

HOWARD BLAKE OBE FRAM (Composer). What on earth are Green thinking of? Green IS music and I thought I was in favour of Green. Music is the sound of nature and peace and eternity. I am now sometimes described as a world-famous composer (certainly with The Snowman, the rest perhaps when I'm dead). I learnt to be a pianist, composer and conductor in Brighton. My knowledge of classical music came from the free Brighton record library in the early fifties. Also from having a free pass to the BPO rehearsals in the Dome and going on a free school trip to Glyndebourne. I acted at the free Downs primary school, won the 11-plus to the free Brighton Grammar School, where I sang lead roles in G and S and later got distinction in S-level Music. My Brighton piano teacher Christine Pembroke coached me to win the scholarship to the Royal Academy for piano and composition and I was supported by a university grant. This led to my lifelong professional music career. My first recognition as a composer came from winning the composition class at The Brighton Competitive musical festival in 1958. Brighton is famous throughout the world for its music. To remove assistance would be a devastating blow. I have always been immensely grateful to Brighton, since without it, as a composer I probably would have never existed.

TASMIN LITTLE (Concert Violinist). "I am writing in support of the Music Service at Brighton and Hove as I understand that it is under the threat of cuts. This is very worrying to me as the relatively small amount of money allocated to the Arts can make a vast difference to the lives of so many people and can be of huge benefit to the community as a whole. I began the violin at my local, state primary school in London and it is only because of state-funded opportunities that I was able to fulfil my dream of becoming a professional concert violinist. Music can be a lifeline to many people of all ages and backgrounds, helping them to work through difficult emotions, find courage and have faith in themselves. Music provides a meaningful and personal outlet and, in addition to providing a valuable and joyous experience for the individual, the families and greater community are also enriched. I urge you to reconsider your plans to cut the funding to this vibrant and successful Music Service – it is something to be proud of, not to do away with."

SIAN CAREY, school student. I'm in my 8th year of learning the violin and 5th of learning the flute. On a Saturday morning I did 3 years of Junior choir and I'm in my 3rd year of youth choir. I've done Saturday strings, violin group, flute group and still do wind ensemble and wind band. I did 2 years on violin in BHJYO and am now doing flute in it. Thanks to the music service I've tried keyboard at sound makers, viola, piccolo, alto flute and music theory. I've always done lots of courses in the summer. Lots of my friends do music and I've met loads of new people through doing music. It's really amazing and I wouldn't have done any of this without the music service.

GEORGIA JENKINS, age 15. I started learning the violin with the music service when I was eight, I now am the leader in the Brighton and Hove Youth Philharmonia. I really enjoy it, it is the highlight of my week! My violin playing has greatly benefited from being in the Philharmonia I would not be at the level I am now without orchestra. Our tour which was scheduled for the Easter holidays was recently cancelled for the first time in 16 years, everyone at orchestra was extremely disappointed, if our orchestra was taken away completely, I don't know what we would do! My friends from orchestra are better than any of those I have ever made at school; they will be my friends for life! I also learn the Guitar with the music service; this is definitely very enjoyable too!

JADE NICKOLOFF, age 10. To the Council Learning keyboard is important to me because it is fun and I am very good at it and want to learn more it makes me happy and I can express my feelings, for instance when I am sad I play sad tunes and when I am happy I play jolly tunes. When I play the keyboard I create a world of my own. The idea of not being able to do lessons will make me really sad. Please don't stop my lessons or make it so expensive that my parents can't afford to pay for them.

EMILY HALL, trainee music teacher. Hi. I would be delighted to lend my voice to the campaign to stop the cuts to Brighton and Hove music service. I was a member of BYO back in 2003 and went to numerous violin summer schools with Brighton and Hove music service as a child. I used to travel over 20 miles to attend these, as music services in my area were nowhere near as supportive, inclusive and creative. It is due to my experiences with Brighton and Hove music service that I realised that I could contribute to group music and make a difference. I went on to study music at Dartington, become a professional violinist and singer, and am now training as a music teacher. It would be tragic to lose the superb creative outlet that the music service was

for me, and continues to be for hundreds of young people today. The teachers and players who ran those groups inspired my young musical life, and without them I don't think I would have had the confidence to be doing what I am today.

