



#Inspire

#Create

#Creu **#Perform**



#Ysbrydoli

#Perfformio



1. Introduction and overview

2. National Plan for Music Education delivery

- First Experiences & professional learning
- Live Music Experiences
- Music Pathways
- Music tuition
- Making Music with others
- Music for Health and wellbeing and inclusion

3. Forward plan 2025-2028



[Cf Music Education](#) is the leading music service in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan providing lessons in and out of school, ensembles, large and small-scale performances, professional learning for classroom teachers, workshops and creative industries experiences and a musical instrument library for schools and communities across both authorities.

Located in Chapter Arts Centre, Canton, the service plays a key role bringing together music education [partners](#) across the South Wales region, working closely with the neighbouring music services, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, BBC NOW, Welsh National Opera, to name just a few. Due to the temporary closure of St David's Hall, '[Arts Active](#)', now operate under the umbrella of the music service. This has allowed the expansion of services provided to include expressive arts projects, delivery of music and dance sessions for adults and children with learning disabilities, and the development a 'Lunchtime Classical' series formally provided in St David's Hall.

In addition to the many music education achievements outlined, the service has undergone a rebrand and name change in the past 12 months, launched a new website and parent portal, and implemented a structural change that has led to 8 new roles being created within the senior leadership and business support team. These developments have allowed the service to deliver on all aspects of the National Plan for Music Education, significantly improve the response times to schools and parents, implement an effective performance management leading to an improvement in standards of teaching and learning, and support process for staff and launch an automated payment system for parents transforming the way that the costs of lessons and activities are administered.

The service is the lead organisation delivering the **National Plan for Music Education (NPME)** for Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan under the [National Music Service](#). The associated grant has provided much needed financial stability that has allowed the service to re-establish and grow relationships with schools and settings, forge new partnerships and rebuild numbers of children and young people engaging with the service following the impact of the pandemic. The 6 programmes of work within the plan provide a clear direction for the usage of the grant, in terms of the delivery expectations and reporting to the Welsh Government. Indications are that funding will continue into 24-25 and beyond, as the mid-way data evaluation has been extremely favourable both in terms of expectations and outcomes.


2023-24 saw 14,000 children and young people engage with the service, across 161 schools and settings. This demonstrates a significant increase year on year since the lowest numbers recorded in Summer 2020 where there were just 533 pupils receiving tuition.

The numbers of tutors and musicians working for and with the music service has increased significantly over the past two years from 68 to 129 and additional partnership projects with 24 organisations to date delivers a musical experiences to a far greater number of children and young people, and adults across the region.

The service offerings include a broad range of musical activities and experiences. The profile of music as a subject within the expressive arts that now forms a key part of the curriculum for Wales has seen a significant uptake from schools, not only in terms of access to the traditional instrumental and vocal lessons, but also with an increased demand for inclusive projects, professional learning for teachers, opportunities to experience live music, support for digital musical learning and links into career pathways across the creative industries.





 ***“The First experiences programme of work will be developed with the aim of simultaneously inspiring children and young people and providing professional learning support to classroom practitioners. This will improve the health and well-being of children and young people, develop their skills and confidence, and support classroom practitioners in delivering music activities into their broader curriculum” (NPME)***

The First Experiences programme of the National Plan for Music Education (NPME) has been a major focus for the service since the launch of the offer in January 2022. To ensure that the programme was developed very much in line with the local needs of schools and settings, the first year of delivery took the form of the piloting of several types of delivery, with a view to evaluating their success:

Music service led First Experience delivered primarily by the music service tutors, but with support from the classroom teachers

Side by Side First Experience with the classroom teacher, supported with professional learning and resources and mentoring from a music tutor

Classroom teacher delivery with instruments and resources provided by the music service, with some schools classroom practitioners with significant musical skills and confidence have been happy to take full ownership of the project.

To date the types of delivery have impacted on 150 primary schools and settings and 18,504 children across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. In addition to this, a targeted approach to delivering music tutor led projects on specific instruments where uptake of lessons are lower has developed a greater range and diversity of musical experiences across both Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. Such projects have included Garage Band digital composition, strings, harps, woodwind, trombones.

