



## JESSIE'S FUND HELPS CHILDREN WITH SERIOUS ILLNESS OR COMPLEX NEEDS TO COMMUNICATE THROUGH MUSIC

### THERE'S A WORLD OUT THERE IF WE LISTEN...

I have been inspired to write about a little boy we met during a Jessie's Fund Soundtracks project at Norfolk Park School in Sheffield. Although we have only met Charlie once so far, his response to live music was very powerful. For me, Charlie's responses sum up the essence of Jessie's Fund: through the many projects delivered by Jessie's Fund musicians throughout the UK, many children (who otherwise would not) gain the opportunity to both shine and share their love of music with musicians who are sensitive to their needs and ways of communication. Doors can be opened. New perspectives can be seen. New opportunities can be created.

This is the story of our first encounter with Charlie...

When we first were introduced to Charlie the thing that struck me most was how well his teaching assistant, Sarah, knew him and how best he would access the music session. 'He's rather good at playing the wind chimes with his feet,' she said. This one sentence was a perfect example of the partnership between teaching staff and Jessie's Fund musician working at its best - enabling the child to gain as much as possible from the session but leaving space for us to get to know him for ourselves. We didn't need to know Charlie's life story, or what he had had for breakfast that day - but we were really helped by Sarah taking time before the session to think about the best options for Charlie in order to make sure he could access the music-making fully, and we were told only what we needed to know - nothing more, nothing less.

Charlie, we learnt throughout the course of our session, is a very sophisticated and sensitive listener. Only four years of age but displaying amazing concentration

when motivated by music, Charlie's world revolves around sound. The only vision at all that Charlie has is the ability to sense a bright spot at the corner of his right eye. Sound - the presence of it, the lack of it, too much of it, just the right amount - and being able to make sense of it, is a full-time job for him - a good reason why Charlie's listening skills are indeed so sophisticated.

Like a good musician he has worked and worked to make sense of sound, so that it has become not only his connection with the world, but an integral part of him. We quickly learnt that Charlie was, indeed, very good at playing the wind chimes with his feet. We also learnt that he used this technique to communicate with us, as well as his giggle and cheeky smile when the clarinet made him laugh. Charlie would play the chimes and when he touched them, we would respond by playing with him. When he stopped, we stopped. When he moved faster, we played faster and higher; when he slowed, we slowed. His body became more involved as he got more excited - we followed this with our music.



Every now and then, the music would stop, but the silence that followed still held the musical tension we had all created: Charlie listened intently and when the clarinet played the funny low sound in this gap he giggled. The more we did it, the more he giggled - then we all giggled - it was fun, we all understood the music. The sounds made sense. Like any good musician Charlie was able to be part of the music-making, finding a clear voice and role: he was able to equally communicate, listen and respond with us on a level that said we all understood the language of making music together, like musicians who 'jam' and know when the feel is right: Charlie understood. And Sarah understood Charlie. She told us 'music is in Charlie'.

Charlie couldn't tell us what he knew about music by using words: we had to learn it from him. But he was great at showing us what he knew - we just had to know what to look for. Like any good musician, when you take time to make a connection with another musician who you want to play music with, the music sounds so much better than just playing away on your own. When we had finished the session, Sarah commented: 'doesn't that just make it all worthwhile!' No-one had told us what to do: but Charlie had showed us how.

*Ros Hawley*

## FAMILY RUNS FOR JESSIE'S FUND

When I say to people that I'm doing a half marathon in October, they usually say 'what are you doing that for?' I have to ask them if they mean for which charity am I running, or why on earth am I doing something so stupid? The answer to the latter is usually something along the lines of 'I don't know', 'I thought it'd be funny', or 'it started as a silly comment on Facebook'.

All of that's true, but the answer to the first question is much more interesting. Jessie was my best friend in school, and though I was very young when she died, she will never leave my memory and remains a really important part of my life. She even taught me how to spell 'beautiful' using the Mrs B, Mrs E rhyme, and now at aged 27 I still cannot spell it without saying that rhyme, and thinking of Jessie.

Let me put that rhyme into practice: The thing I like about telling people about Jessie's Fund, is something which any supporter of the charity will agree with: how something so beautiful and important came out of something so tragic. It's pretty inspirational, and I really believe in the work Jessie's Fund does.

I hope we can get somewhere in supporting that work. With my brothers and sister, I'm running the Oxford half marathon in aid of Jessie's Fund and Sophie's Wish, a charity for brain cancer research. We need all the motivation we can get, so please do sponsor us at [www.mycharitypage.com/TeamHoyland](http://www.mycharitypage.com/TeamHoyland). The money will be split 50/50, so if you would rather give direct to Jessie's Fund, please send a cheque to the address on the back page or call 01904 658189 to make your donation over the phone. Make sure you let them know it's to sponsor Team Hoyland, so that they can let us know how our offline fundraising is going. Thanks very much!

