

We have had another very busy year performing music for the Felixstowe community.

Our two major projects were the schools project "Around The World in 80 Days" and our Free Proms on the Prom. We have also visited a dementia group on several occasions and groups at Felixstowe Library, at least one care home and there are more projects in the pipeline. We recently finished our Wednesday Lunchtime Young Musicians Series.

The musical version of Jules Verne's famous story involved about 90 children from three local primary schools, also 2 girls telling the story and a girl dancer portraying the different countries through dance and movement which she had choreographed herself.

We used a small band of professional musicians for the show and a director for the action.

The schools each chose a couple of modes of transport and sang songs chosen by themselves. It was very entertaining working with the children in this process.

At the end of the piece they all sang "We'd Like To Teach The World To Sing"

Each child received a tee shirt designed especially for the show, which they got to keep afterwards. (sorry we have no photos from this year – the schools usually take some)

We didn't charge to come in as some children are from extremely poor families. The audience numbers were about 250 divided between the dress rehearsal and show.

Those audience members we spoke to were delighted with the performance and the chance to see our live musicians as well.

The cost of the show, including the hire of the Orwell Hotel ballroom, was over £2,000 as in previous years. However we had sold a cello and this plus FTC grant made it possible.

We had also received some funding from Felixstowe Lions for our community projects.

One other free event was the Proms on the Prom. This was even more successful than last year and attracted even more than the 1,000 people we had then. It was heartwarming to feel the good nature of the crowd, and the weather smiled on us yet again. One note for next year is to advise people to bring a blanket in the evening as it gets a bit chilly!

The cost of this was £5,000 so the Council's help was much appreciated as well as the aforementioned sale of a cello, the money from which is now running out. A collection amongst the crowd also raised £1,000 which would have been more had the internet worked for our card reader.

The Young Musicians series ran for 6 weeks and involved several Felixstowe students as well as some from other parts of the county. Everything from opera singing to a rock band was covered. The standard was extremely high and we have invited them to come back in a couple of years as the audience loves to follow their progress. They each got a payment of £50 which was really well received, and we paid for the accompanists, apart from myself who played for the first two girls -that took some practising!

The cost of this was around £750 some of which was recouped by a collection on the door.

Our regular concert series is well supported although generally runs at a small loss.

As I write, we are about to put on our popular Last Night of the Proms concert. We have mostly a retired audience which is why our two free events are very important in attracting younger and unwaged people.

We hope to continue doing these events. Any funding ideas would be gratefully received.



Young musicians. The boy playing the violin said he wanted to save lives by being a doctor but also by his music.



Proms on Prom Felixstowe Community Choir



Felixstowe Festival Orchestra - Film Music Prom



Try an Instrument Session included the St John Ambulance volunteer – he'd never played an instrument!



Felixstowe Folk Group – The Brawlers