

Sistema Scotland - End of Year 2 Report

In summary:

The Sistema Scotland pilot programme in Raploch has concluded its second year with over 240 children involved or 80% of the eligible age group (Nursery to Primary 5). In the last year a 'typical' child working with us has experienced 7 hours per week at after school club including an individual/paired lesson, up to 20 hours a week during holidays, attended up to 6 concerts, performed about 6 times, had a "musician home for tea" up to 3 times and heard musicians play in their school every week. Due to popular demand we started a parent orchestra 'The Noise' which meets once a week; and also have a volunteering programme including helpers from the local community and further afield.

Highlights of the year:

Over the last year the children have participated in a number of **performances** including at the G20 Finance Ministers in St Andrew's, the Association of Directors of Education conference, the Big Noise Christmas Concert, Raploch School Carol Service, St Margaret's Church Old Folks' Lunch, Cornton Care Home, a joint concert with Stirling City Choir, at the Tolbooth for the launch of Stirling Council's Cultural Strategy and the launch of the Olympics 2012 Volunteering Strategy.

The 2nd birthday concert at the Albert Halls, Stirling in June 2010 was a triumph!



The dedication of the musicians and the application of the children has resulted in a marked improvement in the demeanour of **the children** – their behaviour, their confidence and the respect they show to others. Appended to this report is a copy of a letter, written by six of the parent/carers, which gives their perspective on the effect the programme is having on their children.

Contd...

SISTEMA SCOTLAND

Transforming Lives with Music

Page 2

Our **partnership** with **FESNOJIV** has continued to thrive. Visits from the **Millennium Quartet** (formed by members of the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra) in October and **Susan Siman**, Director of one of the largest nuclei of El Sistema in Venezuela in April, saw intensive work for both teachers and children and helped us ensure that we are delivering as effective a programme as possible. In June 2010 our Chairman, Richard Holloway and Director, Nicola Killean were invited to speak at a conference in Gothenburg with Eduardo Mendes, the Executive Manager of FESNOJIV.

International Links Sistema Scotland has been emerging as a favoured model by the Venezuelans, and as such we have received visitors from around the world by individuals interested in establishing Sistema programmes. We are entering into talks with these countries, and with FESNOJIV, about how we can become a Centre of Excellence in Europe, and support the international development. We have also received an official request from the Auckland Philharmonic, for us to support them to establish the first Sistema in New Zealand.

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra is also an official partner of Big Noise Raploch and their players continue to be involved in performances and mentoring the Big Noise children's orchestras.

Other notable achievements:

- Nicola Benedetti appointed as "Big Noise Big Sister";
- Involvement of Sistema Scotland in key national conferences such as Association of British Orchestras, Learning and Teaching Festival;
- Integration of children with special educational needs into after-school orchestra;
- Reintegration of children with emotional and behaviour problems to after-school orchestra (after personalised programme work);
- Continued involvement in children's staged intervention meetings;
- Further development of the Big Noise curriculum, in relation with the Curriculum for Excellence;
- Development of Take a Musician Home for tea concert series;
- The development of a volunteering programme including community and external volunteers;
- Development of the Adult Community Orchestra "The Noise";
- Acceptance of first Big Noise child into the National Youth Choir of Scotland Area Choir.

We are working hard to engage with the **Scottish Government** towards securing public funding for Sistema Scotland. The Scottish Government has commissioned EkosGen to report (by end 2010) on a **programme of evaluation** of Sistema Scotland. Funding for this evaluation work has been contributed by the departments of youth justice, children and families, culture and employability.

Contd...

SISTEMA SCOTLAND

Transforming Lives with Music

Page 3

An exciting step change:

The first two years of the programme focussed on the teaching of violin, viola, cello and bass. Henceforth we shall be introducing woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. Seven specialist musician/teachers have been appointed to take forward this expansion and fulfil the vision to create a full symphony orchestra in Raploch. This expansion will also enable us to encourage some of the slightly older children (P6 and 7) who have not so far been a part of the orchestra to engage with the programme. In late June 2010 the whole teaching team (including the new arrivals) spent one week in Venezuela receiving intensive training from our colleagues at El Sistema.

The Future:

We are ambitious to continue working in Raploch with the children from pre-school, through their teens and beyond, but we also plan to open a **second centre** such that children elsewhere might benefit from the programme. We are currently in discussions with several local authorities with a view to identifying the most appropriate next centre.

On September 22nd we shall be holding a reception in the Garden Lobby at the **Scottish Parliament** sponsored by our local MSP Bruce Crawford. The children will perform and we hope this event will further raise the profile of our work

The Millennium Quartet from Venezuela will undertake a six week residency in September/October 2010. Based in Raploch, working with the children and Raploch musicians, they will also undertake a Scottish concert tour in collaboration with Sistema Scotland and Enterprise Music Scotland.

Fundraising:

A list of those who have supported the programme to date is included at the end of this report. We would like here to record our immense gratitude for each and every contribution made to Sistema Scotland – the programme simply could not continue without your support.

This is, however, a long term project and it is vital that we secure the funding to ensure that the children we work with, who may have been able to rely on little else in their short lives, can confidently rely on the continuation of this programme long into the future. To this end we continue to pursue all efforts at raising additional funding for the future.

We are all enormously grateful for your commitment to the programme

– **thank you for helping us transform the lives of children in Scotland.**

Contd...

SISTEMA SCOTLAND

Transforming Lives with Music

Page 4



NPB
July 2010

Encl: Parent/carer letter
List of supporters
Picturepage April 2010

Email: admin@sistemascotland.org.uk
www.sistemascotland.org.uk
www.makeabignoise.org.uk