

# Perth Chamber Music School Workshop Programme

## River Earn Project: March 2023

### End of Project Report



The following report describes the series of music workshops by Sequoia Duo in March 2023 in primary schools in West Perthshire. It shows the creativity of the musicians and the schools and the enthusiastic engagement of the children. It confirms the importance of such events to give children the chance to listen to live music, particularly at a time of great pressure on education resources.

## **Organisation**

This week-long project has been a first collaboration between, and organised by, Perth Chamber Music and Strathearn Music Society. It was made possible by a number of generous grants, donations and contributions, acknowledged later in this report.

## **Schools**

Sequoia Violin and Cello Duo visited the following primary schools on, or close to, the River Earn: Muthill; Madderty; Comrie; Auchterarder; Dunning; Blackford; Crieff; St. Dominic's, Crieff; Aberuthven and Braco.

## **Children**

Differently-tailored sessions reached the full age-range from Nursery to P7. An estimated 400 children took part during the week.

## **Format**

Eight of the workshops were live, face-to-face events. The other two were delivered on-line through Teams. All the sessions carried a green message about pollution and habitat and were designed to tie in with the Arts and Environmental elements of the schools' curriculum.





## Activities

Activities included: music and movement; musical games; improvisation and composition from the random patterns of bottle tops dropped by the children; singalong; sensory listening and discussion – (“that music made me think of neeps and tatties!”); art from recycling to the accompaniment of a cello suite by Bach, the great musical recycler!

Preparatory online materials were sent to the schools ahead of the workshop week to stimulate discussion and ideas. Classes were then able to use home-made instruments and percussion during their workshop. Children who already played their own instruments were also invited to bring them along.



## **Spin-offs**

One school had a regular link with a neighbouring care home. Its workshop was relayed live online to the residents there.

The final workshop of the week was rounded off with a performance by the school's own violin group.

Wednesday was World Water Day and Sequoia were joined by Kirsty Crawford of the Marine Conservation Society for both morning and afternoon sessions.

Connections were made to other school activities, such as the Big Litter Pick.

## **Feedback**

Schools were asked to supply feedback on their workshops. The following is a selection of quotes from children, teachers, support staff, headteachers and Sequoia.

"We loved joining in"

"It was all relevant to our current learning"

"The workshop was extremely well-organised, engaging and interactive"

"It was fun 'cos we got to play our own instruments"

"The live music was truly inspirational"

"We had great discussions surrounding the activities we were to complete prior to the visit"

"Being there allowed the children to experience live chamber music and us to feed off their energy and enthusiasm"

"The nursery class listened really attentively"

"I've never met anyone famous before!" (The Duo loved that one!)

"We would love to take part in future projects"

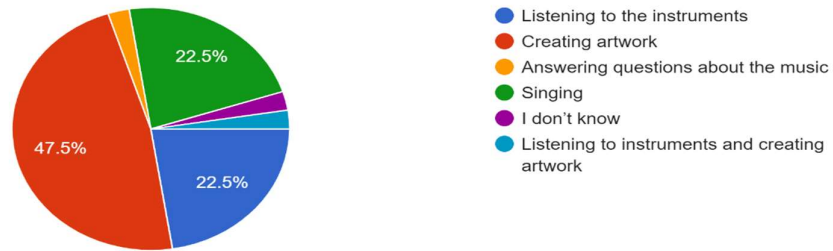
"A huge thank you to the Sequoia musicians"

"Many thanks to Perth Chamber Music and Strathearn Music Society for organising the workshops and securing the funding to make them possible"



One school developed its own response form and the children gave their feedback as a pie chart. One “Boring” was outweighed by a chorus of “Amazing”. Some of the schools posted reports on their websites and newsletters for families.

What was your favourite part of the workshop?  
40 responses



## Thanks

To The Thomson Trust; R J Larg Family Trust; The Gannochy Trust; Chamber Music Scotland and Creative Scotland; Perth and Kinross Education Department; Individual Society members.

To the schools and children who took part and to Allan Young of the Educational Department for facilitating the week

To Kirsty Crawford of the Marine Conservation Society

To Sonia Cromarty and Alice Rickards, Sequoia Duo