*Susie Hoyland (bottom right in photo)*



## TWO OF 'OUR' CHILDREN

We helped to fund 30 music therapy sessions each for Bella (right) and Lana (below)\*. Bella's mum says 'During sessions she has been extremely motivated to use her hands, which previously she had found very difficult to do. The main benefit of the music therapy sessions has been the opportunity for Bella to express herself. This has been particularly powerful after hospital admissions, when Bella has been able to express herself in an emotionally charged way. She works very hard during the session to create music and express herself and she gains a real sense of achievement which she rarely experiences outside the sessions.'



Lana's music therapist told us 'Lana and I have been using freely improvised music as an expressive tool for her emotions and thoughts. Furthermore, we used music to assist Lana's social interactions and ways of relating the environment around her. Lana and I have formed a special therapeutic relationship. She fully enjoyed the musical experience and made full use of the therapy time. She often appeared impatient to start the session. It is very encouraging to see how Lana has developed through the music therapy sessions.'

*\*Not their real names*

## SOUNDTRACKS

As we start a new school year we can reflect on how much our Soundtracks programme achieved last year. Soundtracks gives children in special schools the chance to take part in creative music projects and includes a strong element of staff training. There are three main strands:

- Five day projects with follow-up support
- Two year strategic music development programmes
- A new strand of one day 'taster' workshops

Last year we worked with 27 schools, involved 877 children and young people, and delivered 54 staff training sessions.

*"I know these children pretty well and wouldn't have thought they would be able to do what they've done today. Thank you so much for giving us such a fantastic experience."*

Headteacher

## CHILDREN'S HOSPICES

There are 43 children's hospices in the UK and over the years we have established posts for music therapists at 33 of them.

We have also been running regular music-making training courses for staff, and will be offering courses in York and London in October and November. For details go to our website or call us.

Our recent meeting of children's hospice music therapists, held at the children's hospice near Cambridge (below), was very well attended; the therapists find the sharing of experiences and resources invaluable in supporting their work.







## JUST SOME OF THE GENEROUS SUPPORT RECEIVED RECENTLY



The Hon. Mr Simon and Mrs Howard hosted a concert and reception at Castle Howard: thanks are due equally to Lynne Dawson, Louise Winter and Simon Wright for a wonderful programme of music. The evening raised over £5,000.



Markel International donated £5,000, prompted by Camberley Youth Wind Orchestra's annual concert in Windsor for Jessie's Fund.



Hywel Williams raised over £1,000 in his gruelling cycle ride from Land's End to John O'Groats.



Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Foundation donated £1,840 for musical instruments for a special school.



Christine Mitchell-Innes collected £200 for us by putting any £2 coins left in her purse after shopping into a piggy bank.



Runners have been putting in that extra effort for Jessie's Fund: five (including Jessie's cousin Katy Schatzberger) at the York 10k, and Ray Schofield at the Great North Run.

THANK YOU ALSO TO MANY OTHERS OMITTED HERE THROUGH LACK OF SPACE

## IN MEMORIAM

Gwyneth Lloyd Alford  
Duncan Brereton  
Fiona Campbell  
Ralph Franklin  
Keith Robertson Grant  
Alan Hacker  
June Laycock  
Maurice Murphy  
Elizabeth Pate  
Lydia Purcell  
Christopher Rowland  
Graham Sellars  
William Smith

## ANNUAL BIKE RIDE IS BACK!

### Having enjoyed annual bike rides

from York to Amsterdam and back since 2007 (raising a total of over £50,000), we've had a year off in 2012. This was brought about by the winding up of Charity Adventure, whose dedicated team had organised voluntarily all our previous "Amsterslam" events (along with an impressive number of annual rides for other charities).

We really missed our adventure, so we're teaming up with Matt, one of the Event Organisers and a ride guide, to arrange something ourselves: we're pleased to announce that there'll be a fantastic ride over spring bank holiday weekend, 2013.

Starting in Hull on the evening of Thursday 23rd May, we'll be boarding the overnight ferry to Zeebrugge, and then cycling about 200 miles, taking in three countries, a stretch of the famous Tour of Flanders route, and the city gems Gent and Bruges along the way.

We'll return on the overnight ferry, arriving back in Hull early on Tuesday 28th May. There will only be about 30 places, and cyclists will need to have some experience as we'll be cycling between 60 and 80 miles a day - but it won't be a race! If you are interested, please email us at [info@jessiesfund.org.uk](mailto:info@jessiesfund.org.uk) so that we can send you more information.



## VOLUNTEERING FOR JESSIE'S FUND



We're grateful to have willing volunteers visit our busy office. Anna Gale joins us about three times a month to assist with administrative tasks, and Felicity Wheeler tells us here about her work with us:

'I have been working as a volunteer for Jessie's Fund one day a week since March, following relocation from London back to Yorkshire. My main role is helping with funding research and drafting applications.

I have always been involved with music - I grew up playing the clarinet and violin and have been involved with many music groups over the years. As I am local and musical I'd always known about Jessie's Fund and can see the importance of communicating through music. I believe in the power of music to affect people's emotions.

