



Pioneering music education charity expands Andrew Lloyd Webber programmes for disadvantaged children outside London

- Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST) adds two more academies to its portfolio – one in Warwickshire, the first outside the capital
- The six-year-old charity now works with 15 “challenging” secondary schools in a bid to transform disadvantaged young people’s lives through classical music education
- So far, more than 8,000 11 to 14-year-olds have benefited from free weekly group music tuition and over 8,000 instruments have been funded thanks to key sponsors - Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust and the Dame Alice Owen Foundation

London: 10 October, 2019 – A music education charity is extending its ground-breaking Andrew Lloyd Webber programme for the first time outside London, with the ultimate aim of providing free classical music tuition to all state secondary schools in England.

Music in Secondary Schools Trust ([MiSST](#)) has partnered with Nicholas Chamberlaine School in Bedworth, one of the largest in Warwickshire (1,200 pupils), alongside the Harris Academy Peckham. The charity, which launched in April 2013 with the aim of transforming young people’s lives through classical music education, now works with 15 schools which serve disadvantaged communities– 14 of these are in the capital.

Funded by Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust, and the Dame Alice Owen Foundation, MiSST has already given free, regular classical music tuition to more than 8,000 *Key Stage 3* children (11 to 14-year-olds) and provided similar number of instruments.

Rebecca Hickey, Executive Principal of Harris Academy Peckham, said: ‘We are thrilled to be working alongside MiSST. Our music department is already exceptional, but to be able to offer instruments to every member of our new Year 7s and expand our team of teaching experts is invaluable. We look forward to our first concert.’



Andrew Lloyd Webber, who has lent his name to the programme, added: “I am a passionate believer in the importance of the arts in schools, particularly music, which transcends all languages, shades of politics, race and creeds. In our increasingly dangerous and fractured world, the arts have never been as vital as they are today and they should be free.”

Rachel Landon CEO of MiSST added: “This is an exciting moment not just for us, but for possibly thousands of disadvantaged children across the country. It’s our first venture outside London and it will help young people from all backgrounds and abilities by unlocking hidden potential, building confidence, social skills and connecting them to the world of classical music in the best way possible – putting a musical instrument in their hands.

“Access to classical music should be for every child not just the few whose parents can afford it. There’s a crisis in music education and lack of diversity beyond school. We want to change that.”

MiSST also provides ‘Pathways to Excellence’ programmes for promising students, with access to ensemble and orchestral playing. This includes Saturday Music School, Leadership Programmes, and 4-day intensive Radley College Residential courses.

Former MiSST pupil Deronne White, 21, now a fourth-year student at the Royal College of Music, grew up in a single parent family in Hackney.

He added: “I think music has kept me safe. I was so focused on playing the flute. It was and still is my absolute passion. My mum knows it’s been my salvation and has kept me out of any trouble.

“I was a shy 11-year-old. I never put my hand up. I didn’t believe in myself. Music has given me confidence that I can achieve. It’s helped me express myself and convinced me to push beyond the mere satisfactory. It’s taught me to never give up. I’ve learnt so much about myself, what I can achieve with effort and determination. That has had a remarkable impact on how I conduct myself in other parts of my life.”

[ENDS]



Notes to editor

For media enquiries, please contact Newgate Communications:

Guy Smith/ Tim Le Couilliard/ Charlotte Evans-Cripps

E: misst@newgatecomms.com

T: 0203 757 6842

Facts:

It costs £250 a year for a child to learn music through MiSST's Andrew Lloyd Webber programme. Over Key Stage 3 it comes to a total of £750 (11 to 14-year-olds).

MiSST

MiSST works with 15 secondary schools in and around London, and Warwickshire. The charity helps secondary schools that have disadvantaged and challenging student in take by providing not only funding for classical instrument but also support in the form of regular tuition, opportunities to perform and a programme of excellence that is unrivalled in the UK.

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation

Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation was set up by Andrew in 1992 to promote the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit; since inception Andrew has been the principal provider of funding for all its charitable activities.

In 2011, the Foundation embarked on an active grant giving programme and has now awarded grants of over £20 million to support high quality training and personal development as well as other projects that make a real difference to enrich the quality of life both for individuals and within local communities. Significant grants include £3.5m to Arts Educational Schools, London to create a state of the art professional theatre, £2.4m to the Music in Secondary Schools Trust, £1m to The Architectural Heritage Fund, \$1.3m to the American Theatre Wing and over £350,000 annually to fund 30 performing arts scholarships for talented students in financial need. The Foundation is also a founding supporter of the Get Into Theatre careers website www.getintothatre.org