre and giving our students the opportunity to perform for The Zombies.
- Borehamwood singing project gave 220 children from 7 schools the opportunity to perform as a mass choir and strengthened school engagement in this area.
- South Herts Music Centre has grown steadily in its first year of opening and is now a thriving, welcoming Saturday school.



| What our parents say about HMS

"My son absolutely loves his guitar lessons with Hertfordshire Music Service! His tutor is fantastic—encouraging, skilled, and makes learning fun."

"I just wanted to say thank you so much to everyone at HMS, and Watford in particular. My son started at Croxley when he was 5 years old and has been part of different groups at Watford ever since. Watford School of Music has been a huge part of his life for so many years, and he has loved every moment. He is now hopefully going on to study music at university, and will of course still be playing for CYO."

"HMS has been great for my child. The teachers are friendly and patient, and my child really enjoys the lessons. It's a lovely way for kids to build confidence and learn new skills through music. Highly recommend!"

"My child has grown so much in confidence and musical ability thanks to their inspiring lessons and events."



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

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: The Inclusive Choir is growing with fortnightly online meetings as well as half-termly in-person sessions at Mid Herts Centre for Music & Arts on Saturdays. 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: Janet Hammond Foundation fund enabled 4 Gospel Unit tracks (Shackles; Down by the river; Children go where I send thee; Swing low) performed by the London Community gospel Choir including related teaching notes to be released on the SingUp website available to schools across the globe.

"The Chipperfield Choral Society Hammond Award is delighted to support this programme. The main aim of the Award is to support the development of singing with young people in our local area. The partnership with Hertfordshire Music Service's Gospel Project enables us to achieve this and we are gratified by the early results from the project and thrilled with the way that Herts Music Service, SingUp and the London Gospel Choir have delivered the programme". John Morrish

Practice Roomz: Our partnership with the Practice Roomz in Stevenage has allowed 31 bands/solo artists to access over 190 bookings of rehearsal space this academic year, reaching over 90 young people.

Workforce

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

ED&I working group: The ED&I working group continue to meet four times a year to discuss ED&I within HMS. This has included focuses on Inclusive Language, International Women's Day, Pride Month, Black history month as well as input from the HCC ED&I team in our September CPD. A member of our ED&I working group, has also started a neurodiversity staff network group to help facilitate further discussions and actions.

CPD: HMS has delivered CPD to primary headteachers and support staff on how we can empower support staff in mainstream schools to deliver musical interaction with students based upon Sounds of Intent framework. HMS have also delivered SEND focused CPD to the Herts Primary School Music Network.

HMS Early Years Training Programme: This year, the HMS Early Years Training Programme continued to champion inclusive music education by equipping early years practitioners with the skills and confidence to deliver accessible, engaging musical experiences for all children. The programme placed a strong emphasis on cultural diversity, inclusive pedagogy, and child-led learning, ensuring that music-making reflects and celebrates the varied backgrounds of the children in our settings. Feedback highlighted the value of practical strategies for supporting children with SEND and those from underrepresented communities, reinforcing our commitment to equity in early years music provision.

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.

HCC Virtual School: A collaborative initiative between Hertfordshire Music Service and the Virtual School provides 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 selfworth among its participants.

The work with The Virtual school has been nominated for a national award – Music Mark's 'Talk into Action' Inclusion award in 2024. Hertfordshire Music Service was recognised for the HertsArts initiative, which provides weekly music groups and performance opportunities 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.

Future Talent: We partnered with the charity Future Talent who give music bursaries to talented individuals from low income families and also provide workshop information.

This was advertised to our HMS families identified as potentially from low income backgrounds and we are delighted that five children were given music awards. One child was given a funded place in the National Childrens Choir of Great Britain.

Sound Sensations: We are launching a new SEND programme 'Sound Sensations' in September 2025 following a very successful pilot during the spring and autumn terms. The pilot project finished with a successful joint schools concert at the Mid Herts Centre for Music and Arts.

The programme incorporates Sounds of Intent, Trinity Awards and accessible music technology. This new programme will see HMS go into schools, twice every half term, to work with two groups and incorporate the inclusive music framework, Sounds of Intent and the new Trinity Awards and Certificates in Musical Development (linked to Sounds of Intent).

