

The Saffron Beagley Jazz Orchestra and Armchair Puppet Theatre



The Blue Bird by Maurice Maeterlinck plus Combined-Media Communication Workshop

We are offering a subsidised day long event that includes a demonstration, workshop and performance. Having presented some improvisation skills, performers from *the Blue Bird* production will work on the story with two separate groups each of 30 participants, one on music and one on puppetry. The two groups will then come together to combine their experiences in a collaborative interpretation of the story. To complete the day The Saffron Beagley Jazz Orchestra and Armchair Puppet Theatre will perform 'The Blue Bird' live to an audience of up to 150 people.

This project will enable an exploration of the use of written and improvised music, shadow puppets of both traditional and modern styles from different cultures, story telling and the strength of collaborations between mediums and their departments.

The Blue Bird - a magical new adaptation

This enchanting story is about two children who are in search of a Blue Bird that is said to be the only cure for a little girl who is dying in the village. They receive help from friends along the way but tragically do not succeed in bringing back a blue bird, even from the depths of their imagination. However, on their return there is a surprise in store and the children learn a lesson they will never forget. This story experiments with the fine line between dream and reality. Its outcome teaches self belief and an understanding of how the thing we search for is to be found inside ourselves.

Performing in conjunction with stunning puppetry, The Saffron Beagley Jazz Orchestra will bring the visuals to life with a live soundtrack that includes character themes and lyrical improvisations, mixed with song, sound effects, and story-telling. Each Blue Bird character introduces

sounds from the unusual instrumentation of the orchestra, less common within a school environment - voice, alto/treble flute, flugelhorn, soprano/tenor saxophone, bass clarinet, marimba, tabla and double bass. The music for 'The Blue Bird', composed by Saffron Beagley, is rooted in the traditions of Jazz, Indian and Classical music. People of all ages will be drawn to and moved by this modern sound which has been created by Saffron's mix of these powerful genres.

Armchair Puppet Theatre will perform shadow puppets which are hand made using materials such as card, wire and celluloid to create intricate, expressive and colourful imagery. The magical element in this story lends itself to shadow puppetry, which excites the imagination and succeeds in conjuring a mystical sense. The many interesting, varying characters of The Blue Bird are developed through movement and the incredible beauty of the shadow puppetry is cleverly mixed with gentle humour.

Every audience will find this adaptation of the Blue Bird poignant, touching, and gently humorous. Few could fail to be thrilled by the unique blend of sounds, with jazz, classical and world music influences, mixed with stunning and exciting imagery.

Combined-media communication workshop

Sixty pupils will have the unique opportunity of working with highly skilled practitioners from The Saffron Beagley Jazz Orchestra and Armchair Puppet Theatre in music and puppetry. These participants will develop their skills in spontaneous creative thinking, techniques within their media, combining media, group working and critical evaluation.

We will work on the Indian story 'Hanuman', using Indian influenced puppets and music to help raise awareness and respect for the traditions and culture of India and to demonstrate the strength of collaboration between cultures.

As well as demonstrating technique and explaining methods of working, we enjoy enabling the participants to experiment in a practical way, within the perimeters of their task. Our workshop is based on the continual feedback from the rest of the group, encouraging collaborative learning and constant evaluation.



The Blue Bird project aims to involve as much of your school as possible, the media studies department are invited to film this exciting

and visually stimulating event. There will be a conference evening set up in the week before the workshop begins, in which the teachers from all the schools involved will be invited to attend. A selection of musicians from The Saffron Beagley Jazz Orchestra and puppeteers from Armchair Puppet Theatre will give a series of talks on the technicalities of putting together a production of this kind.

Programme for the day

Morning session

- A demonstration / talk - entire group. (Musicians group - maximum 30 and puppetry group - maximum 30)
- Followed by 2 hours of Workshop.

