



e Orchestra of the
Age of Enlightenment

EDUCATION

2023 / 24 Review

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The OAE is a Registered Charity No. 295329
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INTRODUCTION

Over the past twenty-five years, our Education department has grown in stature and reach to involve thousands of people nationwide in creative music projects. Our participants come from a wide range of backgrounds and we pride ourselves in working flexibly, adapting to the needs of local people and the places where they live. The extensive partnerships we have built up over many years across the country ensure maximum and lasting impact for all those who work with us.

We take inspiration from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment's repertoire, instruments and players. This makes for a vibrant, challenging and engaging programme where everyone is involved; players, animateurs, composers, participants, teachers, partners and stakeholders all have a valued voice.

Our Mission

We believe that the OAE is a leading voice in the orchestral education sector. We will always strive to develop our partnerships so that the broadest, most diverse communities may enjoy and experience the arts.



OUR REACH

OAE North

County Durham, East Riding and Yorkshire

OAE East

Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Norfolk

OAE West

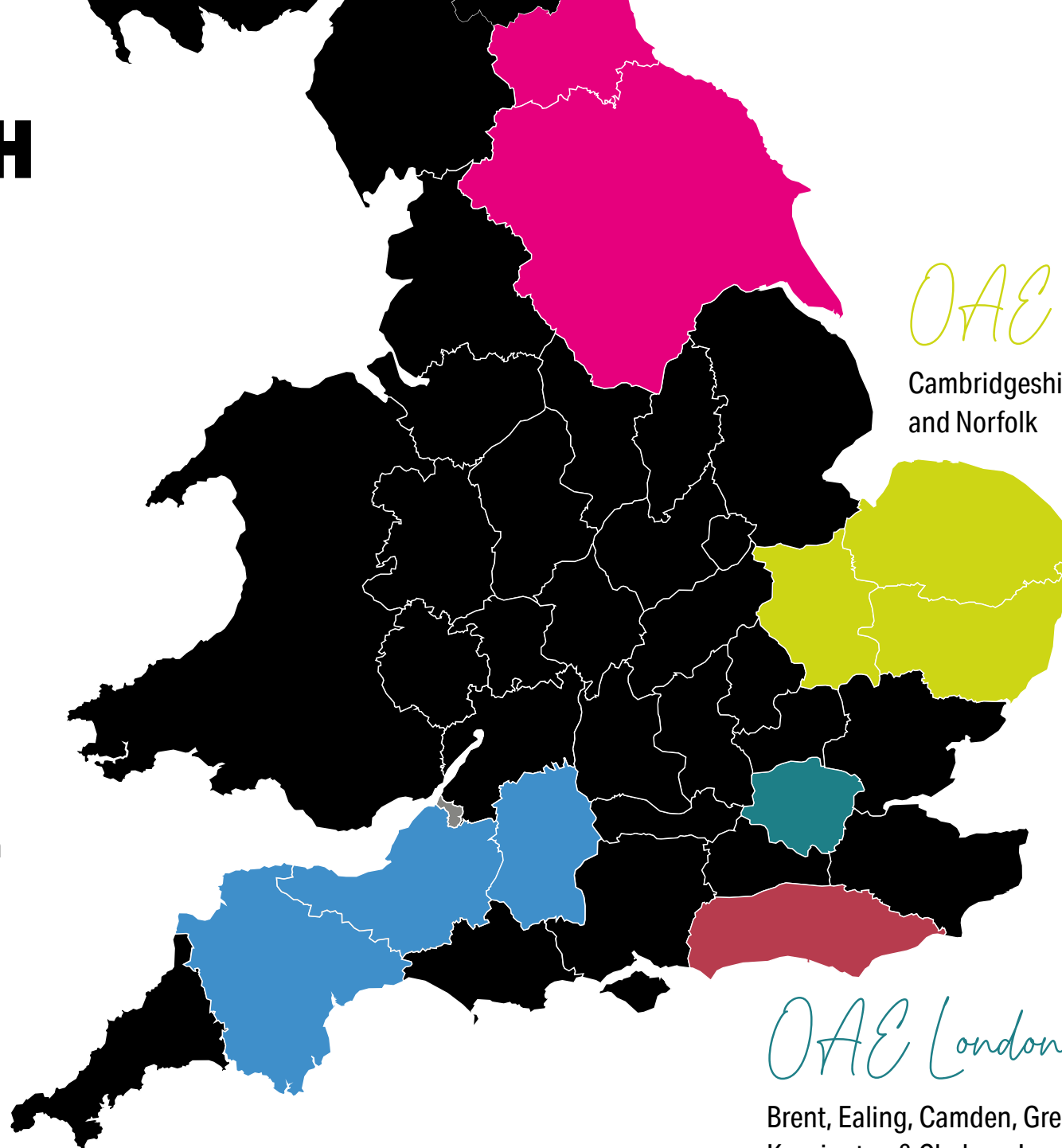
Wiltshire, Somerset and Plymouth

OAE South

Brighton and Hove

OAE London

Brent, Ealing, Camden, Greenwich, Harrow, Kensington & Chelsea, Lambeth, Newham, Merton and Wandsworth



LOUDER!

What I love about the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment is the rich and varied repertoire, fascinating season themes, wonderful instruments and most importantly, the people who make up the OAE, from players to management and Board to our fabulous supporters and volunteers. Having our home base at Acland Burghley School is also a gift – every day we mix with the school community and music has become the soundtrack of the playground.

Each year our OAE Education programme seems to grow and flourish and 2023 / 24 has been no exception with thousands of young people from across the country, as well as the youngest (and oldest!) music lovers joining us for creative projects inspired by the music performed by the OAE.

