

Worcestershire Music Education Hub

Winter Update

- Hub funding has now been confirmed until 2020 with a roll-over of current funding to 2017-2018.
- The Best of Young Jazz (Youth arm of the Upton Jazz festival) jazz and CPD days were successfully delivered the summer 2016 with more of the same planned for 2016-2017
- University joint projects continue to develop e.g. Music Education Masters Degree, Research Programme.
- The Hub continues to engage with the development of the Elgar Festival 2017 which will be centred around the now-officially designated Elgar Day on June 3rd
- The Hub is fully supporting a performance of The Armed Man in September 2017 which will be given by a choir of singers drawn from the County's secondary schools and will be accompanied by the Orchestra of the Swan
- The Hub continues to support the NYO Inspire programme with a healthy number of Worcestershire musicians being accepted on to the programme for 2017.
- A group of MEHAG partners have been meeting together in order to generate funding for further development of our SEND work. Just under £10,000 has now been raised and the Hub must now decide on how best to utilise the funding.
- The Midlands Arts Centre 'Mac Makes Music' programme is now back on track with the SEND, LAC, disadvantaged and rural schools strands now being planned. There will be a pilot programme that will establish an Open Up Orchestra in the County.
- As a result of our Yamaha partnership, Worcestershire teachers accessed an inspirational improvisation training day in September 2016 delivered by Richard Michaels.

- Worcestershire schools and staff have been invited to attend music education conference organised by the Herefordshire Music Hub in February 2017.
- The Elmley Foundation organised a training day for the Worcestershire arts organisations that highlighted how the sector can become more effective in its use of social media. Severn Arts attended the day and there have been tangible outcomes as a result.
- The Hub continues to support the high-level community wind orchestra Black Pear Winds with Worcestershire Youth Wind Orchestra sharing a concert with the band in March 2017.
- Preparations are now underway for a summer –long Voices and Visions festival which will include a '1,000 Years of Song 'event and a rock night.
- Plans for the June Big Sing event (in partnership with the University of Worcester) are finalised and will involve over 2500 young singers performing at the University Arena.
- A repeat of last year's FAME Festival will take place in July at the Three Counties Showground
- The brass initiative in partnership with the Wychavon Festival of Brass and Avonbank (Evesham) brass band resulted in their support for the FAME sessions in 5 local primary schools, the FAME Festival in the summer term 2016 and joint concert in Evesham. Wychavon Festival of Brass was successful in a bid to the Elmley Foundation and, as a result, the partnership continues and has resulted in the formation of a new junior brass band for Evesham children.
- The RSA is the sponsor of four schools in the county and Severn Arts is continuing to support the development of joint working that will develop the arts work in these schools via newly- formed RSA school Hubs.
- A Brass Day was staged in November and was supported by the Worcestershire and Herefordshire Hubs, Yamaha, Wychavon Festival of Brass and Droitwich District Council. The noted euphonium soloist Steven Walsh (courtesy of Yamaha) performed during the day as did the Championship band Sovereign Brass. The day has now provided the platform the formation of a new brass band for the County which will be launched in the Spring term and entitled Severn Brass.
- A Class Band programme continues at Droitwich High (in partnership with Yamaha) with Catshill Middle School starting a new programme in January 2017.

- The Hub continues to provide advisory support for a new arts consortium in Bromsgrove (Arts in Bromsgrove) that is reviewing its arts offer and attempting to bring more resource in to the district.
- The Early Hurly Burly programme has now been completed but a successful bid will now ensure that certain elements of the programme will be able to continue.
- The Hub has endorsed an ACE bid by the Grapevine organisation in order to establish a rock project in the Tenbury Wells area. If successful, this will meet the twin objectives of supporting further rock developments and increasing our impact in rural areas.
- The successful bid by Worcestershire Early Music delivered a Croome Four Seasons project in the summer, involved schools, teachers and specialist performers and focussed on Vivaldi's Four Seasons and the architecture of Capability Brown.
- Discussions with the Three Choirs Festival continue and they have committed their support for the Singing Strategy.
- The Armonico Consort's support for the singing strategy continues with Choir Creation visits taking place, the AC Academy South flourishing and children taking part in a concert at the Royal Albert Hall .The AC Academy North has now been formed and preparations are underway the Carmina Burana performance at Malvern Theatres in March alongside the professional choir.
- The revised instrumental residential course was successfully delivered in July. Course provision for 2017 will be delivered in partnership with the Herefordshire Hub and delivered by Hereford Cathedral school.
- A Side by Side event took place with the English String Orchestra during the Autumn term with musicians from the Senior String Orchestra taking part in the day and performing alongside their professional colleagues during the evening concert.
- Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra is staging a Come and Play Day of the Rite of Spring for young musicians and the Hub will promote this opportunity across the County.