

The Voices Foundation brings music back into every classroom – and to St. John’s, Smith Square

- The national singing charity brings together over 150 children from fifteen UK schools to perform at its anniversary concert
- The children will perform at a major celebratory concert at London’s St John’s, Smith Square on 28th November
- The twenty-fifth anniversary project is supported by an Arts Council England National Lottery Grant

London (October 2018): The Voices Foundation is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary by bringing together children from across the UK to sing at a birthday concert at St. John’s, Smith Square.

The charity has commissioned internationally-acclaimed composer David Bruce to write a piece on the theme of ‘homecoming’ for the anniversary concert. The piece, entitled *Song of Until*, is being taught to children in fifteen schools across the UK by The Voices Foundation’s network of skilled singing teachers.

The performance is part of a year-long project supported by an Arts Council England National Lottery Project Grant to celebrate the power of singing and the importance of home. The charity is calling for as many schools as possible to use the new song to explore and share their children’s own songs of home throughout the year.

Over 150 children will take part and perform the piece at a concert at London’s St John’s, Smith Square.

The evening will be a celebration of the work of the national charity, which each year works with 70 nurseries, primary and secondary schools, 700 teachers and over 2,000 children.

Recent research by Sussex University shows that just 47.5% of schools offer compulsory music lessons to 13-14 year olds, falling from 84% in 2012-2013.¹ At The Voices Foundation, its aim has always been to bridge the skills gap by giving all classroom teachers, regardless of prior music training, the ability to bring music into the classroom.

Now in its twenty-fifth year, the charity has also secured one of its largest partnerships to date, a two-year Paul Hamlyn Foundation Teacher Development Grant to provide music education to six David Ross Education Trust primary schools. The charity is also embarking on a significant investment to digitise its offering by creating an online learning centre for teachers.

¹<https://www.ism.org/images/images/SUMMARY-Changes-in-Secondary-Music-Curriculum-Provision-2016-18.pdf>

The concert falls within the '[Big Give Week](#)', and every pound raised for The Voices Foundation between midday on 27th November (#GivingTuesday) and midday on Tuesday 4th December 2018 will be matched by The John Lewis Partnership and The Reed Foundation.

Rebecca Le Brocq, Chief Executive Officer of The Voices Foundation says: “Celebrating a milestone isn’t an excuse to sit back and pat yourself on the back. Instead, for those of us who work for The Voices Foundation, it is an opportunity to showcase what we do best: getting the nation to sing. Our belief is that teaching the arts has a lifelong positive effect on children, contributing to their wellbeing and creativity. We look forward to seeing schools up and down the country come together on 28th November to celebrate twenty-five brilliant years of music making.”

Commenting on twenty-five years since the founding of the charity, **Suzi Digby OBE** says: “Back in 1993 I had a simple vision to give every child access to quality music education. Since then, The Voices Foundation has had a deep impact on thousands of children across the country. It has demonstrated that music uniquely fosters aesthetic awareness and has the power to improve language and communication skills, increase levels of concentration and boost confidence.”

The Voices Foundation anniversary concert will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 28th November 2018 at St John’s Smith Square, London. Tickets are £10 (£5 concessions) and can be purchased here: <https://www.sjss.org.uk/events/voices-foundation>

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About The Voices Foundation

The Voices Foundation is an award-winning national music education charity that uses the power of singing to improve the lives of children and young people. Every year they help 15,000 children from over 70 schools sing regularly. Founded 25 years ago, The Voices Foundation has worked with over 600,000 children and 20,000 teachers. For more information, visit:

<http://www.voices.org.uk/>

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