through a relaxed, positive environment. More recent analysis of how the National Plan is delivered has said that many disadvantaged children, which includes those who are rurally isolated, are still missing out on their entitlement. This is where the work of organisations such as NYMAZ can help.

A key element to the success of this work is that it takes place outside of school. A non-formal environment, combined with music’s almost universal appeal as a creative means of expression, can prove an effective way to connect with isolated and disadvantaged young people, including those who struggle to engage with formal education, enabling them to achieve new things, to work cooperatively by making music together and to feel more positive about themselves and their future.

A number of challenges, however, exist for those delivering and accessing participatory music activity in rural areas, including transport and travel issues, lack of suitable venues and specialist workforce, high costs of activities and lack of sustainability, lack of choice and cuts to Youth Services.

Music organisations are being resourceful in finding ways of working that address some of these challenges, and our research has identified a set of key ingredients for success in this respect. We have also made a number of Calls to Action, aimed at supporting and improving participatory music for rurally isolated young people through policy and practice. These include investing in training for music leaders, working with local champions and grassroots organisations, making use of digital technologies and engaging with parents and carers.

It is vital that this kind of non-formal, inclusive music provision is adequately valued and supported to ensure that children and young people in rural areas do not become further isolated and can benefit from a rounded music education.

Heidi Johnson
Director, NYMAZ

To read NYMAZ’s full report Gone in the Air: Young people, music and rural isolation, visit www.nymaz.org.uk, or to request a document summarising the research please contact heidi@nymaz.org.uk
All of Harrogate Music Centres students came together for a spectacular Gala Concert in Harrogate’s Royal Hall at the end of February.

Around 270 students contributed to a concert which moved from one ensemble to another. These included string orchestras, guitars, ukuleles, wind bands, singing and orchestras. The performances finished with a rousing arrangement of the Elbow number, One Day Like This.

The Centre performed to a packed Hall and the occasion was thoroughly enjoyed by performers and audience alike. As a result of this and other events, the Centre is seeing an increase in adult students, in line with our commitment to be accessible to all in the community.

Contact the centres direct for more information

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<th>Location</th>
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Northallerton Music Centre

End of term concerts
Northallerton Music Centre had a busy end to the term, with a series of concerts on Saturday 21st March.

The string orchestras, symphony orchestra, guitar and choir performed in the afternoon at Allertonshire School. Appreciation was shown to the two viola players who were leaving to concentrate on A levels - Gemma Reynard started at Northallerton Music Centre in September 2006 and George Peat who started in January 2006. The Junior Concert featured all seven ensembles, performing a variety of music from fanfares to medleys from musicals.

Northallerton Music Centre Big Band and Wind Band have new names - ‘Mood Swings’ and ‘Galeforce Winds’ respectively. They performed to full audience in All Saint’s Parish Church, Northallerton and featured saxophone soloist Mick Donnelly. Mood Swings performed a 45 minute set, showing how quickly they have progressed in just 20 weeks of rehearsals. The concert also featured soloists from within the bands on both instruments and as vocalists.

The day raised over £1000 and Northallerton Parents Association have pledged to buying a new podium and sound equipment for the centre. The Parents Association have also secured funding from Costa Coffee to buy 25 new music stands.

Harrogate Music Centre

Wind Band’s Whitby Weekend

The Centre’s Wind Band spent its annual residential weekend in Whitby in the middle of March. Over 40 students stayed at Sneaton Castle on the cliffs overlooking the sea.

On the edge of the town. On Saturday the band took part in the Eskdale Music Festival and was awarded a distinction for some excellent playing. Everyone celebrated afterward with a bracing walk along the sea-front.

The last day of the course was spent playing in smaller groups, trying out Ukuleles, performing to each other and playing football.

This weekend also saw the birth of a saxophone quartet which is determined to meet up regularly in their own time to continue the good work.

