

PRESS RELEASE

8 August 2017



STREET ART & MUSIC MEET ON KENT MUSIC'S ORCHESTRA ONE COURSE

Street art and music came together last week as young people from across Kent aged 8-18 years attended the latest free Kent Music Orchestra ONE course at Invicta Grammar School in Maidstone. Musicians were joined over four days by a group of artists led by Greg Stobbs aka SquirrelArt (<http://squirrelart.org/>) to create immersive visual installations alongside the music sessions, culminating in a live concert on Friday 4th August. Exploring the theme of 'Roots', the young musicians and artists wove together individual stories of origins, journeys and life defining moments. 55 young musicians took part, including seven drummers, two trombonists, a harpist and one young musician on a piccolo.

Greg Stobbs said of the experience: *"Working with Kent Music and the music tutors has been a real eye opener. They have an ability to be open and free in their thinking, while simultaneously inspiring a fearlessness in the young people they work with. Seeing the end product of the concert taking place, with visual and audible stimulation from the musicians and the set/installation is an experience unlike any other I have had in my career as an artist."*

Prior to the performance the audience were given a guided tour of the art installations that included a huge floating house and luggage label raindrops suspended from clouds, each inscribed with a participants' defining experience. Both musicians and art were decorated with UV glow paint creating a dramatic visual experience for the audience. The lyrics of the finale emphasised the value of new experiences and friendships but never forgetting the importance of going 'back to your roots'.

This 17th Project for Orchestra ONE was sponsored by Golding Vision, the community arm of Golding Homes. Caroline McBride, Head of Community Development at Golding Homes said: *"We are really pleased to be able to support this project which encourages young people from all backgrounds who may never been involved in music or art previously to participate"*.

The next Orchestra ONE project will take place in October. Visit www.kent-music.com/O1 for details.

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Notes to Editors

Orchestra ONE, the Orchestra of New Experiences, is a music group for young people to write and perform their own music, influenced by their own tastes, styles and instrumentation. It is a chance to experience playing in an orchestra like no other, with young musicians from all backgrounds. Orchestra ONE was launched in 2011, holding four-day projects once a term and they recently performed at Uprising at the Gulbenkian in Canterbury. Each project works with a different theme and is supported by specialist music tutors from the professional industry and from Kent Music. Orchestra ONE is FREE to join and is open to all young people between the ages of 8-18.

Kent Music, founded in 1948, is a registered education charity and lead partner for the music education hub in Kent. It employs teachers to deliver instrumental and vocal teaching across the county through individual lessons, small groups and through whole class teaching in schools, supported by a programme of CPD and quality assurance. The charity runs county groups and local ensembles, and the Kent Music Summer School has been held at Benenden for 70 years. Kent Music is a partner in music education with Kent County Council and the hub funded by Arts Council England.

Press Enquiries

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