



School Music Conference

24th January 2018

Workshop Leader - Biographies

Jenni Axtell

Since studying music at Lancaster University and in London, Jenni has taught for over 30 years in schools around the Midlands. She now works as a freelance musician and teacher, based in a studio at Hereford Academy of Dance. Her work promoting singing around the county schools has led to her being asked to lead part of the National Singing Strategy in Herefordshire. Over 2000 4-16 year olds have taken part annually in a county-wide project; Sing Spring In is now in its fifth year. She is a partner in ABF Music who have been commissioned by Encore Enterprises to deliver Sing Spring In 2018. ABF Music is also Herefordshire's Champion for BBC Music's Ten Pieces and they deliver musical workshops around the county, including annual work with school children at Hellens Music festival in Much Marcle.

Madeleine Casson



Madeleine Casson is Education Director at Charanga, the UK's leading provider of music education technology and digital resources for schools. Madeleine is responsible for all areas of teaching and learning and the company's extensive CPD & Training programme. Madeleine also works nationally and internationally as a presenter, workshop leader, music advisor, teacher and writer both on a freelance basis and for ABRSM.

Before Charanga, Madeleine spent many years teaching in schools and leading Somerset Music Service before being appointed as Course Leader & Academic Lead for Trinity College London. Madeleine strongly believes in the positive benefits that music has on our lives and is an advocate for access to exciting and creative music making for everyone.

Sigrun Saevarsdottir-Griffiths (Keynote Speaker)



Sigrún Sævarsdóttir-Griffiths has led a successful freelance career spanning 20 years, as a leader of creative and collaborative music projects in a vast range of community contexts for arts and higher education organisations across England, Europe and Asia.

Sigrun is Course Leader of the Masters in Leadership Course at the Guildhall, where she also lectures and tutors within the Music, Acting and Technical Theatre Courses.

Sigrun tutors on the Music, Society and Education Course at the Iceland Arts Academy and has led independent professional training courses in Reykjavik each summer since 2006.



Sigrun is a multi-instrumentalist who specialises in the facilitation of collaborative music making within specialist arts environments as well as community contexts, particularly with vulnerable children and adults.

Sigrun leads the Messengers, a 25-piece band of Guildhall students and service users from St Mungos Homeless Charity. The Messengers recorded with Alexis Taylor for David Byrne's record label, Luaka Bop, in the summer of 2017. That same summer they played their debut gig at the Jazz Café and performed to an audience of 19,000 at the Walthamstow Garden Party.

Sigrun is passionate about enabling music making and access to the arts as an essential, unifying element of life in every community.

Mark Loveday

Mark is Assistant Headteacher and Head of School Support and Outreach Services at Chadsgrove Teaching School Alliance, where he leads a multi-disciplinary team providing specialist teaching and health services across Worcestershire. He is a Specialist Leader of Education (SEND) and draws upon many years of experience of working as a teacher, SENCo, leader and specialist teacher working with a range of children and young adults with a variety of additional needs. He has worked across all Key Stages from Early Years through to Post 16 in a variety of settings including mainstream, specialist provision and hospital settings.

Anna Martin

Anna Martin is a freelance musician and music leader working in early years and primary education. She has devised and led a range of music projects, and has worked as a musician in a range of education settings across the West Midlands. Anna plays the violin, piano and ukulele, and sings with two lively bands in her spare time. Currently she is delivering regular music sessions at a number of primary schools, pre-schools and toddler groups, and running annual cluster school music festivals across Worcestershire.

Mark Sanderson

Mark has been working for many years as a consultant in Herefordshire primary schools, championing the cause of all things relating to computing in learning and teaching. He is a well-known and respected face in Herefordshire schools. Mark has a passion for introducing new ways of doing old things, and using technology to motivate children to learn. He has spent his entire professional career in primary education (and most of his life as a musician beyond work). A large portion of his time spent working with schools of late has been around the implementation of tablet technology into the classroom. The workshops that Mark is offering today are all based around techniques that work in primary schools but many of them will easily be extended in KS3 and even KS4.



Stephanie Wellings

Steph has 13 years of experience working with pupils aged 2 to 19 with a wide range of physical disabilities, sensory impairments, complex medical needs and learning difficulties. She is a Specialist Leader of Education (Music and SEND) and works in a variety of Worcestershire schools delivering inclusive Music projects. Steph originally trained as a Secondary Music Teacher and following experience in mainstream settings completed a Masters in Community Music. This led to her passion for working alongside pupils with SEND and her current role as the Music teacher at Chads Grove School, an outstanding Special School in Worcestershire.

Bym Welthy



Music has always been a big part of my life, but always in an informal way. I played Bass guitar in a couple of college bands and then at uni became a bedroom DJ. A few years after that, in 1995, I joined a community samba band: Repercussion Street Band. I played snare drum for them for a couple of years and met some inspiring teachers along the way: Sam Alexander, Adrian Wiggins, Tim Hindes, Colin Diamond, and Geba Goncalves, from the world of samba, Wendy Brown from The Sage Gateshead, Pete Moser from More Music Morecombe as well as attending a couple of STOMP workshops. I have performed with many different percussion Bands from Phase II at Trinidad's carnival and London School of Samba at Notting Hill Carnival to Llansadwrn village Fete. I started teaching others rhythms in 1999 for a millennium project then in 2002 I turned my hobby into a vocation and became a full time Community Musician.

My "Plastic Band" is my favourite and most versatile set of equipment. It is a set of upcycled plastic bottles, buckets and barrels fashioned to emulate the instruments of a North Brazilian samba reggae band and can be used to produce some intricate Afro Brazilian polyrhythms, or to thump along to nursery rhymes, or anything in between.

Max Wheeler

Max is a musician/producer, consultant, author and youth music tutor, specialising in Hip Hop & electronic music, soundtracks, remixes and peer-to-peer education projects.

He has worked with Charanga to create VIP Studio Sessions – a groundbreaking new way to teach at KS3 & KS4

He has conducted thousands of workshops across the country teaching Rap, beatmaking, songwriting and production to everyone from inmates and young offenders to social workers and in primary schools, special needs projects and community groups. His work on lyric writing with young people has been highlighted in a peer-reviewed journal by academic Luke Dickens.



As a recording artist on [Gilles Peterson's Brownswood label](#). Max is one half of duo Anushka with [over 3 million plays online](#), an album and world tour in 2014/15 and Radio 1 plaudits from Annie Mac, Skream and others.

Roger Wiebkin

Roger is Learning and Development Manager for Herefordshire Music Service/Encore Enterprises CIC. His responsibilities include managing the team of Wider Opportunities tutors and supporting the development of the Herefordshire Music Education Hub.

Roger has enjoyed a teaching career encompassing a variety of educational settings. As a music specialist, he has taught across the age-range from reception to sixth-form. His previous roles include Faculty Head for Performing Arts at a Leicestershire high school, Director of Music at independent junior schools and music coordinator at state primary schools.

Roger joined Herefordshire Music Service in September 2011 as a Wider Opportunities tutor, becoming Wider Opportunities Manager in September 2014. He took up his present post in September 2015.