School staff will continue to work with the groups on the weeks in-between visits. We are incorporating accessible instrument technology for students to access music easier in an inclusive way.

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.

Bursary Scheme: The HMS Bursary aims to: provide bursaries to students who may not otherwise afford access to music provision; motivate students to continue their musical education through different stages; further support students who achieve higher levels of proficiency.

Royal National Institute of Blind People and Arts Council England research: We took part in a working group with the RNIB and two other music hubs looking at braille music for the blind and how hubs can be involved in the transcription process. The research project concludes with four HMS team members trialling Braille transcription using music software. It was a very helpful project to be a part of and the RNIB have developed plans to further helps hubs engage in this area.

Through this project HMS have built strong relations with the Hertfordshire County Council Vision Impairment team and contributed to the Vision Impairment Networking Day, Welwyn Garden City United Reformed Church. The purpose of the day was to provide an opportunity for parents, carers and young people to network, and promote access to information from charities and agencies and our service in Hertfordshire.

National Inclusion Strategy Group (NISG): The NISG explored accessible instrument libraries for schools and the impact it has on the young people learning and the joy of unlocking their potential through inclusive instruments. Other topics explored were using Sounds of Intent in mainstream schools, working with care-experienced young people as well as a project for refugees working with children from displaced backgrounds.

HCC Residential Home: HMS has been teaching in a HCC residential home for young people recovering from mental health crisis. The teaching has been well received and is a great example of HMS as partners for solutions for young people in Hertfordshire.



Our people

People will always be the heart and soul of Hertfordshire Music Service, and as a team we are driven by our purpose – to improve lives by creating musical learning opportunities of all kinds, nurturing and growing happiness and confidence.

Throughout the 2024/25 academic year, the HMS workforce has once again demonstrated their diverse repertoire of skills, professionalism, and inspirational commitment to music education. This is all underpinned by our collective adaptability and growth mindset, 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.

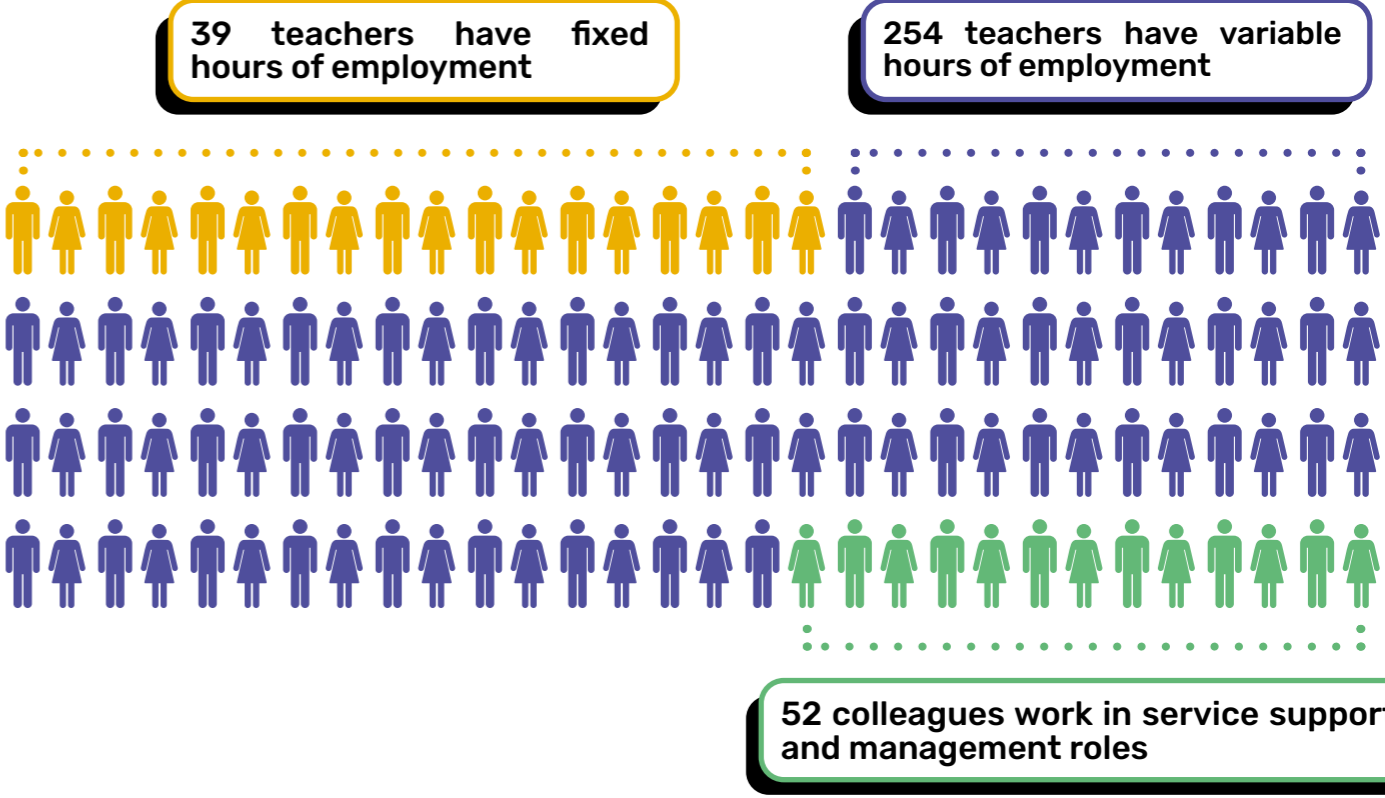
HMS remains deeply committed to the growth and personal development of the team. We strive to provide the resources, training, and support colleagues need to reach their full potential. By empowering our team, we empower our organisation, fostering a culture of continuous learning and personal growth.

