

# Music in Prisons

The Irene Taylor Trust

Spring Newsletter 2008

## Keep us up to date:

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***"I think the music people were really great, they motivated us to write our songs, they were never pissed even when we made mistakes and they taught us how to be confident in ourselves - I do appreciate their time and effort."***

Participant (aged 17)  
HMPYOI Foston Hall

***"Thank you for coming. We're so glad you're here. Arts-led interventions are the way forward for those lads that want to engage, but it's always a question of finding the funding."***

Head of Learning & Skills  
HMP Edmunds Hill



## The Impact of Music in Prisons

A new and exciting programme of creative music projects has begun, working exclusively with the adult male estate. What makes this programme different is that it is being externally evaluated by the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge.

Dr Loraine Gelsthorpe and PhD student Alexandra Cox will be conducting the research into how participation in projects impacts on participant's self-esteem, whether it opens up new routes into learning and if it can lead to reductions in offending behaviour in prison.

The programme aims to develop clear and objective proof of how valuable the work of Music in Prisons is. Hopefully, this will pave the way for greater recognition of the importance of the arts in the rehabilitation of offenders.

So far participants have shown an insightful understanding of the role that music can play in prisons:

"It inspires you to do something positive. It's better to create something positive than destroy it and when you create music, you're creating a

bit of yourself too."

Participants have also referred to the deeper emotional impact that music can have:

"So many people in here are committing suicide and these projects can divert their minds from the self destruction. Music can make them feel better."

The results of the evaluation are expected to be published in late summer 2008 and will be shared widely with prisons, arts organisations, the Home Office and funders.

## Adrian Stanway Retires "IT HAS BEEN A PRIVILEGE"



"I was asked to become a trustee some twelve years ago shortly after Music in Prisons was established. It took me no time at all to accept the invitation. My own love of music and my sympathy with the circumstances of others less fortunate than me made it an easy choice.

Most of the people that our team works with in prisons did not have the privilege that I had of learning an instrument or, indeed, of having anyone in

their lives to tell them that they were good at something. I firmly believe that even a glimmer of the self-esteem that can come from playing and performing can be the basis for taking a different view on life and the future.

It has been my privilege to attend some of the scratch concerts that are given at the end of most projects. The focus, the energy, the respect for each other and the pride in doing something well is tangible amongst the participants. My favourite quote from one of them was "Well, that just shows we can do something!" For me that is what the whole thing is about.

The Trust is enormously lucky to have a group of patrons who are supportive – what other charity could get Mark Knopfler and Mark Anthony Turnage to turn up to play at its tenth anniversary party!

And it's lucky also to have a great team of trustees, fundraisers, administrators and of course wonderful musicians all working together under the sound leadership of Louis Taylor.

As I will be spending much of my retirement abroad I sadly cannot continue to make the type of contribution that the Trust needs and deserves.

I am delighted however that Paul Meitner, a good friend and a fellow Chartered Accountant, is taking my place. The finances of the Trust could not be in better hands.

I will follow the future of the Trust with keen interest and will be staying in touch by becoming a Friend. (Perhaps anyone reading this would consider doing the same?) I wish all of the team the very sincerest of best wishes for continued success."

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## Training Musicians at Aldeburgh

***"These projects with you have given me the kick up the arse to do something I love and that I should have done ages ago."***

Participant  
HMP Manchester

As part of their programme to develop and train musicians in the delivery of community based projects, Aldeburgh Music invited the Music in Prisons project team to run an intensive training course for Masters students from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

The project took place in Snape and HMYOI Warren Hill in November 2007. It provided an opportunity for the musicians to receive training

from the Music in Prisons team, to learn techniques for engaging young people in prison along with ways of delivering creative projects within the prison environment.

The musicians were also able to put their training into practice by delivering projects themselves working with young people in HMYOI Warren Hill. The musicians were able to develop their skills in a practical setting, but with the support of musicians

who are already highly skilled in delivering music projects in prisons.



## Changes at The Trust

***"I am constantly amazed by the dedication, patience and hard work of you all. And another thing, not only do the guys learn from you and hopefully gain something that will help them in the rest of their lives but I learn something from you and the guys, for which I give many thanks."***

Member of Staff  
HMP Manchester

The Trustees are sorry to announce the retirement of two of their longest serving board members, Lilian Bennett OBE and Adrian Stanway (who is featured on page one). Both have served the Trust for almost its whole lifespan, sharing freely over that time their expertise, passion and commitment. The Trust wishes to thank them both for their support and dedication.

Replacing Lilian and Adrian, the Trustees are pleased to announce that three new members will be joining the board of Trustees – Tim Otty QC, a prominent human rights lawyer, Her Honour Judge Deborah Taylor (daughter of Irene and Peter Taylor) and Jo Rich, a long-term supporter of the Trust who is involved with

a range of musical organisations including the BRIT School.

The Trust can also announce that Eileen Mascoll has taken up her role as Advisor to the Board. At her first Trustee meeting Eileen said: "The work the Trust does is so important and made such a difference to my life. I am really happy to give something back."

As an ex-project participant, we know she will bring her experience, commitment and musicality to the Trust's work for many years to come.

The Trust is also sorry to say goodbye to Administrator Tom Greenhalgh who is leaving us to concentrate on his own music making.

## Trustees

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## Contact Us

If you are interested in finding out more about our work, please contact us:

**Sara Lee**, Project Director

**Jo Tilley-Riley**, Director, Strategy & Funding

The Irene Taylor Trust  
Unit 315, Bon Marche Centre  
241-251 Ferndale Road  
London  
SW9 8BJ

020 7733 3222

info@musicinprisons.org.uk

www.musicinprisons.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1073105

Company Number: 3637201

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