



Fareham Youth Choir

Feasibility pilot project

September 2007 to March 2009

This document describes a project to test the feasibility of a choir for young people drawn from the Borough of Fareham. The project will offer an opportunity for young people to learn choral music, develop musical and social skills appropriate to choral singing and to perform in 6 public concerts in Fareham during the life of the project.

The project will be managed by Fareham Philharmonic Society

Fareham Philharmonic Society will seek funding assistance from Youth Music and from Fareham Borough Council.

Prepared by Fareham Philharmonic Society and approved by the Trustees on 1 May 2007

Introduction

In September 2007 Fareham Philharmonic Society (FPS) will start a project to test the feasibility of a Youth Choir for Fareham. The new choir will offer young people of ten upwards a safe and positive environment in which they can develop skills that will both enhance their lives and add a new, dynamic contribution to the performing arts in Fareham.

The choir will be established for an evaluation period of 18 months, including regular public performance and culminating in a 'Gala Concert' at which the Youth Choir will premiere a new work specially commissioned by the choir.

"Fareham Youth Choir" (working title) will be created as an additional performing organisation under the auspices of Fareham Philharmonic Society (Registered Charity 274026). Active in Fareham since 1898 its charitable objective is "the study and practice of choral music in order to foster the public knowledge and appreciation of such music by means of public performances."

The project will be carried out in partnership with:

- **Fareham Philharmonic Choir** (the performing organisation operated by the FPS) is a thriving mixed voice choir with 90+ members and a wide repertoire that performs three or four public concerts every year.
- **Aqualung** is an internationally successful pop group who have a connection both with this area and with choral singing. They are keen to lend their expertise so that the project can include workshops on song-writing and musical arrangement. They will allow their name to be used in recruiting activities for young people and will perform at the Gala concert.
- **Music Fusion** is one of 29 Youth Music Action Zones in the UK. It works in Portsmouth, Fareham, Gosport and Havant to provide music-making activities to young people who might not otherwise have the opportunity.
- **Portchester School** has a special interest in the Performing Arts and can provide rehearsal, workshop and performance facilities as well as being a conduit to other educational establishments in Fareham.
- **Any other agencies that can provide financial or practical support.**

The project will be staffed with a musical director, accompanist (both professional musicians) and 2 music leader trainees.

The project will be directed by Susan Burt (FPS Chair) and Co-ordinated by Tony Hales (FPS Treasurer).

FPS cannot fund this ambitious and exciting project entirely from its own resources, indeed it is important that the project does not drain resources that are needed to sustain the existing performance organisation.

The sum of £2000 has been designated to support the youth choir project from the Enid Grey fund (by kind agreement of the trustees)

FPS will therefore seek funding from:

Youth Music – is a national charity which exists to channel monies from Arts Council England. Youth Music run a number of funding programs and we shall seek funding through the Vocalise! Scheme that is described by Youth Music as follows:

"We have created Vocalise! to encourage opportunities for children and young people to sing, particularly those who would otherwise lack the chance to take part. Through Vocalise! we want to support proposals where the voice is the principal means of making music. This can be through a range of vocal styles, not only traditional choral singing, for example beatboxing, rapping, any popular music styles with or without microphones, scat singing, musical theatre, opera, gospel, chant and all other vocal traditions from around the world.

Proposals must:

- Include music -making where the voice is the main instrument
- Include structured singing or vocal activities that develop children and young people's music skills.
- Include opportunities for children and young people to share their achievements, for example performing to their friends, family or wider community.
- Involve children and young people age 5-18 (up to 25 with SEN).
- Include no more than 25% activity in school hours (except SEN and those excluded from mainstream education or in detention).
- Be for between £5,000 and £20,000 for a period of no less than 6 months and no more than 18 months.
- Not spend more than 5% of the total award on equipment (e.g. instruments, technology, sheet music). “ (source YouthMusic.org.uk)

Fareham Borough Council – who offer Community Grants for projects that provide activity for young people in the Borough. We shall also request assistance 'in kind' from the council to support the project.

In the event that funding cannot be obtained we will scale down the project to fit available funding.

In this document are set out

- the reasons why the FPS is starting this project at this time
- the artistic, social and educational objectives
- the activities that will be carried out during the project
- the role of the *Music Leader* trainees
- the method of evaluation and criteria for success
- the initial practical arrangements
- the key policies required for child-protection
- the budget for the project.

Why, Why Now and Why a feasibility pilot?

