

Developing Ensemble Music Making Across Genres

Dr Paul Edlin, Director of Music



This project included QMUL Orchestra and QMUL Big Band.

Beneficiaries:

- Student and alumni members of QMUL Big Band: 16.
- Young people attending event at St Paul's Way Trust School: circa 120.
- Audience for Big Band concert: circa 130.
- Members of QMUL Orchestra: 48.
- Audience for Americana concert: circa 220.

Activities:

Big Band workshop at St Paul's Way Trust School on Wednesday 2 March 2016 and concert on Friday 4 March 2016 – rare performance of Gil Evans' Porgy & Bess and Concert by QMUL Orchestra and Choir with members of East London Music Group on Wednesday 23 March – American music by Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland.

"For the 2nd year running I had the opportunity to spend a whole day being coached by professional musicians, this year from members of the East London Music Group, in the build-up the big Easter concert. It was something I had been looking forward to and was so valuable, especially having the sectional teaching to improve my playing within the group. The professionals playing alongside us in the concert added a new depth and allowed an exciting and dynamic performance." (QM School of Medicine and Dentistry – Violin).

"It was an excellent overall experience on a number of levels. Being able to work with such skilled musicians was fantastic from a learning perspective, as was playing pieces from such a well-known collection of music. Playing at the school was helpful for further performing experience, answering questions about the nature of the instruments. Playing in groups was enjoyable and instructive." (German and Spanish Year 2 – Saxophone).

"I found the Porgy and Bess project hugely enriching. It was fascinating to play such rich and complex music because this enabled me to appreciate it on a completely different level. It is so important to recreate these seminal works. I was particularly impressed with the workshop we ran at St Paul's Way Trust School where the engagement of the children was excellent. I am sure the workshop helped them in their studies as well as exposing them to jazz music in a live context." (School of Engineering and Materials Science – Saxophone).

