



IMPACT REPORT 24-25


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.**





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



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.



Our work falls into 2 strands:

1. 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.

Some of our concerts are ticketed and some are on a Pay What You Decide basis.

These concerts take place in 27 different locations across 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.

“Events like this are fantastic and important for feeling connected to your community (and other new parents) in the early days of maternity/paternity. I wish we’d found it sooner!”

Audience member



2. Performances in schools

We bring professional musicians directly into schools with interactive, engaging performances that make live music accessible for all ages. Our performances are designed to delight and inspire whole-school audiences, from Early Years to Key Stage 2.

Our shows include:

- **MUSICIAN!** - a hilarious and interactive musical adventure for your school where woodwind meets brass, with a playful twist that will have everyone laughing and learning
- **Bubble Bach** - sublime live music by Bach combined with jaw-dropping bubble arts and sculptures!
- **Paddington's First Concert and The Owl & The Pussycat**

In 24/25 we visited 60 different schools across our region, including 4 Special Schools and performed to over 9100 school children. We developed a close relationship with Wiltshire Music Connect to reach many primary schools across Wiltshire. The Radcliffe Trust have funded our work in special schools and Bath Festivals have funded work in some schools across Bath and North East Somerset.

“*The children had an absolutely amazing time watching the performances! Both groups of pupils, younger and older, were completely engrossed throughout, laughing, in amazement and inspired by the performances they saw!*”

Headteacher



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.

Projects

This year has been a busy and exciting one for Music for Miniatures. We began with funding from Wiltshire Music Connect to produce and tour a brand-new show for primary schools, MUSICIAN!, pitting woodwind against brass in an interactive and lively show. Our hugely popular Bubble Bach show also continued touring to schools throughout the year.



Our first performances in **libraries** were for Gloucestershire libraries where we turned to literature, performing **Paddington's First Concert and The Owl & The Pussycat** at three libraries across the county, and also at Wiltshire Music Centre in Bradford on Avon.



At Christmas we launched our first Family Sing-A-Long, an event where families came together to sing festive favourites with a live band. Hugely popular, it was one of our best events of the year and is already selling strongly for the coming season.



One of our biggest achievements was launching **Tutti, our monthly giving scheme**, allowing supporters to contribute regularly so we can invest in growth and continue to reach more children and families with our outstanding live music. We hope this will continue to expand and help to cement our future.

Our Pay What You Decide concerts continued to bring give access to live music to families in 9 areas of high deprivation reaching many families who would struggle to attend other concerts or cultural events.



We are hugely proud of our achievement and will continue and expand this important project into 25/26. [We have a separate impact report for this project. Please contact us for a copy.](#)



“These concerts offer a truly valuable space for families with young children to experience culture together in an accessible and welcoming way. They help build a sense of community by bringing people together from different backgrounds to share in something joyful and enriching.

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**.

In 25/26 we will be expanding these concerts to include communities in South Gloucestershire.

There is a separate impact report for our Pay What You Decide concerts. Please contact us for a copy.

100%

reported a positive impact on parent and child wellbeing.
would like to see more of our concerts in their community in the future.



“It isn't easy to see live classical music at an accessible price, and in a way that your little one can enjoy! The relaxed nature of the performance means it's easier for all to enjoy.”

Audience member



2024/2025 in figures

Reached over
14,500
babies, toddlers,
children and adults



179

live performances

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



"I think it's brilliant that it is local and that parents without disposable income or transport can give their children an opportunity to enjoy music and engage their brains."

Audience member



**Pay What You Decide
Concerts impact**

1327 adults & children with
no financial barrier

27 baby-friendly concerts

9 areas of high
deprivation



**Worked in 27
different community
venues**

Communities we visited include: 3 areas in Bath, Bradford on Avon, 5 areas of Bristol, Calne, Chippenham, Devizes, Frome, Keynsham, Melksham, Nailsea, Oldfield Park, Portishead, Radstock, Street, Tetbury and Trowbridge

Visited **60**
different schools and
performed to
9102 school
children





Partnerships

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 provide live music in their Preludes schools.

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

Our concert partnerships now include **Tetbury Goods Shed, Valley Arts (Chew Magna), Somerset International Festival of the Arts and Ham Farm Festival**. We provide musicians and presenters for their baby and family friendly concerts.

We have a strong partnership with **Bath Festivals**. We delivered 4 Musical Discovery concerts for ages 5-11 on their behalf, and also took our **MUSICIAN!** show to primary schools.



“Attending the concert was a real boost to my wellbeing as a parent. It offered a rare opportunity to enjoy high-quality live music in a relaxed, welcoming environment where my baby was not only allowed, but actively engaged. Sharing that joyful experience with my daughter made me feel more connected to her and to the local community. It was refreshing, uplifting, and gave me a sense of having done something meaningful and enriching together.”

Audience member



Organisation development

What next?

The charity has continued to expand this year, increasing the hours of the Director, continuing to provide admin assistance, a freelance fundraiser and being in a stronger 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, bicycle or bus.

25/26 will be another exciting year for Music for Miniatures as we continue to solidify the foundations of our work across all our community venues whilst expanding our work in schools.

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

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.



“I just don't have time or the support structure to attend events so this is priceless to me. My daughter has been attending for years and loves music as a result.”



From the trustees



The Trustees are very proud of the fabulously varied musical experiences that Music for Miniatures offers to families and school children. Yet again this year has seen us reach more people than ever, with a richly diverse offering of instruments and music, a significant achievement in this time when everyone's budgets are stretched.

The financing of these concerts continues to be a challenge 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 (anonymous) data gathered this year shows we are reaching so many families who have never experienced live musical performances, we are thrilled to introduce the very young to the exciting experience of standing next to a performer and to see their reactions. Our Pay What You Decide initiative has reached many more with a 50% increase in the number of these events. Our aim is for ALL families to have access to the experience with no financial barriers.

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

The Trustees continue to be in awe of our Artistic Director, Julie Payne – a creative whirlwind of ideas and enthusiasm, she is committed to 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, The Society of Merchant Venturers, The Golsoncott Foundation, The Ray Harris Trust, Radstock Town Council and The Denman Charitable Trust for supporting our Pay What You Decide 24/25 concerts.
- Wiltshire Music Connect CIC and The Radcliffe Trust for keeping live music in schools
- Our amazing audience who have continued to support us throughout the year, particularly our Tutti community who give monthly to ensure we can invest in keeping live music accessible for all.
- 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 - Director

FIND OUT MORE:

www.musicforminiatures.co.uk

FOLLOW, LIKE & SHARE



“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
Ben Hargreaves
Gill Jones MBE
Charlie Hum
Kate Jordan

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