The FPS recognises that the tradition of choral singing faces many challenges in the modern age.

“There are fewer opportunities for singing in schools; the curriculum is crowded; there is a marked bias towards instrumental work; and there is a general lack of knowledge and confidence about singing amongst teachers. Amateur music is often perceived by those under 30 as a middle-class, middle-aged pastime, particularly in an age when the leisure industry is expanding at such an alarming rate. Also changing cultural patterns in our society have introduced new styles and traditions of singing to the country” [Making Music].

Many of the current members of the FPS have wonderful memories of choral singing when they were young and want to ensure that modern young people in Fareham are offered similar experience now and in the future.

The FPS first identified the need to create a youth choir in Fareham in its strategic plan of 2000 and it has been part of the long-term development strategy since that date.

A number of circumstances have changed in the recent past that makes it possible now to attempt to further that strategic desire:

In 2005 the FPS moved the rehearsal venue for Fareham Philharmonic Choir to Portchester Community School and has since established a close, mutually beneficial, relationship with the school.

In 2006 the FPS appointed a new Musical Director (Colin Davey) who has proved in his first year with us to be an excellent motivator and music leader. Fareham Philharmonic Choir has now performed three very successful concerts under his leadership. Colin has recent experience of starting a junior choir and is keen to participate in a similar venture in Fareham.

Fareham is part of a Youth Music Action Zone, one of 29 areas throughout England, Wales and Scotland that have been identified as having special need. Music Fusion is a partnership between local councils and Hampshire Music Service and is supported by Arts Council (England) and Youth Music. Music Fusion provides training and advice for music leaders and has helped identify sources of funding that may be available to supplement FPS resources.

The FPS wishes to be sure that there is an appetite for choral singing in young people in Fareham and has decided that the concept of a youth choir should be tested and fully evaluated. The feasibility pilot project will enable the FPS to establish whether a long-term commitment to Youth Music in Fareham is a viable option both artistically and financially.

Objectives

Artistic

- To perform a wide range of choral music to a high and improving standard, both in conjunction with Fareham Philharmonic Choir and as a separate entity.
- To develop young voices, encouraging young people to perform both as members of the ensemble and as soloists.
- To aspire to become a permanent centre-of-excellence for choral singing in Fareham.
- To commission and premiere new choral music for young voices.

Social

- To provide a friendly, safe and non-threatening environment for rehearsal and performance.
- To encourage interaction between young people from the Borough of Fareham and its environs that spans the transitional age between primary and secondary education.
- To encourage inter-generational interaction through shared performance with Fareham Philharmonic Choir.
- To develop social as well as singing activities – to be defined and organised predominantly by the young people themselves.

Educational

- To provide opportunity for young people to become involved in the management, organisation and planning for their own arts enterprise, with guidance and support from adults but with major involvement in the decision-making process. In particular involvement in:
 - repertoire decisions
 - performance decisions
 - policy decisions
 - financial management decisions
 - health and safety decisions
 - organisation of tours/festivals and other events.
- To provide an opportunity for up to 3 young people to develop music leadership skills whilst participating in the development and evaluation of individual singers and the choir as a whole.

Project timetable:

- August – September 2007 – Marketing the project and recruiting singers
- October – December 2007 – First rehearsals, concerts with FPC in November and December, Aqualung songwriting workshop and competition
- January – March 2008 – rehearse for and perform first youth choir concert for family and friends at Portchester School, commission new choral work for gala concert.
- April – July 2008 – rehearse and perform second concert as part of the Portchester festival, Aqualung music-biz workshop and musical arrangement competition.
- September – December 2008 – rehearse and perform Christmas concert
- January – March 2009 – rehears and perform gala concert with Aqualung, performance to include newly commissioned work and the winning entries in songwriting and arrangement competitions, composition master-class led by composer of the new work.

Performance

We consider that the opportunity to perform to an audience is a major motivating factor for recruiting and developing singers and that this is particularly true for young singers.

The project includes regular performance opportunity and FPC have provided the first two so that the youth choir has time to develop before having to attract an audience in its own right:

- November 3rd 2007.
The first public performance of *Fareham Youth Choir* will be in the *Fareham Philharmonic Choir* concert in the week of remembrance celebrations. The youth choir will sing with FPC and a soprano soloist in the hymn for world peace – “Dona nobis pacem” by David Fanshawe.
- December 15th 2007
Performance, on their own, as part of the Christmas concert to be held at Holy Trinity Church.

