

Stay Connected



Musical Connections News April 18



**Afro Caribbean
Millennium Centre (ACMC)
339 Dudley Road
Winson Green
Birmingham B18 4HB**

GOOD NEWS!

Hi everyone! We are delighted let you know that Quench Arts has been successful with our Arts Council funding application for an 'organisational development project'. Ok, so it's not the most catchy project title...but it is very exciting news because it will help us to work on developing our wellbeing work and, most importantly, consider ways that we can adapt and run elements of Musical Connections on a much smaller budget.

What does this mean for you?



We are really pleased to announce that, from 19th April, Steve Ison will be working for 1 day a week in his Music Support Worker role, based at ACMC in Winson Green. Steve's role will be to work with any past Musical Connections members who want to book to use his services on an individual and small group basis, helping to support you to make new music. We won't have budget to make any new CDs but any finished work will be uploaded online to SoundCloud. Steve will be working on a set day each week and will have a list of members to offer sessions to on a rotation basis, so that he spreads his time out fairly. We have funding for him to run sessions until September 2019, which is great news!

If you are interested in accessing this service you need to let us know so that we can add you to his list. Please see page 3 to see how you can register.

...more exciting news inside!

AND THERE IS MORE!

Group Sessions – a new model:

From June/July we will also hopefully be running monthly group music sessions based in the 5 integrated community mental health hubs across Birmingham and Solihull. Activity in each hub will be led by one of the Musical Connections artists (Pete, Paul or Nicola) and we will also be appointing some trainee Music Leaders to help deliver the sessions. We will be in touch with you as our plans develop but we are very hopeful that current Musical Connections members will be able to access group sessions at the hub nearest to where they live, working with new participants recruited through the hubs. There will be **NO** Musical Connections group sessions happening at APMC anymore.

Regional Sharings: Part of the Arts Council funding is about us sharing our knowledge and project across the West Midlands, so that others organisations can consider setting up similar projects. Every 6 months we plan to visit a new area to talk to service users and staff about Musical Connections. We will run a 'taster' group session and also hopefully have a few small Musical Connections performances. We will be involving Musical Connections members in these performances and will also be looking for a few members who would be willing to chat to service users in each area about Musical Connections and the impact of being involved. Please let us know if this is something you'd be keen to help with.

Fundraisers: Musical Connections activity will be running on a MUCH smaller budget than we've had previously. As part of our Arts Council agreement we have committed to trying to raise some money towards the project. Over the next 18 months we'll be organising 5 fundraising gigs, with any money made going directly back into the running of the project. If you would like to help us with these events, or have any other fundraising ideas, please let us know!

That's it from us for now. We'll be in touch with more detail as the project develops but we thought you'd want to hear the good news. Meanwhile, please see page 3 for how to register for Steve's sessions. Hopefully see you soon!!

Liz & Nic, Quench Arts



Steve's Bit

Hi everybody. It already seems too long without Musical Connections in my life, so great work by Nic & Liz from Quench for securing some funding for my role again so MC can keep running! I know a lot of you have been really missing the opportunity to express yourself musically & write/ record/ perform with other members, so this is fantastic news. Anyway, I'm really looking forward to working creatively with you again & know (as always) there'll be some amazing, inspiring new music made in this new chapter of Musical Connections!

Steve, MC Support Worker

How to register your interest for Steve's sessions:

To join the list for Music Support Worker Sessions:

- Please either RING or TEXT Steve on **07421 826554**, giving your full name and saying that you want to work with him on Musical Connections. Alternatively, you can email the same information to: info@quench-arts.co.uk.
- Have a think about whether you'd like to work on your own or whether you'd like to invite any other Musical Connections members into your sessions.

