

Sistema² in Norwich

transforming lives through music



AUTUMN 2018

NEWSLETTER



This academic year is our tenth year running a Sistema-inspired programme. Though we are still learning and developing our approach, we are proud of what has been achieved in that time. This has only been possible due to the amazing support we have had for our work, and we want to say a big thank you to all to those who have helped us on our journey. Large or small, people's generosity and kindness has been overwhelming. This September we have had our first two young people go off to university, and one go to music college, so we wish them all the best for their new adventures.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We need your votes for the **Aviva Community Fund**. You could help us win **£25,000** by voting for our project and getting as many people as you can to vote for us. Please spread the word. Voting starts on 23rd October and finishes on 20th November. We will put a link on the home page of the Sistema website.

We have also been selected for **Tesco Bags of Help** during November and December. Voting will take place in Tesco stores in the Norwich area. There's a full list of stores on our website, but if you shop in Tesco please look out for it and put your tokens in the Sistema box.

TEEN SISTEMA

We are really pleased to announce that funding from the Foyle Foundation, Norfolk Music Hub, the Limbourne Trust and the Geoffrey Watling Charity, will enable us to continue to develop our Teen Sistema provision. Sistema Saturdays offers a weekly three-hour session, covering instrumental lessons, ensemble rehearsals and general musical development. They run every Saturday in term-time at our base on Colegate, Norwich. Our twice termly Orchestra Days mean that children in the Sarah Glover (primary school) Orchestra can also get involved, and Year 6 children learning strings, wind and brass in their primary schools can now come to Sistema Saturdays, so please get in touch if your child is interested.



NEW PROVISION

We have set up sessions at West Earlham Junior School for the children who had previously been taking part at Norwich Primary Academy (NPA). Choir and Strings take place on a Monday, and Orchestra on a Friday. This is open to any NPA child, so please get in touch if your child is interested. Choir is open to all children at West Earlham Junior School, as well. In addition, Queens Hill Primary School is joining the Sistema in Norwich family. We are starting with violin and cello, while we work towards developing a full orchestra at the school. This new provision has been possible thanks to a donation from the King Cullimore Charitable Trust.

Welcome to Sistema in Norwich's newsletter, bringing you an update on the programme, upcoming events, developments and news from the national and international Sistema world.

Sistema in Norwich is an independent programme that seeks to transform the lives of young people through participation in music, supporting children and young people to succeed across all areas of their lives through learning to play a musical instrument and being part of an orchestra. The programme particularly works in areas of social deprivation, where the needs of children, families and the community are greater.

Sistema in Norwich is a member of Sistema England and Sistema Europe, giving the work both a national and international profile.



NORCA 
& Sistemaⁱⁿ Norwich
Registered Charity No. 1089916

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sat 15th December - Sistema Winter Celebration - 7pm, Octagon Chapel.
(Full details of these are available on the 'events' page of our website).



Sistema in Norwich Performance Project #2 The Vagaband Orchestra Concert



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
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On Sunday 23rd September, a remarkable concert took place at OPEN, Norwich. Sistema in Norwich's Colegate Nucleo Orchestra performed with The Vagaband, one of the region's most popular and successful alt-american acts, in what one reviewer described as, "a memorable evening for all concerned." José McGill, lead singer and songwriter of The Vagaband, described the concert as one of the highlights of his career.

This concert was the second in a series that Sistema in Norwich is developing with the support of funding from Arts Council England. The Performance Project is giving young people taking part in Sistema new opportunities to perform and work with professional artists from different backgrounds and musical genres, as well as the chance to work with other young people from across the city and beyond. We hope that, as well as exposing young people to music they would not previously have experienced, the project will help us develop a bigger audience for our concerts and raise the quality of our ensembles.

"Music is a performing art It isn't there in the score" - Michael Tippett, composer.

Juan Gabriel Rojas, Sistema in Norwich's Musical Director says, "Music is a form of communication, a way of expressing ideas and sharing emotions. If music is not played for a public it does not fulfill the totality of its function. And, for a music student, playing for a public is an essential part of his or her development as an artist. The musician needs to experiment with this communication, both as a means of evaluating progress, and for the pleasure

of giving something valuable to others. Performing also helps motivate students to improve their playing. Having a concert programme helps them to better organise their practise, setting goals and focusing their energy. As well as the opportunity to attend concerts of varied musical styles and settings, students can be inspired by sharing the stage with professional musicians. For all these reasons, performing is a crucial part of developing as a musician."

A recording of the concert will be shortly available for purchase through our website, and video posted online.

We have an exciting programme shaping up for the rest of the project. A collaboration with Lost in Translation Circus is currently in rehearsal, for performance on Sat 27th Oct. Plans include a concert for solos and small ensembles, a choral concert, a collaboration with an instrumental soloist, a carnival themed concert and a night programmed entirely by young people.

For our Winter Celebration, on 15th December, rather than our young people being asked to perform, we are going to do a concert for them, performed by tutors, guests and some of the older participants. Tickets will be available through the box office on our website.



SISTEMA VOICES

Views from around the programme

ANDY DANIELS, VOLUNTEER

"When I go to an orchestral concert (which is as often as possible) to hear a symphony (lets say by Mahler, my hero), I sit back after the applause has died down, close my eyes, and think "Wow, how is that possible?" I come to the conclusion that, in the ordinary sense of the word, it is not possible, but that the orchestra has somehow transcended the bounds of possibility and turned the music into one of those miracles of which humans somehow, inexplicably, seem capable. That's what music does.

