

# NORTHERN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



## EDUCATION BROCHURE

---

contact  
[education@ncorch.co.uk](mailto:education@ncorch.co.uk)  
0161 247 2220

Our Education Programme aims to **inspire** and **encourage** learners to **participate in music** through tailored workshops – designed to link music to the whole school curriculum.



**Interactive** and **exciting** projects lead to musical creativity, developing musical skills and self-confidence through engagement in activities alongside the talented NCO project leaders and musicians.



# STANLEY'S STICK

## 1 HOUR WORKSHOP



**Suitable for:**  
Nursery to KS1  
(supports Music  
and Literacy in  
the curriculum)

Based on the children's book 'Stanley's Stick' by John Hegley, this popular workshop and performance captures the imagination of children through story telling, background images, music and movement. Follow Stanley and his stick to the moon, fishing, riding a dinosaur and to wherever your imagination leads you. Let the musical magic begin!

This interactive workshop involves three musicians from the NCO who narrate the book, lead the activities and provide entertaining music to support the story.

# SOUND PLAYGROUND

## 45 MINUTE WORKSHOP



**Suitable for:**  
Nursery aged  
children and  
babies (supports  
Music in the  
curriculum)

The musicians from the NCO provide an exciting mix of pieces and engage the children (and their parents) in a musical journey of instrumental sounds.



# INTERACTIVE MUSICAL STORIES

These can be delivered on their own,  
or as part of a series of workshops.



## Suitable for:

Foundation and  
KS1 (supports  
Music and Literacy  
in the curriculum)

## GOLDILOCKS

This well-known German fairy story by the Brothers Grimm is brought to life by a double bass and narrator. Learners interact and experiment with pitch, pulse and tempo to create a musical mood that reflects the story.

## BEAR HUNT

This classic children's story is introduced by a singer/narrator, with the help of a french horn, violin and double bass. Come and join the musicians as they wade through the grass, splash through the river and squelch through the mud in search of a bear!

---

# ROUND THE WORLD

## HALF DAY WORKSHOP

---



**Suitable for:**  
KS1 and KS2  
(supports Music,  
Science and  
Geography in the  
curriculum)

Let's go on a musical exploration of the world!

Supported by a large map, the musicians play to the whole school using an eclectic mix of ethnic instruments. The entertaining performance includes a variety of styles of music and interesting facts from every continent.

Mix in a bit of science! How do the different world instruments make their sound? How does the nature of the instrument determine that sound?

The performance is followed by a composition workshop for KS1 or KS2 and can culminate with a final show demonstrating the session's activities.

# BAMBOO TAMBOO

## ONE HOUR WORKSHOP



**Suitable for:**  
KS3 and KS4  
(supports  
Geography,  
Maths and Music  
in the curriculum)

Expect high energy, fun, party music. Guaranteed to leave a smile on faces!

Bamboo tamboo music originates from the Caribbean islands of Trinidad and Tobago and was the precursor to steel pans. The Caribbean had a high population of West African Slaves, who brought their own unique rhythms to the Caribbean carnival. When the British Authorities realised the slaves were communicating with their drums and planning a revolt, they banned drumming from carnivals. The slaves then improvised new instruments from bamboo, and bamboo tamboo was born.

A typical hour-long bamboo tamboo workshop combines African djembe drumming and samba grooves with the Caribbean carnival tradition. Instruments are provided and the session is delivered by an NCO percussionist.

**Maximum number in group: 30**

# DRUMMING CIRCLES

## ONE HOUR WORKSHOP



**Suitable for:**  
KS3, KS4 and KS5  
(supports well-being in the school/college environment)

Expect a chilled out, relaxed session with a real feel-good factor!

Drumming is one of humankind's oldest forms of communication, and the tradition of sitting down and playing drums and percussion in groups together spans many different cultures.

The health and well-being benefits of playing in a drumming circle are well documented: "Drumming increases our Alpha brainwaves, those brainwaves associated with feelings of well-being and euphoria...In a world where we are beholden to our mobile devices the primal call of the drum touches our souls".