One of many highlights of the year for me was our performance as part of the OAE's Southbank Centre season of *The Fairy Queen: Three Wishes*, a beautiful new imagining of this famous story by Hazel Gould and James Redwood and not forgetting Henry Purcell! We were joined by nearly 200 performers on stage including our fabulous soloists Kirsty Hopkins, Simone Ibbett Brown, Tim Dickinson and Adam Courting, a 90 strong primary chorus from three Camden primary schools, nine primary child actors, a community choir from across our national residencies, dancers and musicians from Acland Burghley and Northgate secondary schools as well as the OAE.

We are thrilled that we have been awarded a strategic touring grant from Arts Council England (ACE) to support us to take this project on tour to County Durham, York, King's Lynn, Plymouth, Wiltshire and Lincolnshire over the next three years – what a treat for thousands more people to experience this magical work!

We also look forward to bringing our next community opera *The Magic Flute and the Bird That Would Be Free* to the Queen Elizabeth Hall on 26 June 2025. Another wonderful adaptation by Hazel Gould and James Redwood, intertwined by the brilliance of Mozart's original masterpiece. Do join us to see whether Kirsty, our bird can be set free. With the Queen of the Night's trials whatever could go wrong?

We have called this season Louder! – from the Beginnings and Endings of the OAE's season to the huge amount of work the OAE does on, off and around the platform we must shout loudly for the transformative power of the arts, every day and everywhere.

And finally, a huge thank you to everyone who has taken part in our OAE Education programme during 2023 / 24 and to those who support it and to those who come to listen to our work. As we move into the OAE's season of Enigmas may 2024 / 25 be 'Full of Surprises' for us all!

CHERRY FORBES
Education Director





2023 / 24 IN NUMBERS

23,252 Participants

14,463 Live audience

63 Concerts

381 Workshops

48 Primary schools

4 Secondary schools

6 SEN settings

3 University settings

in *26* towns / cities / villages across England

FLAGSHIP

The Fairy Queen: Three Wishes

Building on the success of *The Moon Hares* in 2022, we expanded our existing Fairy Queen projects into an exciting new community opera, created collaboratively with communities across the UK. Composer James Redwood and writer Hazel Gould wove their creative magic, seamlessly blending the story of Shakespeare and music of Henry Purcell's 1692 opera into a magical new adventure for the whole family. Our reimagining of Purcell's *The Fairy Queen: Three Wishes* is about wishes that come true, and what happens when they do, as we learn about friendship, love and telling the truth...

From Hazel:

'Welcome to the Magical Forest. As you make your way through it you'll soon discover that the journey to the Fairy Queen's Party is not a straightforward path. Strange things happen all around as sprites and pixies enchant and trick, but the only real obstacle is ourselves'.

In January 2024 the OAE were joined on stage by performers from Camden and our national residencies, showcasing a diverse group of individuals with varying abilities united in the celebration of the collective power of music-making. We had dancers and musicians from Acland Burghley and Northgate secondary schools, a primary choir made up of students from three of our Camden partner primary schools and a community choir made up of singers from across the country and of course the OAE – 191 performers in all – an OAE record!

We are delighted that we have been awarded a grant from Arts Council England (ACE) to support this project to tour to Country Durham, York, King's Lynn, Wiltshire, Plymouth and Lincolnshire over the next three years. Each performance will be different and what a wonderful way to celebrate the diverse communities we work with.

"I loved the dancers from Acland Burghley Secondary School. It was surprising to see how good they were when they're just a bit older than us!"

PRIMARY PUPIL

"I didn't expect the lady playing *The Fairy Queen* to sound as she did. Her voice blew my mind."

PRIMARY CHOIR PARTICIPANT

"It was a lifetime opportunity and overwhelming... but in a good way!"

PRIMARY PUPIL

"Talking to the students as they came in today, they all relished being part of it – E spoke about how she loved being backstage and being treated as if she was a 'proper dancer' being escorted to the wings etc. The clamour from the families at the stage door was for another performance!"

ANNA RIMINGTON DIRECTOR OF LEARNING KS5 & OAE LIAISON (ACLAND BURGHLEY SCHOOL)

"What an incredible experience last night was. It was so exciting, immediate, funny, engaging that I feel compelled to share with you how much I enjoyed it. To see so many young people part of such a top-quality production makes your heart dance with excitement. I don't think I've ever felt so connected to the collaboration between a live classical score and a dance piece."

ACLAND BURGHLEY SCHOOL PARENT

The Story

It is the 365th birthday of The Fairy Queen, and she wants her party to be the most magical night of the year. She wants music, dancing, entertainment and...mischief! Her loyal sprites are set to work, playing tricks and creating havoc for hapless humans they find in the forest. Meanwhile Tim and Kirsty are both invited to the party. They are secretly in love with each other, but are too embarrassed and full of worry to tell the truth. When Puck, the leader of the sprites, finds them in the forest, they are the obvious choice for magical trickery for the Queen's entertainment. They are both granted three wishes, but as Puck knows "Human beings don't always... know what they're doing". As they move through their wishes, their choices become increasingly disastrous, much to the amusement of the Queen and her guests, until finally they realise, that all they really need to do is tell the truth.

[Watch a snapshot here.](#)



RESIDENCIES

One of our aims is to become local wherever we work. That is certainly true of our national residencies which involve training, workshops and performances for local people to hear and perform alongside the OAE. From theatres to pubs and schools to care homes, we delight in being right at the heart of every community we work in. During 2023 / 24 we have enjoyed residencies in Somerset, County Durham, York, Plymouth and King's Lynn. Each residency is built on strong partnership working where local stakeholders have a real voice in the development of our work and decide where it is targeted.