I started to try to play the violin a couple of years ago, aged 68, which is far too late, and I find progress frustratingly slow, difficult and all too human, but still possible. However, I go to Sistema at Catton Grove School once a week as a volunteer and play alongside the children. I see how hard they work and how they get it wrong (as do I), and I see how patient and kind their teachers are, and I watch them slowly get it right. I see the children's pleasure at making progress, but I only hear snippets of things, for about half an hour every week, and one loses track of where it's all headed. Until much later, and there is a concert for parents and friends, as there was quite recently. It was wonderful, and a great privilege to listen to. I found that I felt that miracle again, just as strongly as for any adult orchestra. These children become, truly, musicians.

I feel very proud to have played some small part in all of that, and I am full of admiration for what Sistema, and all its teachers achieve. They do a splendid job. My thanks on behalf of all the children, if that's not too presumptuous, and those who, like me, benefit from it too."



JESSICA LOWRY, CELLIST

"Performing with The Vagaband? At the time I didn't know what to think. I felt, and still do feel, so proud of everyone in the orchestra who performed that night and it's all thanks to the tutors, Marcus and José who reached out to the orchestra and asked for us to play with them. It was such an overwhelming experience and I know a lot of us within the orchestra cried afterwards because of how intense it was.

I had never heard of The Vagaband before we were informed about the concert, so at first I was unsure if I would like their music and would be able to connect with the feel of each of the different pieces we were being asked to play with them. A few months before the concert I searched them up and listened to all of their albums to get the gist of their style; it's safe to say that the genre of music they make fits snugly into the type of music I listen to on a daily basis. Out of all the songs we performed, I think I enjoyed playing 'The River' and 'An Eye for an Eye' the most, because everyone around me within the orchestra seemed to really connect with both of those pieces and performing them along-side the Artists themselves; it was really rewarding to see their faces after each song but, these two stood out to me the most.

Compared to other performances, I found this one, one of if not the most rewarding experience I've ever had. Although I had travelled abroad to Canada with Sistema, this experience, in this small town I'm slowly beginning to love, I found was up there or equal to that experience. It has been the highlight of my musical career so far and I look forward to what the future holds for me and the orchestra."



CATHIE DAVIES, ON CYCLING FROM NORWICH TO SWANSEA FOR SISTEMA

"I am always trying to encourage people to fundraise for us, so I decided it was about time I did my bit too! I've always loved cycling and was looking for a new challenge after cycling Coast to Coast a couple of years ago. It seemed appropriate to do some sort of cycling challenge. After years of driving back to Swansea to see my parents, I thought why not cycle it instead and raise funds for Sistema at the same time.

The whole challenge took six months in the planning, 1,500 miles in training and a total of eight punctures. There were some tricky moments, like when I needed some major repairs to my bike two days before I was due to set off, or when I got totally lost in Milton Keynes with no up to date maps and a lot of roundabouts.

I am thrilled that so many people supported me and gave money to such a fantastic project - one that is close to my heart and means so much to so many people. So ... any ideas for my next challenge?" (See the back page for more on Cathie's ride).



CATHIE'S SPONSORED BIKE RIDE 'FROM HOME TO HOME'

Sistema in Norwich's Operations Manager, Cathie Davies, rode from her home in Norwich to the home where she grew up, in Swansea, to raise funds for Sistema in Norwich. The 320 mile ride took her six days and she was joined by friends from both Norwich and Swansea on various legs of the journey. Cathie has raised over £3,000 so far, and we want to say a big 'thank you' and well done to Cathie for what she achieved. It's not too late to make a donation. Just go to the JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sistemainnorwich>.

You can read about Cathie's experience on our Sistema Voices page (Page 3). If you would like to raise funds for Sistema in Norwich and have an idea please get in touch. We'd love you to be part of our story.



SUPPORT SISTEMA IN NORWICH

OUR VISION

We are working to put in place a sustainable, long-term programme that can bring about real change for young people from areas of disadvantage, and which supports them from 'cradle to career'. Young people from these areas of the city routinely have lower levels of achievement than those from more well-off backgrounds, however in Norwich they also have lower achievement levels than young people from similar areas nationally. In fact, the Social Mobility Commission has identified Norwich as one of the areas of lowest social mobility in England, meaning that young people growing up poor in Norwich have amongst the lowest life opportunities in the country.

We are committed to continue to develop and deliver high quality music teaching in this innovative and challenging way. Key priorities are:

- Increasing tutor teaching hours across the programme, to provide more sessions
- Working in more primary schools
- Continuing to build our Teen Sistema sessions for older children (11 to 18yrs)
- Developing the skills of our tutor team
- Increasing our pool of instruments



Sistema in Norwich has no core funding and needs your support.

- Make a donation or become a 'Sistema Orchestra Friend'
- Sponsor, or encourage your employer to sponsor us
- Give your time or skills as a volunteer
- Donate an instrument you no longer use
- Come to one of our concerts or events

The DONATE page on our website has all the information you need on how to donate. Or you can email us or give us a call.

All donations, however large or small, are important to us and make a difference.

NORCA and Sistema in Norwich is a UK registered charity (No. 1089916). Funding for Sistema in Norwich is restricted to that project and appears separately in our accounts as a restricted fund.

Sistema in Norwich is grateful for the support in the last 12 months of

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