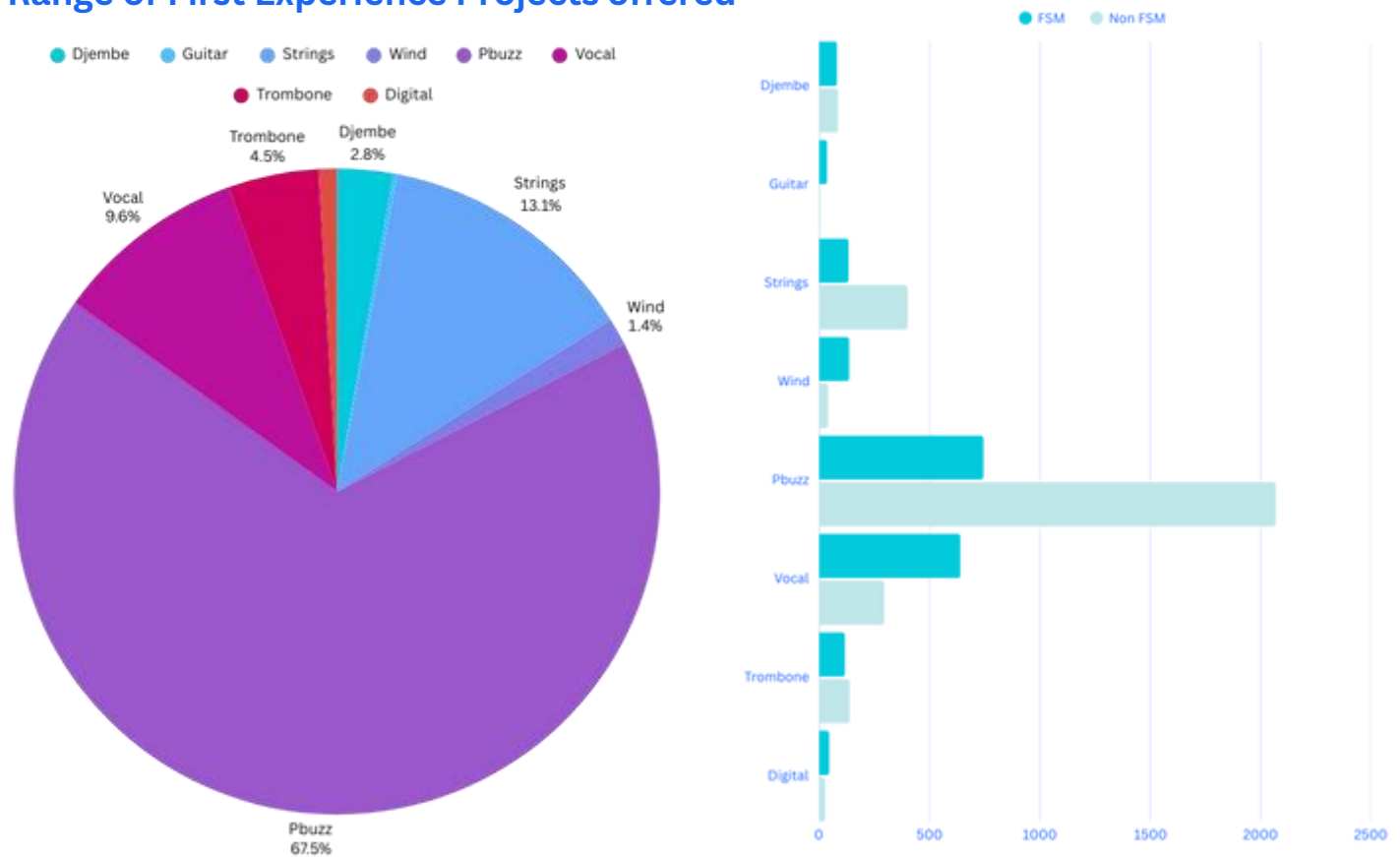
First Experiences

18,504- children
since January 2022



"She came in today, she faced her fears and had the best afternoon, joining in with all of the pieces. Thank you for giving her the opportunity to do something out of her comfort zone and find that she enjoyed it. Things like this, are making this kind of difference to "my children" is why I joined the profession"

Range of First Experience Projects offered



"We thoroughly enjoyed the lessons. The children were enthused, and the tutor was very encouraging and knowledgeable. We are hoping that this encourages the children to take up a musical instrument."

S. Vanstone – Lakeside Primary School



Case Study - Arad Welsh Government Evaluation: Cardiff First

“We teach the teachers, and then it becomes a legacy project as well. The teachers want it again after they develop their own confidence.” [Music service head]

Background: This case study covers the First Experience activities of two primary schools, with a particular emphasis on professional learning and a celebratory concert.

Activities in school: Learners in one school have taken part in First Experiences sessions involving the pBuzz instrument and choir performance. The school now offers additional instrument tuition in guitar, drums, and violin, as freelance tutors come in and offer 1:1 or small group sessions.

Learners at the second school have also had pBuzz sessions, led by a music service education tutor, who provided training to two teachers in the school. These teachers were then able to help the children practice, before the tutor came to deliver the final session.

Celebratory concert: The First Experiences concert was held to celebrate the instrumental and vocal skills developed by the learners over the course of their First Experiences scheme. The event was attended by five primary schools, and is one of many celebration events delivered by Cardiff Music Service as part of the third year offer.

The event began with a live jazz band performance. The children were then invited to stand up and join the performance, switching between the groups that had learned the pBuzz and those that had done choral singing; learners were evidently hugely enthusiastic about this.

“The day’s event is something for the children to practice towards, and it motivates them to do so.” – pBuzz Coordinator and Tutor

“The chance for them to play with and watch such talented musicians was pretty special. [...] I’m keen for more celebrations in future!” –Primary School teacher

When learners were asked if they had enjoyed the event, all the children raised their hand in agreement and explained that they ‘had a lot of fun.’ Nearly all children said that they wanted to learn an instrument. *“I liked learning to play an instrument, as I haven’t learned one before.”*
- Learner

Teachers from both schools indicated that the **confidence of learners had greatly increased**, particularly after their experiences of online learning through COVID-19. Teachers and tutors also spoke of the **impact on learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)**.

Teacher feedback:

“This is invaluable for our children who might never have seen, let alone heard, the variety of instruments that were played.”

“Learners who do not engage well with traditional subjects such as English and maths are the first to ask when they can play the instruments.”

“In terms of professional development, it has given me a lot more confidence in teaching music”

Positive impacts:

Improved pupil engagement, particularly for those with ALN
Increased confidence in learners

Celebration event opportunity to experience live music

Support teachers in their professional learning

Overall impact: The provision has had a positive impact on teachers. Music tutors have been training teachers on how to run the sessions in the future, which has turned their ‘initial scepticism into confidence.’ Teachers also said that they would otherwise struggle to maintain music education without the funding for the current provision, so there has been a positive impact on their ability to teach areas of expressive arts. Additionally, there has been an emotional impact on teachers by way of learner progression - many have been ‘moved to tears’ by seeing their learners develop greater confidence, especially those who otherwise may struggle in the classroom.



