

Musica viva “Music generator”

Team 2 -Andrew de Teliga and Martin Tucker

Team 2 report by Martin Tucker 12 Feb 2007

Our basic roadmap with working with the Traralgon schools is to give the children an insight of music from different cultures and to show how the “Sirocco” group combine many ethnic instruments together with keyboards, electric guitar etc in music creation.

We invited the children to play our instruments, looking at various scales, tuning explored musical imagery, sound-scapes, improvisation, creating rhythmic and arhythmic sound textures. All the groups practice body percussion, and utilise instruments available in the music classroom.

In the first sessions (Sept 2006)- Our exercise with each group was to create a musical piece called “The great wall of China”- A sound-scape, with nature, bird and insect sounds, and featuring the Chin zither improvising on a pentatonic scale, which moves into a rhythmic horse galloping Mongolian tune.

.Each school came up with their own version of the piece, and it was a fantastic to see the children all getting involved and having fun, whilst learning the guidelines of rehearsal and performance.

Returning to the schools in February 07, our plan was to prepare the 5 groups for the forthcoming concert in March 07, with each school to take a different cultural theme to base their performance.

Stockdale rd primary continued the “Great Wall” piece, expanding it a stage further with an Indonesian? sounding Gamelan section in 5/4 time. This piece is becoming an epic asian journey!

Grey St primary took on a Middle eastern belly dancing concept utilizing a market bazaar sound-scape moving into a “shiffatele” rhythmic foundation and a Arabic melody played on oud, bouzouki, clarinet, trumpet flute and recorder. Great work from Grey street! Special thanks to Marian Jenkinson for leading the instrumentalists.

Glengarry primary explored the Celtic connection, with a seashore sound-scape, a version of the famous “Skye boat song”, following into some Irish jigs and reels. They had some unusual tuned bells in their music room which were utilised to ring on the chord changes in the music. A conductors challenge!

Tyers primary.-With the coal industry in the area we felt it apt to include a train boogie blues, complete with train whistles a shuffle swing rhythm, harmonica, slide guitar and a song about the coal train. With this group we explored the link from Africa to America and the roots of rock and roll.

Toongabbie primary.-We arrived at the school on a dry and dusty 38 degree day and it felt like we were in the Sahara desert ! This gave us the inspiration where to take this group.-“Toongabbie to Timbuktu” is exploring a desert African theme -poly rhythms, call and response with a pentatonic Malian melody/. Looking forwards to working with this group after continued rhythmic work with local musician Steve Schultz!

Many thanks to the teachers and children in all the schools, the Musica viva team, Steve Schultz, Marian Jenkinson and all members of Sirocco.

Looking forwards to taking our groups to the performance stage and see what we have all achieved.---- **Martin Tucker 12 Feb 2007**