

# Cornwall Residency Summary

## November 2017



### Overview



Following the full orchestral residency in March Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra was delighted to return to Cornwall for a smaller-scale series of concerts, workshops and events in November 2017.

In consultation with Cornwall Music Education Hub, the week celebrated some of the lesser seen instruments of the orchestra, to enable children to experience the whole range of instrumental options available to them.

Inspired by the new commission of an opera, *Burning Boy* by Stephen McNeff which was performed at the end of the week, instruments touring the region ranged from horn to harp and double bass and

offered children the opportunity to see these instruments up close.

This residency also highlighted the important relationship between words and music. Music is a fantastic vehicle for setting text (as seen in McNeff's *Burning Boy*, using the words of Charles Causley), but it is also an extremely effective means of helping students unpack language and deepen their understanding of poetry/ storytelling. Musical visits took place in library settings with parents and under 5s, and students aged 8-15 used poems as a starting point to make their own musical interpretations.

The third focus of the week was composers and music creation. We were excited to offer the world premiere of a new work by Stephen McNeff and in the spirit of musical excellence will also be helping students understand compositional techniques through a GCSE music analysis concert. In a more informal setting family and community orchestra sessions took place where participants created their own music together.

## Events and Activities

The week's activities included:



Early Years library visits for parents and under 5s in Penryn and St Austell.

Continuation of BSO Associate Patrick Bailey's young musician conductor course in Truro.



10 music and literacy composition sessions for upper primary (KS2) and lower secondary (KS3) students.

GCSE Music Curriculum Concert,  
Hall for Cornwall, Truro.



World premiere of Stephen McNeff's  
Burning Boy with youth chorus.  
Performances in Launceston and St Ives.

BSO chamber ensembles performing 22  
schools concerts in 19 schools, focusing  
on the south of Cornwall from  
Newquay to St Ives and Porthleven.  
Schools were targeted to ensure the  
opportunity was maximised for children  
that may not have had the opportunity  
in the past, or had the peripatetic  
lesson structure in place to follow up  
the instrumental learning after the visit.



Community orchestra workshops with Sounds Vital in Liskeard and Family  
Orchestra in St Austell.



Care Home visits across Falmouth  
and Camborne performing bassoon  
and harp duets for residents.



## Residency Statistics

Date	Project	Venue	Participants	Artists	0-5 yrs	5-7 yrs	8-11 yrs	12-14 yrs	15-16 yrs	17-19 yrs	Over 20's	Audience
05.11.17	Music Leader - Young Conductors	Truro School	7	1					4	3		
06.11.17	Cornwall Care Home Visit	The White House, Penryn	14	2							14	
06.11.17	Cornwall Care Home Visit	Fairholme Home, Camborne	20	2							20	
06.11.17	Cornwall Care Home Visit	King Charles Court, Falmouth	7	2							7	
06.11.17	Cornwall Library Rhymetime	Penryn Library	7	1	3						4	
06.11.17	Cornwall Library Rhymetime	St Austell Library	30	1	16						14	
07.11.17	Cornwall Music and Poetry KS3 Workshop	Callington Community College	22	1				16	8			
07.11.17	Cornwall BSO Duo Concert	Indian Queens Primary	360	2		180	180					
07.11.17	Cornwall BSO Trio Concert	St Michael's C of E Primary	350	3		160	190					
07.11.17	Cornwall BSO Trio Concert	Cury C of E Primary	37	3		15	22					
07.11.17	Cornwall BSO Trio Concert	St Francis Primary	400	3		150	350					
07.11.17	Cornwall BSO Duo Concert	Ladock Primary	96	2		40	56					
07.11.17	Cornwall Music and Poetry KS2 Workshop	Delaware Primary	50	1			50					
08.11.17	Cornwall Music and Poetry KS2 Workshop	Stratton Primary	60	1			60					
08.11.17	Cornwall Music and Poetry KS2 Workshop	Tregolls Primary	60	1			60					
08.11.17	Cornwall BSO Duo Concert	Archibishop Primary	430	2		150	280					
08.11.17	Cornwall BSO Duo Concert	Devoran Primary	180	2		60	120					
08.11.17	Cornwall BSO Trio Concert	Alverton Primary	200	3		60	120					
08.11.17	Cornwall BSO Trio Concert	Godolphin Primary	86	3		30	56					
09.11.17	Cornwall Music and Poetry KS3 Workshop	Newquay Tretherras	30	1				20	10			
09.11.17	Cornwall Music and Poetry KS3 Workshop	Treviglas Community College	22	1					22			
09.11.17	Cornwall BSO Trio Concert	Flushing Primary	30	3		10	20					
09.11.17	Cornwall BSO Trio Concert	Constantine Primary	170	3		70	100					
09.11.17	Cornwall BSO Trio Concert	Mawnan Primary	120	3		50	70					
09.11.17	Cornwall BSO Duo Concert	St Ives Junior School	240	2		100	140					
09.11.17	Cornwall BSO Duo Concert	St John's Catholic Primary	157	2		60	97					
10.11.17	Cornwall BSO Trio Concert	Mount Hawke Primary	270	3		110	160					
10.11.17	Cornwall BSO Trio Concert	St Day & Carharrack Primary	188	3		66	122					
10.11.17	Cornwall BSO Trio Concert	King Charles Primary	350	3		140	210					