More information:

- Steve's normal working day will be a Thursday. However, there may be the odd change of day here and there if a few members have difficulties with a Thursday.
- Each individual session will last 1 hour. If you work with another member in your session and you both agree, you can combine your time to have a double session (2 hours). To make the sessions manageable, we will set a maximum limit of 3 members per session, but Steve may be able to be flexible if you have a chat to him.
- Because you will be given a set time-slot, it will be important for you to arrive for the start of your session on time. Please be aware that Steve will need to finish promptly at the planned end of the session so that he can begin his next session on time.
- Because Steve is only working for 1 day a week, he will only be able to get through about 6 sessions each week, so it may be a while before you can have your first session. You may also need to wait a while in between sessions, depending on the interest. Please be patient, as everyone will be worked with on a fair rotation.
- Steve will only be able to reply to messages/texts on the day of the week that he is working, so please understand if it takes a while for you to get a reply—he'll get back to you as soon as he can so you don't need to leave more than 1 message.

Musical Connections Donations

We are proud to be able to offer Musical Connections activity FREE to members, so that money isn't a barrier to people attending. However, if you'd like to make a contribution, however small, towards any Musical Connections sessions or refreshments that you have then there will be Musical Connections donations boxes in the main room and studio at APMC. Any money donated will help us to reach our fundraising target and ALL money donated will go directly back into the Musical Connections project.

Dates for Your Diary

Brainstorm Open Mic: 8pm, Wednesdays 18th April, 16th May, 21st June (3rd Wed every month), The Spotted Dog, 104 Warwick St, Digbeth B12 0NH.

Surge in Spring II Festival: from 12noon, Sat 21st April, MAC, Cannon Hill Park, B12 9QH. Box Office 0121 446 3232 or www.macbirmingham.co.uk/surge-in-spring
Cost: Theatre concerts £10/£9.10 (with a 15% discount if you buy tickets to all festival events). However, Terrace Gallery & Hexagon performances/ sessions are FREE all day and you can drop in and out as you like.

More info: A one day festival celebrating improvisation, collaboration and new music from around the globe that mirrors the musical make-up of Birmingham. Theatre concerts (chargeable) include: Hip hop MC Juice Aleem (1pm); Jazz drummer Mark Sanders and jazz saxophonist Rachel Musson (4pm); Clarinettist Mohamed Najem (7pm). FREE performances/ sessions include: The BOA Jazz Band, Integra Lab (electronic & acoustic works), Ideas Of Noise (play with DIY instruments, everyday sounds & electronics), Culture Dub Quartet, Millicent Chapanda & Chartwell Shorayi Dutiro (a Zimbabwean creative collaboration), Liz Berry and Steve Tromans (poet & pianist), Didier Kasala & The Froe (Congolese vocalist with English folk string quartet), Nifeco De Costa (Guinea-Bissau/Portuguese musician), Jazzlines Ensemble (young jazz musicians) & the Franki Dodwell Quintet.

Sax in the City (Jazzlines Free Gig): 1.30pm, Saturday 28th April, 26th May and 30th June, Symphony Hall, Level 3 Foyer, B1 2EA. Cost: FREE



More info: The Notebenders Big Band returns for another Sax in the City performance, breaking down barriers with their fun and uplifting sound. This diverse and dynamic band brings together musicians from communities across Birmingham, continuing the legacy of their founder, the legendary jazz musician Andy Hamilton. Hear them perform a selection of new and recognisable works that will ease you into the weekend.

The Festival with No Name: 3.30pm till late, Sat 28th April. Venue: The Old Printworks, Moseley Rd, Balsall Heath, B12 9AH. Cost: £8/£5 (£3 kids)

More info: The Festival with No Name is a fantastic event run in aid of the fab Choir with No Name (you'll recognise Musical Connections' very own Pete Churchill leading the choir in Birmingham). This year the festival includes performances from Cosmic Soul (made up of Musical Connections members & staff), The Strangest Feeling (Musical Connections artists) as well as The Choir with No Name & other fantastic groups. Don't miss out on a fab afternoon & evening!!



Quench Arts is grateful for support for Musical Connections from

The Goodenough
Charitable Trust



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Birmingham and Solihull **NHS**
Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

W: www.quench-arts.co.uk / www.musicalconnections.info

E: info@quench-arts.co.uk