The band celebrating its distinction at the Eskdale music festival

Alan Owens directing, Mick Donnelly sax and Mood Swings at All Saints Parish Church, Northallerton
Whitby music centre bands in action

Whitby music festival
It was another very busy Spring term for Whitby Music Centre. The main event was the local Music Festival, in which all the ensembles were active competing in their various classes.

Many of the musicians also took part as soloists and formed themselves into small musical groups in order to take part in the chamber music classes. Musicians come from far and wide to take part in the festival and the music centre ensembles acquitted themselves very well indeed scoring highly in all their classes.

Band day
In conjunction with other musical organisations Whitby Music Centre initiated a “Band day” which was held in the middle of March. Invitations were sent to Concert Bands and Brass Bands in North Yorkshire to come and take part along with Bands from Whitby Music Centre.

Each Band gave a performance in front of an audience and given a constructive critique from an invited adjudicator. The day was very successful and its hoped to repeat the event next year.

Sirocco
The advanced wind group - Sirocco - is worth of a special mention. They gave an excellent performance of one of Bach’s Brandenburg concertos at a Gala concert in Whitby.

Scarborough Area Music Centre Spring Term News

Snainton concert
The spring term was another very busy one at Scarborough Area Music Centre. At the end of February both the junior and senior jazz orchestras (Jazz Train and EASY Jazz) were involved jointly in a concert at Snainton village hall. The hall was packed with standing room only and the audience gave a very warm reception.

Charity concert
At the beginning of March the Junior Strings, Intermediate Orchestra and Junior Guitar Ensemble took part in a charity concert in aid of the charity SASH (Safe And Sound Homes) who provide safe shelter in volunteers’ home for young homeless people.
Boyes celebrity concert
Then there was the 31st Boyes Celebrity Concert which involved BIG, Junior Concert Band, Easy Concert Band, Jazz Train and Easy Jazz Orchestra. This event has been sponsored for 31 years now by Boyes department stores and the Boyes family.

Every year the Music Centre books a professional musician or group of musicians to work with our musicians in the afternoon, followed by a concert in the evening at the Spa Ocean Room.

This year’s professional input was from the New York Brass Band, an eight-strong brass/sax outfit who gave such youthful inspiration to all the students. One of the NYBB is an ex-Scarborough Music Centre member, Laurence Marshall, who is now in his final year at Leeds College of Music. Their set at the start of the concert was expertly performed, and with so much energy and enthusiasm. The second half saw the music centre ensembles perform, with members of the guest band playing alongside. The finale pieces of “A Message to You Rudy” and “The Conga” had the guests and all the music centre students weaving their way around the tables of the audience whilst playing.

EASY Jazz
In March Easy Jazz Orchestra also travelled to Sunderland to take part in the Great North Big Band Festival. The band got to hear many other youth big bands from across the north of England and played extremely well. They finished their set with a specially commissioned arrangement of Bruno Mars and Mark Ronson’s “Uptown Funk” which went down a storm. Matthew Harvey, the Baritone Saxophonist in Easy Jazz, picked an adjudicators’ award for “outstanding contribution to the band’s performance in all areas”.

Selby Music Centre
Full Centre Concert
Selby Music Centre ended the spring term with a concert at Selby High School which featured all 12 ensembles. It was well attended and the students performed brilliantly as ever. At the end of the concert there was a presentation to Nick Garside, who is leaving to move on to new ventures in York.

Forthcoming events

| May 16th | Selby Littlefest (Strings, Guitars & Bands) |
| June 14th | Monk Fryston Fayre (Senior Concert Band) |
| June 21st | Selby Fun Day (Brass Band and Junior Concert Band) |
| July 4th | Grand Summer Concert in Selby Abbey (Full Centre) |
| July 11th | Open Morning & Workshops |
Senior Strings at the Harrogate Festival
At the beginning of March, two strings groups from Selby Music Centre took part in the Harrogate Competitive Music Festival. This was a new venture which turned out to be a rewarding experience, giving a strong focus to rehearsals during the spring term, as well as prompting an opportunity to develop some chamber music, supported by a student from York St John’s University.