First Experiences delivered at our special schools and settings

31 pupils from

**Meadowbank
Ty Gwyn
Riverbank**

"The music sessions have been an excellent opportunity for many of our students, who thoroughly look forward to sessions each week. The tutors are so flexible to the needs of our students and provide an experience that me and my staff are not skilled enough to provide."

Mrs Thomas, Head of Marion Centre

In order to support the specific needs of children and young people with additional learning and emotional needs, First Experiences in SEN settings have been delivered in a bespoke way. Smaller groups of children have been identified across 7 SEN schools to experience making music as a group, or an 'Open Orchestra'. The sessions have been delivered through the music service and in partnership with Arts Active and [Open up Music](#) by working closely with the classroom teachers, and with musicians and tutors with experience of delivering these very impactful projects. Children have been able to develop their understanding of sound, respond to each other and create music as group. Taster workshops for school groups will be available again during the coming year. Sessions can be tailored to suit any pupils from yr 3 upwards.

SOUNDWORKS YOUTH PROGRAMME

These group music sessions aim to lay the groundwork for potential [National Youth Open Orchestra](#) (NOYO); programmes and support staff in the school to feel confident and able to lead music activities with their pupils. Sessions are hosted across the country, with the Welsh offer being held at at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama



141 pupils across
Bishop of Llandaff,
Whitchurch High, Ty
Gwyn, Glantaf

Professional Learning for schools and settings

“Professional dialogue between music services and schools and settings is necessary to ensure that this plan aligns with Curriculum for Wales. Providing supporting materials and tools will help our music education workforce which will ensure the plan is sustainable in the long term”(NPME)

January 2022 to September '23 mainly saw uptake of the Music Service led projects, which delivered projects offering a wide range of instruments but did not impact upon as large a number of pupils as anticipated. From September 23, the side-by-side delivery supported by CPD sessions, including tutorials on using [Charanga Cymru](#), has been very successful in increasing not only the numbers of pupils benefitting from the scheme but also, upskilling some 193 classroom teachers to confidently deliver the sessions themselves using our resources on Hwb and the free Digital Platform, Charanga.

The Arts Active Trust, working with CF Music tutors and Central South Consortium and the Cardiff Curriculum team to delivered professional development days for teachers in Expressive Arts. A full day of expressive arts professional learning delivered by a team of practising artists, leaving participants with ideas and approaches to take back to the classroom and to share in the staffroom.

Several other important aspects of the First Experiences programme have seen valuable learning for pupils and teachers alike. Opportunities to take part in sharing performances in venues such as St David's Hall, Barry Memo, and the All Nations Centre have impacted on over 3500 pupils. During these performances, not only have the pupils had the opportunity to share their learning, and make music with others, but also to hear live performances from older pupils, professional musicians, and experience concert venues for the first time. Feedback from pupils and classroom teachers has been excellent and has formed part of a case study for Data Cymru that fed into the Welsh Government Evaluation.

