



Music for Miniatures
Annual Report 2020



2020



Annual Review

We started the year with 9 performances of our fantastic Theatrical Chamber Music production, *The Story of a Nutcracker*.

In 2020 we performed to over

9500 people

In 2020 we achieved...

122 LIVE performances

18 concerts pre-lockdown

a whopping

57 summer tour performances

20 shows in October

10 Christmas concerts

8 concerts for external promoters

performed at 6 schools

visited 3 nurseries



What an **amazing multi-talented** bunch of musicians and performers! So many lovely elements and lots of **fun!** Thank you

Really **great** show, very interactive and full of **super talented** people

Amazing variety and musicianship. We **loved** it!

We worked in partnership with Wiltshire Music Connect to take live music into 6 schools



2020 was the first year we've offered performances in the summer for

free



And all this despite a global pandemic... phew!



"The outdoor performances we attended gave us such a boost and were so unique."

Jennifer - audience member



Our vision

To bring high quality live music to every child aged 0-11, regardless of background.

Our mission

To transform communities, schools and families with the shared experience of musical excellence through live performance.

What we do and why we're unique!

Music for Miniatures provides opportunities for children and their families to experience high quality live music. We give regular family concerts across B&NES, Wiltshire, Somerset and South Gloucestershire, and visit schools to inspire, educate, excite and connect children with live music. Although predominantly classical, we showcase a wide range of music - folk, world, classical, jazz, and we have featured orchestral instruments, choirs and instruments from around the world. Our 'older kids' series, Crescendo Concerts has a much more interactive element and introduces children to the instruments in an engaging and inspiring way varying from music-only concerts to immersive theatrical chamber music performances.

We are the ONLY organisation providing this type of regular concert across the whole of Wiltshire, Somerset, B&NES and South Gloucestershire. We are the ONLY performance based organisation to be able to turn on a sixpence and produce a concert with 48 hours notice and we are the ONLY organisation to be able to reach so many children across such a wide geographical area with LIVE classical music performances.

Artistic Programme

Excellence

We bring a huge variety to families in our concerts. We are proud to feature as many different instrumentalists as possible through the year so that children get the opportunity to hear an assortment of sounds. Adults enjoy the different presentation styles that each set of musicians bring. Every concert is performed by local professional musicians and we are extremely proud of this. We provide only the highest quality performances so that our audiences are experiencing excellence every time they attend a concert.

In 2020 we were pleased to produce (in record quick time) 2 new touring shows for the summer tour which were a huge success for the thousands of audience who watched in various outdoor venues.

Partnerships

We are proud to continue to build our relationship with local organisations and are very pleased to have forged new connections in 2020. We became an associate provider for Wiltshire Music Connect and delivered concerts in 6 schools are part of their programme. We also continued our friendship with Wiltshire Rural Music by providing musicians for their Celebrating Age partnership and for concerts in care homes.

Venues

We have continued to develop relationships with venues, and remain committed to bringing live music to new areas and settings. In 2020 we discovered the joys of performing in parks and developed relationships with town councils.



In 2020 we played a part in the wellbeing of over 9500 people



"We have been to quite a few Music for Miniatures concerts, but attending the Christmas jazz this year was particularly special. The warmth in the room was amazing, and how important being part of a live music performance for both the musicians and audience this year was so special.



We left with a warm fuzzy feeling inside!" Jenny C



Organisation Development

2020 was a year of change for Music for Miniatures, not only dealing with how to keep live music going through a global pandemic but also looking to the future and reviewing our organisational structure. To help us achieve our future plans we engaged 2 new trustees.

Our new Financial Trustee will help us to plan for the future and become more resilient.

Our new Education Trustee will bring her incredible depth of knowledge to Music for Miniatures and guide us as we develop our relationship with schools. As the only organisation providing live music in schools across the region, we feel in a very privileged position and want to engage with as many schools as possible.



Music for Miniatures relies on ticket sales, donations and income from grant making organisations. 2020 has meant a big change in the way we look at how we are funded. With very little in the way of ticket income, and no realistic way of getting any, we had to quickly think on our feet, and our audience responded! We took over £5000 in donations over the summer which helped to pay for musicians and other overheads.

"Thank you so much, I haven't seen my daughter so happy for a while."



Katy - audience member



From the Trustees

2020 has been the most challenging year not only for the arts but also for families surviving the claustrophobia and restrictions of Covid 19 lockdown.

Prior to the pandemic MfM had just finished a successful run of its unique theatrical, musical production of The Nutcracker and was embarking on an ambitious programme of concerts and theatrical, musical experiences. As soon as the pandemic struck in March Music for Miniatures rapidly adapted to still be able to bring the stimulus and experience of live classical music to audiences safely, under socially distanced rules and ever evolving guidelines. The reach of the 57 free, open-air performances over the summer was greater than expected and the appreciation shown by families was demonstrated in their financial support by donations but most of all through their loyalty in return visits and their interaction with performers telling them how grateful they were that MfM was still there for them and their children. 2020 has taught us that we need not be nervous of offering free concerts as these do attract audiences and those that can afford to are very willing to show their appreciation by donating to the charity to safeguard future performances.

The 122 live performances in 2020 reached a staggering 9,500 people - a figure that the Trustees are very proud of and we are very grateful for the efforts of Julie Payne, our incredibly hard working, energetic, talented Artistic Director.

The Trustees have also recognised that the charity is growing and evolving and as such needs the involvement of extra Trustees with skills in finance and governance to be brought in to compliment the skills the board already has to offer. Julie Payne is stepping aside from being a Trustee so she can concentrate on the Artistic direction of the charity. The primary reason for these changes is so that 2021 can see MfM reach more audiences with a live musical experience and gain more traction to attract finance and facilitate even greater inclusion and diversity.

Martyn Harries, Chair of Trustees



Thank you

Without the support of so many, Music for Miniatures simply couldn't achieve anything. We'd particularly like to thank:

- Mark Roper and The Roper Family Trust for their continued financial support and for believing that music can make a real difference to children.
- Lady Evelyn Strasburger for her support, not only financially, but also as a trusted ally in the world of live music and for being a great sounding board!
- Bradford on Avon Town Council for supporting our summer performances on Victory Fields.
- Cllr Joanna Wright for supporting our performances in Alice Park through the Ward Empowerment Fund.
- Our amazing audience who helped us raise over £5000 during our summer tour. This not only covered the costs of the tour, but also boosted morale when it was greatly needed for our musicians and helped us carry on performing through the autumn.

We firmly believe that live music makes a huge difference to children and families.

We will continue to strive to bring high quality live music to every child throughout the next year, and beyond.

Thank you,

Julie Payne - Artistic Director

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