When I knew I had some time to volunteer I looked them up and asked about getting involved. It's great because it keeps me engaged within the charity sector and helps them out as well. The team is really welcoming and the coffee is excellent!'

## LAUNCH OF OUR NEW WEBSITE

Our new website has just gone live!

We were keen to work with a local company, and York's Ownbeat Creative seemed to 'get' our vision for it straight away. It's the first time we've invested in a professionally designed site, and we hope you like the result as much as we do. We think it's a lot easier to navigate - especially the *Resources* pages and the *Shop*, which is now more attractive and user-friendly. Please visit us at [www.jessiesfund.org.uk](http://www.jessiesfund.org.uk); feel free to let us know what you think.



## A MUSICAL EVENING AT ASKE CHAPEL

6pm, Saturday 13th October  
Aske Chapel, Richmond,  
North Yorkshire, DL10 5HJ

A varied programme of music for  
choir, brass band, solo singers, and  
instrumentalists.

Tickets: £5, including a glass of wine  
and nibbles. Available from  
Rev. Peter Adamson, tel: 01748 812623  
or Fionagh Bennet, tel: 01748 823866

*Raising money for Jessie's Fund*

## MAGIC SHOW

**Merlin Magical Society** grew from  
an evening of magical entertainment  
which took place in Hertfordshire on  
6th December 1929. On 6th December  
*this* year the society will be presenting  
'Magic at Your Table', a close-up magic  
show, and donating the proceeds to  
Jessie's Fund. The event starts at 8pm,  
at Little Heath Parish Hall, Potter's Bar,  
Hertfordshire EN6 1JJ. Tickets are £6,  
which includes a drink and a mince  
pie. To order tickets call 01707 654606.



## SONGS FOR JESSIE

7.30pm, Wednesday 17th October  
The Recital Room at Culford School,  
Culford, Bury St Edmunds, IP28 6TX

Songs by

Schubert, Brahms, Finzi,  
Villa-Lobos, Fauré,  
Head and Britten

Tickets: £5, available from Balaam's Music  
Shop, Risbygate St, Bury St Edmunds,  
or from Cathy Cass on 01359 270785  
Also available at the door

*Raising money for Jessie's Fund*

## FRIENDS

**Regular gifts** enable Jessie's Fund to plan  
ahead. Standing orders are the most efficient  
way of supporting our work and minimising  
administration costs. Setting up a regular gift  
of at least £2 per month means that you will  
become a Friend of Jessie's Fund.

By becoming a Friend of Jessie's Fund you  
will also become a friend of the many children  
we help each year. You can set up a standing  
order at [www.justgiving.com/jessiesfund](http://www.justgiving.com/jessiesfund)  
or call or email to ask us for a form.

## CELEBRATING

Dwai Banjeree  
Naomi Gill and James Canham  
Alison Garbett  
Jessica Taylor and Claude Gillham  
Mike Riley  
Lindsey Woods

## MILLEGRO ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

7.30pm, Saturday 1st December  
Joseph Rowntree Theatre  
Haxby Road, York, YO31 8TA

Host: BBC Radio York's Neil Foster  
Director: Ewa Salecka  
Pianist: Greg Birch

An impressive showcase of York vocal  
talent well known for their unique  
and imaginative choral repertoire and  
powerful performances.

Tickets: £10 (groups £8.50) available  
from [www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk](http://www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk)  
More info: [www.millegro.com](http://www.millegro.com)

*Raising money for Jessie's Fund*

## LET US KNOW ...

Please remove my details from your mailing list ☐  
Please amend my address on your mailing list ☐  
I would prefer to receive the newsletter by email ☐  
I enclose a donation ☐  
I would like you to claim Gift Aid \* ☐

NAME

ADDRESS

TEL  EMAIL

Please post to the address below or email us at [info@jessiesfund.org.uk](mailto:info@jessiesfund.org.uk)  
Cheques should be payable to Jessie's Fund.  
Donations can be made online at [www.bmycharity.com/jessiesfund](http://www.bmycharity.com/jessiesfund)

\* Donating by Gift Aid means that we can reclaim tax, making your donation worth 25% more  
to us. You need to be a UK taxpayer and pay sufficient tax to have covered all your charitable  
donations during the year.



## G & S PRINCESS IDA

7.30pm, Saturday 2nd March 2013  
Folkestone United Reformed Church  
Radnor Park, Folkestone,  
Kent CT20 2QL

Concert performance  
Directed by Michael Foad

Tickets: £8 available on the door

*Raising money for Jessie's Fund*



01904 658189

JESSIE'S FUND  
15 PRIORY STREET, YORK YO1 6ET



[info@jessiesfund.org.uk](mailto:info@jessiesfund.org.uk)

Jessie's Fund is registered charity no. 1045731

[www.jessiesfund.org.uk](http://www.jessiesfund.org.uk)