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**MAKE MUSIC DAY CELEBRATES A FANTASTIC ONLINE SUCCESS**

**HUNDREDS OF ONLINE PERFORMANCES TOOK PLACE ACROSS THE UK ON 21 JUNE**

#MakeMusicDayUK

This year’s summer Solstice, 21 June, saw the fourth annual UK-based **Make Music Day** moving online with great success. Celebrating the joy of music and its ability to not only entertain but also to bring communities together, the global grassroots event that began in France as Fete de la Musique in 1982 proved that music transcends even social distancing with hundreds of performers streaming events on social media throughout the day, including almost 13-hours of specially curated programming from Make Music Day UK organisers which had a reach of more than 40,000 people on Facebook alone.

While official numbers are still being collated, preliminary statistics show that from the Scottish Highlands to the south coast, and Norfolk to Northern Ireland more than 200 musical events took place.

Music fans can catch up with official Make Music Day broadcast performances by visiting the archive at <https://makemusicday.co.uk/mmd2020/> and other performances can be found by searching #makemusicdayuk on social media. Images of Make Music Day participants and performers across the country can be found at [https://makemusicday.co.uk/gallery-2020](https://makemusicday.co.uk/gallery-2020/).

Notable performances included more than 20,000 views so far for a rendition of How Far I’ll Go from Disney’s Moana by **ABRSM** (Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) whose call out for a virtual ensemble attracted 712 contributions from musicians aged 4 to retirement age in 19 different countries. Brian Doran’s **Beyond Six Strings** showcased a penchant for unusual multi-stringed instruments to more than 6000 people and Musicians Coronavirus Action Ilkley hosted the **Ilkley Care Home Serenade**. One of the few offline/real world events that happened anywhere in the country the serenade featured 14 volunteer musicians who played a socially distanced events for the residents of six care homes in the area.

The official Make Music Day UK broadcast featured a plethora of artists, activities and performances too, ranging from a singing lesson from Welsh soprano **Elin Manahan Thomas,** more than 700 Zoom participants for the **Sofa Singers’** rendition of Commodores classic ‘Easy’, and the premier of **Amateo’s** film **Rebels With a Cause** that has already gained over 7,000 views across Europe.

The **National Youth Folk Ensemble** presented an hour and a half of music culminating in a performance from their former artistic director **Sam Sweeney** with views already in their thousands, Make Music Day in Scotland’s **Hey Jude - Symphony of a Thousand** attracted more than 400 participants and Norther Ireland’s **Beyond Skin** who use the arts to bridge cultural divides showcased multicultural collaborations and performances from homegrown talent such as **Orchestra of Change** and **Claire Louise McBride,** and musicians across the globe including Philadelphia’s **Ami Yares,** and Palestine’s **Luna Abu Nassar**.

**BritishBlackMusic.com** and **Black Music Congress** displayed the depth and breadth of British black music, with a six-hour DJ set that spanned more than 120 years, from Samuel Coleridge-Taylor‘s 1898 composition ‘Hiawatha’s Wedding Feast’ to Dave‘s 2020 Brits performance of ‘Black’. Specially recorded performances by **Georgia Cecile** and **Fraser Urquhart, Herschel 36,** and **Kinnaris Quintet,** marked Glasgow's status as a **UNESCO City of Music**. Youth music development charity **NYMAZ** organised **Rural Fest,** featuring a full day of music and activities from Yorkshire’s young music-makers. Nick Luscombe's **Musicity** provided musical journeys through the landscape and architecture of South London with notable performances from **Clementine March** and **Neue Grafik. A**nd **Make Music Oxfordshire** made a day of it streaming 24 artists from the area in 12 music-filled hours.

The North east hosted **Saying Goodbye,** featuring original poetry and specially recorded music, with performances from **Sting**, plus renowned baritone **Sir Thomas Allen**, **Piers Lane, Kathryn Tickell, Martin Stephenson, Steven Osborne, Clea Friend** and **Michael Copley.** And a **Bring Me Sunshine competition** supported by **Hal Leonard**, one of Make Music Day’s participatory projects, has seen a huge number of cover versions of the much-loved classic circulating online.

Commenting on this year’s events, **Barbara Eifler, Co-chair of Make Music Day UK**, said: *“I'm immensely proud of this year's Make Music Day events and how the team and hundreds of organisers across the UK embraced a new digital world with very little warning, and often no experience, to bring us so many hours of fun and inspiring musical celebration, showcasing the variety of music to be found in the British Isles.”*

Preparations are now underway for Make Music Day 2021, which will be held as usual on 21 June. For more information head to [www.makemusicday.co.uk](http://www.makemusicday.co.uk) or follow @MakeMusicDayUK on social media.

**Notes to Editors:**

**Background to Make Music Day:** Make Music Day is a global celebration of music that takes in over 125 countries on 21 June. The concept originates from France’s Fete de la Musique which began in 1982 and now involves two thirds of the population of France. In 2019 in the UK there were **1,103 free performances involving 29,353 performers who entertained an audience of more than 141,000 people** (live in person on the day and online). Make Music Day traditionally involves performers, venues, event organisers, volunteers and supporters, with performances in a full spectrum of musical styles, and in a variety of public spaces including libraries, hospitals, schools, town squares, train stations, parks, shopping centres, pubs, cafes and traditional gig venues. Make Music Day UK is proud to include **Nicola Benedetti CBE**, **Sam Sweeney, Elin Manahan Thomas,** and **Lord Bird MBE** among its ambassadors.

The official song for Make Music Day 2020 was *Bring Me Sunshine* supported by Hal Leonard Europe

**Partners and supporters:** Make Music Day UK has a network of around 100 partner organisations and supporters including

Arts Council England, Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, Association of British Orchestras, Creative Scotland, English Folk Dance and Song Society, Hal Leonard Europe, Incorporated Society of Musicians, International Association of Music Libraries, Libraries Connected, Making Music,

Music for All, Music Mark, Musicians Union, NAMM Foundation, NYMAZ, Orchestras Live, PRS for Music, Team London Bridge, UK Music, Voluntary Arts/Get Creative and Youth Music. The significant reach of Make Music Day is made possible by our partners’ combined networks and online presence.

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**Photographs:** <https://makemusicday.co.uk/gallery-2019/>

Photographs of past events approved for distribution**:** [makemusicday.co.uk/press](http://www.makemusicday.co.uk/press)

**Press Contact:** Aidan Byrne [press@makemusicday.co.uk](mailto:press@makemusicday.co.uk) - 07939 269 372

More information <https://makemusicday.co.uk/>