Youth Music Initiative

YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT MADE AT FÈIS

A further £10 million is being invested in the Scottish Government’s hugely successful Youth Music Initiative, the Culture Secretary has confirmed.

Fiona Hyslop formally announced the funding allocation for 2012-13 during a visit to Fèis Rois nan Deugairean held in Ullapool in October. The Youth Music Initiative offers young people opportunities to get involved in music and supports more than 300 projects each year, covering all musical genres, age groups and teaching methods.

Speaking during her visit to Ullapool, Ms Hyslop said: “At a time when Scotland is facing deep cuts in public spending imposed by the UK Government, my first priority has been to protect the provision of frontline services such as the Youth Music Initiative.

“By maintaining funding for this scheme, we are investing in Scotland’s young people. As well as fostering and developing their musical skills and unlocking their creative potential, the Youth Music Initiative teaches our young people to be innovative, resourceful, confident and responsible.

YMI DELIVERING THE CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE

Highland schools are incorporating the Traditional Music YMI programme into their curriculum for session 2011-12. Visits from Fèisean nan Gàidheal tutors have become valuable in helping to meet the overarching outcomes for the Expressive Arts and to enable every pupil to achieve across the four capacities of the Curriculum for Excellence. The YMI visits contribute to their ability to become Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors.

YMI work contributes towards delivering the Expressive Arts section of Building the Curriculum enabling the pupils to:

• Express themselves and be creative
• Experience enjoyment
• Develop important skills
• Develop an appreciation and understanding of Traditional Music
A’ LÌBHRIGEADH PRÒGRAM TRAIDISEANTA ICO ANN AN SGÓILTEAN NA GÀIDHEALTACHD

Tha a h-uile bun-sgoil sa Ghàidhealtachd, 187 uile gu lèir, a’ fhaighinn teagasg co-shìdhe 12 turas a mhaireas uair a thide bho luchd-oidhe Fèisean nan Gàidheal rè bliadhna na sgoile. Ni am program cinnteach gum fàigh na sgoiltean as lugh a air an iomall an aon seirbheis ris na sgoiltean as motha anns na baitean.

Anns an 2010-11, b’ e Prìomh 5 an targaid le Prìomh 6 san amharc anns an ath sheisean. Tha seo a’ toirt seachad cothomh adhartas agus leasachadh a dhèanamh. Air sgàth ’s gu bheil an cothrom adhartas agus leasachadh na riochdairean seo, thà ann an dòigh cho simplidh ‘s a cinnteach gun tèid am prògram air obair gu dlùth le sgoiltean gus dèanamh dhèanamh. Tha na riochdairean seo ag dìcheallach air am fastadh gus seo a bhàid air 10 sgoiltean) agus tha riochdairean Fèis Rois (108 sgoiltean) agus Fèis Spè sg poiltean), Fèis Loch Abar (29 sgoiltean), (21 sgoiltean), Fèis an Earraich (19 sgoiltean) agus na Fèisean sgìreil – Fèis Chataibh stèidheachadh clàran-ama an urra. Tha an obair dhoirbh ann a bhith a’ aon bhliadhna.

Am bhaiste a’ phrògram YMI airson barrachd air tòrr sgoilear a’ faighinn buannach nas àirde anns a’ Ghàidhealtachd tha àireamh de chlasaichean measgaichte a dhèanamh. Air sgàth ‘s gu bheil an cothrom adhartas agus leasachadh ath sheisean. Tha seo a’ toirt seachad targaid le Prìomh 6 san amharc anns an 2010-11, b’ e Prìomh 5 an motha anns na bailtean.

Delivering the Traditional YMI Programme in Highland Schools

All 187 primary schools in Highland have at least 12 one-hour visits from Fèisean nan Gàidheal tutors throughout the school session. The programme ensures that small, outlying schools receive the same input as larger, urban schools. In 2010-11, Primary 5 has been the target class with next session focussing on Primary 6. This allows for progression and development. However, with Highland having a high proportion of composite classes, many pupils benefit from more than one year of the YMI programme.