193 classroom teachers



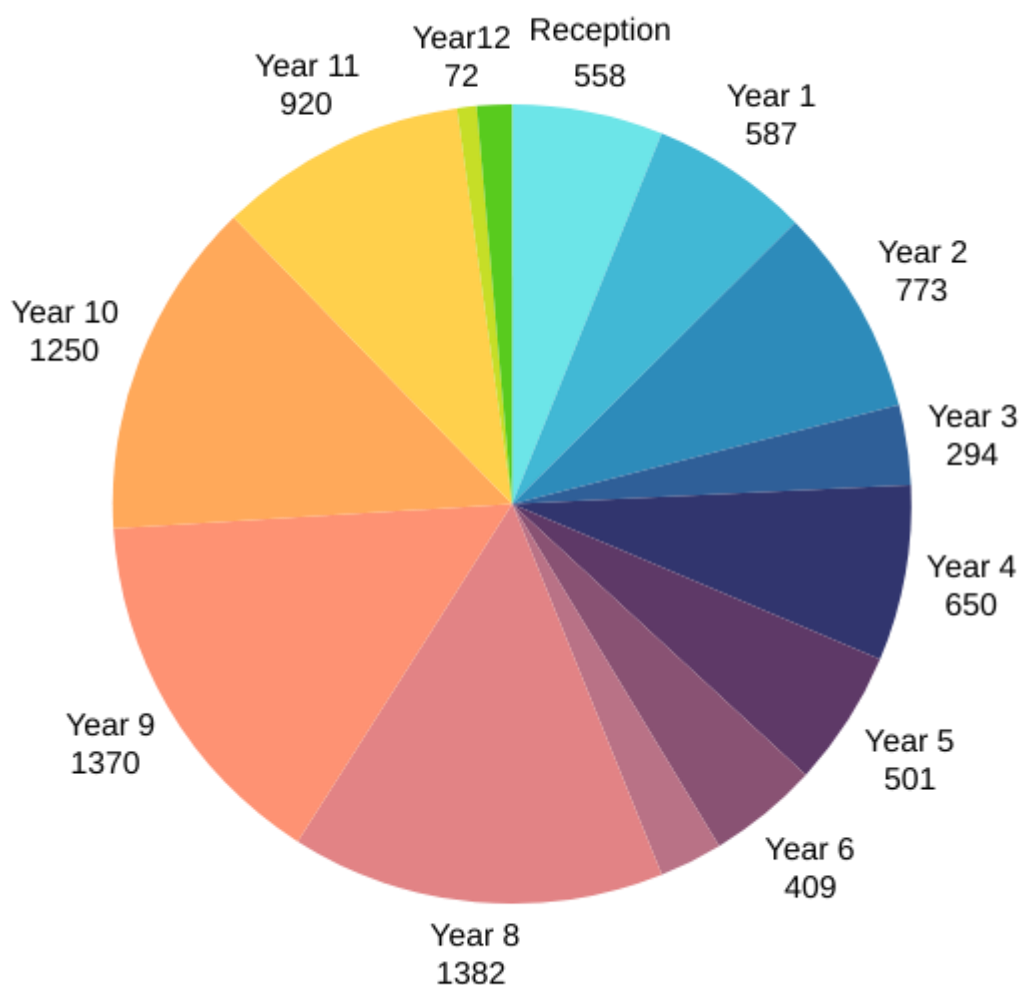
Live Music Experiences

17,901 pupils



“Experience is an integral part of learning in the Expressive Arts. The experiential aspect of music is important for our children and young people to explore rich, authentic experiences in the Arts, both in and outside schools and settings to learn and celebrate music” (NPME)

Since September 2022, **17,901** children and young people have had the opportunity to experience the joy of a Live Music Experience under the NPME. This has been possible through the development of existing and new partnerships with the wide range of organisations based in the area, and has ranged from performances in school halls, side by side opportunities with professionals to attending theatres and concert halls across the UK.





BBC National
Orchestra
of Wales
Cerddorfa
Genedlaethol
Gymreig y BBC

3318 pupils

Sinfonia
Cymru



Flying Bedroom
788 pupils

387

pupils



Theatr
Iolo

Hoof - 729 pupils



Our House is on Fire
Vale of Glamorgan
Festival - 332 pupils



ABC
ACADEMY of
BARMY COMPOSERS

944 pupils

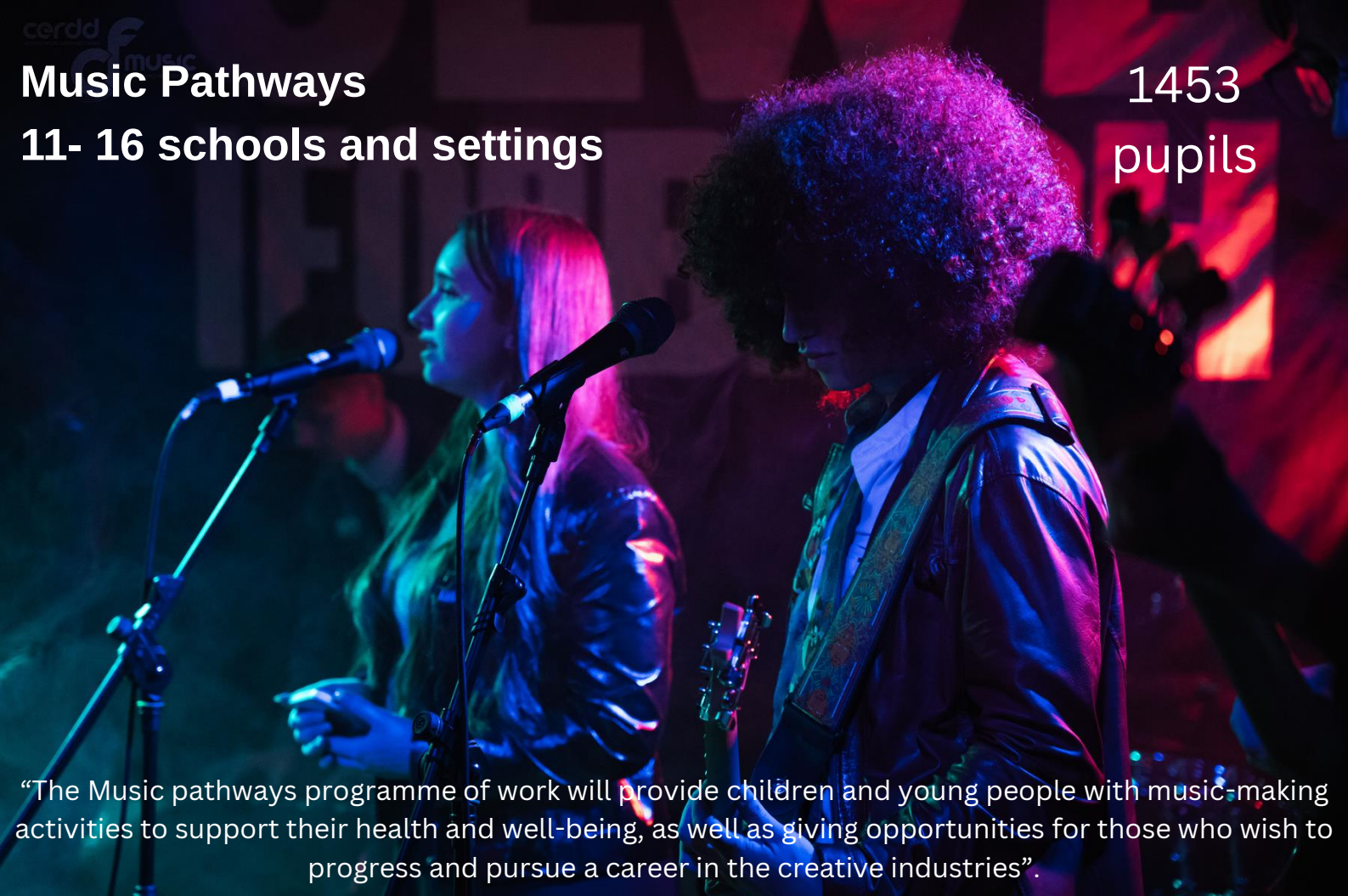


3775 pupils



**First Experiences
Celebrations 3501**





Music Pathways

11- 16 schools and settings

1453
pupils

“The Music pathways programme of work will provide children and young people with music-making activities to support their health and well-being, as well as giving opportunities for those who wish to progress and pursue a career in the creative industries”.