REBECCA, former music service participant. The experiences that I've gained out of the Brighton and Hove Music Service are invaluable. The skills that I gained and the people I met have stayed with me to the present day, and the memories that I have from the opportunities that the Music Service enabled will stay with me for life. For any young person growing up in Brighton and Hove, the opportunity to become involved with the Music Service is an incredibly important one: in shaping them as individuals, as well as broadening and enhancing their prospects outside of their academic life. For me, the involvement in various ensembles offered by the Music Service facilitated a very welcome departure from the routine and repetition of school life and enabled me to express myself through an outlet for which I felt passionate. This experience was heightened through being able to share it with many who felt the same. I know many who would agree, and the idea that this opportunity would be taken away is preposterous, unfathomable and leaves me with great sadness.

BETH RANDALL, professional musician and parent. We are the envy of the Country with our fantastic music service. My daughter started the violin aged six at Downs Infants School and under the expert tuition of Clive Morgan progressed amazingly well. Her involvement in the orchestras further aided her development musically and at the age of ten she won a coveted place in The National Children's Orchestra. We thank the staff of the Brighton and Hove Music Service for allowing her potential to be discovered. But more importantly, we should cherish the work they do for all students in Brighton and Hove. It is universally acknowledged that engagement in musical activities has manifold benefits - educationally, socially and musically. Please, please, reconsider these cuts. Music fuels the spirit - allow the young people of Brighton to continue to be enriched.

E. ENFIELD, parent. I am writing with concern about the proposed cuts to the music service in Brighton and Hove. This is an outstanding service and not only helps makes the city the thriving artistic environment which attracts many visitors and in turn boosts the main industry i.e. tourism, but it also acts as an alternative youth service. The children who participate in the many music classes and ensembles tend to become highly motivated and keen to participate which stops them becoming disenchanted with education and hanging around at a vital time in their lives. It also fosters a sense of belonging to the community, nurturing good citizens and often preventing children from being bullied at school. This is not just about middle class children having subsidised music lessons but about nurturing and protecting the thriving community in which we all live. To cut all the funding for this service is short sighted and the effects will be more far reaching than just a few less trumpet players in town. Please reconsider this draconian cutting to a service which puts back into the city in so many ways.

CS, parent. Virtually everyone in my family is considered 'tone deaf', and I didn't think my daughter was musical when she was little. She couldn't sing in tune at all. But she did enjoy going to the children's music group with Peter Walker from Year 1. Then she begged to start in a violin group at junior school. I reluctantly agreed, thinking it would be a disaster. I have to admit I misjudged her. She now plays violin in the Brighton and Hove Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and sings (in tune!) with the Youth Choir. None of this would have been possible if she hadn't had a chance to try out music with B&H Music Service and I'm profoundly grateful to their wonderful teachers.

KAY WATTS, parent. I am writing as I'm saddened to hear of the short sighted decision to cut funding to MAS services. Both my son and daughter have benefitted from these classes; the teaching is of an exemplary standard and the staff's enthusiasm to pass on knowledge to the children is priceless. They make music fun to learn! I am delighted that my teenage son spends many hours practising guitar, instead of hanging out on the street, possibly getting into trouble and causing the Council expenditure in other areas. If MAS funding is reduced, Brighton is going to lose a gem of a service that we will not be able to recreate easily, and would be a blight for the City that wants to show its worthy of its new 'City' status. Music is one of the few areas that brings together people of all class and colour and many less well off people will no longer be able to afford the service if fees rise, including my children. At the moment the fees are only just affordable if you have a low income but are not eligible for subsidy. Please think again, for the sake of the next generation of children and the benefits to our community into the future.