The difficult job of timetabling lies with area ri cheann 19 primary schools to co-ordinate. B’ e an dùbhlan bu mòtha a bh’ann an toiseach clàr-ama a chuir air bhonn, a’ feuchainn ri amannan teagasg a réiteach gus nach teid bacadh a chuir air tadhail luchd-teagasg eile. Tha na Ceannardan-sgoile air a bhith air leth taisceil agus tha seo ga dhèanamh nas fhasa rian a chumail air cuisean. Tha luchd-teagasg agus sgòiplearan air deagh mheasadh a thadhail dhaoine òga fhaicinn a’ gabhail pàirt deogh, a’ deagh mheasadh a thoirt dhuinn.

Am bliadhna thathar a’ tabhainn teagasg do BS5 ann am fideag, obair-còmhla agus seinn ann an Gàidhlig agus Beurla. Tha bun-sgioba againn de luchd-oidhe stèidhichte gu h-ionadail a bhios a’ lìbhrigeadh a’ prògram. Tha na tadhail a’ córdadh ris an luchd-oidhe agus tha deagh chàirdeas-obrach a’ fàs le na sgoiltean.

Tha an iomairt seo air eòlas a thoir do chlann mu cheul traidiseanta agus air cothomh a thabhainn dhaibh iomnsramaid fheuchainn no guth-sein a lorg air nach robh eòlas aca roimhe! Tha sin a bharrachd de dhaoine òga fhaicinn a’ gabhail pàirt ann an obair-còmhlaig aig an Fhèis bhliadhnaigh againn. Chòrdadh e rium sin fhaicinn a’ sìor-fhàsan ann air beàthach.

PEIGI NICNEACAIL BHO FÉIS AN EARRAICH - SGÓILTEAN AN EILEIN SGITHEANAICH AGUS LOCH AILLSE

“Anns an Eilean Sgitheanach agus Loch Aillse, tha 19 bun-sgoiltean rin co-òrdanachadh.” B’ e dúbhlan bu mòtha a bh’ann an toiseach clàr-ama a chuir air bhonn, a’ feuchainn ri amannan teagasg a réiteach agus nach teid bacadh a chuir air tadhail luchd-teagasg eile. Tha na Ceannardan-sgoile air a bhith air leth taisceil agus tha seo ga dhèanamh nas fhasa rian a chumail air cuisean. Tha luchd-teagasg agus sgòiplearan air deagh mheasadh a thadhail dhaoine òga fhaicinn a’ gabhail pàirt deogh, a’ deagh mheasadh a thoirt dhuinn.

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CELEBRATING YMI IN HIGHLAND

A DVD is currently being produced showing the impact of all aspects of YMI in Highland Schools. Samples of school experiences in Kodaly, Gigajam, Sound Start and Fèisean nan Gàidheal’s Traditional Music programme will be combined to give a flavour of the valuable work of the Youth Music Initiative in schools.
TECHNOLOGY THE ANSWER TO THE WEATHER?

Timetabling for the Small Isles schools – Rum, Eigg, Canna and Muck – has proved challenging over the years due to stormy weather. Last session Rachel Walker (Fèis Lochabhair) decided to try sunny August and May for the visits. However, August proved to be rather blustery ... and May continued the theme!

In addition to physical visit we are now looking to provide tutor input via video conferencing to ensure the Small Isles schools receive the full benefits of the traditional YMI programme. We are hoping to trial lessons using Education Scotland’s GLOW network to connect Rum and Canna for tuition in Gaelic Song and Whistle.

Meanwhile here are pictures of a day in the life of a tutor to the Small Isles!

