



Applicant: Frances M Lynch 56177687 Project: Voices for the Future ACPG-00405668

Participant Feedback

3 SCI/ART WORKSHOP PROGRAMMES in 6 PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Please follow these links to find the music, films, details of how the projects worked and the primary school web pages on <https://minervascientifica.co.uk/> created from information provided by the children

1. **Hawkshead**, Cumbria: **BEATRIX POTTER** (1866-1943) Mycologist
2. **Sidmouth CofE**, **Payhembury**, **Awliscombe** & **Newton Poppleford**: **MARY ANNING** (1799-1847) Palaeontologist (Sidmouth Science Festival, Devon)
3. **Thomas Hickman**, Aylesbury: **MIRIAM ROTHSCHILD** (1908 - 2005) Entomologist & Conservationist (Waddesdon Manor, Bucks)

The following data was collected from individual children answering set questions in a form designed to reflect their specific project. 180 responded out of 188 children involved altogether. Quotes include their comments and their teachers' comments. Pictures were created to help tell their stories.

Asked what they wanted to be when they grew up:

A scientist 13% YES 38% possibly

A singer 26% YES 31% possibly

A composer 11% YES 26% possibly



When asked if the project had influenced them to want to become a scientist or musician 23% said YES and 36% felt it probably had.

*When I grow up I want to be a singer and composer
One of us wants to be a singing, hairdressing scientist!
They have been influenced to write their own music
We learnt to invent our own music and megasong
We didn't know that we could compose a verse/song
We have got better at singing*

As only 36% play an instrument at any level, and 26% sing in a choir (one school has no music provision at all!) it's not surprising that most don't aspire to a musical career. However, the project certainly had an impact as the teachers said:-

*We've had a big take up to music lessons
The musicians had a huge impact on the children who were very interested in their instruments as they had not seen or heard them before*

Only 19% felt you could be both a scientist and musician (despite us presenting them with many who were) but 36% thought it might be possible!

41% thought that making music on this project had helped them understand the science and scientists, and 32% felt it probably had. This is one of the most important outcomes for the project

*We wrote about how Jane Dorries turned into a fossil
The children learnt a great deal about Science as well as music
I liked the lady that showed us the moths, that was really interesting
They learnt about food chains and that wildlife thrives in wild flower gardens
We learnt about different types of fossils (ammonites, belemnites, coprolites and trilobites)*





Participant Feedback

75% really enjoyed performing and recording the music, 17% thought it was ok too!

I felt like a star.

The show was very fun and exciting

Very good, good show, amazing, perfect

We liked showing our parents the video

It makes you feel... happy, amazing, delighted, joyous, overjoyed, incredible and satisfied



In 2 of the schools 100% said they enjoyed performing & recording the music – one of these schools sings regularly and follows the Charanga music scheme but the other has almost no provision apart from a choir club. What is interesting is that both schools took part towards the end of the project – perhaps once we had learnt to perfect the model and ironed out any of the zoom problems? All agreed that zoom worked better than expected though in person is always best!

It seems this project can reach across barriers to both music and science for both children and teachers, despite being online, with more success than anticipated:-

It has introduced the possibilities of creating music linked to another subject

It provided professional development in art & music

I feel more confident about making music with the children now

I can see that Music is an area which we need to develop

We would perhaps use music to help support learning in other subject areas



The projects had extensions outside of the project teams input – expanding its impact through local people and organisations eg. the visit to Waddesdon Manor for the Rothschild project –

We were surprised how the house looked like a castle, the beautiful gardens and how neat the flower beds were

We went to the Armit museum in Ambleside to learn about Beatrix Potter, to see her paintings and we learnt about mushrooms

Meeting experts and discussing things with them was also important, especially that they were women, and from history too:-

This gave children a greater insight in having specialists share their knowledge with them.

Professor Lynne helped us with the Mycology

Emma Bernard found a Megalodon

Frances was a palaeontologist and a composer

We found out that Mary Anning was a palaeontologist

There are lots of female palaeontologists that we didn't know about

Beatrix potter is a mycologist and an artist and a children's author

Williamina Fleming - astronomer - discovered the horsehead nebula

Marie Curie because she invented the x-ray that helps to save lives today

Isabella Gordon because she was a marine biologist and she studied crustaceans which is crabs and lobsters

Miriam Rothschild is inspiring because she used her money to help other people. She helped prisoners and refugees and she was already thinking of ways to look after animals.



Last words:

We feel very privileged to have taken part in the project. We would definitely do so again if the offer was available. We would highly recommend it to other schools. Our children have gained a lot from it both in understanding of Science, Music and History and self-esteem and confidence in newfound abilities.



Participant Feedback

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Please follow the links to find the music, films, details of how each strand worked

[Voices for the Future Virtual Choir](#)

[Young Singers Programme](#)

Song Competition Entrants – [Beatrix Potter](#) & [Mary Anning](#)



Almost 100 participants joined our online public programmes. The largest age group was the 5 – 11yrs (83%) with the remainder being in their 20's or over 50.

All participants indicated their enjoyment in the programmes they followed and many offered useful ideas for future projects which I'm currently considering with colleagues. All indicated they would join future projects.

PARTICIPANTS COMMENTS

The Music

- *The more contemporary pieces are great fun to do*
- *Such fun to learn and I'll be singing them in the shower at odd moments for evermore!*
- *I enjoyed trying something different*
- *I enjoyed the challenge of AdaBab(ble) and loved the way the different parts fitted together*
- *The pieces were really varied too, each topic brought a new singing challenge.*
- *Cohen really enjoyed singing and it was a fab experience*

Learning

- *Learning sign language*
- *Taught me to keep in time*
- *Improving singing, improved sight reading*
- *It taught me to not be so afraid of going for those high notes*
- *Vocal warm ups and exercises were so useful and skills that I will continue to use and develop!*
- *The trick to push down with your hand when your sing high, I use that when I perform and it gives me more confidence...visualising the end of the sentence helps me not drop my notes...bringing acting into my singing was new, It's definitely helped me with my performances*
- *My adaptability was strengthened by gaining the experience of working vocally on an unusual medium (ZOOM) for voice work*
- *The exercises learnt in the tuning and scale classes allowed me to really focus on technique and precision with singing.*
- *My favourite exercise was when we walked the intervals that really helped me visualise*
- *Incredibly inventive competition. Our class absolutely loved it - and essentially based our entire Harvest Festival assembly on it!*
- *Thank you to the judges for thinking our lyrics were worthy of winning the science award.*



Participant Feedback

Women in Science & Music

- *I loved learning about the people the projects were based on*
- *I learned a lot about women composers and scientists*
- *I felt that I was working with a cause to promote female musicians and scientists*
- *We loved the performance at the Marine theatre and it put all the research and learning she had done for her song writing into context*



Wellbeing

- *It really helped my mental health*
- *It just makes you feel so happy taking part*
- *We have formed a virtual community*
- *I have gained more confidence in my voice*
- *It felt good to be out of my comfort zone*
- *Ingrid is absolutely delighted to be a prizewinner*
- *I really liked 'meeting' the other members of the choir*
- *I've been in a lot of choirs and have never had such great support!*
- *The most valuable aspect for me was being made so welcome right from the start*
- *The choir was a real boost to my mental wellbeing*
- *It was almost like belonging to a company during the process, working together as an ensemble and bouncing off each other to accomplish a common goal*
- *Thanks once again for making this opportunity available to so many children, I think it does broaden their surroundings and think 'Why Not Me'?*