The Music Pathways programme impacted on 1453 pupils in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan since January 22, responding to individual school needs in terms of the types of delivery models. The variation of music engagement across schools, and settings, including SEN schools and PRUs has required the approach to be responsive, varied and adaptable, and has used the voices and choices of young people to develop different approaches.

Projects ranged from Songwriting, Djing and digital support, coaching of bands, SEN ensembles, vocal expressive arts workshops to the more traditional western classical whole class experiences of instrumental lessons.

23-24 saw the development of the Little Gigs project and partnership offer focus support on the route of supporting bands and performers with a range of opportunities to not only perform and develop but to make invaluable links into the industry and wider Cardiff music scene.

Cerdd CF Music and Cardiff Curriculum Team worked together and with partners such as Sound Progression, Anthem, Arts Active and others to engage with each High School and PRU within the target age group, with Cerdd CF Music leading on delivery.

Working closely with individual tutors embedded in each school, Cerdd CF Music took guidance from teachers to assess students' readiness for the programme, focusing on those advanced enough to benefit from this first-year opportunity. This collaborative approach ensured that students with the necessary musical skills were given the chance to participate, while allowing teachers and tutors to tailor involvement to match each school's unique learning environment. By leveraging their established relationships and knowledge of students' progress, Cerdd CF Music tutors effectively bridged school music education with the dynamic, hands-on experiences offered through Little Gigs.

Their work extended to pupils from 21 different schools, including one home-schooled student, showcasing their broad reach and inclusivity.

**Band from scratch
153 participants**



**BBC side by side 78
participants**

**WNO side by side
85 participants**



**366 pupils
in PRUs**



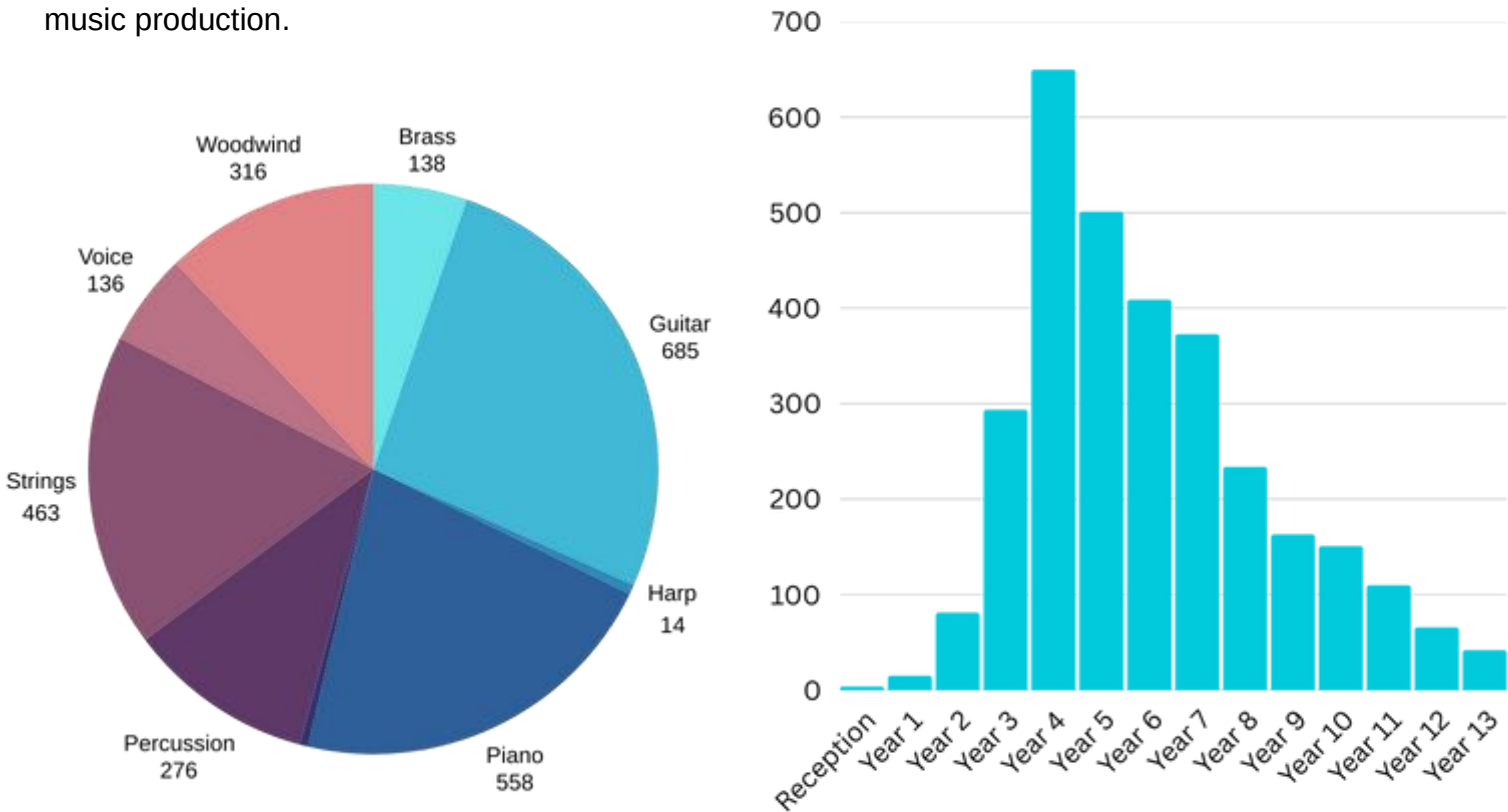
**Music Lab & Young
Composers 25 participants**



