

# RPO resound

Summer 2009

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## Round Up!

What we've been up to over the last few months

The last few months have just sailed past here at RPO resound with a member of the team being out on a project most days! May started the ball rolling with projects in North Hertfordshire, London and Northampton. The North Herts project was a collaboration between the RPO, composer John Cooney and 6 schools with the aim of creating two pieces that were then performed as part of a public performance involving an ensemble of players from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

In London, we continued our relationship with Leonard Cheshire Disability and held the first of this quarter's Brent Primary Schools' projects at Kingsbury Green Primary School. This was the first time we had worked at Kingsbury Green, but not the first time we had worked with their head teacher with whom we developed our long-standing relationship at Elsley Primary School.



Shoreditch Festival Performance

June saw us upping the tempo once more – we embarked on the final leg of this academic year's Hounslow Primary School programme, working in three different schools (profiled on page 2); held the last of this season's *Music Shots* coaching sessions and Family Days in Northampton, and embarked on two large-scale summer projects – Dacorum's *Music on the Moor* (profiled on page 3) and a collaboration with Shoreditch Festival.

July saw the continuation of the Shoreditch and Dacorum projects and also the continuation of our relationship with the Westminster Society for People with Learning Difficulties. This summer's project saw us work not only with a younger group within the society but also with a different visual artist – the wicker artist Anji Archer. We will be holding a showcase event in November to coincide with Youth Music Week where all work produced (musical, photographic and wicker) will be on display – please email Rebecca for more information (details on page 4).

In July we also began our relationship with our third Brent School: Braintcroft Primary School. We held a two day taster project to acclimatise the teachers to our methods of working before they



Family Day at the Royal & Derngate

embark on a music and literacy enrichment programme this autumn. The project content was a source of much amusement because, despite the searing heat, it was all about snowmen!

In addition to this we also held two days of workshops in preparation for our annual *Under the Stars* project with Newham (profiled on page 3) as well as a music and dance project in a Spiegel Tent in Ipswich (!) to mark the start of our creative relationship with the town.

In the past 3 months RPO resound has:

- Travelled over 1630 miles
- Run over 228 hours of workshops
- Worked with more than 1215 participants

# DCSF's Music Partnership Projects

The announcement of two successful bids

Following the DCSF's (Department for Children, Schools and Families) recent announcement of the five 2009/10 Music Partnership Projects, **RPO resound** is delighted to be announce it's role as a key partner in two successful bids, in Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire.

These year-long projects represent nearly £0.5m investment in music-making opportunities for children and young people in the two counties, enabling thousands of participants and audience members to benefit from targeted workshops, projects and concerts. It also signals substantial investment in the local music infrastructure, placing local practitioners at the heart of the project delivery team, all of whom will work regularly alongside the **RPO resound** musicians.

These awards build on successful partnerships in both regions, which have each enjoyed a regular RPO presence over the last 4 years. The Hertfordshire MPP, *Count Us In*, which is being run in partnership with Hertfordshire Music Service and supported by Orchestras Live, will include the delivery of more than 300 workshops, focussed around 12 specific comprehensive schools, as well as feeder primary schools and out-of-school provision.

The Northamptonshire MPP, *Connected to Music*, led by Orchestras Live, is in partnership with Northampton Music and Performing Arts Service, Learning Achievement & School Improvement Services, sinfonia VIVA and Royal & Derngate. The project will include a significant programme of school

workshops, as well as RPO chamber and orchestral concerts, some of which will take place at the Royal & Derngate, where the RPO is resident.

Naturally, the Music Partnership Projects, which launch this autumn, will become a regular feature in our newsletters and so we look forward to bringing you more news over the coming months.



Picture This performance 2007 Hertfordshire-wide collaboration

## A trio of Primary School Projects in Hounslow

The continuation of our relationship with Hounslow Music Service



Smallberry Green Primary School Performance Day

The overall programme was led by workshop leader Tim Steiner and at each project he was accompanied by three RPO musicians. The following were involved in the different stages of the project: Erik Chapman (1st Violin), David Hirschman (Viola), Roberto Sorrentino (Cello), Dan Hammersley (Cello), Phil Woods (French Horn).

We started off at Feltham Hill Infants School where the team worked with three Year One classes around the theme of Old and New Toys. What fun we all had creating music that represented the different toys and the journeys that they took, their magical abilities and the aspirations that both the pupils and their toys had.

