

Music in Prisons

The Irene Taylor Trust

Spring Newsletter 2006

Help us to keep updated:

Please let us know if you would like to receive further details of our work, or if your contact details have changed.



Celebrating Ten Years

Musicians, judges and ex-offenders came together on 16th November 2005 at City Hall to celebrate ten years of the Irene Taylor Trust.

Mark Knopfler, a long term patron of the trust, who joined ex-offenders on stage, said "these projects are about using music to provide

new opportunities for disadvantaged people. Music can cut across everything and heal in new ways." The guests were treated to vibrant performances from ex-offenders, including Simon who is now studying at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts and Eileen, who has built up a following

on the Yorkshire club circuit.

Speeches were given by the trust's chairman, Louis Taylor and projects co-ordinator Sara Lee. John Podmore, Governor at HMP Brixton, joined the speakers to express his belief in the value of music as an integral part of the rehabilitation process.

"Thank you for such an interesting and inspiring evening. Both performances were testament to the good work carried out by the Trust and I wish you every success for many more Anniversaries to come."

Attendee, 10th Anniversary Celebration, City Hall

Focus: Eileen Mascoll



My name: Eileen Mascoll.

Where I live: York, Yorkshire.

How I met the Trust:

I met the Trust whilst they were working at HMP Askham Grange whilst putting a children's songbook together.

How the Trust helped me:

I was a professional singer until my misfortune, but I had lost my confidence and hope of ever

pursuing my dreams. After being a part of the group that put the songbook "Behind the Secret Door" together and learning that they had won an award it really boosted my confidence and made me feel very proud. But the most important thing was the way I was treated by the team from the Trust. They had faith in me, believed in me and saw me for who I really was. They saw my talent and treated me with the utmost respect.

What I do now:

I am currently working at York Citizens Advice Bureau and have recently graduated from York College with an HND in computing.

What my musical life consists of now:

I have just formed a band and I do gigs both for the Irene Taylor Trust and the CAB. I also do other private functions.

Where I have sung:

I have performed at York Theatre Royal, El Piano, City Hall, Wales and have got two gigs coming up in February in Wales (back by popular demand) and April in Bradford.

Plans and dreams for the future:

I would love to continue singing and go in the studios and release a hit single. My dreams include meeting Whitney Houston and performing with my idols Patti Labelle, Will Young and Lemar.

Special Hospitals

In collaboration with the LankellyChase Foundation, the Trust will be embarking on a programme of work to bring the arts into secure hospital facilities and assess their benefit to patients.

Beginning in March, a comparative programme of work will take place in two secure hospitals and one psychiatric unit, in order to provide an opportunity for a thorough and insightful review

of the success of the projects.

The institutions in which the projects will take place have been selected in order to offer the broadest research range. The Trust's team of musicians will work with both men and women during six projects, each lasting five days, at Rampton Hospital, Littlemore Hospital and HMP Holloway's Psychiatric Unit.

The Trust is delighted to be involved in such forward

thinking and ground breaking work and research, and project's co-ordinator Sara Lee is confident that the Trust's way of working will be easily transferred from prisons to secure hospitals:

"This is a really exciting opportunity to take our work in a coherent way into new spheres of social disadvantage."

"The project inspired me and gave me more confidence. I must say this is the first time in my life that people have appreciated me in such a marvellous way."

**Participant, HMP Brixton
(Brixton Angels)**

In the News...

In the past months, the Trust has enjoyed a wide array of media coverage – including an exceptional four-page spread in the Observer Music Monthly and an interview in The Times with Sara Lee. Our recent project at HMP Brixton received coverage from ITV's

London Tonight show as well as on the BBC news website. The project also included a day working with BBC Radio 3, engaging project participants in learning and performing a Bach cantata. The show was broadcast as part of the BBC's Bach Christmas series.

"Please say a big thank you to the Brixton Angels. From a purely professional radio perspective their contribution was one of the best I've had – fluent and spontaneous."

Presenter, BBC Radio 3

Contact Us

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

Sara Lee, Project Co-ordinator

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