We are really grateful to Orchestras Live who are our partners in producing projects in Norfolk, County Durham and Darlington; and the National Centre for Early Music (NCEM) who is our lead partner in York. We also really value the close relationships we have with over ten music hubs across the country.

SOMERSET – MILLFIELD SCHOOL

After a pilot year of workshops at Millfield school, in September 2023 we ran a week-long project with over 200 students from the school and local primary pupils to put on a version of our *The Fairy Queen* community opera. Led by Raph Clarkson, the show included 50 instrumentalists, dancers and actors from Millfield. Year 10 students joined us in primary schools to help pupils learn material to become our choir full of sprites – with Glastonbury on their doorstep they took to this role very easily!

"We had THE MOST incredible verbal acknowledgement of the project from the Head to the WHOLE school staff on the Monday morning after in our weekly briefing. He spoke very generously about how great it was to see the year group working together in that way, doing something they will probably never have the chance to do again. He congratulated the music department on being ambitious and said this is exactly what he wants to see us doing as a school: creating new and brave opportunities for our students."

Kirsty Barry, Director of Music, Millfield School

COUNTY DURHAM

In County Durham we were joined by seven primary schools for two lively concerts exploring the life of a famous explorer who had found what he thought was a new island but in fact was the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Set as a 1970s chat show, pupils were treated to the beautiful singing of bass-baritone Timothy Dickinson and 'chat show host' Adam Courting. Children learning instruments performed alongside the OAE in a storm piece by James Redwood and in one concert we had over 80 young brass players joining us.

YORK

In York we took our sea theme and performed our *King of the Sea* TOTS concert to a lovely family audience at the beautiful National Centre for Early Music (NCEM). We then were joined by local primary schools for four *Life of the Sea* shows and also performed a Night Shift concert at the NCEM. A three-day intensive residency with six concerts!

"I wish we had more projects like this one. The children need to have as much access to 'live music' as possible. In our school, the take up of private instrumental lessons has declined and although our pupil premium children receive funding for music lessons, very often families who don't qualify for this funding are still struggling with the cost of living and 'luxuries' such as music lessons go. Also, there doesn't seem to be a culture of learning an instrument in many families."

York primary teacher

"The whole experience was excellent and the workshops had prepared us fully. It was such a good idea to involve the children in the performance as it kept them engaged and they were part of the experience rather than simply observers."

York primary teacher

"[The concert was a] hugely enjoyable experience for everyone involved."

York primary teacher

KING'S LYNN

"[It's been] really, really amazing. Really, really helpful, really insightful."

King's Lynn primary teacher

"It is such a wonderful experience for our children to be a part of this – thank you for the opportunity. This project gives them the chance first hand to see what it is like to perform in a theatre and to witness a live orchestra, both of which they may not ever get the chance to do otherwise."

King's Lynn primary teacher

"Parents are returning year after year as they have experienced the OAE with older siblings so are keen to book tickets as soon as they are available."

King's Lynn primary teacher

"Looking forward to next year already!"

King's Lynn primary teacher

In King's Lynn we also worked on the *Life of the Sea* project with 13 primary schools. With all of our projects the OAE's core repertoire is always at the heart of each show and in this show we feature the work of Handel through his famous *Water Music* suite and opera arias.



ACLAND BURGHLEY SCHOOL

In 2020 the OAE moved into Acland Burghley School and since then we have had the pleasure of having our office, our library and rehearsal space on site. But there is so much more to us being in the school from music being the soundtrack to the playground to our now established programmes of Musical Connections, Ground Base and Dreamchasing Young Producers to dance and cross art projects, curriculum support and ever-growing relationships with staff and students.

As we end Year 4 of our residency at Acland Burghley it feels truly wonderful and natural for us as an organisation to be based in a school. Our relationships with staff and students are deepening and the branches of our tree are growing, but most importantly we are going on this journey together.

A Snapshot of the Year

CURRICULAR

Year 7 Introduction to the Orchestra

During the first term, the whole Year 7 group hear the orchestra live, including GCSE students performing alongside the OAE

Ground Base

Monthly sessions in the ABS Base for students with autism and complex needs to support wellbeing

Musical Connections

Creative music sessions throughout the year

Creating Excellence

Music and Dance creative project for Year 10 students

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Dreamchasing Young Producers Programme

- Weekly sessions, regular special events and OAE office drop-in throughout the week. Specialist training in lighting, production, film craft, costume techniques, management, budgeting, photo and video editing
- *The Fairy Queen: Three Wishes* technical support and filming
- Live at the Hex – producing event
- *The Wizz* – BTEC Musical – lighting and sound production support
- *The Lion King* – props making, lighting and sound production support
- School Prom – lighting and sound production support

Other Enrichment Activity

- Southbank Centre attendance – ABS Concert Club and school students attending
- Creating a Musical Environment – Opportunities to hear the OAE in rehearsal and OAE Experience projects
- PULSE programme to support Instrumentalists including Star on the Spot
- The Big Sing
- Work Experience for ABS students and DofE students
- Christmas concert
- Arts Depot – dance project
- Staff Socials
- Community Concerts

Additional Special Projects

- Breaking Bach – dance project
- *The Fairy Queen: Three Wishes* community opera
- ABS TOTS concerts for the local community





ACLAND BURGHLEY SCHOOL IN NUMBERS

543 TOTAL Student Involvement

Including:

170 Year 7

26 Dreamchasing Young Producers

20 Musical Connections

24 Ground Base

30 GCSE Creating Excellence

25 GCSE Composition

46 The Fairy Queen

8 Breaking Bach

24 Star on the Spot

170 Community Concert Attendance



What does this work involve?

