




IMPACT REPORT 23/24

MUSIC FOR MINIATURES CIO

Live classical music for young audiences

www.musicforminiatures.co.uk


Registered Charity Number 1184284



Music for Miniatures brings the joy of professional classical music right to your doorstep, **creating special moments for children aged 0-11 and their families within their own communities.**

Our concerts are crafted with little ones in mind, but they do so much more than entertain. We're here to **support your child's growth, boost your well-being as a parent, and help weave stronger community bonds.**

When we visit schools, we're on a mission to **enrich young lives. We're planting seeds of wonder, nurturing curiosity, and kindling a love for the arts that we hope will last a lifetime.**



Music for Miniatures stands out as a unique beacon in the South West, **exclusively dedicated to bringing the wonder of classical music to our youngest listeners.**

We're not just about music; we're about breaking barriers.

We take pride in being the **SOLE organisation** bringing live classical music to families in areas of higher deprivation where cultural experiences might be harder to come by.

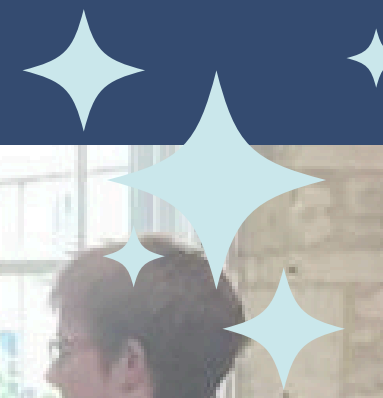


We predominantly work across **Bristol area, Wiltshire, Somerset, B&NES, and Gloucestershire.**

Over **40 local professional musicians** work with us, sharing their talents and inspiring the next generation with a variety of instruments and styles.

Music for Miniatures started giving concerts in October 2014, became a CIC in February 2016 and converted to a Registered Charity in July 2019

Our work falls into 3 strands:



Baby-friendly concerts

Our baby-friendly concerts cater to children aged 0-4 and their families, creating a supportive and relaxed environment for experiencing professional performances.

These concerts take place in various locations including Bristol, Bath, Wiltshire, Somerset, and Gloucestershire. They provide an atmosphere where young children can engage with music naturally, without the usual constraints of formal concerts.

Our skilled professional musicians specialise in creating immersive and interactive musical experiences. They engage even the youngest audience members, fostering early appreciation for classical music.

Theatrical chamber music

Our theatrical chamber music shows blend classical music with storytelling and visual elements.

These multi-sensory performances make classical music more approachable and engaging for young audiences, sparking imagination and fostering appreciation for the art form.

Performances in schools

Our tours across the UK aim to enrich the musical experience of students and spark their interest in exploring music further.

Through these engaging visits, we hope to plant seeds of musical curiosity that may grow into lifelong passions.



Our performances benefit:

Children

Live classical music nurtures **cognitive development, sensory awareness, emotional expression, and language skills, while fostering family bonding and a lifelong appreciation for the arts**



Parents & Carers

Our concerts enhance **parent wellbeing, offering a blend of enjoyment and relaxation while creating cherished moments of connection between parents and children**



Communities

Our concerts enrich local cultural offerings by **bringing communities together** through shared experiences fostering neighbourhood connections



Schools

Our school visits **inspire both staff and students** through engaging, interactive performances, bringing the excitement of live classical music directly into educational settings.

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*“We think there is **great benefit** in our daughter being exposed to as many live performances as possible. In particular, we enjoy the **calming effect** of classical music, as well as the **educational tilt** regarding the various instruments, that Music for Miniatures provides.”*

Audience member

Projects

Monthly ticketed concerts

We **expanded our reach** to include Bristol as well as Bath for our monthly ticketed concerts. The new venue has been **hugely successful** and has enabled us to **benefit families further afield**. We continue to feature a wide range of instruments as well as an annual jazz concert and sell-out brass quintet Christmas concerts.

Mini tours during school holidays

A Musical Zoo toured to **4 venues** in October half term along with Bubble Bach. We developed a **new programme** for 0-4's, Under The Sea which was performed at **8 venues** in August reaching **60% new audiences**. We also developed another new show, The Owl & The Pussycat (aimed at ages 3-) which toured to **4 venues** during the summer.

Bubble Bach

Bubble Bach is a stunning combination of live music by JS Bach (performed oboe, violin and piano) and jaw-dropping bubble art. Our most popular show continued to wow audiences across the country. Developed in partnership with [Mirabelle Arts](#), this **“utterly breathtaking”** performance has been touring since July 2020. Bookings come from schools, nurseries, and even day care centres and care homes for the elderly.

Pay What You Decide

Our Pay What You Decide concerts expanded to now include **9 areas of high deprivation enabling families to access live music with no financial barrier**. We are hugely proud of our achievement and plan to continue this important project into 24/25. **We have a separate impact report for this project.** Please contact us if you'd like a copy.

Live music in schools

Live music in schools is so rare and we continue to be **one of the very few providers offering concerts for schools**. We visit schools across the country with our Bubble Bach show, Paddington's First Concert and a wide range of musicians to demonstrate their instruments and give interactive concerts that appeal to EYFS, KS1 and KS2.

The Snowman

This was the **fourth year** we've toured our Christmas Celebration. With permission from Snowman Enterprises Ltd we toured our small scale theatrical performance of Twas The Night Before Christmas and The Snowman. With 2 actors, puppets and piano the show **continues to delight audiences with “pure magic”** and in 23/24, we gave 22 performances at 6 schools and 6 public venues, reaching **over 1890 people**.



*“We love seeing the live music, my son loves it too. The concerts are **always different and fun with a relaxed atmosphere**. It's also **really good value for money** for a unique experience. I'm so happy you've started doing concerts nearer to me”*

Audience member

Inclusive and Accessible

Music for Miniatures champions inclusivity, ensuring live classical music is accessible to EVERYONE.

