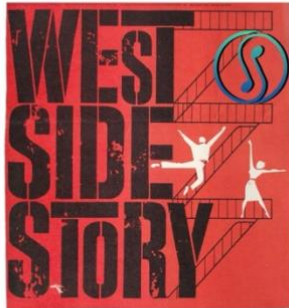


## HUB REPORT 3/22

This is the first report from the Music Hub Stockbridge. There have been five TMI Friday (Thank Music It's Friday) lunchtime concerts, three Culture Club events, weekly Cello Choir rehearsals, weekly Spectrum Music sessions as activities in the local primary school and care home since the Hub launched in September 2021. All of this has been made possible thanks to Amati Global Investors – who have funded the Community Music Practitioner post and the partnership and support of Stockbridge Church and it's Kirk Session members as well as the charity Hear My Music ([www.hearmymusic.org.uk](http://www.hearmymusic.org.uk)) who are a supporting Spectrum Music.



**7pm October 30th**  
Screening of the classic 1961 film

Reserve your free seat or table at  
[www.musichub.uk](http://www.musichub.uk)

Stockbridge Church, Saxe Coburg St, EH3 5BN

In the Spring of 2021 when things were pretty bleak for me as a freelance musician and all my teaching was happening on zoom, I had begun to enjoy making music with my chamber music group, Artisan, in the beautiful space that is Stockbridge Church. Restrictions were such that we were allowed to rehearse together at a suitable distance as we had put a concert in the diary. We were all elated by the experience of playing together after such a long time and it confirmed what I knew – that music can feed the soul.

The viola player in Artisan, Kathryn Jourdan, mentioned that her husband's company, 'Amati Global Investors', gives away 10% of its net profits each year to registered charities, which stakeholders choose. She asked whether I might be interested in using that money to work as a community musician to aid with covid recovery. For me this was an amazing offer, an opportunity to do what I am trained to do whilst giving something to the community in these unprecedented times. Of course, it was also extremely welcome to have the chance of an income after a two-year drought.

Kathryn and I spoke to John Cowie, then minister at Stockbridge Church to ask whether the church might like to be the charity that receives this donation and in turn pays me. John is passionate about music and has supported Artisan for many years, letting us use the church as venue many times. All pieces of the puzzle slotted together thanks to John and his creative thinking and generous heart. We agree that I would be based at the church with the support of the office staff should I need it and be able to use the venue for some of the activities I had in mind.

### August 2021

I made a website – [www.musichub.uk](http://www.musichub.uk) and planned rehearsals for the launch in September. I contacted Stockbridge Primary School and Braeburn House as well as began discussions with the charity Hear My Music about setting up classes for children on the autistic spectrum. (I have worked for Hear My Music for several years all around Scotland and have wanted to begin a 'sister' base in Edinburgh to compliment the Glasgow one).

## September 2021

We had a launch event which was promoted by articles in the press and online. A press release was sent out and it was well attended as a result. There a few performances, Artisan, Cello Choir and Recitals for Wrigglers to give a flavour of some of the activities that would be available going forward. I spoke about my plans and John and Kathryn told their side of the story!

## October 2022

Chamber Music Scotland granted funding to the church for six lunchtime concerts. This meant that we I could book professional musicians who have been out of work for so long. It was agreed that Artisan would play no more that 50% of these concerts as it could be seen to be a conflict of interest for me.

The first Friday of each month from October to April (not including January) would see a free family lunchtime concert. Eventually I hope to be able to offer sandwiches and soft drinks – but Covid regulations currently don't allow this. This month also saw our first Culture Club event – a screening of the original West Side Story film (partly in anticipation of the Spielberg remake being released in December).

I began to work in Stockbridge Primary School – offering general creative music classes including singing (much missed during Covid restrictions), song writing and musical games. I



have recently received some encouraging feedback from parents.

*'I just wanted to feedback how amazing these sessions have been for all the children there post lockdowns.'*

*'The children say they are the highlight of the week. They have learnt so much and really enjoy them. I also think it is therapeutic for them, especially singing, as they were told not to sing in nursery during the pandemic.'*

I also began weekly sessions in my local care home – Braeburn House. We sing topical songs, sometimes I visit residents in their rooms if they prefer and play my cello to them, and I encourage song writing too.