Year 7 Introduction to the Orchestra

As part of our universal offer to students at ABS, each year we run sessions for all students in Year 7 to introduce them to the orchestra in the first few weeks of them joining the school. Presented by James Redwood, these sessions give the chance for students, many of whom we have met and worked with during their time at primary school, to meet players from the OAE, hear baroque music and take part in some participatory music making. Ahead of these sessions we also run a preliminary workshop for students in Year 7 with additional needs so they have already met some of the team and are familiar with what will be happening in the orchestral workshop.

"I don't really know where to start with saying 'thank you' for the utterly extraordinary workshops yesterday. The students enjoyed them so much. It was an incredibly enriching and vibrant event. We are incredibly grateful for everything you put on for our students.

The dedication of your team, and your expertise is truly inspiring. Thank you!"

Nick John, Acland Burghley School Headteacher

Musical Connections

Musical Connections is a three-year arts-based learning project which brings together mainstream and students with additional needs to work together creatively. Acland Burghley is one of the four schools on this project (two in London and two in Ipswich). We have found time and time again that music breaks down barriers and working across multiple years enables students to really build their skills and friendships.

Ground Base

A brilliant demonstration of how our partnership at ABS is working is our new initiative of sessions in the Base (ABS unit for students with autism). This came about through discussion with Billy Pinches, Associate SENDCo and OAE Education Director, Cherry Forbes. We have piloted four sessions at the Base and moving forwards this will become a monthly session for Years 7 – 9 students. Students are gaining confidence in working together and the sessions provide them with the chance to explore a range of music.

The Fairy Queen: Three Wishes

A community opera to give a platform at the Queen Elizabeth Hall to dancers and musicians (and some staff from ABS and the OAE who sang in our community choir!)

Dreamchasing Young Producers

Dreamchasing Young Producers is a scheme that mentors and trains young people in the skills of management, creative design and production. We provide sessions each week after school. In addition, these Young Producers assist us as work experience trainees at our own public engagements. Across the year they have been involved in numerous events at both ABS and the Southbank Centre including lighting, sound and prop making for events at ABS such as the Christmas concert, Live at the Hex and the school prom and assisting front and back of house at the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the Royal Festival Hall at the Southbank Centre.

DANCE PROJECTS

Breaking Bach – a major dance project led by renowned choreographer Kim Brandstrup which makes its international debut in summer 2025.

Arts Depot – the annual school dance show at the Arts Depot in North Finchley which was opened this year by two A Level dancers performing to Purcell's *Plaint* from the *The Fairy Queen* sung beautifully by soprano Kirsty Hopkins and accompanied by Huw Daniel (violin) and Satoko Doi Luck (harpsichord).

Creating Excellence – a three-day creative music and dance project for students to work creatively together as they embark on their GCSE journey.

Community Concerts

Free or accessibly priced informal concerts at ABS for students and staff at the school as well as the local community featuring the OAE and guest artists.

Much of our work at ABS is beyond the classroom and our OAE TOTS at ABS are a good example of how we are bringing OAE's work to the wider community. During the year we performed two of our OAE TOTS concerts, *Spin*, *Spin a Story!* and *A Musical Adventure*, to a delighted audience.

"5 star. Thank you so much for all the work you're doing. So, so great to have these concerts for kids!"

Parent

FAMILY

OAE TOTS

Our OAE TOTS programme includes workshops and concerts for 2 – 5 year olds in nursery and school settings, or in the community. Our TOTS events are always lively with lots of interaction, lots of noise and lots of fun for children and adults alike!

AT ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Spin, Spin a story!

An enchanting story full of magic spells and much mischief ... Once there lived a King and Queen in a magical forest full of wonder, laughter and song. They both decide to throw a grand party on the longest day of the year but then end up having a competition to see who can host the best party. Will their friends join them or will it all end in disaster?

Musical Adventures

Designed by Cecelia Bruggemeyer, one of the OAE's double bassists, our young audiences were taken on an adventure to rise with the sun, go on a space-walk and fly among the stars as they explored the world around them accompanied by the OAE playing JS Bach's iconic Brandenburg Concerto No. 1.

LPO FUNharmonics

Continuing our partnership with the London Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) we run themed TOTS workshops alongside the LPO FUNharmonics concerts at the Royal Festival Hall. This season saw three sets of workshops which took families on musical adventures inspired by music of the OAE. Children and adults alike are encouraged to sing, dance and play alongside OAE musicians.

"We love OAE TOTS!"

Parent

"Thank you!"

Three-year old

"Brilliant fun and pitched perfectly for toddlers. Thanks so much!"

Parent

"Brilliant, interactive and mesmerising for our 2.5 year old!"

Parent

"Can I come next time?"

Child

"Thank you! What an inspiring morning of music!"

Parent

"I just wanted to convey to you how utterly brilliant I thought Alice and OJ were – in both the EY and KS1 workshops at Little Ealing. From start to finish, they were imaginative, engaging and fun – they pitched it beautifully for each age group. I loved the way they were able to adapt the material for the specific group, were never patronising and were able to show the children what a precious thing music can be. A really excellent team. What lucky children."

Ealing Primary Teacher

London – Pack Your Bags

We created an educational package around our *Pack your Bags* concert which was chosen by 13 schools on our Early Years programme. Presented by Raph Clarkson, children were introduced to music by Jeremiah Clarke, Boyce, Rameau and Vivaldi as well as new music specially written for the show by Raph.

OAE TOTS at Acland Burghley School

We welcomed local families to Acland Burghley for two OAE TOTS concerts. Firstly, our Fairy Queen-inspired *Spin, Spin a Story!* show and then *Musical Adventures* later in the year.

