

School Music Bulletin – Issue 25

We are pleased to present you with the latest edition of School Music Bulletin – Issue 25

We welcome any feedback that you may have in terms of content and format, so that we may ensure this communication remains helpful and enlightening. [School Music Bulletin](#)

Top Tip:

Use BBC Ten Pieces to Bring Curriculum Music to Life

Start a unit with a BBC Ten Pieces film to spark curiosity and discussion, then use the accompanying lesson resources to develop listening, composing and performing activities with confidence.

[BBC Ten Pieces](#) is one of the UK's most valuable free music education resources for pupils aged 7–14. With engaging films, ready-to-use lesson plans, instrumental arrangements, live events and CPD opportunities, it makes high-quality music learning accessible for all schools.

Why use it?

Perfect for curriculum music lessons

Inspires creative responses and composition activities

Supports cross-curricular and cross-arts learning

Especially helpful for non-specialist primary teachers delivering music

[BBC Orchestras and Choirs - Events - BBC](#)

Do you have a top tip to share with schools in Hertfordshire?

Please email christina.luchies@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Music Education Resources – All in One Place!

Looking for fresh ideas, curriculum support, singing resources, composition activities, CPD opportunities or guidance to strengthen music provision in your school?

The **Hertfordshire Music Service Resources Hub** brings together a wide range of trusted national and local music education resources in one convenient place, including curriculum materials, progression documents, composition toolkits, singing resources, Charanga, Oak National Academy, BBC Ten Pieces, Music Mark, ISM and much more.

Whether you're a music specialist, classroom teacher or music lead, you'll find practical resources to support high-quality music teaching across EYFS, primary and secondary settings.

Explore the resources here: [Resources](#)

Upcoming Networking, CPD and Events 2026/27:

Fully Subsidised:

Date	Event / Theme	Booking Link
Autumn Term		
23 September 2026	KS5 – How can we support young people to achieve and flourish through meaningful and motivating music qualifications?	KS5 Music Peer Group Meeting 23 September 2026, 4 - 5pm – Fill in form
8 October 2026	EYFS – How can we develop strong musical foundations that support lifelong participation and progression?	EYFS - Join the Conversation 8 October 2026 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
13 October 2026	KS2 Lower (Years 3–4) – How can we inspire all pupils in Lower KS2 to develop as confident, curious and actively engaged musicians?	KS2 Lower (Years 3–4) – Join the Conversation 13 October 2026 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
21 October 2026	BTEC – How can we maximise engagement, achievement and progression through vocational music qualifications while preparing students for the realities of the modern music industry?	BTEC Music – Join the Conversation 21 October 2026 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
10 November 2026	KS2 Upper – How can we sustain engagement and develop musical independence in Upper KS2 so that more pupils continue their musical journey into secondary education and beyond?	KS2 Upper (Years 5–6) – Join the Conversation 10 November 2026 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
25 November 2026	Music Leaders – How can music leaders build a culture in which all pupils can access, participate in and progress through high-quality music education both within and beyond the curriculum?	Music Leaders – Join the Conversation 25 November 2026 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
Spring Term		
13 January 2027	KS4 – How can we increase participation, achievement and progression in KS4 music while ensuring pathways remain relevant, inclusive and sustainable?	KS4 Music – Join the Conversation 13 January 2027 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form

11 Feb 2027	SEND Primary School Conference Music Participation, SEND and Inclusion – How can we ensure that all children and young people can fully participate, progress and thrive in music, regardless of their needs, background or circumstances? (<i>or: What barriers prevent some pupils from engaging fully in music, and how can schools remove them?</i>)	SEND Primary School Conference 11 February 2027 9.30am–3.30pm – Fill in form
25 February 2027	KS1 – How can we create engaging and inclusive musical experiences in KS1 that develop musical understanding, confidence and enthusiasm for music in every child?	KS1 – Join the Conversation 25 February 2027 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
10 March 2027	Music Technology and Creative Production – How can technology help broaden participation, develop creativity and provide relevant pathways for today's young musicians?	Music Technology and Creative Production 10 March 2027 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
Summer Term		
19 May 2027	Recruitment and Retention – How can we attract, engage and retain more children and young people in music, ensuring that participation leads to sustained musical growth and progression?	Recruitment and Retention – Join the Conversation 19 May 2027 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
26 May 2027	Enrichment, Choirs and Ensemble Leaders – How can we create inclusive and sustainable musical opportunities that inspire greater participation beyond the classroom?	Enrichment, Choirs and Ensemble Leaders 26 May 2027 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
16 June 2027	KS3 – How can we deliver an engaging and inclusive KS3 music curriculum that inspires sustained participation and progression in music?	KS3 – Join the Conversation 16 June 2027 4.00–5.00pm – Fill in form
2 July 2027	Herts Schools Music Expo "How do we create a music education ecosystem in Hertfordshire that inspires lifelong participation and musical growth?"	Herts Schools Music Expo 2027 2 July 2027 – Fill in form

Musical Confidence Series: An Introduction to Staff Notation

Are you a generalist teacher who has never learned to read music?