Tuition

“Opportunities to develop experiences, knowledge and skills to children’s and young people’s abilities to explore, create and respond in a musical context is fundamental to a more coherent learning experience”(NPME)

The number of pupils receiving small group or individual lessons, last academic year continues to grow thanks to the impact of the NPME programmes, and the improved profile of the service in the area. Currently 2623 pupils are receiving group or individual tuition across 87 schools. Guitar, Piano, and strings are the most popular subjects, and new initiatives for 24-25 will included introducing ‘Garage Band’ as a group lesson choice in some schools, to support song writing and music production.



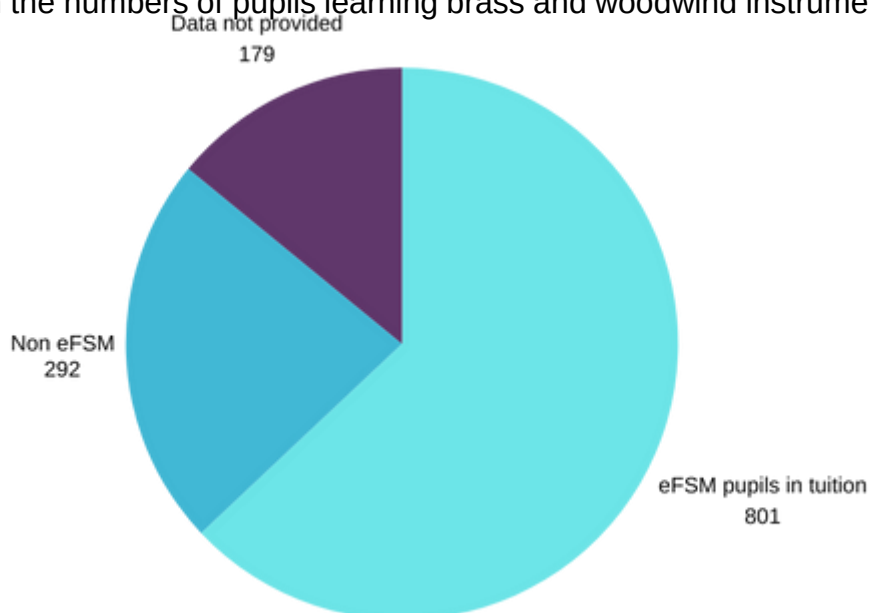


Camau Cerdd - Music Steps 1272 Pupils

Camau Cerdd – Music Steps

A significant challenge remains in the area of supporting children from low-income families, and the development of the Camau Cerdd / Music Steps programme that seeks to support continuation on to group lessons, with a particular focus on supporting children from low-income households is now contributing to the increase in pupil numbers illustrated above.

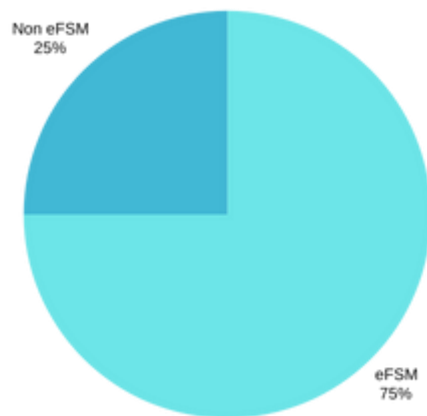
Feedback from schools following initial First Experiences projects quickly identified that whilst there was a huge appetite for pupils to experience music making, a major challenge would be the transition to a group lesson that would allow progression. The Camau Cerdd initiative has focussed on providing an offer of a particular range of instruments that are 'endangered'. During 23-24, 23 schools received projects, impacting on 1272 children. Several schools have opted to continue with the project beyond the funded sessions as an affordable way to support music lessons for pupils, and as a result of this we have seen a considerable increase in the numbers of pupils learning brass and woodwind instruments.





Supporting Health and Wellbeing through music

It is crucial to support our children and young people whose emotional, social and physical well-being have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Supporting their recovery requires a variety of interventions and central to this is the vision set out in the Health and Well-being Area of Learning and Experience.



Music therapy

Music therapy continues to be a very sought after service provided through Cf Music. The programme is currently being provided to 12 schools across Cardiff, with a focus on supporting children and young people from the Ely Caerau area. The counselling impacted on **189** children during last academic year, and the project is increasing its reach to more schools between now and the end of the financial year.

Soundworks

Our weekly community music sessions for adults with learning disabilities and complex needs has been running for many years. In the autumn the sessions transferred from St David's Hall to Western Leisure Centre to enable us to continue the programme. 27 adults have accessed the sessions to date and also participated in concerts to celebrate their achievements.



Making music with others- Ensembles and groups



The music service continues to offer a broad range of opportunities for making music with others through its 16 bands, choirs and ensembles. Since the launch of the plan ensemble numbers have increased to 692 and 4 new ensembles have been developed.

A particular success has been the establishment of the 'Starters Ensemble' that was developed specifically to create a space where absolute beginners emerging from the First Experiences programme could make music in a relaxed and fun environment whilst building on fundamental skills. New intermediate groups catering for strings and wind players have also provided additional support, and in partnership with neighbouring music services across the south east region a National Music Service Regional Choir has been established.