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. This academic year, HMS was excited to further diversify our recruitment, launching our brand-new Career Accelerator and Self-Employed Tutor offers.

If you have any questions, comments, or are interested in working with or for Hertfordshire Music Service (part of Hertfordshire County Council), reach out to us at MusicHR@Hertfordshire.gov.uk.



340 colleagues are part of the Hertfordshire Music Service team.



Operations & Finance

The 2024–25 period has been one of strategic focus and necessary transformation for Hertfordshire Music Service, as we continue to adapt to a changing financial landscape and prepare for a future without funding support from Hertfordshire County Council.

Financial sustainability has remained a central priority, guiding our operational decisions and service design. We have taken proactive steps to strengthen our financial position while maintaining our commitment to high-quality, inclusive music education.

Key developments this year include:

- **Structural optimisation:** We have refined our staffing model to provide more targeted support for our teaching workforce through the introduction of lead teachers.
- **Improved billing processes:** The move to up-front billing for direct-billed customers has reduced our exposure to bad debt and improved cash flow.
- **Music centre review:** We have undertaken a strategic review of our music centres, withdrawing from locations that are no longer financially viable or that limit our ability to grow and diversify our student base.
- **Project-based working:** a shift towards a more agile, project-based approach has enabled us to consult more effectively with stakeholders and implement change with greater clarity and collaboration.
- **Customer service focus:** our customer service team continues to prioritise a positive and responsive experience for families and schools with an emphasis on making the customer journey as straightforward as possible.

These changes are part of a broader effort to ensure HMS remains resilient, responsive, and ready to thrive in a more self-sustaining future.



Environmental sustainability

Alongside financial and operational priorities, we have made significant progress in embedding environmental sustainability into our organisational culture and practice, in alignment with Hertfordshire County Council's wider strategy and our role as Lead Organisation for the Hertfordshire Music Hub.

Highlights from 2024–25 include:

- Completion of a **carbon footprint calculation** for our main areas of operation.
- Establishment of systems to **monitor energy use** at our main site.
- Collaboration with a partner organisation to **recycle irreparable instruments**.
- Launch of nature-enhancing projects, including our **first bug hotel** and a dedicated **wildlife area**.
- Exploration of **solar battery storage** and **EV charging infrastructure** to support future energy efficiency.

We have also produced a new environmental policy document, setting out our objectives and long-term ambitions.