OAE TOTS ON TOUR

A Day at the Pond – Yorkshire tour to Catterick, Whitby, Skipton, Bridlington and Pocklington

Tracking the day in the life of a pond, our young audiences were treated to Western and Asian classical music and dance in a beautifully crafted show by Hazel Gould in a collaboration between the OAE, South Asian Arts-uk, Orchestras Live and Amazing Music Projects (AMP).

King of the Sea – NCEM, York

In York, in this lively concert, Poseidon, the god of the sea, was delighted when offerings appeared from above. But on discovering that these were not gifts from the people of the land, but rubbish they were throwing away, he decided to teach them a lesson!

Pack your Bags – Brighton Early Music Festival and Attleborough

Our Brighton and Attleborough audiences joined us on a captivating journey with composer Raph Clarkson, all aboard his scooter. Our expedition began from home and swept us on a whirlwind tour around Italy and France.



SCHOOLS

Each year we offer Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 programmes to our partner schools across London. We are incredibly grateful to the John Lyon's Charity for supporting us in four of our London boroughs – Camden, Brent, Harrow and Ealing – with a grant towards Louder! Widening Musical Communities over the next three years which includes our schools programme.

This year we offered the following projects:

KS1 – BACH, MUSICAL GIFTS AND THE JOY OF SINGING

A project for 5 – 7 year-olds to explore the magic of Bach from his solo cello writing to Brandenburg Concerto No .1 alongside new music written by Raph Clarkson and even our very own wishing trees.

KS2 – THE WORLD AROUND US

A project for 7 – 11 year-olds to explore the world from its very beginnings to where we are now with music by Handel and James Redwood.

KS3 – HARROW INTRODUCTION TO THE ORCHESTRA

We started working in Harrow this year and worked with over 800 young people in primary and secondary schools. For Year 7 and 8 students in Harrow we took our *Introduction to the Orchestra* concert to Nower Hill Secondary.

KS3 – NORTHGATE MUSICAL CONNECTIONS

Our students from Northgate joined the OAE at the Queen Elizabeth hall for our *The Fairy Queen: Three Wishes* community opera. Joining musicians from Acland Burghley, they became our onstage band to the delight of many parents who came from Ipswich to watch and hear them. In the summer term they worked with James Redwood and OAE players across two days and performed to other students in the school in an end of term celebration.

"I am blown away"

Secondary Deputy Head

"I've never seen something that good in a school"

Secondary class teacher

"I would say it changes how I think about Baroque music. I play the piano and the harpsichord might change how I think Baroque music is usually played. Yeah, I guess I would play [the music I'm working on] more staccato and jumpy I guess. Plucking the strings, not hitting the strings."

KS3 student

"Brilliant opportunity for our school to work closely with a world class orchestra. All resources very thoroughly prepared, easily accessible & user-friendly in the classroom. The children loved everything about this project!"

Brighton primary teacher

"The concerts were amazing. We were able to invite parents in to both concerts, many who had never experienced a live orchestra performing before, for some it was very emotional when they gave me feedback. Our children went around the school for days chanting "industrial, industrial revolution!"

Primary teacher, Harrow

"It was incredible and it was also great to see the moments on students' faces when things clicked and moments were surprising, it's always good to challenge them. [...] Probably 75% [of the students hadn't heard a Western Classical orchestra in-person] and even of those who have, possibly not like this."

Teacher, Nower Hill

"It makes me more interested [in studying Baroque music/period instruments because I never realised how complex these things were and how big the differences were between modern and baroque instruments so I'm more interested now than before."

KS4 student violinist after discussion with OAE Experience player

"[T]he children were rapt just watching exactly what the instruments did... Making music with the orchestra was really good. It was fascinating for the kids to have a range of instruments there that many of them had probably never seen – it's not a particularly affluent area – and for the children to actually see instruments. Not only that but instruments from the past. They got an awful lot out of that in terms of their musicality, understanding where music fits in and also because the story that was portrayed was sort of a journey on the life of the earth as it was from its beginning to where it is now and possibly in the future. It took the children and it carried them on that journey in a wonderful way."

London primary Head Teacher



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Our special needs programme has expanded significantly over the last few years to include large-scale projects such as our Musical Connections three-year arts-based learning programme supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. This year we have also worked with two special schools in Merton with Raph Clarkson and a team of OAE players to create a piece to be performed with 1,000 young singers at the Royal Albert Hall. We've also returned to Plymouth Music Zone (PMZ) for an uplifting residency.

MUSICAL CONNECTIONS – THOMAS WOLSEY AND SWISS COTTAGE

Thomas Wolsey Ormiston Academy in Ipswich and Swiss Cottage School in Camden are both wonderful places full of students who love music, staff who nurture them and where every success and achievement is celebrated however big or small. At the OAE we have had the privilege of working with these students over a number of years which means we can really connect and each time we visit we can see their development – students know what to expect and each time we can expect more of them as we build bands and create music together.

This year we have been inspired by our *The Fairy Queen: Three Wishes* community opera to create mini operas in our partner special schools, the models of which can then be shared more widely. Under expert direction by composers James Redwood and Raph Clarkson, students from both schools created their own version of the story which was then performed in school to their peers and parents, friends and carers.

"[The children have] just gained so much from it, the opportunity to see different instruments, because a lot of our children don't get the opportunity to go out because obviously you've seen for some of our children it's too difficult, it would be difficult as parents to get them to things so a lot of the things that they've seen [here] they would probably never witness, they'd never hear live music – it's just been the most amazing thing."

Music Coordinator

"I've seen the children grow in confidence, I've seen them learn new skills, I've seen them throw out ideas to make compositions that you would never ever expect them to do that kind of thing. They obviously feel really, really comfortable with the musicians who have been coming in and building up those relationships – and it is those relationships that are so, so important."