## November 2021

Spectrum music sessions began this month. My colleague Melissa and I have worked alongside each other in projects for Hear My Music and I was really happy to be able to offer her this work. Melissa trained as a music therapist and like me is passionate about using music to help people with additional needs to communicate. We have eight young people coming to us once a week and there are a few on the waiting list. The spaces filled up very quickly highlighting the need to this provision. For people on the autistic spectrum the pandemic has been even more challenging – the social isolation, change of routine and mask wearing has been traumatic for many. We





started the Spectrum Music programme offering one to one sessions and as we approach Easter we created small groups. The relationship with Hear My Music is an important partnership. They have provided equipment and instruments as well as logistical support and administration. Melissa is paid by Hear My Music and I do the time as part of my hours as a Community Music Practitioner. The second Culture Club event was a screening of Buster Keaton's silent film 'Steamboat Bill Jr.' accompanied by live semi-improvised music. It was a sell-out and a really special evening enjoyed by all who attended. I put out tables in the church with tea lights and suggested attendees bring their own

refreshments. This worked very well – I did ask for payment on the door so that I could pay the musicians – just about broke even!

The Cello Choir has been running for a few weeks by now. We meet on a Sunday afternoon and it includes players of all ages and abilities. I have plenty of repertoire and I often make arrangement of tunes that people want to play. There are about ten regular attendees and it works as a drop-in and I provide snacks for our well-earned tea-break!

### Buster Keaton in Steamboat Bill Jr.



**27th November 7pm**

Silent movie with live music

Stockbridge Church, 7b Saxe Coburg Street, EH3 5BN

### December 2021



The free Friday concert this month was given by Artisan – a programme without piano this time and we positioned ourselves in the middle of the church with the audience sat around us. We played a variety of Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20<sup>th</sup> century repertoire with some folk melodies and a carol thrown in! The pupils at Stockbridge Primary School wrote winter songs and at the care home we sang carols.

As we moved towards the new year I decided to have a break and let the next TMI Friday concert be in February. I also was finding that I was spending more than two days per week working on this selection of Hub activities and whilst I want to keep them all going I need to pace myself. I decided to drop the care home for now as

I need to spend some time securing funding for the future of the TMI Friday lunchtime concerts.

### January 2022

Traditionally Artisan perform Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time on January 27<sup>th</sup> to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. However, given the increase in Covid cases we decided against it for the second year running. I did discuss with Marian – the church organist, the possibility of doing a smaller cello and organ recital for the occasion and we put together a programme but even this seemed not a good idea. However, I did join her at a Sunday service to play Bloch's Jewish Prayer.

## February 2022

I was thrilled to book Fraser Fifield and Graeme Stephen to play for this month's TMI Friday concert, not least because they are top of the field but also because they represent another style of music – traditional and jazz. This concert was the best attended by far – telling me something about what appeals to the neighbourhood! The Cello Choir and Stockbridge Primary music sessions are yet to restart for logistical reasons but Spectrum Music is going strong and we thinking of ways to get children off the waiting list.



## March 2022

### Hannah Rarity

BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician



Friday 4th March 1pm

admission free

Stockbridge Church,  
7b Sax Coburg St,  
EH3 5HT

Chamber  
Music  
Scotland



This month gets off to a great start with the superstar Hannah Rarity singing in this month's TMI Friday concert. The following day sees the third Culture Club event – a screening of Walt Disney's original "Fantasia" – at the family friendly time of 4pm. Looking forward I am trying to secure funding in order to be able to offer the free lunch time concerts and have plans for a production of Benjamin Britten's community opera 'Noye's Fludde'. This will be a big under-taking and I hope will include children from Stockbridge Primary, Flora Stevenson Primary, Broughton Community High

School, Spectrum Music and Dance for All. There will also be roles for adults both musically and artistically! Watch this space...

There is a steady increase in take-up and attendance to the various events happening at the Music Hub. The community is gradually becoming more aware of its presence and I expect this to continue to grow as a Covid restrictions ease further and word of this provision spreads.



The support of the Kirk Session and the Music Hub board are critical to the continuation of this initiative. I value their support immensely. This unique model of working in the community, through music and in collaboration with the local church and in partnership with its management, is something I hope may inspire others to follow.