First Hour

Music Workshop

Pupils aged 11-18 who sing or play a musical instrument (maximum 30) will learn to play four pieces of music which involve simple written notation, group improvisation, playing as a section and being conducted and led by Saffron Beagley. A selection of the musicians from The Saffron Beagley Jazz Orchestra will be there to support the ensemble and to give participants individual specific help.



Puppet workshop

A class (maximum 30) will take part in a shadow puppet performance workshop, led by Armchair Puppet Theatre. Using the Indian Story 'Hanuman', participants will learn about shadow puppetry and have hands on experience in performing a shadow puppet production.



Second Hour

Performing Together

Entire group (60 maximum) will use their newly acquired skills the two groups will experience collaborating with each other. Four pieces of music will be performed with the four scenes from the story Hanuman, with particular attention to the communication between the movement of the puppets in relation to the ebb and flow of the improvised music.



Afternoon Performance

The Saffron Beagley Ensemble and Armchair Puppet Theatre will perform "The Blue Bird" live to an audience of up to 150 pupils. This professional performance will give an opportunity for participants to experience the communication skills learnt about in the earlier workshop. (45-50 minutes)



A skills information pack will be available.

We will be offering this project at a **subsidised rate** during Activity Week in July 2006. We are currently applying for support from The Arts Council.

To express an interest in this project:

Please visit www.saffronbeagley.co.uk/contact

Or contact Saffron Beagley direct by email info@saffronbeagley.co.uk

Biographies

The Saffron Beagley Jazz Orchestra



Saffron Beagley-Tenor/Soprano Saxophones

Saffron Beagley studied at Leeds College of Music where she received a BA/Jazz(hons). Saffron is an experienced composer and performer, conducting her own big band, "The Saffron Beagley Jazz Orchestra" which plays her original compositions. She has written for film/documentary. She also performs with various ensembles in many venues in the Leeds area and has played in recording sessions for Sony records. Saffron's workshop leadership has been inspired by her earlier work with Welfare State International and more recently Moveable Feast Workshops. She teaches ensembles and one-to-one instrumental lessons in schools in Leeds.



Tori Freestone- Treble and Alto Flute

Tori Freestone (flutes) has performed music workshops for many music services as well as being a tutor on improvisation workshops for the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and Lecturer in jazz flute and saxophone at Leeds College of Music. She has played with many groups in a variety of styles such as NYJO, the Creative Jazz Orchestra, Lee Hazlewood and La Timbala as well as co-leading her own jazz quartet with performances including jazz festivals and venues all over the UK and Europe.



Maria Jardardottir- Vocals

Maria Jardardottir is a Norwegian performing and composing voice musician based in Leeds. She has just received a Masters in Performance/Jazz and Contemporary Music from Leeds College of Music. Maria performs in various kinds of ensembles. She has experience in improvisation, ethnic oriented music, contemporary jazz and electronically based music. She has toured and performed in Norway, England and USA.



Andrew Coleman- Flugelhorn

Andrew Colman graduated in 2000 from Leeds College of Music with a first class honours degree in jazz studies. In 1999 Andrew was voted the Young Jazz Musician of the Year. Andrew went on to complete a week residency at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in London to much acclaim. Andrew is busy performing at jazz venues and festivals all over the country with his own quartet. He has also toured in Holland alongside the notable trumpet player Ack Van Rooyen. Andrew's eponymous debut album features the award-winning Peter King, Tina May and Dave Newton and at the moment Andrew is writing and recording his second album.



Rod Mason- Bass Clarinet

Rod Mason studied at Huddersfield University and gained a degree in Music focusing on both jazz and classical music. Rod has played with many of the countries main jazz stars as part of the Ben Crosland Quintet, some include Alan Skidmore, Peter King, Don Weller, Art Themen, Guy Barker, Gerard Precenser, Steve Waterman, Jim Mullen and Mark Nightingale. He has played in Europe and featured

at many Jazz festivals (Brecon, Grimsby, Manchester and Bracknell) and was with the Ben Crosland Band when featured on T.V. He also has performed with John Surman and John Warren as part of the Voice of the North. Rod has his own quartet which has released an album which has received excellent reviews and has recently recorded his second album.