Further concert performances are planned as the youth choir builds up to its gala concert in March 2009.

In the longer term we anticipate that the youth choir will perform at least 3 times a year – sometimes in conjunction with Fareham Philharmonic Choir, sometimes in conjunction with other youth musical organisations; Hampshire Youth Orchestra, Hampshire Wind Band, Portchester Sounds of Steel are some candidate groups. The youth choir will share the responsibility for planning their own concert programme.

Workshops, Master-Classes and competitions

The main objective of including these in the project are to maintain media interest in the project throughout its life and therefore to maintain a high profile in and around Fareham. They will also help keep the project alive in schools and colleges since participation will be open to all music students in the Borough.

Aqualung are highly regarded as songwriters and arrangers whose songs have been used in film and TV – and have long experience in the UK and international popular music industry. They are prepared to run workshops on these subjects that would be of interest to young people in Fareham who are interested in working in music or wider media. They are also prepared to judge two competitions:

- Songwriting – an original song between 3 and 4 minutes duration for performance by solo singer.
- Arrangement – arranging an Aqualung song for performance by Aqualung and the youth choir.

The 'prize' for winning entries will be its performance at the gala concert.

The commission for a new choral work for young voices will be contracted with a professional composer yet to be selected – and the agreement will include an obligation to lead a master-class for music students in Fareham.

Music Leader Trainees

Music Leader trainee posts have been created as part of the management of the project:

- to lead the singing of a section of the choir and provide the first line of pastoral care for the members of that section
- to act as mentor to young singers who encounter difficulties – musical, social or practical.
- to assist the director in the development of singing skills in the young singers
- to assist the FPS in maintaining the records that will support evaluation and by providing direct input into that evaluation.

Music Leaders will be engaged to attend all rehearsals and performances of the youth choir (except absence as agreed by the project co-ordinator). They will receive a fee of £10 per attendance.

Music Leader contracts will run to the end of the feasibility pilot.

We wish to maintain at least 2 *music leaders* (one male, one female) throughout the project. A third *music leader* post will be offered should the choir either exceed 50 members.

Music Leader trainees will be offered training and support to assist their own development:

- through direction and guidance from the professional musicians involved in the project
- through direct contact with music departments in the establishment they attend to ensure that, so far as possible, the work in the project can be integrated into their educational development.
- through providing opportunities (and funding) to attend workshops and training days provided through Music Fusion and other agencies
- through involvement with MusicLeader.net which is a resource centre for music leaders available on the web.

Music Leader trainees will be recruited in the age-range 15-18 and the posts will be appropriate for young people who are studying a music-related subject at school. The ideal candidates are those prepared to commit to the complete duration of the project.

Note: The provision of *Music Leader* posts depends on gaining adequate external funding.

Criteria for success

It is anticipated that the criteria for success will evolve during the life of the pilot. But they will include:

- that the membership of the choir can be sustained above 30 members
- that the group develop and constantly improve individual and collective musical skills
- that the group reaches acceptable performance standard in concert
- that it is possible to find venues and attract an audience for Youth Choir concerts.
- that the experience of the *Music Leader* trainees is enjoyable and beneficial.
- that the youth choir does not drain FPS funds.
- that the parents of young singers can (and wish to) become involved in management and development
- that the group aspires to continue at the end of the feasibility pilot

Data to support assessment

The process of assessment will run throughout the project and will comprise both statistical and evaluative criteria. Statistics will be recorded regularly throughout the project and evaluation questionnaires will be regularly completed by staff and participants.

The project co-ordinator will manage the assessment process and report regularly to the project director and then on to the trustees of the FPS.

Statistical records:

- success of recruitment activity (number of expressions of interest, percentage attending at least once)
- rehearsal attendance – monitoring, following up reasons for non-attendance
- membership – number of singers, drop-out rates, ease of recruiting
- impact of academic years – how many singers re-join at the start of the academic year (the project deliberately spans academic years to test this issue)
- impact of educational transition – how many singers are lost on transfer to secondary/tertiary education.

Evaluative assessments:

- documented assessments by musical director (1 per concert)
- documented assessments by accompanist (1 per concert)
- documented assessments of *Music Leaders* (of each rehearsal/concert)
- participants' evaluation assessments (1 per concert)
- leavers questionnaires
- participants' musical development assessments
- project co-ordinator's financial assessment (of the project).