Thomas Wolsey Music Coordinator

"Just seeing the look on her face and how happy and excited she gets when she's playing the music has been great to see"

Thomas Wolsey parent

"The only way I can describe it is they're able to just get our children, you know, they just know how to respond, they're not frightened and shying away like some people would and being awkward about it, it's just, just lovely, just so lovely."

Thomas Wolsey Music Coordinator

"I don't think I'd ever heard [her] vocalising, at least not heard her and thought, you are definitely now vocalising and this is a musical interaction and [...] in one of our workshops we just had like a three-minute jam where she was just singing, absolutely singing – melodic lines that sat beautifully within the harmony that I was playing and duetting and Alice joining in singing and that was really amazing."

James, project leader Thomas Wolsey

"It's been a real experience learning from the students and developing material with James and Alice and Cherry over the last few months. I think the big thing has been giving space to the students to develop, to come up with ideas within our workshop settings, to give them a voice and then to take what they've come up with and framed it in a way which can be played together with the orchestral players and with the other students. The performance day is just such a big journey from where we started. From getting to know students, from even getting them to share very simple ideas to being able to develop that into a whole kind of show and also to be able to bring out different colours within the instrumentation that we've got. It's been great!"

John-Henry, OAE Double Bass

“The ongoing Musical Connections project, led by Raph Clarkson, has had an overwhelmingly positive impact on our young people with special educational needs, and has added both depth and breadth to music provision in the school. The class teacher – himself a keen musician – has commented on how much more engaged his students were in the sessions, and that, in his view, this improved focus has carried over into their regular lessons too. He was amazed to hear from his teaching assistants about how much singing and playing they had done in the workshops, and that even learners who normally struggle to engage and participate, had been “won over” despite themselves! The class staff also commented on how fun, engaging and educational the workshops have been, and they attributed some of this success to how Raph and the other musicians had created a friendly rapport with the young people and made music-making accessible by pitching it at just the right level – fun and challenging, but not intimidating.

In addition to helping the students “find their voice” and begin to develop musical ideas of their own, the class staff observed the young people growing in confidence, leading, for example, to “having a go” at things they might not otherwise have done. Another benefit was in their social interactions, both with their peers and with the adults; taking part in the workshops brought them together as a group in a way that isn’t seen all that often, united around the common purpose of working towards a long-term goal. The sheer joy of creating music in a group setting – and experiencing instruments and styles of music that they do not frequently encounter – also had an energising effect, which led to more positive social engagement with their peers.

Finally, as one of the school’s music specialists, it was been incredibly valuable to witness some of my students being exposed to music-making beyond the confines of the classroom. Working with a professional organisation, led and facilitated by a composer, is offering something unique and distinctive. It is also inspiring me to try out new approaches with my classes, finding ways of encouraging creativity in my students by incorporating some of the approaches I have seen used successfully by Raph and the OAE musicians. This will no doubt have a positive impact on music provision in the school.”

Stephen Barnett, Music Lead at Swiss Cottage



ROYAL ALBERT HALL – SOMETHING SPECIAL WITH PERSEID AND CRICKET GREEN SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Taking students to the Royal Albert Hall is no mean feat. Merton Music Foundation and Camden Music are passionate about offering this opportunity to all young people who live in their boroughs to perform in such a prestigious venue. Students from Perseid and Cricket Green composed a beautiful introduction to Raph Clarkson's song 'Something Special' and performed this on stage with OAE players. This in itself was something special but when 1,000 young singers joined us for the chorus there wasn't a dry eye in the house!

PLYMOUTH MUSIC ZONE

In June 2024 we returned to one of our favourite places to work – Plymouth Music Zone (PMZ). Right in the heart of Devonport, PMZ inspires a huge range of people with a wide range of additional needs and celebrates every individual. Across three days we worked with Raph Clarkson and Anna Batson (an inspirational music leader at PMZ), and were thrilled to read her account of our few days together...

A BEAUTIFUL AND HOPEFUL WEEK

A total of seven PMZ groups were lucky enough to spend time with these wonderful musicians:

- Musical Misfits – for musicians and singers aged 55+
- Sing Out – our singing group for Stroke Survivors / people with brain injuries aged 18+
- Sensory Sounds (8 – 25 years disabled children and young people / parents and carers)
- Digital Orchestra (18+ disabled / Neurodivergent adult musicians)
- Shake, Rattle and Rollers (singing group for adults living with Parkinson's disease)
- Moving Sounds – music / movement / dance sessions for disabled / neurodivergent people aged 18+ with PMZ and Far Flung C.I.C
– plus a mixed group of people from the PMZ community who came to enjoy a Musicians on Call session with the OAE

Anna has now moved on from PMZ where she will be sorely missed by colleagues and all those she has worked with over the years and I would like to add a personal thank you to Anna here:

"Anna you are one of the most inspiring people I have ever worked with – your empathy, joy and beautiful music making with all who join you is beyond compare".

Cherry, Education Director

"Our 'Something Special' project, with two Merton special schools performing with OAE players on stage at the RAH, was magical and the moment 1,000 young singers from the borough joined us was one to remember!"

Teacher Cricket Green

"We have had an absolutely incredible experience this week with musicians from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment's Education Team.

"PMZ has worked in partnership for many years with this extraordinary orchestra to bring completely unique musical experiences to our community.

"The OAE specialises in music from early baroque to classical and romantic, with musicians often playing on historical (or replica) instruments that were made at the time that the music was being written. Their unique sound brings to life music from hundreds of years ago to new ears. What a treat to have them all with us in Plymouth!