Jenny Hoy- Marimba

Jenny Hoy is a Leeds based percussionist specialising in tuned percussion, Latin percussion and orchestral percussion. Jenny's career so far has involved tours, recordings and solo performances across Britain. Jenny divides her time between teaching at Leeds College of Music and Schools in York. She also runs

workshops for the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.



Zoltan Dekany- Double Bass

Zoltan Dekany worked from 94–95 as a teaching assistant for California Arts. Whilst in America he also recorded for Capitol Records and performed extensively in Los Angeles, opening for world renowned bass player Charlie Haden. From 96–97 Zoltan was assistant professor at Jeff Berlin's Players School of Music. From

2000-2001, Zoltan toured the U.S.A with artists such as Marian McGoovern, Ian and Elliot Finkel, Jackie Scotland and Phillipe Huber. Since moving to England in 2002, Zoltan has performed and recorded with most of the countries top artists. Zoltan now lectures in electric and acoustic bass and runs ensembles at Leeds College of Music.



Bhupinder Singh Chaggar-Tabla

Is a young and up and coming Tabla player based in Leeds. Bhupinder received a BSc Hons in Music technology from Leeds Metropolitan University. He now teaches Tabla at Leeds College of Music and in schools in the Leeds area. He has led numerous workshops and

master-classes. He has accompanied some prominent artist of the Indian Classical genre including, Sri Dharambir Singh, Sri Kushal Das Ji, Smt. Purnima Chaudhari, Sri Snehashish Mazjumdar, etc. He also had the great fortune playing two duet performances with his Guru Ji. He plays cross-culturally with many different styles of music including, flamenco guitarist Eduardo Neibla, Portuguese percussion maestro Rui Junior, popular mainstream artist Jocelyn Brown and mercury award nominee band, Black Star Liner, as well as Dj's of hip-hop/drum'n'bass backgrounds. Bhupinder's is as a partner in a Production company called Pinjab - a diverse, creative production unit.

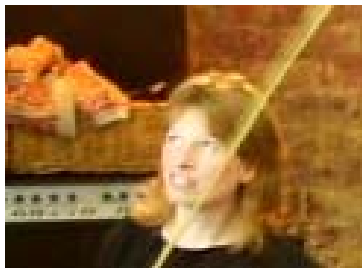
Armchair Puppet Theatre



Ken and Jill Beagley

Ken and Jill Beagley studied sculpture and printmaking, have worked on Welfare State International's 'Lord Dynamite', and trained with Notting Hill Carnival's Perpetual Beauty. They are World Record holders for the Biggest Puppet Show on Earth and are part of Tony Gee's Moveable Feast Company. Armchair Puppet

Theatre have regularly toured England since 1988 with their shadow puppet performances and workshops for post graduate and degree students, secondary schools, primary and early years, severe learning difficulties, the Racial Equality Council and public libraries. They are well known for their glove and shadow puppet performances of 'Burglar Bill' and 'Small Wonder'.



Melissa Beagley

Melissa Beagley received a first class BA Hons degree in Fine Art from Falmouth College of Art. She is a Director of Art Arena games and Flock, has participated in the Moveable Feast workshops for Artist Workshoppers and is an experienced puppeteer who has collaborated

with Far and Wide Puppets (Creation Myths) and Armchair Puppet Theatre (Shadow Puppet workshops and performances), to create mixed media workshops and performances in schools and other venues across Britain. Melissa has worked on NESTA's IGNITE! project to help facilitate a huge creativity project which involved children from 50 schools in the South West; for the Royal Festival Hall as an Educational Installation Invigilator; and with Welfare State International on their Lord Dynamite performance.

All of the people involved in this project have an up to date CRB certificate.