



Making Music  
Together

[www.rotherham.gov.uk](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk)

Rotherham  
Metropolitan  
Borough Council 



# What do we do?

Rotherham Music creates, enables and supports the music offer across the borough. It provides:

- In school music lessons ranging from whole class lessons through to individual tuition
- In school development activities such as annual performances and concerts
- An out of school provision for children and young people looking to further their development
- A community provision providing a range of activities from early years through to care homes
- Pathways to talent and progression opportunities in industry
- A hub for partnership and collaboration at local and regional level



# In School Provision

- Whole class/First Access music education in schools – teaching instruments to a full class of students as an introduction to music, culminating in massed school performances.
- Small group lessons in schools – teaching to smaller and more targeted groups of children and young people e.g., brass, strings and woodwind
- Individual tuition – 1-2-1 tuition and lessons for students from 5-18
- Extra-curricular programmes - such as lunchtime and after school clubs, also Rock Band sessions
- Pupil premium music groups for enrichment
- Bespoke music sessions for children with additional needs, SEND and Special schools
- CPD for teachers to support music delivery in schools and build confidence in music teaching
- Live performances at school assemblies to encourage interest and myth bust, otherwise known as “the best assembly ever!” according to students at a recent performance at Craggs Community School
- Partnership offers, for example Conductive Music and Royal Ballet Opera composition workshops



# Out of School Provision

- Provision of Music Centre activities – Music Centres are designated spaces in localities where out of school provision takes place
- The service currently runs 2 Music Centres, at Oakwood and Rock Out Music
- Trips and performance opportunities to live events, concert halls and performances
- The out of school provision includes:
  - 1-2-1 individual lessons for young people and adults
  - Groups across different disciplines from brass to guitar and electronic music
  - Saturday Music School runs from Oakwood High School including bands, orchestras, composition, Dj and Rock and Pop groups
  - A Summer school which currently takes place over two days at the start of the Summer break



# Royal Albert Hall

“To perform at the Royal Albert Hall is every musician's dream”

Pupil Testimonial

- Partnership of the four South Yorkshire Music Hubs
- South Yorkshire Orchestral Collective of young people from all four areas performed live at the Royal Albert Hall
- An audience of 5000 saw the talent from across the region including Rotherham
- 100 pupils got the experience of a lifetime



# Performances, Concerts & Events

- **Signals Music Festival** – 10 days of youth led music across the borough including a Town Centre music festival and talent showcase
- **Spring Proms** – Choral and instrumental performances across three sites (Wentworth, Whiston and Rotherham Minster)
- **One Voice** – Mass participation choral event over two day at Magna focused on singing across primary and secondary schools
- **Big Blast/Big String** – Mass participation orchestral performances across primary and secondary schools
- **Winter Concerts** – Similar to the Spring Proms taking place in the festive season in locations across the borough
- **Riverside Recitals** – A programme of free lunchtime performances at Riverside House
- **Schools Concerts** – Festive singing for schools at Rotherham Minster, Wentworth Woodhouse and local churches and venues.



# One Voice

“It was a fantastic experience to sing with a live band and to perform with other children from different schools – we will definitely be back next year”

School testimonial

- Annual choral events celebrating singing in schools across Primary, Secondary and SEND, performed by over 1,300 children and young people across two days at Magna
- An audience of 1100 parents, guardians, teachers, educators and funders attend the event each year
- 32 staff are involved in the delivery of the event ranging from stage management, sound and lighting, to performing, composing and conducting the event.



# Community Music

A development of the service as a result of the management restructure in 2022 was to move beyond the in-school offer and increase the profile and opportunities across the service and the wider communities of Rotherham. The community music offer includes:

- **Mini Melodies** focusing on early years which takes place in libraries and some private nursery settings
- **Pop-Up & Play** provides a series of paid performance opportunities across events throughout the year including Rotherham Show, Christmas Lights' Switch On, Wow Rotherham and UPLIFT
- Development of **Creative Partnerships** to deliver new opportunities. Partnerships include Royal Opera & Ballet, Music in the Round, Flux Rotherham
- **R&D** of new outreach programmes including trialling **Care Home Choir**, the development of the **Rotherham Opera** and the development **AppeaR** augmented reality soundscapes and illusions



# Skills & Talent Pathways

The service has a focus on supporting young people into careers across the broad spectrum of the music industry. This supported through:

- The creation of paid performance opportunities across events
- Hosting of industry days and conferences as part of Signals Festival
- Launch of a quarterly Open-Mic night at Rotherham Civic Theatre
- Launch of a Friday night network for young musicians at Rock Out Music School
- Hosting of paid traineeships, internships and work placements



“My traineeship at Rotherham Music has been incredible, and has given me motivation, inspiration, and skills I can use to go forwards in my own pursuits...thanks to my experience, for the last month I’ve been working part time for another company, who took me on to support their sales and marketing.”

Ben Unsworth,  
Rotherham Music  
Trainee



# Reach & Engagement: School Related Offer

- Every week 3,000 children and young people learn and practice music with Rotherham Music in school
- Over 1,300 children and young people performed at this year's One Voice across 2 days
- 350 children and young people will perform as part of the annual Big Blast and Big String Events
- The service is facilitating the largest community opera in the UK with more than 1,500 children involved in writing, designing and performing the Rotherham Opera
- Music Centres are attended by 104 children and young people every year further enhancing and developing their practice and building social skills



# Reach & Engagement: Community Offer



- 110 young people have received paid performance opportunities as a result of the community music programme
- 62 children and families attended Mini Melodies last year.
- 45 care home residents participated in the Care Home Choir R&D programme
- The service has supported internships, work experience and traineeships for 6 young people over the last two years
- The service has 15 positive pieces of press coverage in the last 12 months





“It felt really great to interact with people in this way again and to spend an hour laughing is never a waste of time.”

## Care Home Choir Participant

- 50% of participants said that they were feeling more optimistic about the future
- 89% of participants would recommend the activities to a friend or family member
- 60% of participants said their wellbeing had improved as a result of attending

# New Developments

- Closer collaboration with South Yorkshire Music Hub
- Work with new Lead Schools around teacher CPD
- Adult Learning provision in libraries and community centres
- Expansion of Music Centre across borders e.g., collaboration with Sheffield Music Hub to establish a centre on the Rotherham/Sheffield border
- Expansion and growth of Mini Melodies in Private Nursery settings
- Music heritage project in partnership with Flux Rotherham as part of Signals 2026
- Expansion and growth of pathways and skills programmes to develop an offer for academies who have an in-house music provision