"All of us who experienced the sessions were uplifted, inspired, amazed, moved and enlightened by what we saw, heard and took part in! Huge gratitude to the OAE (Raph, Cherry, John-Henry, Hetty, and Carina) PMZ's staff, volunteers and participants who made this week a beautifully hopeful and beautiful one..."

Anna Batson

"Mum and dad absolutely loved the morning and wished they could have stayed all day xx
Thank you!"

Daughter of participant

"They were all amazing but got to give it to you Raph, he got Sabila laughing in minutes – you made a special lady very happy. Thank you!"

Parent of participant



NURTURING TALENT

Through our Nurturing Talent programme we aim to share our passion for the music we play and to inspire the next generation of players to reach their full potential.

THE ANN AND PETER LAW EXPERIENCE SCHEME SUPPORTED BY THE HENOCQ LAW TRUST

The Ann and Peter Law OAE Experience Scheme continues to be a wonderfully vibrant and fertile part of OAE Education. The cohort of students comes from a wide variety of backgrounds and experience. They come together to work at repertoire that is the beating heart of the OAE. In our classical OAE Academy courses, students form a Haydn-size ensemble to explore the musical, stylistic language of late-eighteenth century and to come up with ways of performing this music that is a new, living, breathing experience for everyone. The same group of players, but on baroque instruments, also explore earlier repertoire with OAE principals. The results are exciting and dramatic. As well as the classical ensemble, students study with OAE principal players, they have privileged access to rehearsals and concerts where they are encouraged to quiz OAE players to develop their knowledge and expertise.

"This training ground is a way for the OAE to recruit extra players and a striking percentage of recent OAE Experience graduates have now performed with the OAE main stage orchestra. The future is secure!

Margaret Faultless (OAE Leader)

After a successful year with our last cohort, which saw them performing at the London International Festival of Early Music in November 2023, our new cohort of musicians joined us in February 2024. So far they have completed one of their Academy courses, which included a Teatime TOTS session for local families and performed a concert at the beautiful Heath Street Church in Camden.

Here are some comments after the intensive weekend from our students and their audiences:

"It's been wonderful to focus on social music-making with an emphasis on experimentation, empathetic playing, and musical expression rather than just the technical aspects of the job. The tutors have been inspiring and supportive and it's been lovely to meet new amazing colleagues. Thanks everybody!"

Experience Student

"I really enjoyed being able to go into a lot of detail in the brass sectional. I have played Haydn before but I've never had the chance to think about things in such detail with other players!"

Experience Student

"Education is the base. Music should be showed to everyone, especially to children – great experience!"

Experience Student after the Teatime TOTS

"I wish I had the opportunity to experience something like this as a kid. But I'm glad I was able to experience it as an adult! I feel richer today."

Experience Student after the Teatime TOTS

"More please!"

Parent after the Teatime TOTS

"Nothing like Haydn for sheer uncomplicated delight. As was the exuberance of this delightful group of players!"

Audience member after Heath Street concert

CAMDEN AND BRENT STRINGS

Our string projects have continued this year with opportunities for young string players across Camden and Brent to work creatively in ensembles with OAE players.

COMMUNITY MUSIC

OAE players joined students at Community Music (CM) to create a sound bank of musical motifs. Students were then tasked with creating a track that told the story and conveyed the message of the painting 'Guernica' by Pablo Picasso.

PLAYING IT FORWARD: LEARNING AND TEACHING WITH THE OAE

One of the most rewarding aspects of my journey with the OAE has been participating in their "educational concerts". These aren't just ordinary performances; they are dynamic, thoughtfully crafted experiences designed for children of all ages, from toddlers to teenagers. Whether we're introducing children to the magic of baroque music or engaging them with thought-provoking narratives, each concert intertwines music from the early music canon with newly composed works, all woven into a storyline that imparts key life lessons and skills. As Leo Duarte, an OAE oboist, once remarked, the educational side of his work is so vital that if it didn't exist, he might not even want to be a musician. This is something that has played on my mind, leading me to reassess our duty as musicians.

The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment is more than just a world-class ensemble; it's a place where innovation and education go hand in hand. The OAE Experience Scheme has not only helped me grow as a musician but has also deepened my appreciation for the impact of music education. I feel genuinely fortunate to be part of an organization that cares so much about nurturing young talent while delivering incredible performances. The joy and fun I've had throughout this journey have been just as significant as the learning, adding a vibrant layer of enthusiasm to every rehearsal and performance. And to think it's only been six months!

Osian Jones, OAE Experience cellist 2024 / 25



A NOTE FROM...



OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE CRISPIN WOODHEAD

It has never been more important that we invest our energies in enriching communities with our artistic activity and education has always been at the heart of what we do. What jumps out yet again from this inspiring review is how fully our heart has been in it all.



OUR CHAIR IMOGEN CHARLTON-EDWARDS

There can't be much that's more joyful in life than attending an OAE Education event. To watch the easy connection between our musicians and participants of all ages and abilities brings out a sort of long-lasting joy, not to mention cheeks which ache from all the smiling and laughing! Laughter is an important part of what we do, but connection is the more important element. We are rightly proud of our long-lasting and specialist musical residencies around the country, and the depth of connection we have with these

places is profound. We have interacted with over 22,000 people through our Education work this year. This reach, and the sheer quality of the reach is a cornerstone of everything that the OAE is and does"



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024 / 25...