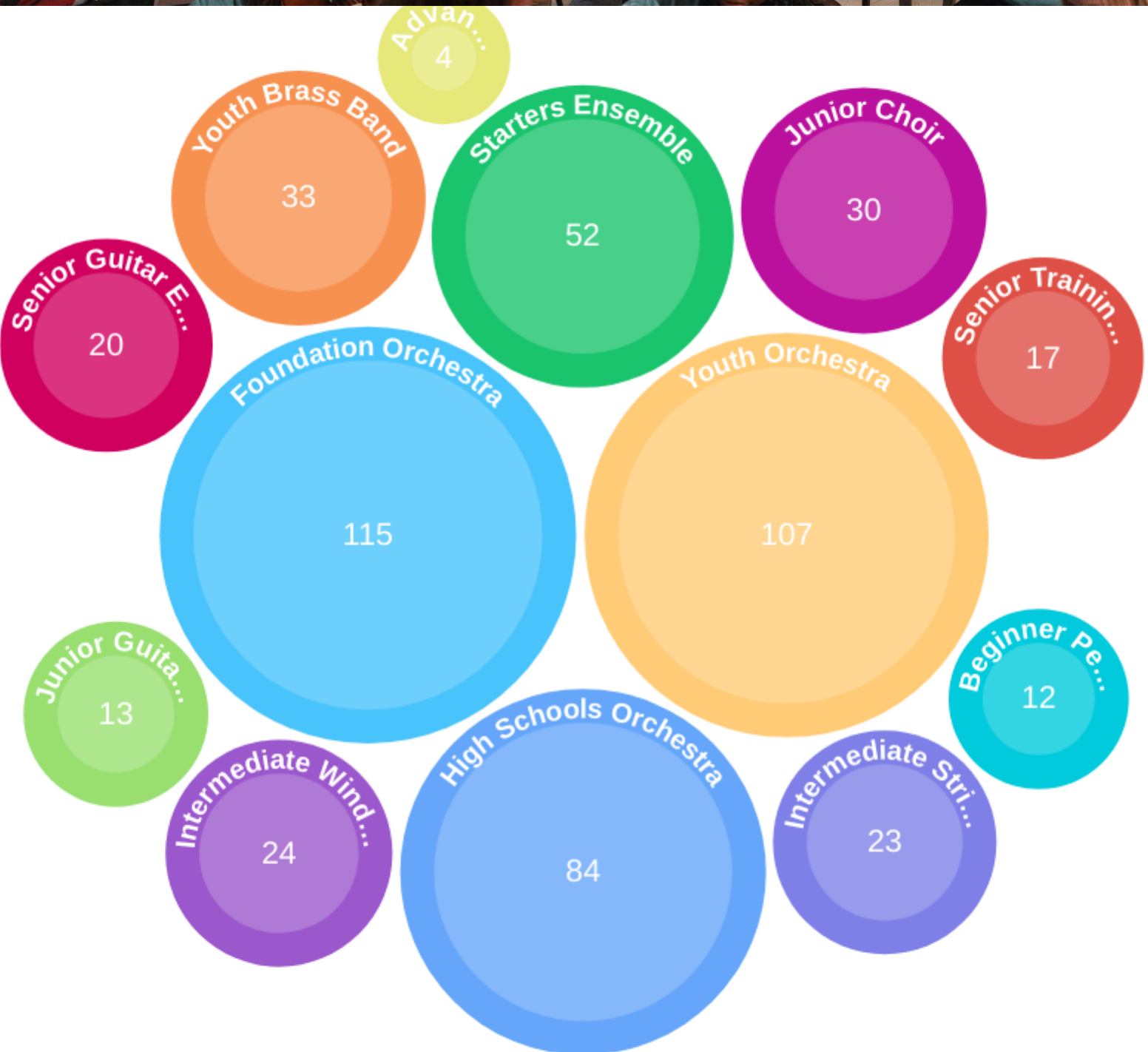
As part of the 'Little Gigs' programme, 'Band in a day' workshops allowed musicians from schools across Cardiff and the Vale to come together and form new bands. These went on to perform at the Clwb Ifor Bach event, and some to the main Cardiff Music City Festival. Students from Cardiff and the Vale ensembles make up over 40% of National Youth Arts Wales Ensembles, and the number is growing steadily.

The Youth Ensembles continue to perform highly accomplished concerts and take part in National competitions and festivals, as well as tour both in the UK and abroad. The Youth Orchestra most recently returning from a successful tour to Italy.

2025 will see both the High Schools Orchestra and the Youth Orchestra celebrate 50 years of existence. Plans are afoot to mark the special occasions with performances of significant works in Llandaff Cathedral and BBC Hoddinott Hall.

Cf Music Ensembles

569
pupils



New for 2024 to 25, our Young Musicians Academi provides an exciting range of bespoke activities that support and develop a rounded musical experience for young musicians wishing to develop their potential to the highest level.

Designed and delivered in partnership with musicians from the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Welsh National Opera, and those with experience in teaching at conservatoire level. The programme will provide students with the pathway they need to find their own musical voice and direction.

The programme includes:

- Musicianship / workshop sessions (theory, aural, composition and song-writing),
- Tuition Extra, our programme of extra individual music lessons,
- Chamber music coaching
- Improvisation/jazz development programme
- Mini Music

It is based across three locations: Stanwell School Penarth, (Saturdays only), Whitchurch High School (Lower Site) and Chapter Arts Centre.

The Academi launched on September 21st with just 11 students enrolled. It now has 77 students taking part in lessons, musicianship classes, workshops and masterclasses.

