

philharmonia orchestra

Hear & Now 2010 (Bedford)

Musical extract

Neslyn Pearson – Fusion Youth Singing

This area of Queen's Park is a very much self-contained area. There are about eight and a half thousand people here and it's excitingly diverse.

Peter Fry - Percussion

And it's such a strong feeling of community around here. You really feel like everyone is, yeah, part of the same community and working together. And young and old as well as people from different backgrounds. It's really nice. I'm really enjoying it a lot. And there's something about the singing that creates a nice cohesive atmosphere.

Musical extract

Participant

We have been singing and playing instruments and lots of different stuff.

Musical extract

Philip – Participant

I'm now, I'm always a violinist, yes, and I play everything by ear. I'm very fortunate at that, yes.

Musical extract

Mike Hurwitz - Cello

I worked with them last year, the same group, and a lot of them have come back – most of them have come back, which is very encouraging. I think especially to see the kids coming back.

Tim Steiner – Philharmonia Orchestra

My role in the performance has been leading the workshops in the collaborative music with Fusion, Music for Memory, and then also bringing that together with the Philharmonia Orchestra. So it meant writing new material, orchestrating for the Philharmonia, putting the rehearsal together and then directing, conducting the final concert.

Musical extract

Neslyn Pearson – Fusion Youth Singing

Fusion are a community-based singing group, but we provide musical opportunity for young people of the Queen's Park area and beyond. In saying that we bring together children from lots of different backgrounds, lots of different cultures and also, importantly from religious backgrounds as well.

Musical extract

Sarah Russell – Music for Memory

Well, Music for Memory is one of the strands of this project.

Musical extract

Sarah Russell – Music for Memory

And basically it's a creative space for carers and people with dementia and volunteer helpers where we just get together every Friday and be creative.

Musical extract

Jeni Melia – Music for Memory

The workshops were preceded by three or four days of a couple of Music for Memory members and three children from the Fusion group working with Tim Steiner so that they could become leaders or take on a more leading role in groups. And the idea being that there would be a legacy when the Philharmonia project is finished that some of these skills will be able to continue and maybe be used in groups to benefit everyone in Bedford.

Tim Steiner – Philharmonia Orchestra

At the beginning of this project we used improvisation as a way of generating ideas for the pieces. So rather than just taking pre-existing music, I'll set some improvisation challenges at the beginning of a project, getting people to come up with ideas we can make new pieces from and then I'll hear something and I'll think, 'Ah, that's a great idea – we'll use that. Let's building something on that piece there.' And it's a really important thing. It's as important to generate and make new music with people as it is to play pre-existing and traditional music and we've had a real balance in this concert.

Roger - Participant

I'm a carer. I care for my wife who has Alzheimers. And she has very severe Alzheimers, which means that she can't do anything for herself. Nothing seems to get through this wall of blankness. There's just one thing that gets through and that's music. And the mix of generations is marvellous for the older people and I think the younger ones realise that there are older people and they aren't perhaps as bad or as indifferent as they perhaps thought.

Philip - Participant

This is a bonus, a real bonus, to come here and see all of this and enjoy everything that they're doing and including me in it, and that I think I appreciate more than anything I've appreciated for a long time.

Participant

It's been interesting because they have have all different types of music as well, so they like to incorporate music from the old times into this new, modern stuff, which really makes a difference and it makes it interesting.

Musical extract

Jeni Melia – Music for Memory

I'm looking forward to the most amazing of having so many fantastic musicians coming and supporting us in this unique and valuable project, which is benefitting so many of us here.

Musical extract

Participant

It was really good. All the clapping up and down and it just worked really well, yeah.

Musical extract

Roger - Participant

It was a coming together of everything – of rhythm, and feeling in the words and just a general build-up with a great big crashing and... It was animated. Beautiful!

Musical extract

Participant

Can't wait 'til the next time...

Participant

One next week?

Applause