

## **FESTIVE FLUTES – with narrator/composer Mel Orriss 12– 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in North Devon**

The North Devon Sinfonia approached Festive Flutes and Mel Orriss to inspire a new generation of young people to music. Our task was to visit school children throughout the week and end with a performance on Saturday in the Queen's Theatre, Barnstable, as part of the NDS Festival. Using a varied programme that included two original and entertaining narrated compositions by Mel Orriss, one using Edward Lear's Nonsense! poems, the other 'The House that Jack Built' we devised a programme that could be shortened for our school performances during the week. Throughout January, February and March, Mel and fellow composer, Alfie Pugh, visited local schools to work with children, helping them to write their own limericks and set these to music. A remarkably creative venture and a wonderful introduction to the visits that Festive Flutes made with Mel in March.



Here is some of the feedback we received from the schools:

**Mrs Gail Holmes, Headteacher, Woolacombe National Support and Teaching School**

Thank you so much for your email and thank you so much for the performance last week. It was absolutely brilliant, so inspiring for the children. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing how captivated the children were, they were so engaged and enthusiastic.

I felt that it was pitched perfectly in terms of time, level and participation. I loved how you went straight into performing to really wow the children. My own daughter was still humming one of the pieces in the evening!

Thank you very much for coming to our school and giving our children such a wonderful experience and hopefully to inspire them too to want to learn a musical instrument but also help them to understand and interpret music in such a creative way.

**Bonnie Brayley, Music Co-ordinator at Pilton Bluecoat Academy**

"I am writing to let you know how fantastic our school thought the flute concert was. The children were completely engaged throughout the entire session and were so inspired by the musicians. In particular it was great to watch the response of our many musicians as it shows them the standard that can be achieved if you keep playing and keep practicing! I thought the concert was perfectly and cleverly pitched for our age range and I have had many teachers and pupils tell me how much they enjoyed it. In these times of budgets cuts

it is so wonderful to have professional musicians into school to perform without any cost to the school. It is hugely appreciated.

**Francesca Trofa. Class teacher/music lead, High Bickington**

Many thanks for attending High Bickington on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March for the Festive Flutes concert. We had 88 children attend the sessions from KS1 and KS2. It was a great opportunity for the children, showing them that music can be linked to other subjects and you can still be creative! The children were memorized when the flutes were performing, all engaged and eager to really listen!



Details of Festive Flutes programme, Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup>  
\* indicates pieces used in schools during the week

**Nonsense!** by M. Orriss/E. Lear for flute quartet and narrator

1. \*There was an Old Man in a tree.....
2. There was an Young Lady whose chin.....
3. There was an Old Person of Skye.....
4. \*There was an Young Lady whose Bonnet....
5. There was an Old Man of Cape Horn....
6. There was an Old Man of the Dee

**Little Suite of Mythological Beings** by Anže Romann for flute quartet

1. Little Elvish Dance
2. Dance of the Drunken Goblin
3. \*Dance of the Little Dragon

**Façade** by William Walton arr. M. Orriss for flute quartet and narrator

1. Popular Song
2. Scotch Rhapsody
3. Jodelling Song
4. Polka
5. Tarentella

**Ma Mère l'Oye** by Maurice Ravel arr. M.Orriss for flute quartet

1. \*Pavane de la Belle au bois dormant (Pavane of Sleeping Beauty in the Wood)
2. Petit Poucet (Tom Thumb)
3. Laideronnette, Impératrice des pagodes (Laideronnette, Empress of the Pagodas)

**The House That Jack Built** by Melanie Orriss for flute quartet and narrator