Looking ahead, we recognise the need to go further. Our next steps include developing targeted action plans for high-impact areas, completing our first annual environmental report, and continuing to build awareness and advocacy across our team and Hub partners. Environmental considerations will increasingly shape how we plan, deliver, and evaluate our work.

Together, these efforts reflect our commitment to building a service that is not only financially and operationally sound, but also environmentally responsible and future-ready.



Our valued contributors

Hertfordshire Music Service would like to thank Hertfordshire County Council, the Hertfordshire Music Hub Board, 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

Cllr Laurence Brass
Chairman

Cllr Sandy Walkington
Vice Chairman

Cllr Steve Jarvis
Leader

Cllr Sally Symington
Deputy Leader

Cllr Mark Watkin
Executive Member, Education, SEND and Inclusion

Cllr Hillary Skoczylas
Deputy Executive Member, Education, SEND and Inclusion

Angie Ridgwell
Chief Executive

Scott Crudgington
Deputy Chief Executive / Executive Director of Resources

Jo Fisher
Executive Director of Children’s Services

Rachael Adler
Director of Strategy & Performance

Tony Fitzpatrick
Director of Education

Hertfordshire Music Service

Lisa Quinlan-Rahman
Chief Executive Officer

Ben Stevens
Director of Music

Michael Mabbitt
Head of People, Culture and Business Development

Jeff Clarkson
Head of Operations and Finance

Hertfordshire Music Hub Board

Richard Jones
Chair of Board

Alison Saunders MBE
Deputy Chair of Board

Cllr Chris Lloyd
Hertfordshire County Council – Liberal Democrats

Cllr Anthony Owen
Hertfordshire County Council – Reform UK

Cllr Paula Hiscocks
Hertfordshire County Council – Conservative

Jane Carson
Headteacher – Roselands Primary School, Hoddesdon

Karen Cheney
Director of Learning & Performing Arts – Longdean Secondary School, Hemel Hempstead

Malcolm White
Headteacher – Leventhorpe School, Sawbridgeworth

Sally Nicholson
Subject Leader – Music – Haileybury Turnford Secondary School, Turnford

Tracy Prickett
Executive Headteacher – Howe Dell Primary School, Hatfield

Isabella Kernot
Doctoral Researcher and former orchestral learning director

Carol Timson (FHEA)
Senior Lecturer Education (Music), Collaborative Partnership Lead, University of Hertfordshire

Lisa Quinlan-Rahman
Chief Executive Officer, HMS

Ben Stevens
Director of Music, HMS

Former members during 2024/25 academic year

- *Cllr Mark Mills-Bishop (until May 2025), Hertfordshire County Council*
- *Cllr Mark Watkin (until May 2025), Hertfordshire County Council*
- *Peter Hewitt (until Dec 2024), Independent Member*
- *Nyree O’Brien (until Sep 2024), NEU Representative and Regional Manager, HMS*

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.