We're getting ready for another wonderful season of music-making inspired by the OAE's season which will include:

TOTS & FAMILY

- RFH Puzzle TOTS and Enchanted TOTS
- OAE TOTS at LPO FUNharmonics – Italian, Watery and Magical Adventures
- *A Day at the Pond* collaboration with OAE and South Asian Arts UK (SAA-uk) workshops and concerts in Leeds and London
- Community TOTS concerts at Acland Burghley

SCHOOLS

- KS1 *Full of Surprises*
- KS2 Dancing, Moving and Musicking
- ABS – Musical Connections, Ground Base, GCSE composition work, Introduction to the Orchestra, Creating Excellence music and dance event, Dreamchasing Young Producers and our PULSE programme
- KS3 work in Harrow

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

- Musical Connections
- Musicians on Call

NURTURING TALENT

- The Ann and Peter Law Experience Scheme
- Brent and Camden string projects

RESIDENCIES / FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

- *The Fairy Queen: Three Wishes*
- *The Magic Flute and the Bird That Would Be Free*



EDUCATION TEAM 2023 / 24

PLAYERS

Ruth Alford

Marina Ascherson

John-Henry Baker

Rebecca Baratto*

Nicola Barbagli

Richard Bayliss

Sarah Bealby-Wright

Rachel Beckett

Adrian Bending

Dave Bentley

Lisa Beznosiuk

Lewis Blee*

Rosie Bowker

Laura Bradford

Kizzy Brooks

Meadow Brooks

Cecelia Bruggemeyer

Christopher Bucknall

Ellen Bundy

Geoff Coates

Carina Cosgrave

Nicholas Cowling*

Maria Cuidad*

Anna Curzon

Flora Curzon

Huw Daniel

Iona Davies

Kati Debretzeni

Claudia Delago-Norz

Steven Devine

Deborah Diamond

Satoko Doi-Luck

Carina Drury

Leo Duarte

Ana Dunne Sequi

Daniel Edgar

Gavin Edwards

William Edwards

Alice Evans

Huw Evans

Margaret Faultless

Dominika Feher

Flora Fontanelli*

Cherry Forbes

Hannah Gardiner

Jacob Garside

Fran Gilbert

Sebastian Gillot

Russell Gilmour

Nathan Giorgetti

Rebecca Hammond

Jenni Harper

Abigail Hayward-Brown

Katie Heller

Tom Highnam

Claire Holden

Robert Howarth

Sarah Humphrys

Annette Isserlis

Josie Jobbins

Martin Kelly

Robert Kendell

Ruth Kiang

Julia Kuhn

Nina Kumin

Ori Langer*

Joanna Lawrence

Martin Lawrence

Nia Lewis

Rebecca Livermore

Katie Lodge

Johan Lofving

Max Mandel

Jyoti Manral

Jonathan Manson

William McGahon

Peter McNeill*

Samuel Middleton

Ursula Paludan Monberg

Roger Montgomery

Camilla Morse-Glover

Peter Moutoussis

Brendan Musk

Samuel Ng*

Miriam Nohl

Alice Poppleton

Sidharth Prabhu-Naik

Luke Reddin-Williams

Rodolfo Richter

Catherine Rimer

Andrew Roberts

Alex Rolton

Stephen Rouse

Benjamin Rowarth

William Russell

Oliver-John Ruthven

Nivedita Sarnath*

Mark Seow

Zoe Shevlin

Isaac Sheih

Sophie Simpson

Kaviraj Singh

Katherine Spencer

Angelika Stangl

Henry Tong

Matthew Truscott

Kinga Ujszászi

Helen Verney

Joseph Walters

Marguerite Wassermann*

Andy Watts

Henrietta Wayne

Benedict Williams

Stephen Williams

Oliver Wilson

Adam Wood

Stuart Young

**ANIMATEURS, COMPOSERS,
PRODUCERS, SOLOISTS:**

Ben Abell

Raphael Clarkson

Adam Courting

Timothy Dickinson

Hazel Gould

Kirsty Hopkins

Simone Jonetsu Ibbett Brown

Brett Kasza

Yshani Perinpanayagam

Ruth Paton

James Redwood

Names in **bold** are OAE

Player members

*OAE Experience students 2023

2024 / 25 OAE EXPERIENCE SCHEME

Laura Alexander
Theodora Alexiadou
Callum Anderson
Eden Azoulay
Charlotte Bartley
Hannah Blumsohn
Fergus Butt
Barry Chak-Hin Lo
Federico Cuevas Ruiz

Verena Eggensberger
Bárbara Ferraz Balboa
Libby Foxley
Charlie Hodge
Lucas Houldcroft
Saya Ikenoya Okusa
Osian Jones
Dorota Kolinek
Daniele Lorefice

Joseph Lowe
Sophia Mücke
Eriko Nagayama
Mariana Paras
Sandra Pérez Romero
Natascha Pichler
Azzurra Raneri
Rosemary Salvucci
Grace Scott Deuchar

Ciara Sudlow
Karolina Szymanik
Elizabeth van't Voort
Aysha Wills
Weronika Zimnoch



OUR SUPPORTERS

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Arts Council England

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OAE Experience Scheme

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Sir Victor and Lady Blank

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The Linbury Trust

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Orchestras Live

Professor Richard Portes CBE FBA

Sir Timothy and Lady Lloyd

Sue Sheridan OBE

Susan Palmer OBE

The 29th May 1961 Charity

The Albert and Eugenie Frost Music Trust

The Charles Peel Charitable Trust

The de Laszlo Foundation

The Patrick Rowland Foundation

Thriplow Charitable Trust

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OAE London

Brent Music Service

Camden Music

Ealing Music Service

Merton Music Foundation

Wandsworth Music Service

OAE South

Brighton Early Music Festival

OAE West

Plymouth Music Zone (PMZ)

Wiltshire Music Centre

Millfield School



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"You need to come back every year,
we will be ready and waiting!!"

London primary teacher

