

# music Teacher

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NEWS

## Youth Music and Classic FM unite for early-years music

Rhian Morgan

Youth Music and Classic FM have teamed up to bring more music into the lives of the under-fives by running workshops with professional musicians and increasing radio programming for younger children.

Christina Coker, chief executive of Youth Music, a charity that supports music making for the under-18s, said that both nurseries and parents needed encouragement and support to make the project work.

'Music-making activities play a significant part in the emotional, social and physical development of young children, particularly in those vital early years from birth to five,' she told *Music Teacher*. 'These activities assist with the development of a bond between parent and child, uniting parents, carers and young children, as well as connecting the community as a whole. I would like to see a situation achieved where music-making activities become a real birthright – part of what happens in every early-years setting and home in the country.'

Classic FM will be supporting the early-years campaign with special programming for young children. There'll be website links, and Classic Newsnight will talk to orchestral musicians who run the workshops.

Classic FM station manager Darren Henley described the creative arts as 'having the power to transform lives. By capturing the imagination of children and engaging them with the arts at a young age, we can make a real difference to them and to society as a whole.'

Youth Music has already funded several dozen early-years music-making programmes. Nursery staff say even the most shy children have responded well, and one head said of the programme: 'I've taught music to little ones for years but I've never seen children develop like this in music.'

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