Our innovative Pay What You Decide concerts focus on areas facing economic challenges. Our performances reached communities across **9 areas of high deprivation** – Twerton (Bath), Keynsham, Radstock, Trowbridge, Melksham, Chippenham, Hartcliffe (Bristol), Southmead (Bristol) and Barton Hill (Bristol) with multiple visits throughout the year. The initiative received **an enthusiastic response, drawing sizeable and appreciative crowds**. Notably, these concerts introduced 60% of attendees to their **first live classical music experience, broadening cultural horizons in these communities**



100%

reported a positive impact on parent and child wellbeing.

would like to see more of our concerts in their community in the future.



“

*“I completely understand and appreciate **the value** of exposing young children to **“real” live music** as much as possible.*

*Seeing them soak it in is **simply a joy!** Thank you!” Audience member*





Gave over
139
live performances

Including our ticketed concerts, Pay What You Decide concerts, Mini Tours, Bubble Bach, Schools performances, and many others!

Reached over
12,165
babies, toddlers,
children and adults



Worked in **29**
different community
venues

Communities we visited: Bath, Bradford on Avon, Bristol, Calne, Chepstow, Chew Magna, Chippenham, Chipping Sodbury, Devizes, Frome, Keynsham, Larkhall, Melksham, Nailsea, Oldfield Park, Portishead, Radstock, Street, Tetbury, Trowbridge, Twerton.

2023/2024
in figures

Visited **28**
different schools and
performed to
5366 school
children



*The Pay What You Decide concerts increase cultural awareness and offer an experience that many wouldn't have the **opportunity** to have.*
Audience member

Pay What You Decide
Concerts impact

819 adults and children with
no financial barrier
18 baby-friendly concerts
9 areas of high
deprivation



Partnerships

We have developed a thriving partnership with **Tetbury Goods Shed** and **Valley Arts**, providing bi-monthly baby-friendly concerts for them in Tetbury and Chew Magna.

Our relationship with local professional chamber orchestra **The Bristol Ensemble** continues to grow. They provide musicians for some of our ticketed concerts in Bristol and we have multiple future collaborations in the pipeline.

We delivered performances on behalf of **Wiltshire Music Connect**, taking our high quality live classical music to schools across Wiltshire.

An exciting partnership for 24/25 is with **Bath Festivals** where we will work together to produce family concerts as well as broadening our reach to even more primary schools and 3 secondary schools.



“To be able to be in a format that is **inclusive** and you don't feel guilty about making noise and getting up and moving around is so important. The **accessibility** is great.” Audience member



Organisation development

The charity has continued to expand this year, increasing the hours of the Artistic Director, continuing to provide admin assistance, a freelance fundraiser and a marketing consultant whilst also being in a strong position to make strategic decisions about the next few years.

We continue to rely on ticket sales, donations and income from grant-making organisations to fund our work.

We strive to reduce our carbon footprint by using only local professional musicians and by taking our concerts out of the city centre to more communities where audiences can access our events by foot or bicycle.



What next?

24/25 will be another exciting year for Music for Miniatures as we continue to solidify the foundations of our work across all our venues, schools and touring work.

We will continue to provide the highest quality live music to young audiences and families and strive to reach even more people.

Developing partnerships will take us into new territory and will give more children and families the opportunity to experience the benefits of live classical music.

*“We absolutely loved today!
Yet again another fabulous,
engaging, educational concert for
not only my little one but me too!
Amazing to see such incredible
instruments up close and
personal and played so
captivatingly.”*



From the trustees

For many children the music they love growing up will be a part of the narrative of their lives. **The shared experience of live music performances from inspirational professional musicians, in a relaxed atmosphere gives lasting memories for both young children and adult family members.**

The Trustees are very proud of the family experiences that Music for Miniatures presents, reaching more people than ever this year has not been easy and it is only thanks to our audiences and supporters (listed at the end of this document) that we can continue to expand and reach wider communities. Our improved (anonymous) data gathering at concerts shows we are reaching many families who have never experienced live classical music. Our Pay What You Decide initiative means that ALL families can attend with no financial barriers.

We are looking forward to an exciting 2024/2025 with more concerts reaching more people and more children inspired. This is only possible with funding and we are very grateful to those institutions who help us, partner with us and share our vision.

The Trustees are particularly proud of our Artistic Director, Julie Payne – a whirlwind of ideas and enthusiasm, she is committed to and expert in bringing the excitement of live music to young families in an accessible and inclusive form.

Martyn Harries - Chair of Trustees



Thank you

Without the support of so many, Music for Miniatures simply couldn't achieve anything. We'd particularly like to thank:

- The Joyce Fletcher Charitable Trust their continued financial support and for believing that music can make a real difference to children.
- Lady Evelyn Strasburger for her continued support and for her hard work to champion live music in schools
- Quartet Community Foundation, Wiltshire Community Foundation, National Lottery Community Fund and The Paragon Trust for funding our Pay What You Decide 23/24 concerts.
- Our amazing audience who have continued to support us throughout the year.
- Our volunteers who help out at concerts and make our events as welcoming as possible.

We firmly believe that live music makes a huge difference to children and families.

We will continue to strive to bring high quality live music to every child throughout the next year, and beyond.

Thank you,

Julie Payne - Artistic Director

”

*“Music can bring much joy in life. If children are able to hear different types of music and instruments then this is opening up **interests** and **opportunities** for them in the future.”*

Audience member

Trustees:

Martyn Harries

Adele Haysom MBE

Ben Hargreaves

Gill Jones MBE

Charlie Hum

Kate Jordan

FIND OUT MORE:

www.musicforminiatures.co.uk

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