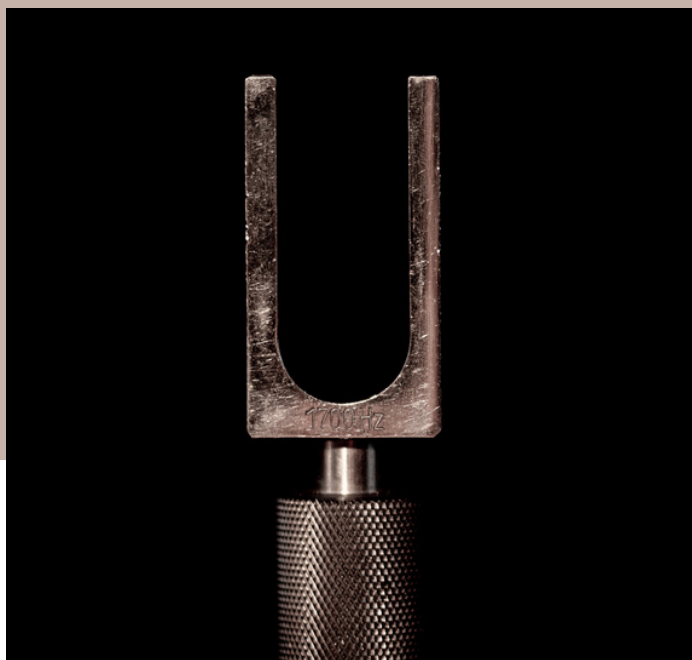
Our drumming circle workshops give you the opportunity to switch off from day to day life for a while and focus on the hypnotic beats created by the group, guided by one of our NCO percussionists. Instruments are provided.

**Maximum number in group: 20**



# SOUNDS SCIENTIFIC

## HALF DAY WORKSHOP



**Suitable for:**  
KS2 and KS3  
(supports  
Science in the  
curriculum)

The three musicians from the NCO begin the project with an introduction to Sounds Scientific via a school or year group assembly. This is followed by a workshop to a selected class of learners of up to 25, which uses interactive tasks to explain the science of sound through music.

Learners explore the nature of sound: Pitch (frequency), Timbre, and Loudness (amplitude). They learn how to read the output of a live oscilloscope, what materials transfer sound and how they differ. Biology is linked in the workshop via how our ears interpret sound and the range of our hearing (upper and lower).

**Maximum number in group: 25**

# THE NUTCRACKER

## 50 MINUTE WORKSHOP



**Suitable for:**  
Nursery  
(supports Music  
in the curriculum)

A great pre-Christmas activity!

Based around music from the famous Ballet, the Horn and Bass player from the NCO introduce their instruments, narrate the story of 'The Nutcracker' and perform short extracts of Tchaikovsky's wonderful music.

Join in with this interactive concert. Imagine exploring the land of sweets or being a marching soldier, battling against the giant Mouse King. A fun introduction to Classical music!

# COMPOSITION WORKSHOPS



**Suitable for:**  
KS4 and KS5  
(supports the  
composition  
component in  
Music GCSE/A  
level/BTEC)

Do your students need inspiration for a starting point for their composition or perhaps need a task to help develop their compositional techniques? The NCO can introduce a fresh approach to composition with target-based activities, culminating in a performance of their work by professional musicians.

The series of workshops are delivered by an experienced composer – based in your school or college. The sessions can support a specific exam brief or can help with ideas for the free composition. The workshops aim to develop Composition techniques and focus on developing musical ideas through rhythmic and melodic development, timbre, texture and tonality. There are two or three musicians involved and the visits can culminate in a high-quality recording of the students' works – performed by professional players.

This is a flexible project that can be adapted to suit your budget and exam requirements. It can range from a one-off visit by 2 or 3 players – to a multi-school project over a term, culminating in a music, art and dance extravaganza.

The project can be based around Exam board set works; including an initial analysis of the set work as a starting point for compositions. It also works well in combination with either a concert in school by NCO or in conjunction with an NCO public concert in which one or more set works are included.

# INTERSCHOOL COMPOSITION WORKSHOP



**Suitable for:**  
KS2, KS3 and KS4  
(supports Music  
in the curriculum)

A flexible project that encourages interschool collaboration, between learners of all musical abilities! Previous projects have been delivered with Stockport School, with sessions delivered in a range of feeder primary schools alongside the secondary school.

NCO musicians visit Wider Opportunity groups and secondary schools, introducing the classes to a piece from an upcoming NCO concert. The classes learn about the piece, ranging from its compositional history to its use of theme, motif and structure.

Students are then encouraged to share ideas for improvisational performances and write their own compositional material based on the piece, no matter what musical ability they have. Teachers help their groups over multiple weeks developing their ideas and performances, with tasks and support from our project leaders – from writing lyrics fitting with a motif, to adding chords and playing melodies on their instruments. The project culminates in a collaborative concert featuring all the participants alongside the NCO, performing an original piece that showcase all the ideas and material weaved together from across the project.

