



Music education charity delivers unique peer mentoring project to support young people in lockdown

- Leading music education charity launches at home schemes to support its students while lockdown measures remain in place;
- 11 – 14-year-old students receiving the help of MiSST collaborate to learn and teach the BBC Ten Pieces arrangement of Finlandia by Sibelius in the charity's first virtual orchestra;
- Students partaking in the MiSST scheme will benefit from the leadership and teaching skills that they can harness by taking part in the projects, whilst maintaining a vital sense of structure and normality.

London: 24 April, 2020 – Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST), the music education charity offering young people access to an arts education and backed by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, has launched 'MiSST at Home', a project to stimulate and support young people during these unprecedented times whilst continuing its leading curriculum.

As part of the 'MiSST at Home' initiative, the charity has launched a 6-week project in which the students from its Saturday music school form a virtual orchestra to learn and teach the BBC Ten Pieces arrangement of Finlandia by Sibelius. Each week advanced students on the programme, with oversight from the charity's leaders, record practice videos to share with other students who are then invited to practice their parts as part of the orchestra, bringing them together from the comfort of their own home.

Under the 'MiSST at Home' label, the charity is also working to deliver the Andrew Lloyd Webber Programme to years 7, 8 and 9 via online resources. They include video theory lessons and instrumental lessons for violin, clarinet and flute, enabling thousands of students across the UK to complete the curriculum that they would have benefitted from over the remainder of the academic year.

This project has ensured that all students on both excellence programmes (MILO and SMS) continue to be engaged and are progressing whilst we remain in lockdown. The students partaking in the virtual orchestra have the opportunity to harness vital leadership and teaching



skills, whilst also learning valuable practical skills such as how to film and upload videos. The Saturday music school students are given the structure to keep them motivated and give them the opportunity to stay connected with their peers as they face these turbulent times. MiSST has also offered in-school support for the children of key workers in all MiSST schools.

Rachel Landon, CEO of MiSST:

“It is more important than ever to help create a sense of normality for young people in these strange and unsettling times. Being connected to others and playing music will have many mental health benefits for our young people and we are committed to ensuring this continues whatever the circumstance”.

16-year-old Fahar is a MiSST student, he said:

“The MiSST at Home Saturday Music school project has given me the structure I need to keep motivated and play my instrument during lockdown. I have really enjoyed making the practice videos for my peers and I have really developed my teaching and leadership skills. It has also helped me to feel connected to my friends”.

16-year-old Kristiyan said:

“The MiSST at home Saturday Music School project has given me the ability to develop my instrumental abilities through creating practice videos for members of the orchestra. It's a fantastic way to develop not only your confidence, but also your independence as you're creating learning resources for others without immediate assistance for teachers. It's also a great way to keep busy and working during these difficult times”

Clare, mother of one of the students said:

“I am so thankful to MiSST for keeping the orchestra going. As a parent, I do fear the effect that this pandemic will have on the growth, attainment and socialisation of our young people. I'm pleased to say that these programmes offer a unique and welcome antidote to these fears and they've certainly been an opportunity for my son to grow in both confidence and independence.”

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Notes to editor

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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.getintotheatre.org