Although some of the students felt beforehand that ‘it’s like waiting to do an exam’, they enjoyed their performances, appreciated the encouragement from the adjudicator and took note of her suggestions for future improvements. Both groups performed in classes for Y10 and under; the strings ensemble were awarded a merit and the string quartet were delighted to win their class.

Congratulations to them all.

Battle of the Bands at Eskdale
Fifty two students from Selby Music Centre travelled to Whitby Pavilion to compete in the annual Eskdale Festival of the Arts. The festival features a wide variety of music and this year was the inaugural concert band competition and Selby Music Centre’s Junior Concert Band and Brass Band competed in their respective sections.

Performing alongside ensembles from Whitby and Harrogate Music Centres, both bands had a brilliant visit to the coast by adjudicator Stanley Roocroft MBE. Their ambitious repertoire and confident performances was appreciated, with special mention being made to each band’s featured soloists: young saxophonist Ryan with the junior band on Heartland (Steve Hodges) and tenor horn player Emma Ribchester performing Alan Fernie’s arrangement of The Rose.

Both bands awarded commendations for their performances, in addition to a cheeky ice cream from the pavilion cafe, which formed a fantastic end to the day of music making.

Skipton Music Centre guitarist’s return to Christ Church
In March, guitarists from Skipton Music Centre returned to Christ Church, Skipton to perform an exciting selection of music in an afternoon concert.

Featuring the music centre’s Senior Guitar Ensemble, Junior Guitar Ensemble and selected soloists, the concert provided a wide range of repertoire performed on classical guitars.

Musical Director, Geoff Stevenson: “Christ Church is an excellent venue to perform in and the church is an ideal space to hear classical guitar music. We look forward to returning once again in spring 2016.”
Introducing the North Yorkshire Junior County Orchestra

The County Youth Orchestra has been catering for the talented young musicians in North Yorkshire for many years. They meet for residential courses and are directed by professional conductor Simon Wright.

They’re now joined by the Junior County Orchestra, who had its first ever rehearsal in Harrogate on a snowy night in January. It was an opportunity for players Grade 3-5 in standard to come from all corners of the county to form a 70+ strong orchestra.

During the day, under the baton of County Music Service Head Ian Bangay, the orchestra tackled a wide range of repertoire including Dambuster’s March, William Tell Overture, Dvorak’s Slavonic Dance and part of Handel’s Fireworks Music. The players were helped by ten student mentors from the County Youth Orchestra who looked after their sections throughout the day. The improvement they made throughout the day as the players grew in confidence were plain to hear.

We now hope to have a residential course for this orchestra in July at Giggleswick School. For more details about County Ensembles in North Yorkshire contact:

Anne Heaton: 01609 535177
or email: anne.heaton@northyorks.gov.uk

North Yorkshire Junior County Orchestra – trombone section with their mentor Simon Chorley.
Music from Skipton Music Centre joined forces with the Langcliffe Singers for a performance of Karl Jenkins’ The Armed Man at Christ Church, Skipton at the end of February. Under the baton of musical director Nigel Waugh, singers from across Craven joined the choir creating a combined choir of around a hundred voices.

The Armed Man, which has the subtitle A Mass for Peace, was commissioned by the Royal Armouries Museum for the millennium celebrations to mark the museum’s move from London to Leeds. Dedicated to victims of the Kosovo crisis, it is based on the Catholic Mass and combines various sources, including a 15th century folk song L’homme Armé.

Choir join forces with Skipton Music Centre

The Mart Theatre, Skipton, set in the town’s Auction Mart, was the unique setting for 150 children from five local primary schools to come together and sing to family and friends.

Organised and run by local music teacher Karen Robinson, the choirs from Carleton, Embsay, Gargrave, Greatwood and Parish primary schools joined together for the first time on the day of the concert.

After a morning of rehearsals, they took to the stage in the afternoon to perform a fantastic eleven piece set, to an audience of approximately 180 family and friends.

It was a great day, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The children sounded amazing, singing in unison, two and three parts and in two part harmony, with some children even taking solo parts.

