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The Cat's Whisker

Community Music Wales Summer Newsletter '11

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Welcome to the Summer edition of the Cat's Whisker

WE'VE all been really enjoying the sunny days and longer evenings here at CMW. We always feel better leaving the office when the sun is still shining outside, I'm sure you'll agree!

Summer tends to be one of our busiest times here in the CMW office, and this year is proving no different. Our summer workshops schedule is action packed, and you can read more about some of our outdoor activities on page 2.

We're really pleased to be able to confirm that our Ciwddod project has received another 3 years funding. CMW won a tender from the Welsh Language Board to deliver Welsh language contemporary music activity to young people across Wales until 2014.

We have also been successful recently in many of our tender applications, and you can read about our Partnership with the Amber Project opposite. You can also find out about our exciting forthcoming projects that are part of Engagement Gateway, a collaborative venture by the Welsh European Funding Office, Welsh Government and Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA).

And finally, we'd like to welcome our new member of staff, Sarah Breeze. Sarah has recently joined our North Wales team as a Project Officer. We look forward to working with you Sarah!

HANNAH JENKINS
Director



Sarah Breeze, Project Officer



Amber Project RCT

CMW have been successful in gaining grant funding from the Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales this year. We are delighted to be working in partnership with the Amber Project on a year of workshops with young people who have a history of self harm.

The project will offer regular accredited participatory music workshops alongside counselling and peer to peer discussion, for young people in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The workshops will consist of composing original music with a variety of instruments, from a choice of a wide range of musical genres. Participants will not need to have any previous musical experience. The workshops will give the participants an opportunity to explore their creativity and try new instruments and techniques. All workshops will be run by CMW's trained and experienced professional Community Music Tutors.

Young people who self-harm often have problems rooted in issues around self-image, esteem and confidence; all of these areas can improve within the safe environment of closely facilitated workshops, leading in turn to a decrease

in the harming behaviours. The project will work in a way that is supportive and non-judgemental. It will enable vulnerable young people to explore some of the issues which have impacted upon their lives, increasing feelings of value and self-worth and supporting them as they develop and maintain alternative coping mechanisms.

The project will provide counselling to participants encouraging them to participate in individual counselling which will be provided by the Amber Project. This will be carried by trained, qualified counsellors outside of this project and will run weekly for as long as the participant feels it is necessary. The project will be free to all participants.

The Amber Project provides help and support to young people (aged 14-25) who have experience of self harm in Cardiff and the surrounding areas. They offer help in a number of different ways including counselling, evening workshops, theatre workshops and informal support.

Further details can be found on our website soon.

Staff Profile: Martin Hoyland MUSIC INDUSTRY MENTOR

Martin is responsible for delivering the Complete Control Music 14-19 scheme in the North Wales area. Since first touring Germany at the age of 14, Martin has been active in the Music Industry: touring, recording, producing, promoting, managing record labels, as well as tutoring. He first worked as a Freelance Music Industry Mentor for CMW in 2009, before joining full time in June 2010. Martin currently plays guitar for the cult alt-folk/dub/psyche band '9Bach'.

If you had to be stuck in a lift with anyone who would it be?

Will Self and Shaun Ryder, it would be very funny!

Favourite film?

Usual Suspects.

What was the last album you bought?

Dub Colossus – Addis Through The Looking Glass.

What is your greatest fear?

Being stuck in a lift without Will Self and Shaun Ryder.

Which person do you most admire and why?

Nelson Mandela because he suffered so much but never gave up.

What's the first gig you went to?

Madness under 16's show at Hammersmith Palais, I nearly got beat up by Skinheads, as they thought I was a Mod. I was a Rude Boy, idiots!

Cat or dog?

Bobi Bingo (dog) Stan and Brian Wilson (cats) "stop making pet sounds"

Star sign?

Pisces

If you could have an alternative career what would you be?

An actor playing the obligatory European baddie in Hollywood Action Thrillers.

What do you like to do when you're not in work?

Sit in the sun, when possible.



Tutor Training Performance



COMMUNITY Music Wales' Tutor Training course is underway and proving to be a great success.

The Community Music Tutor Training Course covers a range of theory and practice in community music, with practical workshops from professional community music trainers. They include Group Work skills, Assertiveness, Devising and Adapting workshop material, Facilitating client learning and growth, Working with Soft Outcomes and Transferable Skills, an awareness of Child Protection, Insurance, Assessing Basic Skills, Health and safety, Equal opportunities and diversity, and Best Practice.

The course is Agored Cymru accredited. Training is designed with a structure, method and ethos, which reflects the job of a community music tutor i.e. the course is a valuable rehearsal for the job itself. Training is based partly on self-assessment - trainees assess their own strengths and weaknesses. Through personal experience of being in a group in a learning environment, each trainee will gain an appreciation and understanding of group dynamics and group processes.

The course runs one day per week, and every session offers something different. At the time of writing, the trainees are halfway through the course and are working towards a group performance. The performance will showcase their own talents, but is also an exercise in group work, involvement skills, and working with one another's ideas and abilities. These are all important skills that the trainees can one day mirror in their own workshops.

Naomi, a trainee, said; "I've really enjoyed the practical side of the course, and meeting fellow musicians to bounce ideas around with. The information provided about Best Practice has been empowering and allows me to feel less vulnerable in the workplace."