June Cribb, Feltham Hill Infants Head Teacher wrote the following to the Head of Hounslow Music Service Oonagh Barry:

**"The 2-day workshop provided by RPO resound was fantastic. During the superb performance to the parents on the 2nd day, 90 Year One children each played an instrument. All the children sang songs they had learnt and several children sang solos. The songs were written by both the musicians and the children based on poems the children had written, connected to their work on toys. Also a song was written based on aspirations for the future after much discussion about the journey musicians had taken whilst learning their instruments... this linked so well to our SEAL curriculum."**

Next stop was just around the corner at the Edward Pauling Primary School. This time it was the turn of year 3 and

mini-beasts were the order of the day here. Songs and instrumental pieces were created about *Marching Ants and Spiders*. The songs were incredibly infectious and caught everybody's imagination. The schools enthusiastic character was apparent throughout the whole project but none more so than the final concert. The audience (which included the whole school, parents and governors) raised the roof joining in with the songs and rhythmic patterns.

For the last project we moved from Feltham to Isleworth and Smallberry Green Primary School. Looking forward to the holidays was the main theme here and there were certainly a variety of ideas that people had: from relaxing on a beach to cycling on the moon (thank you, Mr Steiner!). The weather was so nice during this project that we even worked outside which definitely helped to maintain the holiday feeling. The children once again worked incredibly hard to create two fantastic songs and instrumental pieces for their end of project performance.

# RPO resound to play gig in Central Park

A wonderful night of music Under the Stars

For the fourth successive year **RPO resound** has been invited to stage a community showcase in Central Park, East Ham. In partnership with Newham Borough Council, the concert, which will take place in early September, will bring together 25 talented young musicians studying at Newham Academy of Music, with an education team from **RPO resound** and the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra. Under the leadership of music director, Paul Griffiths, a mixed

instrumental group and jazz trio have already begun to work on a series of compositions that will be premiered at the *Under The Stars Festival* in East Ham later this year. The pieces created so far have been inspired by a fusion of styles, incorporating jazz, beat-boxing and classical, bringing together a range of influences guaranteed to have wide appeal. Fortunately, most of the music has already been notated, just in case a 6-week summer break leads to some of

the melodies and rhythms being forgotten!



Under the Stars concert 2008

## Festival Fever

Come rain or shine...

The **RPO resound** team has been hitting the summer festivals and venturing to the great outdoors for our large-scale community and education events this year. Our most recent success was the performance of a brand new work devised by 40 community participants who performed alongside the full symphony orchestra at the Shoreditch Festival in London.

Prior to this however, **RPO resound** had been working intensively in Hertfordshire



Performance day on the Moor

with an 8-strong RPO creative team and the exceptional young talents of the Dacorum Youth Orchestra and Ace of Herts choir, to devise and première the groups' first new work at Hemel Hempstead's very own *Music on the Moor* festival.

Workshop leader James Redwood led a series of creative workshops in which the participants composed a brand new four-movement suite taking inspiration from the famous (and infamous) landmarks of Hemel Hempstead itself; Boxmoor, the Snow Centre, Buncefield and the magic road roundabout!

The Youth Orchestra, still in its inaugural year, benefitted hugely from the creative process, exploring composition, improvisation and rhythmic devices. Ideas for icy melodies and fiery rhythms were soon springing up from all

members during both the en masse workshops and the smaller devising sessions led by individual **RPO resound** musicians. Also added into the mix were the notable vocal abilities of girls upper voice choir Ace of Herts, who invented spinning roundabout melodies and accompanying body percussion; some even joined the percussion section for their debut orchestral performance!

The final performance was held on the main stage at the festival and drew a large crowd complete with picnic hampers! Unlike Shoreditch there were no wellies in sight as the performance was bathed in sunshine.

The piece created was entirely unique ; as one participant described: *"It's good to express your ideas and opinions because there are no right or wrong answers in music."*

## Dates for your Diary

To find out more about the RPO's concerts and events, join our free mailing list online at [www.rpo.co.uk](http://www.rpo.co.uk).

### RPO resound Summer School for Young Musicians

Monday 17th - Friday 21st August  
Director: Paul Griffiths  
St. Paul's School, Barnes

Five day non-residential instrumental summer school for students aged 12 to 18 who are grade 5 or above on an orchestral instrument.