The feedback from teachers and parents alike was that they were ‘blown away’ by the quality of the singing and the enthusiasm shown by the children. They really were a credit to both themselves and their schools. The North Yorkshire Music Hub gave a grant for £250 towards the cost of the concert.

Such was the success of the day it is hoped it can become an annual event, reaching out to more schools and allowing more children and teachers to become involved.
Karl Jenkin’s work “The Armed Man (A Mass for Peace)” was composed specifically to mark the transition from one millennium to another and to reflect on the passing of a particularly war-torn and destructive period of history and look forward in hope towards a more peaceful future. It is dedicated to the victims of the Kosovo conflict and is on many levels a challenging and thought-provoking piece. It is therefore all the more commendable that this performance was assembled with only one full rehearsal and was a “come and sing” event featuring singers from a wide range of backgrounds who had joined the Langcliffe Singers simply for the event and for the afternoon rehearsal. They were accompanied by organist Alastair Mackenzie and by the musicians from Skipton Music Centre Senior Percussion Group and Senior Brass Group. These young and very talented performers showed considerable skill and enthusiasm in their vital role and were truly a credit to the work of the music centre demonstrating how fortunate the area is to have a means of fostering young talent in this way. The percussion plays a central role in the work and the group rose to this challenge wonderfully, as did both the cello soloist and the young trumpeter. Congratulations to them all. In creating the work Karl Jenkins drew on a range of texts and there are times when it must be said that it is not an easy piece to listen to; it is disturbing in places with distressing imagery and painfully loud with percussion drowning out the lyrics which at points descend into wordless screams and moans. Yet it also contains movements of great poignancy (Now the Guns Have Stopped) and simple beauty (Benedictus) which make compelling listening. It is dramatic in form covering a range of musical styles and taking the listener on a whirlwind journey through the build-up to war, an apocalyptic encounter which leads to devastation and on to a final upbeat ending “Better is Peace” and the haunting promise that “God Shall Wipe Away All Tears”. It could be argued that it is at times overly self-consciously attempting to manipulate the listeners’ emotions and yet it has an inner drive which compels in forward for both performer and listener, so that there is little time to reflect on how the effect is created. That said, it has to be acknowledged that this was an absolutely riveting performance which kept you focussed throughout. The soloists rose well to the challenges and the choir as a whole performed admirably, showing tremendous concentration. Clearly under the skilful baton of Nigel Waugh they continue to be inspired and go from strength to strength.
The North Yorkshire Music Hub - find out more and get involved

We’re running music hub forums across the county every term and useful partnerships and possibilities are already developing. The make-up of the meetings has been encouraging, with groups ranging from community and town brass bands, professional orchestras, primary and secondary school teachers and local music societies.

Please get in touch with us if you’d like to be added to the invitation list and we’ll let you know where and when the next forum for your area will be - please email countyhall.music@northyorks.gov.uk or ring 01609 532 783.

We’re developing plenty of projects that you can take part in - these are just some of them:

• Continuous professional development programmes for school staff, particularly in supporting schools to deliver music in the curriculum.

• Providing an instrument loan service, with discounts or free provision for those having instrumental lessons with NYCC Music Service.

• Providing access to large scale and high quality music experiences for pupils through working with professional musicians and venues.

• Setting up an online area where you can find out more information and share examples of great partnership working in the county.

If you’d like to be added to our mailing list, want to tell us about your projects, or find out more about our plans, please email countyhall.music@northyorks.gov.uk.

Buy in services

All partners involved in the hub run workshops, concerts and other bespoke musical projects for children and young people on a bought in basis. If you have a specific project that you would like to launch or just require some advice on setting up your own, our partners will be happy to discuss your needs. The following examples may be of interest:

• curriculum guidance/delivery;
• working with professional musicians;
• catering for pupils with specific SEND needs; and
• bespoke CPD.

NYMAZ are also the signposting organisation for the hub and are happy to add your organisations details/activities to their website.