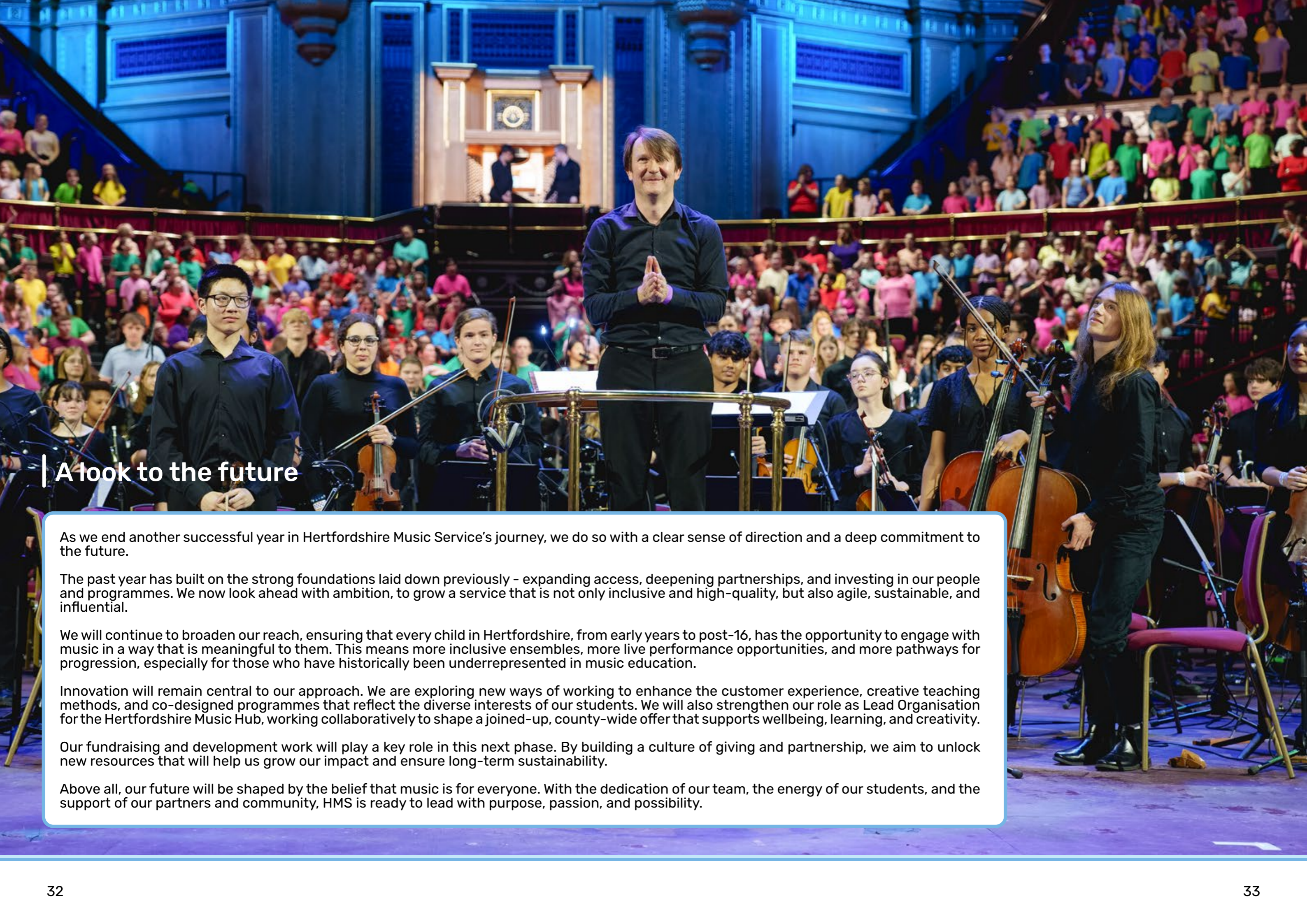


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Supporting cultural education, endorsed by Arts Council England





| A look to the future

As we end another successful year in Hertfordshire Music Service's journey, we do so with a clear sense of direction and a deep commitment to the future.

The past year has built on the strong foundations laid down previously - expanding access, deepening partnerships, and investing in our people and programmes. We now look ahead with ambition, to grow a service that is not only inclusive and high-quality, but also agile, sustainable, and influential.

We will continue to broaden our reach, ensuring that every child in Hertfordshire, from early years to post-16, has the opportunity to engage with music in a way that is meaningful to them. This means more inclusive ensembles, more live performance opportunities, and more pathways for progression, especially for those who have historically been underrepresented in music education.

Innovation will remain central to our approach. We are exploring new ways of working to enhance the customer experience, creative teaching methods, and co-designed programmes that reflect the diverse interests of our students. We will also strengthen our role as Lead Organisation for the Hertfordshire Music Hub, working collaboratively to shape a joined-up, county-wide offer that supports wellbeing, learning, and creativity.

Our fundraising and development work will play a key role in this next phase. By building a culture of giving and partnership, we aim to unlock new resources that will help us grow our impact and ensure long-term sustainability.

Above all, our future will be shaped by the belief that music is for everyone. With the dedication of our team, the energy of our students, and the support of our partners and community, HMS is ready to lead with purpose, passion, and possibility.

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.**

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