For more information email [education@rpo.co.uk](mailto:education@rpo.co.uk) or telephone 020 7608 8829. Bursaries still available.

### Summer School Concert:

Friday 21st August, 6.30pm  
Wathen Hall, St. Paul's School, Barnes  
FREE

To book a ticket please contact Rebecca by the 14th August. Spaces limited.

### Under the Stars

Sunday 6th September, 7.30pm  
Director: Paul Griffiths  
Central Park, East Ham

A free 'last night of the proms' concert featuring the première of an original composition by local young musicians.

### Westminster Music Library

9.30am - 12.30pm or 1.30pm - 4.30pm  
Director: James Redwood  
Saturday 10th October  
160 Buckingham Palace Road, Victoria  
FREE

This autumn the Westminster Music Library is inviting participants of all ages and musical abilities to take part in some exciting workshops with **RPO resound** held in recognition of the 250th anniversary of Handel's death.

For more information please contact Ruth Walters at the WML on 0207 641 4286 or email [rwalters@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:rwalters@westminster.gov.uk). **3**

# Player Profile: Roberto Sorrentino

RPO Cellist and a member of the RPO resound team



Roberto Sorrentino with a participant

**When did you start working in the field of education and what inspired you to start?**

I have taught the cello from my student days but it is only in the last few years that I have wanted to broaden and explore other means of communicating music. So pretty soon after joining the RPO in 2005, I got myself involved in the education programme.

Since having 3 kids of my own, I realised what a huge responsibility it was to stand up in front of a large group of people and impart something of value and interest to them. Many of the RPO musicians and the workshop leaders are great at communicating the power of music to people of all ages, backgrounds, race and ability. They are a great source of inspiration!

**How have you found the experience of working in this field? Has it brought any benefits to your playing?**

I have loved the challenge and experience of doing education work. As much as I love playing the cello in concert halls around the world, being in an environment where your contribution is making a difference to someone a foot away is very powerful. Kids, elderly people, those with special needs or troubled teenagers... Music is the medium that everyone can relate to in some form or another. I don't know if my playing has changed or benefited in any way but I feel richer as a person from doing education work. A week with the children at Chase Hospice with their carers and family is one of the most humbling and life affirming experiences I have had in my life! Fantastic!

**Taking that into consideration, what advice would you give to any musicians interested in taking part in education work?**

I would encourage every musician to involve themselves with education work at some point. The look on a child's face when they realise that they have just composed something special or produced a great sound is priceless. Education work can also be great fun. One 5 year old put their hand up when I asked what a cello bow was made

from and answered "Spaghetti"! After I had played some Bach to another group of kids, one whispered in my ear that it sounded like his dad's motorbike!

**Is there a particular project you have done with RPO resound or a memory that you would like to share?**

As I said earlier, the Chase Hospice projects have been wonderful, with Jason Rowland as workshop leader. The children are very seriously ill and the Hospice offers respite care to them and their families. The kids, carers and families are really special. We worked on composing pieces with them, although the amount they could do in comparison to able-bodied children was tiny. One child, Daniel was the same age as my son, Luca, but could not speak, could barely move and could make just tiny sounds and movements due to his illness. It was a breathtaking moment when he managed to make a sound on one of the instruments and I could tell by his bright eyes that he was really happy. Here was a kid, constrained by his illness enjoying something just as my own son might. I left the room and found myself in tears.

Another was a project, again with Jason, for troubled teenagers. We composed a great pop song with them à la Eurovision - I can still hear it!

## Last Words!

Something light-hearted to end the newsletter

### Definitions:

**MUSIC:** a complex organisation of sounds that is set down by the composer, incorrectly interpreted by the conductor, who is ignored by the musicians, the result of which is ignored by the audience.

**RISOLUTO:** indicates to orchestras that they are to stubbornly maintain the correct tempo no matter what the conductor tries to do.

**DETACHE:** an indication that the trombones are to play with their slides removed.

If you can do any better, please email [education@rpo.co.uk](mailto:education@rpo.co.uk)!

## Useful Information

### RPO resound

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In the next issue...

Summer School report | Proms Family Workshop | Pimlico Toy Library | And much more...!