There are a diverse range of trainees, including professional musicians, people working with vulnerable adults and schoolteachers. Susie, a graduate from the Popular Music course in Glamorgan University said; "As a recent graduate I'm finding the course a really useful bridge between University and professional work. The course is a great confidence builder for me."

The gig will take place on July 21st at the Rocking Chair in Cardiff. It is open to all and tickets will be available at the door.

Engagement Gateway

OVER the next year CMW will be running a number of Engagement Gateway projects across Wales. The Engagement Gateway has been developed as a collaborative venture by the Welsh European Funding Office, Welsh Government and Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA). The Engagement Gateway aims to help people back into employment or learning through a range of activities to give participants new skills and increased confidence, to enable them to become economically active, which will also lead to greater social cohesion and sustainable development in the most disadvantaged communities in Wales.

CMW's project will invest in the knowledge and skills of communities in Wales to strengthen human resources by building a range of skills such as team work, organisation and communication skills, learning skills and ICT which are transferable to the labour market. The projects will offer accreditation to participants to encourage lifelong learning. Participants will also be encouraged to take a more positive role in their community, such as through volunteering.

Each project is different and tailored to suit the group and area we are working with. Details of each will be on our website soon.



CMW Activity 'Beats' Being Indoors!



AS the summer has arrived and the sun is attempting to shine, Community Music Wales are pleased to announce details of several forthcoming outdoor activities. Following the success of previous years, CMW have once again teamed up with local Council Park Services to provide a programme of free, hands-on workshops in parks and open spaces. Participants will experiment with various percussion instruments and play with rhythms from South Africa as an introduction to different musical styles and cultures. In some of the workshops the participants will be invited to make puppets and bring them to life to dance alongside the drummers. Throughout summer the workshops will take place in various parks in Cardiff. Please see our website for further details.

More outdoor musical fun can be found at Barry Funday. Again, this is a regular activity based on prior years proving to be a great hit. The workshop activity will be similar to the Music in the Parks, above. CMW has received some very positive feedback on previous outdoor workshops. Dily's, a participant said; 'I went to the Music in the Park on Easter Sunday (2010) and wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed myself. The African Drumming was excellent and the puppet maker was fantastic. The children enjoyed themselves as well as the adults - thank you for taking the trouble to arrange such a good afternoon.'

There's lots of fun for all the family approaching this summer, and plenty more to be announced soon. Fingers crossed we don't drum up a storm! CMW can be commissioned to run a variety of bespoke workshops to suit any group. Please contact us for further details.

Resource Pack - Available Now!

THE Community Music Wales' Community Music resource Pack has now been launched. The pack is designed for organisations already using or wishing to use music as an engagement tool. The pack is free. Should you wish a copy please contact us at admin@communitymusicwales.or.uk.

The pack is funded by the National Lottery through the Arts Council of Wales Training Programme and Reach the Heights project, funded through European Social Fund.

Harry the Hippy Heads Off On Tour

HARRY is very excited to have started a tour of the British Festivals this Summer. He set off in his Volkswagen Campervan and is loving sleeping under the stars.

First stop was Glastonbury, where Harry couldn't wait to whine with the Wombles and 'move his body' to Beyonce. He is also looking forward to his all time favourite Green Man festival in Wales; "I'm a seasoned Festival goer, but nothing prepared me for the first time I went four days without a shower. No problems this time round, I'm all prepared and have packed my essentials including my emergency bone supply should I get an attack of the midnight munchies. I also have can of dry shampoo to keep my locks white and shiny."

CMW staff are heading off to various festivals this year too, so we look forward to chilling with Harry. Hooray!

Michael Eavis was unavailable for comment.



Wales' Got Talent

COMMUNITY Music Wales mentoring Scheme, Complete Control music, has seen a huge amount of talent blossoming over Wales over the past few months.

In early May, Maesgeirchen Social Club saw an amazing show of singers, dancers, Musicians and DJ's, all performed by Young People from Maesgeirchen Youth Club. The performers had been supported by Community Music Wales and Gwynedd Council's Youth Workers, helping them to reach their full potential.

One of the acts to play was Steffie Gwawr, a Gwynedd's Arts Festival winner, who had popped back from College especially for the evening. She performed one of her own songs, followed by a dance piece. She said; "The DJ workshops that we did at the Youth Club were great, and now I'm taking things a step further, with a BTEC 1st Diploma in Music Technology at Coleg Llandrillo".

Another band from North Wales that has been enjoying some success since completing the CCM scheme, is all girl group 'She Said So'. Having spent 6 months receiving guidance and mentoring from CCM, they are now going it alone with confidence and are set to play a gig at Jumping Jac's café in Hollyhead.

The 'She Said So' girls met with their CCM mentor weekly at the London Road Community Centre, which has a fully kitted out rehearsal space. Susan Condra London Road Community Centre Manager said; "Community Music Wales have supported these young ladies on a weekly basis individually and as a group. It's nice to see the young ladies developing their confidence and skills through music and entertaining the community at different venues. The centre wishes She Said So all the best for the future. Well Done Girls!!!! "

South Wales is holding it's own in the talent field too. Two young participants from the Swansea area have been recording and mastering an album. The young rappers have been guided through the recording process by their CCM mentor, and are now being helped with online distribution, self release and marketing.

CCM is part of the Reach the Heights Project and is part funded by the European Social Fund. For more information non the scheme, please contact Community Music Wales or visit the website.



Maesgeirchen Social Club

For up to the minute news and project information:
www.communitymusicwales.co.uk