Afterwards, the learners involved are also invited to the NCO concert featuring the piece that their sessions have been based on, allowing the opportunity to connect their music-making with a live performance of the piece they have studied and workshopped.

In Summer 2021, we debuted a virtual iteration of this project! All workshop sessions were held online for our participating classes, with this project seeing three school groups involved, ranging from Year 3 to GCSE level. Learners sent in their ideas and video performances weekly, with the NCO musicians responding to the students' ideas via feedback videos on YouTube. After several weeks of back and forth, the project culminated in a collaborative composition film with all contributing material edited together.



# APPALACHIAN SPRING [COPLAND] [CHAMBER SUITE]



**Suitable for:**  
KS3 and KS4  
(supports Music  
and Arts in the  
curriculum)

A fantastic project – perfect for a consortium of schools or a Music Hub! It is very adaptable and can be as big or small as you wish.

This can be delivered in a single school or college. Copland's Appalachian Spring is used as the launch pad to study the use of motives and the way they are developed throughout the music. A great starting point for a composition project!

For delivery in several schools, the NCO musicians and composer will deliver a series of 4 workshops in the individual schools and study the use of motives and variation. There will be targets for the learners to achieve between sessions. The NCO composer will link together the composition strands from all the different schools to produce a full work – performed by the orchestra in a final performance.

The project can also link to other Art Forms for a multidisciplinary arts project. With Dance, performers can create an improvisation style dance to the performance of Appalachian Spring.

With Art, KS2 or KS3 can use the music as a stimulus for their artwork.

From our previous Appalachian Spring project in Warrington:

Behind the scenes: <https://vimeo.com/348458849>

The final performance: <https://vimeo.com/357410041/8de303186e>

# CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS



**Suitable for:**  
KS2 (supports  
Music in the  
curriculum)

This is an adaptable project – great as a support to Wider Opportunities sessions in schools. Perfect for a Music Service or Music Hub!

The project is based around Carnival of the Animals, a wonderfully creative piece portraying a collection of animals. NCO musicians visit the Wider Opportunity groups and, in conjunction with their Wider Opportunities instrumental teacher, introduce up to 4 new movements specially written for the Carnival of the Animals, featuring instruments from the Wider Opportunities groups. For example; Ukuleles (penguins), Brass (monkeys), Clarinets (cats) and singers (wolves). The music teachers then work with the individual groups over the period of a few weeks and the project culminates in a concert with the NCO of Carnival of the Animals, involving all the wider opportunity groups.

The performance can be supported by images created by Primary School children projected on a screen.

# ABOUT OUR PROJECT LEADERS

## **James Manson**

James Manson started playing the double bass at age 14, and he went on to study at the Royal Northern College of Music with Duncan McTier, where he won the Eugene Cruft double bass prize. He has been principal bass in the Northern Chamber Orchestra since 1989 and works with all the orchestras in the North West including the BBC Philharmonic and the Hallé. James also enjoys working as a composer and arranger and his work includes several musicals, jingles and music for BBC radio. He is the Northern Chamber Orchestra's Composer in Residence, and works with the Education team, delivering workshops in schools around the region.



## **Naomi Atherton**

Ever since Naomi Atherton won the Brass final of Young Musician of the Year in 1984, she has been in constant demand as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral member. Currently, Naomi holds posts as Principal Horn of the NCO, Manchester Camerata, and as a member of Ensemble 360 at Music in the Round in Sheffield. She is part of Manchester Camerata's 'Music in Mind' team delivering pioneering group music therapy sessions for people living with Dementia and their carers.

## **Andrea Vogler**

Andrea Vogler has played with orchestras including the Halle, BBC Philharmonic and English National Ballet; and works regularly with the Northern Chamber Orchestra. Her education and outreach work includes project design, staff training and mentoring for Live Music Now, Jessie's Fund and NCO. She is part of Manchester Camerata's Music in Mind' team delivering pioneering group music therapy sessions for people living with Dementia and their carers.



## **Matthew Sharp**

Matthew is an award-winning cellist, baritone, director, recording artist & educator. He has shaped his career around the belief and knowledge that music and art have the power and magic to transform, heal and connect. His devotion to unlocking and unleashing creativity, clarity and authenticity has taken him to schools, conservatoires and universities around the world.

---

# **CONTACT:**

---

For information about our exciting and engaging projects, please contact [education@ncorch.co.uk](mailto:education@ncorch.co.uk).

Don't see what you are looking for in our list? We can also design a bespoke workshop or project specially to suit your needs and institution.