The sessions are being delivered by 18 musicians who have joined us from the form RWCMD staff, made up of exceptionally talented players from the BBC NOW, WNO and other orchestras, and chamber and soloist backgrounds.



CF Music forward plan 2025-2028

The key priority for the service for the next 3 years will be to continue to grow and develop on our goal of providing diverse, inclusive access to a range of musical opportunities for the all children and young people of Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Much will be determined by the expectations set out within the term and conditions of the grant provided in support of the delivery of the National Plan for Music Education, whilst aligning and supporting the Cardiff Music Strategy and other local initiatives.

Teaching and learning priorities:

Priority 1: Increase Primary School and setting support: Ensuring all schools and settings have access to provision, resources and training to support music within the expressive arts AoLE.

The First experiences programme of work will ensure that every child and young person has an equal opportunity to play, sing, take part in and create music in primary schools and settings. The programme of work will provide opportunities for children to experience a wide range of instruments and styles of music. Schools and settings can use these opportunities to support their delivery of the curriculum by providing an inspirational starting point for the enjoyment of music.

We will offer provision to all schools and settings across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan

- We will build on schools'/settings' existing provision, ensuring that every child has opportunities to play, sing, take part in and create music,
- We will deliver inclusive face-to-face and/or online musical experiences that will encompass a wide range of instruments and genres/styles of music, informed by the voice of children and young people
- We will provide opportunities to experience music-making and develop creative, transferable skills through instrumental, vocal, compositional or music technology-based sessions, to large groups or whole classes
- This will be delivered through instrumental, vocal, compositional or music technology-based sessions, to large groups or whole classes
- This will be delivered through a 'team-teaching' approach that will support classroom and music service tutors' professional learning, provide access to professional learning materials for schools and opportunities for mentoring and support schools and settings to consistently explore diversity in music from a wider range of genres across the world.

Priority 2: Increase Secondary schools, special schools and other education settings (11 to 16): Ensuring all schools and settings have access to provision, resources and training to support music within the expressive arts AoLE.

The Music pathways programme of work will provide children and young people with music-making activities to support their health and well-being, as well as giving opportunities for those who wish to progress and pursue a career in the creative industries.

- We will work with all schools and settings to address gaps in theoretical knowledge, rudimentary musical understanding and compositional skills required for further study
- We will ensure that those learners from low-income households wishing to pursue practical or theoretical music examinations have access to appropriate lesson durations to support progression, and financial support with examination fees
- We will ensure, ensure that there are no barriers for children and young people from under-represented groups that children and young people have access to the use of appropriate specialist instruments or equipment to help further their progression
- We will ensure children and young people with ALN needs have access to adaptive instruments or equipment where required to support tuition
- We will support school practitioners through access to music activities to improve their health and well-being
- We will work with local authorities and a wide range of partners to ensure that opportunities to experience the joy of music-making, in and outside of school, are well signposted and integrated into the music service delivery
- We will support music services with professional learning, focusing on both music therapy and music as an intervention to support improving mental health and well-being.

Priority 3: : Improving equity, diversity and inclusion Schools, settings and wider communities

Provide opportunities to specialise in playing a musical instrument, singing, composing and engaging in creative activities, it is important to address barriers for children and young people from low-income households, as well as those from disadvantaged or under-represented groups, to access music tuition and experience live music.

- We will expand the opportunities for young people's voices to influence the music education offer through establishing a young person's forum to determine the focus of the priorities for the music service
- We will increase the engagement of young people from under-represented groups to sing, play, take part and create music both in and outside of school
- We will signpost children and young people from under-represented groups to existing and new opportunities to support them in creating and making music with others
- We will ensure that opportunities to perform together with others are representative of local cultures and community, as well as cultures from across the world

Priority 4: Professional learning support for music services, classroom practitioners and wider music education partners

- We will develop a programme of consistent support to music service practitioners in line with the delivery of the plan to schools and settings
- We will ensure that the design and delivery of the First experiences programme of work aligns closely with Curriculum for Wales
- We will ensure that the group and individual music tuition offer to children and young people is consistent, and of the highest quality, through monitoring and support of teaching and learning music
- We will ensure the digital resource platform that will support music services to meet the opportunities and overcome challenges of scaling up access to musical instrument learning and harnessing digital technology.
- We will work with Curriculum team, Arts Active and Central South and partnerships to develop professional learning materials to support the First experiences programme of work and make these available through Hwb and provide networking and development opportunities across the sector that align with the objectives of this plan and support Curriculum for Wales

Priority 5: Music for lifelong learning, health and well-being Schools, settings and wider communities

Work with schools and settings, and adult support services to develop delivery of music activities focusing on well-being. The whole school approach programme will support schools in accessing music therapy and well-being activities that enhance children's and young people's mental health.

The programme will work in partnership with a range of organisations to signpost and develop opportunities for children and young people, together with professional musicians, to perform and make connections with health and care facilities.

- We will support school practitioners through access to music activities to improve their health and well-being
- We will work with a wide range of partners to ensure that opportunities to experience the joy of music-making, in and outside of school, are well signposted and integrated into the music service delivery
- We will support schools and settings with professional learning, focusing on both music therapy and music as an intervention to support improving mental health and well-being.



Enrolment is open at
cfmusiceducation.co.uk

For more information and registration enquiries, please visit us online at www.cfmusiceducation.co.uk, or email us at cfmusiceducation@cardiff.gov.uk

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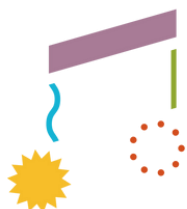
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