COMMENTS FROM SCHOOLS

“I was very stunned by Gary’s huge accordion and Ewen’s cool guitar. You are brilliant musicians.” - Pupil, Lochardil Primary

“Chòrd e rium nuar a chluich Andrew a’ phìob dhluinn. Mòran taing.” - Pupil, Broadford Primary

“I am very proud of myself because I can read proper music.” - Pupil, Loch Duich Primary

“I sing to myself some nights before I go to bed. The first time I went home my Mum asked what I was doing in school today. I said: ‘Gaelic singing’. She asked me to sing one to her. So I did. After, she tried to sing it but she was not very good.” - Pupil, Spean Bridge Primary

“Tha sinn a’ faighinn cothrom ionnsramaidean ùr a chluich.”

“Tha e spòrsail.”

“Tha e g opinneil.”

- Pupils, Bun-sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

“...I sing to myself some nights before I go to bed. The first time I went home my Mum asked what I was doing in school today. I said: ‘Gaelic singing’. She asked me to sing one to her. So I did. After, she tried to sing it but she was not very good.” - Pupil, Broadford Primary

“It was fantastic to have an expert/native speaker coming in to the class. The teachers working in the school really appreciated this.” - Member of staff, Crown Primary

“Our pupils are very enthusiastic about learning to play musical instruments. I especially like the fact that whistle seems accessible to everyone. Also singing in both languages reflects an important part of their cultural heritage” - Member of staff, Loch Duich Primary

“The boys arrived and the children love them!” - Member of staff, Portree Primary

“I have limited (i.e. no) musical ability and feel that the children have benefited hugely from this experience” - Member of staff, Hilton Primary

“It’s clear how much the children enjoyed their music tuition as their faces lit up when they were told each week that they were going to ‘band practice’” - Member of staff, Broadford Primary

RESOURCES

Tutors are constantly adding to and creating resources in order to ensure breadth and progression in their teaching.

Recently a comprehensive Tutor Whistle Pack was produced by Hugh Marwick and Heather Forbes, which contained suitable activities for differentiation within a class, along with cross-curricular suggestions. The final completed resource will be available after consultation with tutors who have used the draft copy this session.

With support from the Scottish Arts Council and Féisean nan Gàidheal, Lilian Ross produced a very attractive song book for children and this has proved very popular with schools. This has been used widely and a copy distributed to all schools in Highland so that it can also be used outwith YMI classes. In addition to the lyrics, there is a CD with the book so that children can hear the songs being sung by Lilian.

Copies of these resources, as well as earlier Gaelic Song and Whistle resource packs, can be obtained from Féisean nan Gàidheal.

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The one thing that has both surprised and impressed me is the sheer enthusiasm for the initiative. I have never seen this kind of commitment in my previous work. Unlike us, they can’t just walk away after the hour is up. Hats off to the primary teachers!!

When visiting schools to deliver YMI, I can see just how hard primary teachers have to work, and - after I got early retirement from my previous profession, I went back to full-time education and faced and don’t take yourself too seriously.

- Be prepared. And be prepared to be flexible!
- You have to leave inhibitions at the classroom door, and take on a slightly larger than life stance. Although you are carrying out an important musical role for these pupils, don’t be po-faced and don’t take yourself too seriously.
- Your classes not only have to be instructive, but they also have to be fun – if that element isn’t there, in my class, then I feel that I am not doing my job properly.

Apart from the obvious Child Protection issues which are of prime importance, and which are outlined in the pack which every new tutor should get, my main pieces of advice to new tutors are;

- Your classes not only have to be instructive, but they also have to be fun – if that element isn’t there, in my class, then I feel that I am not doing my job properly.
- You have to leave inhibitions at the classroom door, and take on a slightly larger than life stance. Although you are carrying out an important musical role for these pupils, don’t be po-faced and don’t take yourself too seriously.
- Be prepared. And be prepared to be flexible!

After I got early retirement from my previous profession, I went back to full-time education and did a science degree. At one stage, I was contemplating qualifying as a Primary teacher. But in the end I didn’t do it.

When visiting schools to deliver YMI, I can see just how hard primary teachers have to work, and - unlike us - they can’t just walk away after the hour is up. Hats off to the primary teachers!!

The one thing that has both surprised and impressed me is the sheer enthusiasm for the initiative, shown by the vast majority of children involved.

“...