

Notes

pBone

pTrumpet®

WARWICK MUSIC

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Chris takes on worldwide education role



Professional bass trombonist and leading authority on brass music education Chris Fower, has been appointed Director of Education at Warwick Music Group - the company behind the world's first ever plastic trombone used in schools worldwide.

Chris has worked with the award-winning company since 2011 and was a key member of the team developing pBone and its latest product, the first-ever all-plastic trumpet, pTrumpet.

In his new role, Chris will head Warwick Music's dedicated education team that supports and promotes brass music education through training programmes, workshops and sessions to children and teachers worldwide.

The appointment is part of a continuing and expanding initiative

to deliver the company's goal of helping to 'teach the world to play'. He has already performed and delivered music workshops and teacher training worldwide in locations as far apart as Kampala, Camden and California.

Previously, Chris has held a variety of music education roles including working as a leader and manager in local authority music services and delivering face-to-face training programmes through Trinity Guildhall for The Open University. He has also performed professionally with orchestras and in theatres across the country and was a member of Dame Shirley Bassey's Orchestra, The Creative Jazz Orchestra and Grimethorpe Colliery Band.

Steven Greenall, chief executive of Warwick Music Group, said: "There is no better person to head up this important area of our work. Music education is something we are incredibly passionate about. It's why we formed the business. His enthusiasm, knowledge, reputation and contacts will enable us to expand our already significant education work.

Chris said: "I am thrilled to have been appointed 'Director of Education', leading a dedicated education department for Warwick Music Group. Our mission is to promote, champion and support pTrumpet and pBone in all education settings, spreading the joy of learning music to an ever-widening audience."



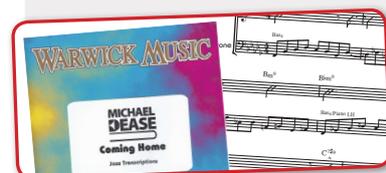
pBone: The world's best selling trombone, pBone was introduced in 2010. It is anticipated that by the end of 2016, more than 200,000 will be in use worldwide. It is estimated that some 15,000 pBones are in use in UK schools, making it one of the most popular and prolific instruments in education.



pBone Mini: An Eb-flat alto trombone, pBone Mini is designed to be particularly appealing to younger players and has proved to be a big hit in primary and junior schools.



pTrumpet: The world's first all-plastic trumpet was launched in 2014 having been designed and developed in Britain by musicians for musicians. Like the pBone, it is light, robust, affordable and great fun.



Warwick Music: Formed in 1994 with a single piece, Warwick Music is a leading music publishing company specialising in wind and brass music. There are over 1,500 titles in its catalogue which cover all genres, styles and abilities, with many pieces on the ABRSM and Trinity syllabi.

From the first imaginings of a brass instrument made from plastic, music education and access to brass instrument learning has been at the heart of everything we do. pBone and pTrumpet allow unrivalled access to music learning through their lightness, robustness, affordability – and, of course, pure fun!

We promise to:

- Promote, support and champion the playing of pTrumpet and pBone in learning environments across the world
- Provide up-to-date, expert advice and materials to all learners
- Inform and engage with pupils, educators, performers, managers and retailers - bringing the experience of brass learning to as many people as we possibly can
- Create an open dialogue for all involved in music education to have a voice and share their opinions

Together, we can teach the world to play



Local school gets support

Children at Frederick Bird School in Coventry that have never before played a musical instrument are receiving free tuition as part of a local initiative.

The school, which is within three miles of where pBone and pTrumpet were created, are benefiting from a ten week project delivered by the makers of pBone and pTrumpet.

The company is running weekly tuition sessions for some 90 children with the goal of putting on an end-of-term performance for parents and the rest of the school. The project sees children from three year-four classes using pBones and pTrumpets. Each class is having a weekly

forty minute lesson with the aim of performing a whole-year group mini-concert in December. The project is being run by Becca Pope of Warwick Music Group's education team.

Lizzy Seymour, Head of music and performance at Frederick Bird School, said: "This is a great opportunity and we are really enjoying working with Becca and the team. It's fantastic that we have a company with a worldwide reputation supporting a local school.

"Most of the children have yet to pick up a musical instrument so this is a great experience for them and great fun too. It is a challenge but I know they will give it their all."



Special school's pBand takes to the stage

Students at a special needs school in Anglesey are enjoying a new-found confidence with a new band being established.

Music is already an integral part of the curriculum for the children at Canolfan Addysg y Bont, Anglesey Special School, in Llangefni but pBone – the world's bestselling plastic trombone - has revolutionised the youngsters' music lessons.

Canolfan Addysg y Bont caters for a range of special educational needs and music is an important, therapeutic medium.

Gethin Thomas, head of music, said: "I have seen first-hand, the benefits of adding pBones to our lessons. Our school caters for a range of diverse special educational needs, and music is extremely important.

"For some of the students, communication is not something

that comes naturally to them. These instruments are not only building their emotional confidence, but also helping them to develop their speaking voice.

"Pupil participation is a priority, and pBone enables us to include all abilities of our pupils – and to actively engage with them musically. pBone is very easy to hold – it's lightweight and durable. It's certainly very attractive for pupils, with its distinct colours and quick assembly."

The school's band: 'pBand' – named after the world's first plastic trombone – has performed to parents and friends of the school. For many of the parents, this was the first time their child had performed in public.

Mr Thomas continued: "Not only are the students interested in the instruments – even the staff have taken to the pBone – making their preference known as to the different colours!!"

Great Deal

More than 120 children have learnt brass instruments through an innovative education project in Kent.

BOLD AS is a Deal Festival education project designed to revitalise brass playing in the county – and presents an exciting opportunity for children and young people to learn a brass instrument and play creatively in a brass ensemble alongside professional musicians. The project involves weekly tuition by local brass tutors, regular pBone and pTrumpet creative workshops with top-class professional musicians, introductory whole school assembly sessions, and in-school and public concerts at the Deal Festival.

Supported by Soundhub and Arts Council England, the Musical Director of BOLD AS is Phil White, alongside Tim Hayward and Letty Stott. So far, 126 children have learnt brass instruments through BOLD AS with students showing improvements in confidence, musical skills and behaviour.

"Children who struggled with writing found themselves making exceptional progress with their musicianship and as a result, their confidence grew. This confidence flowed into other lessons as children's self-esteem grew. Attendance rates have also improved across the project as children whose attendance had been inconsistent began to improve. Through engaging in this project children have grown in confidence and built their self-image," said one school teacher.

Hit the right note with Ian Bousfield

Ian Bousfield's new book "Unlocking the Trombone Code" is now available from Warwick Music. Ian shares with readers the exercises, methods, and techniques that he uses, which have got him to where he is today. He has also released a series of videos on his Vimeo channel, which guide the viewer through the key technical challenges and explore the most frequently required orchestral excerpts. Ian's learning materials are perfect for all trombonists from beginner to professional, and provide a fascinating insight into the playing, teaching and philosophy of one of the world's great trombone players and teachers.

Tell us your news

We'd love to hear from you. Email using the contact details below, or give us a call. We'd love to feature your news about pBone and pTrumpet in a future issue of Notes.

Together, we can teach the world to play