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## Cornwall Music Education Hub

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10.11.17	Cornwall BSO Duo Concert	Threemilestone Primary	240	2			240						
10.11.17	Cornwall BSO Duo Concert	Tregolls Primary	250	2		120	130						
10.11.17	Burning Boy performance	Launceston Town Hall	55	9			40					15	120
11.11.17	Burning Boy performance	St Ives Guildhall	56	9			41					15	155
12.11.17	Cornwall Family Orchestra	St. Mewan School	6	1		1	1					4	
12.11.17	Vital Sparks - Dark Skies Project	Liskeard	21	1								21	
TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDANCES			PARTICIPANTS	ARTIST TOTAL	0-5	5 to 7	8 to 11	12 to 14	15 to 16	17 to 19	Over 20's	Audience	
												4621	84



## Feedback and News Stories

“It was great to see ‘real performers’. The unusual instruments really interested the children and the manner the musicians interacted with the children was really positive. Great feedback from parents also.” Threemilestone School, Bassoon and Harp concert

“It was a brilliant couple of sessions that changed many students perspective on what they can achieve in music.” Treviglas Community College, KS3 music and literacy workshops

“Pupils who are learning instruments loved seeing just how far you can go” Alverton School, Trio concert

“[the highlights were] too many to mention.

1. Seeing the children from reception to year 6 completely engaged and enjoying this experience
2. The musical content/ animal theme – very child friendly
3. The interesting way each musician introduced themselves and their instrument
4. Opportunities within several of the pieces for the children to be listening out for things (focussing their listening and musical appreciation).

I honestly don’t think there was anything more they could have done – it was fantastic!”  
St Michael’s C of E Primary School, Trio concert

“A number of children went home enthused by the workshop and inspired to take up an instrument. The school reception has already been inundated with requests for more information about our peripatetic music lessons” St Ives Junior School, Bassoon and Harp concert

BSO Coverage: [Press Release](#)

Bodmin College: <https://bodmincollegemusic.weebly.com/home/poetry-music-workshop>

**IMPORTANT CAUSLEY TEXT MADE INTO OPERA**

# Noted poet's libretto is set to music at last




**MATT Harrison working with pupils from Coad's Green Primary School**

A NEW musical production featuring never before performed work by the Cornish poet Charles Causley will be premiered next month.

Matt Harrison, who teaches music in many schools in South East Cornwall, has helped in the creation of *The Burning Boy*, a new opera oratorio by Stephen McNeill based on Causley's libretto of the same name. It was written some years before his death in 2003 and has been described as 'one of the most important, but as yet unperformed, Causley texts'.

Now the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra ensemble Kokoro, which specialises in promoting the works of 20th and 21st century composers, will perform the new opera in two venues in Cornwall, including at Lanneston Town Hall on Friday, November 10, in partnership with Carn to Cove, Cornwall's performing arts scheme for rural communities.

A grant from the PRS for Music Foundation's Open Fund for Organisations enabled the creation of the commission.

The performance will bring together amateur and professional musicians, as well as local schoolchildren.

BSO Associate musicians in Cornwall, Patrick Bailey and music teacher Matt Harrison, have been working with schoolchildren to form a children's chorus for the project, as well as enhancing their curriculum through an autumn project based on Charles Causley's writing and an exploration of contemporary composition.

Stephen McNeill said: 'I am delighted to be working on *The Burning Boy* in Charles Causley's centenary year.

'Charles and I had a long and fruitful working relationship over many years and *The Burning Boy* was a libretto he wrote especially for me.'

The performances of *The Burning Boy* will mark the end of the BSO's minimal tour in Cornwall.

A fundamental part of the orchestra's mission is to work beyond the concert hall and BSO Participate offers people across the South West the opportunity to engage with, and experience, music through five specially tailored and distinct strands of activity.

BSO led activities will take place in 24 primary and secondary schools across Cornwall on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, November 7, 8 and 9.

Matt, who runs Big Bang Music, is leading music and poetry workshops in Callington Community College and Belawans Primary Academy. See [bsolive.com](http://bsolive.com)

**CORNISH poet Charles Causley**

Cornish Times Coverage of Burning Boy and Residency November 2017

## Notes to take forwards into 2019

- The music and literacy sessions were very well received with KS3 so BSO would like to develop this means of engaging with secondary schools on the next residency.
- The ensembles were very successful as individual groups but BSO would have liked to bring them together at some point across the programme. We will look at ways to do this for future tours.
- We didn't manage to have BSO ensemble performances/ coaching outside of schools during this tour which would have supported more young musicians to access the professional players. BSO would like to work with the Hub and the Music Service Trust to enable this to take place next residency.
- BSO was very pleased with the sessions delivered through libraries and would like to develop this relationship further.
- BSO has used this series of visits to pilot new ensembles and explore different opportunities for community engagement. We will use this knowledge to inform the design of Residency 2019.