Organisation and Management

The trustees of Fareham Philharmonic Society will co-ordinate the initial formation of the youth choir and will supervise the first rehearsals and performance.

The youth choir will establish its own management committee that will include the project director and co-ordinator and at least one representative from Fareham Philharmonic Choir to ensure good liaison between the two choirs. Young singers and their parents will define the remaining membership of the committee.

The youth choir management committee will take responsibility for the assessment of the

success of the youth choir project and will monitor its performance at regular meetings.

At the end of the project the youth choir management committee will take responsibility for the preparation of a comprehensive report on the venture and make recommendations as to future development possibilities.

Publication of results:

The report on the venture will be offered for publication to *Music Fusion*, *Making Music* and any funding agencies that support the project.

Actions on Success

If the venture is considered a success the trustees of Fareham Philharmonic Society will lead the formation of a new performance organisation under their auspices. The constitution, management structure and operational objectives of that new performance organisation will be defined in the light of the knowledge gained in the pilot project.

Actions on failure

Should the youth choir management committee decide that it is not possible to achieve the performance objectives that have been set for the youth choir and that the situation cannot be rectified, the trustees of Fareham Philharmonic Society will cancel the project and make the necessary arrangements to reimburse funding agencies with any unspent funds.

Practical Arrangements

Musical Director

We are delighted that Colin Davey, the musical director of Fareham Philharmonic Choir, has agreed to lead the youth choir. Colin has considerable experience in developing young voices and is an enthusiastic choir director.

Southampton-born Colin Davey was educated at King Edward VI School Southampton and South Downs College (on Hampshire's pre-professional music course), before reading music at Sheffield University, studying organ with Simon Lindley and Tim Horton and conducting with Paul Brough and Jill Wild. During this time he also held the Sir Henry Coward organ scholarship at Sheffield Cathedral. After graduating, he was appointed to St. Matthew's, Northampton, and played recitals in such prestigious venues as St. Paul's and Westminster cathedrals. Colin trained as a secondary school teacher, and returned to Southampton in 2000.



In addition to Fareham Philharmonic Choir, Colin is musical director of St. Michael and All Angels church in Bassett, Southampton, where he directs both the adult choir, who sing a range of demanding choral repertoire and regularly sing in cathedrals and other large venues, and a newly formed junior choir. He has also directed Southampton Musical Society in three shows, and a range of other local choirs and orchestras. Colin is in demand as an accompanist for both musicians and dancers, and plays for the Royal Ballet School's outreach programme. He works in two local schools, teaching piano at Hampshire Collegiate School in Romsey and working with dancers at Twyford School, and coaches singers at a local dance school.

Colin also works occasionally as composer, arranger and editor, and has had works performed on BBC radio and television.

Accompanist

Karen Kingsley, accompanist for Fareham Philharmonic Choir has accepted the position of accompanist for the Youth choir. Karen is keen to develop opportunities for young pianists to develop accompanist skills as well as participating in the musical development of the ensemble.

Karen Kingsley studied with Jean Harvey at the Royal Academy of Music, gaining prizes and commendations for solo and ensemble performances. She has performed throughout the country in both capacities and is a regular concerto soloist, her repertoire including works by Beethoven, Chopin, Roberto Gerhardt, Gershwin, Grieg, Mozart, Poulenc, Rachmaninov, Rubinstein and Shostakovich.



Karen is currently Head of Keyboard Studies at Portsmouth Grammar School and spends a considerable part of her working life developing the talents of young people. She accompanies students both in concert and at instrumental examination from Grade 1 to University entrance. She is the rehearsal pianist for Fareham Philharmonic Choir where she is equally at home playing Rossini or Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Rehearsal Space

Rehearsal space has been booked at Portchester School and rehearsals will take place on Monday evenings starting at 5.15 pm and lasting 90 minutes. Both the musical director and accompanist are available at this time and it is convenient for adult supervising volunteers because Fareham Philharmonic Choir rehearse at that place at 7.30 pm on Mondays.

Whilst Portchester School is at the Eastern extremity of the Borough it has many advantages as a rehearsal venue – good access and parking, the availability of School maintenance and security staff and fine rehearsal rooms.

Supervision and Health and Safety

Policies for supervision of youth choir activities are set out below.

We will obtain Criminal Record Disclosures (under the umbrella service provided by Making Music) for the following personnel:

- Musical Director (Male)
- Accompanist (Female)
- Up to 6 volunteer supervisors (3 male, 3 female) drawn from Fareham Philharmonic Choir and the parents of youth choir members.

