

In Harmony scheme in tune with drive to get young people playing music in the capital

4-12-2008

London Mayor Boris Johnson today praised the 'In Harmony' scheme, which aims to get children and young people playing musical instruments.

The Mayor's Office has been working with 'In Harmony' as part of an ongoing campaign to increase music education in the capital. Today saw Lambeth Music Service and The Southbank confirmed as one of three areas and organisations in England selected to pilot the 'In Harmony' programme over the next three years. In Lambeth it will be based on the Lansdowne Green Estate, with children from local schools, nurseries and surrounding estates able to participate.

Boris Johnson said: 'Today's announcement is totally in tune with what we want to see happening across the capital. I have no doubt that children and young people would relish the challenge of learning to play a musical instrument, but the costs of instruments and tuition mean it is out of reach for many Londoners. It can also be a struggle for organisations to raise funds necessary to provide teaching.

'We have already initiated a musical instrument amnesty, asking Londoners to pledge their old instruments, which we will be donating to In Harmony. We also have plans for a major music education summit in January, which will bring together music and education specialists, to find ways to drive up the teaching of music in London.

'The In Harmony announcement is a welcome boost and I hope we will see further measures to enable children and young people to play music.'

There is still time to dig out unused instruments and sheet music to donate to the 'No Strings Attached' musical instrument amnesty, which is backed by chair of In Harmony Julian Lloyd Webber and was launched by the Mayor in October. It is being run in conjunction with Time Out with the aim of enabling as many young Londoners as possible to have access to a musical instrument For more details go to: www.timeout.com/competition/donateaninstrument.