

# Peter Hayward

**We meet Peter Hayward, Head of Lewisham Music Service, which provides much of the instrumental and vocal tuition in the borough's schools**

## ★ Where does the tuition take place?

We provide group or whole class lessons in schools for all kinds of instruments including strings, brass, guitar, keyboard, woodwind and percussion. We work with 4,000 children every week in primary, secondary and special schools, but most of our teaching is for pupils at Key Stage 2 in years 3 to 6 at primary school. Children can also have individual tuition in the evening class programme at The Albany and there are lots of after-school and Saturday ensembles such as woodwind, steel pans, samba bands, choirs and an orchestra.



develops self-esteem and self-confidence.

## ★ What kind of projects have you worked on with other organisations?

We have good links with the London Symphony Orchestra, the Barbican, Trinity College of Music and the Southbank Centre, as well as other Music Services across London. For example, our children have taken part in string and brass projects with the LSO and we're currently working with the Barbican on a jazz project and an Indian music project.

## ★ Your Saturday Music Centre has moved to Prendergast Ladywell Fields College – what improvements will this bring?

The Saturday Music Centre runs from 9.30am to 1.15pm and has a whole variety of ensembles and styles of music on offer. For example, there are wind chamber groups, string ensembles, a jazz band, a recorder consort, a brass ensemble, rock bands, concert bands, an orchestra and a choir. To join you need to be able to play an instrument already. We're hoping to expand and develop the opportunities for making music once the Centre is established in its new home.

## ★ How much do lessons cost?

It depends on whether it's a group or individual lesson – detailed information can be found on our website. We also have instruments for hire at very reasonable costs.

## ★ What is the instrument that most young people most want to learn?

At the moment we have lots of children learning the trumpet, violin and guitar across primary schools in Lewisham. In our evening classes, keyboard, guitar and drum kit are popular.

## ★ What's the most unusual instrument you teach?

We teach ukulele and the children really enjoy it. It's good for small hands and it's also easy to sing and play at the same time.

## ★ What would you say to a young person who says they don't need to learn to play an instrument as they can just replicate the sound on a computer?

Computers have an important place in music education, but nothing can replace the sense of making music with other people. There's something about the sound of an acoustic instrument – you can feel as well as hear the vibrations around you – and you can't replicate this on a computer.

## ★ What benefits does playing music bring to young people?

We find that children enjoy making music with others so there's a whole social aspect. It's good for them to work as part of a team alongside other people and it's great fun. It also

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**i** For more information about the Lewisham Music Service, visit [www.lewishammusicservice.org](http://www.lewishammusicservice.org) or call 020 8692 4446 x240.