This new online CPD series has been designed specifically for primary classroom teachers and non-specialists who would like a gentle introduction to staff notation.

In a friendly, supportive environment, we'll explore the basics of reading and understanding written music—no prior knowledge or musical training required. These online sessions will help you build confidence and develop skills that can be used straight away in the classroom.

Topics will include:

- Understanding the musical stave
- Recognising basic note values and rhythms
- Following simple melodies
- Developing confidence with musical vocabulary and symbols

Dates:

- 30 September 2026
- 20 January 2027
- 21 April 2027

Whether you're new to teaching music or simply want to feel more confident with notation, these sessions are the perfect place to start.

No previous experience required – just bring your curiosity and willingness to learn.

Book your place: [School Music CPD - Notation – Fill in form](#)

Save this Date:

Hertfordshire Schools' Gala – Sunday 12 March 2028

Lead Schools for Music

Connect, collaborate and develop music education together.

Whether you're looking for peer to peer networking, developing your music curriculum, strengthening singing provision, planning performances, or exploring new opportunities for pupils, you can connect directly with experienced music leaders from across Hertfordshire.

You can request:

- A professional conversation to discuss an idea or challenge
- A face-to-face or online meeting
- A scheduled phone call
- A school visit to see music in action

Simply complete the request form below. The Lead School will contact you directly to arrange the most suitable next steps.

<https://forms.office.com/e/k3MsZFayS4>

HFL

Date: Tuesday 2nd March 2027

A live webinar focussing on supporting anyone new to leading music in primary schools, delivered by a music specialist from Herts Music Service, with practical guidance for confident subject leadership.

Charanga's new Creative Music Scheme

Designed to help schools bring music to life through engaging, progressive and practical musical learning. The scheme supports pupils in listening, singing, playing, improvising, composing and performing, while providing teachers with clear lesson plans, embedded platform resources and structured support throughout each unit.



A key strength of the Creative Music Scheme is its broad and balanced approach to musical development. It seamlessly incorporates key assessment areas including active listening, the interrelated dimensions of music, notation, instrumental playing, singing and vocal technique, improvisation, composition and performance.

The scheme also makes excellent use of music technology, including YuStudio, giving KS2 pupils exciting opportunities to explore digital composition, sequencing, arranging and recording. This helps engage learners creatively while also supporting progression towards KS3 music.

Charanga's Creative Music Scheme is suitable for both music specialists and non-specialists, with accessible resources and lesson plans that build teacher confidence. Schools also benefit from high-quality CPD and training support, with opportunities for face-to-face and online guidance to help staff get the very best from the scheme.

Schools may also wish to contact their local Music Service to find out whether subsidised licences, training or partnership offers are available. Some opportunities may be time-limited, so, it is worth making contact as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

To find out more about Charanga's Creative Music Scheme, or to book a short Charanga Connect meeting, please contact Kristian on kristianparkes@charanga.com:

You can book a Connect meeting here:

<https://calendly.com/kristianparkes-charanga/charanga-connect>

ABRSM Exam Cost Support – Funding Available

We're pleased to share that ABRSM has allocated funding to each Hub region to support pupils with the cost of music exams.

For our area, we have a limited fund available, which can be used to help reduce exam fees for pupils. There are no strict criteria set by ABRSM on how this funding should be distributed, allowing schools some flexibility in identifying students who may benefit most.

Please note that funding is very limited and support will be offered subject to availability, so early expressions of interest are encouraged.

If your school would like to access this support or find out more, please contact:

music.exam@hertfordshire.gov.uk

We will confirm funding allocations on a first-come, first-served basis while funds remain available.

Young Sounds UK

Students and families can apply for funding for music with Young Sounds UK

You can apply if:

- Your child is aged between 5 – 17 years old
- Your child is an instrumentalist, composer, producer, singer or song-writer.
- Your family are on a lower income.
- You're eligible if the total income of any parents/carers in your home is less than £30,000 a year.
- You may be eligible if it's between £30,000 - £40,000 a year.
- It's unlikely you'll be eligible if it's above £40,000 a year.

[Click here for more information](#)

Wider Opportunities

London Philharmonic Orchestra

BrightSparks concert dates for 2026/27

The London Philharmonic Orchestra's [BrightSparks concerts](#) for primary schools for the next academic year:

- Key Stage 1 BrightSparks concert London: Thursday 4 March 2027
- Key Stage 2 BrightSparks concert London: Tuesday 8 June 2027
- Key Stage 2 BrightSparks concert Eastbourne: Tuesday 29 June 2027

These concerts are taking place at the Royal Festival Hall at London's Southbank Centre, and at the Congress Theatre in Eastbourne. Each concert will have a free prior INSET sessions for teachers.

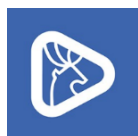
In the meantime, if you would like some activities to try in school, why not have a look at some of the [resources](#) already available on the LPO website?

Christina Luchies

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Hertfordshire Music Service

Bookings or contact directly:



 christina.luchies@hertfordshire.gov.uk

 Book a meeting: <https://outlook.office.com/bookwithme/...>

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