We will seek to identify an additional group of adults available to support CRB – checked personnel in activity supervision.

Policies to ensure a safe environment

Criminal Records Disclosure:

Fareham Philharmonic Society will obtain disclosures suitable for volunteers and paid employees, including freelance staff, where the position:

- 1) involves “working with children”, but does NOT involve “regular contact with vulnerable adults”
- 2) is one for which the normal duties include caring for, training, supervising or being in sole charge of children, but does NOT include work on a day care premises, nor in the following:
 - an institution exclusively or mainly for the detention of children
 - a hospital exclusively or mainly for the reception and treatment of children
 - a care home, residential care home, nursing home or private hospital exclusively or mainly for children
 - an educational institution
 - a children’s home or voluntary home
 - a home provided under 82(5) of the Children Act 1989

Supervision:

The minimum ratio of young people/adult supervisors is 1 adult per 10 young people. Thus a rehearsal of 44 children will require 5 adults, at least 2 of whom must be CRB checked.

Any planned activity of the youth choir will be cancelled in the event that we cannot provide supervision by at least 2 CRB-checked individuals of different sex.

The musical director and accompanist must both be CRB Checked and may be the personnel supervising an activity so long as the minimum ratio of 1 adult volunteer per 10 young people is achieved.

Health and Safety

- Fareham Philharmonic Society will ensure that there is at least one person qualified in first aid available for any youth choir activity.

- The youth choir will appoint a health and safety advisor who will monitor and advise these matters. (Young persons are not barred from this position but will be supported by an adult volunteer).

Funding

Fareham Philharmonic Society has set aside a significant sum to underwrite the costs of the project but will also seek support from local government, educational sources and charitable trusts to ensure that the venture is not cash-limited in its early years.

It is intended that the youth choir will eventually become completely self-funding, raising funds through concert performances and other money-raising activities as well as by requesting support from funding agencies for specific projects.

Initial Cash-Flow forecast.

A summary forecast of income and costs for the project is set out below, it identifies a total funding requirement of £15,105 of which £2000 will be earmarked from FPS funds, leaving a balance of £13,230 to be obtained from funding agencies and through sponsorship of the gala concert.

The schedule also provides an estimate of the value (in cost-avoidance terms) of the contribution from partner organisations through forgoing fees and expense, the provision of volunteers and other expertise and facilities – estimated to total £19,060.

Fareham Philharmonic Society

Youth Choir Feasibility Pilot - October 2007 to March 2009

Schedule of projected costs:

	Sept-Dec 2007	Jan-Mar 2008	Apr-Jul 2008	Sep-Dec 2008	Jan-Mar 2009	Total Project
Performances, master classes and workshops:						
September - December 2007						
2 Performances in conjunction with Fareham Philharmonic Choir, funded and promoted by that choir						
Music Leader attendance	30					30
Songwriters Workshop (Aqualung)						
Music Leader attendance	30					30
Brochures and Marketing	50					50
Competition - Songwriting (Judged by Aqualung)						
Brochures and Rules	100					100
Publicity	50					50
January - March 2008						
First solo concert by Youth Choir at Portchester School - aimed to appeal to families and friends						
Musical Director		100				100
Accompanist		60				60
Music Leader attendance		30				30
Performing rights		40				40
Hire of Venue		100				100
Tickets, Posters, Programs and Marketing		100				100
April - July 2008						
Second solo concert by Youth Choir at Portchester School - marketed to the general public						
Musical Director			100			100
Accompanist			60			60
Music Leader attendance			30			30
Performing rights			40			40
Hire of Venue			100			100
Tickets, Posters, Programs and Marketing			250			250
Music Biz Workshop (Aqualung)						
Music Leader attendance	30					30
Brochures and Marketing	50					50
Competition - Aqualung Song arrangement for choral performance						
Brochures and Rules			100			100
Publicity			50			50
September - December 2008						
Third solo concert by Youth Choir at Portchester School - marketed to the general public						
Musical Director				100		100
Accompanist				60		60
Music Leader attendance				30		30
Performing rights				40		40
Hire of Venue				100		100
Tickets, Posters, Programs and Marketing				250		250
January - March 2009						
Gala concert with Aqualung at which the winning songs (from the songwriting and arrangement competitions) will be performed as well as the newly commissioned work for the youth choir. The concert will be recorded and a CD produced - Commercial sponsorship						

