

# Music in Prisons

The Irene Taylor Trust

Winter Newsletter 2007

## Updating our database:

We are currently updating our database and some mistakes may have occurred. If you do not want to receive our newsletter in the future, or if your details are incorrect, please let us know.



**MUSIC IN PRISONS**  
The Irene Taylor Trust

*“Superb night, great music beautifully performed without losing the power of the project. Hooray!”*

Audience member, Inside Out at the Spitz

## Inside Out: Live from the Spitz

On a cold rainy evening on 5<sup>th</sup> October, the Music in Prisons team brought the East End of London alive with sounds direct from HMPs Brixton and Holloway.

Project trainees, Eileen Mascoll and Gary Sharpe as well as students from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama's 'Connect' project, joined the team onstage to perform in front of an

audience of almost 200 guests.

The gig was the culmination of a pilot Throughcare Programme which aimed to develop longer lasting opportunities for project participants. With the support of both prisons, we were able to take two ex-project participants back into the prisons as trainee workshop leaders, not only

providing them with the opportunity to continue developing their own skills, but also enabling them to act as positive mentors to other participants.

In collaboration with the Guildhall, Music in Prisons was also able to offer traineeships to six music students, who all made wonderful contributions.

## Focus: Rex Horan A CHANCE TO MEET THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE TRUST



*“Women prisoners have often come from very chaotic backgrounds and a music project such as this gives them the chance to develop their commitment skills.”*

**Tony Hassall, Governor,  
HMPYOI Holloway**

My name is Rex Horan.

I live in Harlesden in London. I came to London from Perth in Australia in 1997 on tour with a band. I first joined the Trust in 2003.

Every time we do a project there are so many wonderful and beautiful and profound and moving and exciting and exhilarating moments that I cannot name a single event that I would call “the greatest moment”. I consider it a privilege to be involved in work that allows me to

witness and be a part of people changing as they discover the wealth of resources that they have inside of them, possibly ones that they had no idea they could access. This happens on every project that we run and it happens to me as well as I'm stretched to my limits as a musician and facilitator.

Going hand in hand with this are a lot of challenges. Sometimes supporting folks to co-operate is tricky, as is balancing the needs of the individual to the needs of the group. On a purely musical level there are some really challenging aspects to the work. Trying to actualise a tune for its writer calls on everything that I have at my disposal as a musician. The next thing of course is to facilitate parts that go around all of this that are challenging but within the capabilities of the instrumentalists that are

going to perform the work. Of course it has to sound hip as well, so the people playing or writing it can be proud of their work.

When I am not working for the trust I'm involved in playing with bands as a session musician - making records and gigging. This is very important work for me. I think it's about keeping my eye in. Plus I really like performing and recording - I'm trying to be always learning and growing as a musician.

In the future I hope to continue my work with the Trust. It's something that I'm so happy and privileged to be involved in. I have never met a more talented, inspirational and motivated group of people as my colleagues Nick, Sara, Jo and Tom. They are now amongst my closest friends.

Look out for our new website: Live from March 2007 at [www.musicinprisons.org.uk](http://www.musicinprisons.org.uk)

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## A Picture of Me

In June the trust worked with vulnerable women at Holloway to create a songbook and CD entitled 'A Picture of Me.'

The project's aim was to create something that might support other women facing difficult times. Through music, creative writing, photography and collage, the women chose to deal with a wide range of topics, talking honestly about their negative experiences such as self-harm, abuse, rape and separation from family, but they also wanted to share the many positive things which keep them going every day, as

well as their dreams and aspirations for the future.

The book is now being distributed throughout the female estate as well as other organisations working with vulnerable women.

The project followed on from the findings of the Trust's 'Fair!' evaluation which indicated that taking part in a music project could reduce rates of self-harming. The 'Fair!' evaluation also fed into the Trust's recent publication 'Time Well Spent' (TWS) which draws together

lessons learnt through all past evaluations. Funded by the Wates Foundation TWS is now available to download from our website.



*"I was excited last night and I couldn't sleep. I was looking forward to singing again today. It's cos you are all such amazing musicians that we can do this kind of thing."*

Participant, HMPYOI  
Holloway

*"I am very thankful that although she is in prison she is able to meet people such as yourself and your project team, who encourage her talents and do not condemn her for the situation she is in."*

Family member of  
participant from HMPYOI  
Holloway

## Staff/Trustee Update

We are pleased to be able to announce some new additions to the Music in Prisons team. Tom Greenhalgh has now joined us as Project & Fundraising Assistant and is already offering the team valuable support. We hope you will all have the chance to meet him in the near future.

Tim Otty QC, a prominent human rights lawyer who recently represented the British citizens at Guantanamo Bay, has accepted the invitation to become a trustee. We are extremely excited by the new perspective that Tim will bring

to the board.

The Rt Hon The Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, has also kindly agreed to extend his support of the Trust by becoming a patron.

We are sorry to have to report that Anne-Marie Piper of Farrer & Co has resigned from the board of Trustees due to the heavy pressure of other commitments. We remain grateful for all of the support she has offered Music in Prisons over the years and hope she will keep in touch.

## Contact Us

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

**Sara Lee**, Project Director

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

**Tom Greenhalgh**, Project & Fundraising Assistant

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Registered Charity Number: 1073105  
Company Number: 3637201

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