

# THE CARNIVAL BAND

25 YEARS OF MUSICAL MAYHEM! 1984 – 2009

## Education And Community Programme

### BACKGROUND

In twenty-five years The Carnival Band has toured the UK including The Isle of Man and The Channel Islands, and visited France, Belgium, Spain, The Arabian Gulf, Sudan and Japan in venues ranging from village halls to Symphony Hall, Birmingham. It has made ten CDs and a DVD, and has been broadcast on BBC radios 1, 2 and 3 and Classic FM.

Spontaneous and exuberant, The Carnival Band takes every opportunity to turn musical convention on its head, drawing on sources from all over the world and a range of historical periods. Natural communicators, the players' sense of fun and wide experience as workshop leaders combined with top class musicianship, make them ideal advocates for music with any age group. Recent education projects have included 'Tune in with the Tudors' with the Wigmore Hall education department, and an exciting collaboration on the Wyre Forest Young Voices 'Choral History' project.

### PROJECTS AVAILABLE. We can create projects to suit your requirements.

**Foundation Stage and KS1.** Andy Watts has trained as a music leader with early years, and was recently involved in the Melody Monkey project in Worcestershire, a programme developed in the Humberside Youth Music Action Zone. Sessions of varying length are available.

**'What a Racket!'** Interactive concert for KS2 introduces elements of music such as pitch, tempo and dynamics while showcasing the band's wide array of historical and traditional instruments. One hour long, suitable for a large number of children.

**The Incredible Journey of Sir John Mandeville.** Ages 9 and over. Based on the largely fictitious fourteenth century account this workshop combines medieval music with music from the Middle East, Africa and Asia, and offers wide scope for the imagination as the performers explore the fabled lands of Africa and Cathay, complete with cockadrills and hippogriffs!

**Tudor Revels Workshop.** Ages 9 and over. Participants create their own music, learn Tudor songs and dances and encounter shawms and bagpipes amongst other instruments. Half day or longer. Fifteen students per music leader. This workshop may be presented with a professional dance leader. Culminates with a performance.

[www.carnivalband.com](http://www.carnivalband.com)

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**Skiffle and Rock 'n Roll.** Ages 8 to 14. Celebrate the music of the 'Fifties! Students play skiffle instruments such as washtub bass and washboard and learn songs and moves of the era. Either a workshop in school (half day or more) or can be used as a two hour pre-concert workshop with participants performing in the evening concert.

**Balkan Riffs and Rhythms.** Ages 12 and over. Performance, improvisation and composition for KS3, GCSE and A level groups. Explore the rhythms and scales of this distinctive style from Eastern Europe. A superb way to explore music from a non-western tradition.

**Music and Image.** Ages 15 and over. Composition workshop based on Mussorgskij, Pictures at an Exhibition in three versions – piano solo, orchestral (Ravel) and progressive rock (Emerson, Lake and Palmer).

**Singing for Blokes.** Ages 12 and over. An opportunity for teenage boys to work alongside male musicians who enjoy singing without being specialist singers. Rounds, catches, choruses from around the world. Songs humorous, serious, full-throated, sensitive, sacred and profane!

**The Female Soldier.** Ages 14 and over. A songwriting project based around the extraordinary true story of eighteenth century heroine Hannah Snell who, disguised as a soldier, joined the marines and fought in India. The themes of women and society, gender, the eighteenth century army and navy and working class Georgian life are all available for exploration as chosen by the teacher and/or students.

**A Carnival of Carols.** Ages 12 and over. Explore different approaches to seasonal music, particularly medieval, renaissance and traditional from around the world.

**West Gallery Music.** Ages 12 and over. This workshop explores a dynamic and vigorous approach to traditional material based on eighteenth and nineteenth century practice – before the Victorians took all the fun out of church music! For voices and instruments.

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## REACTIONS TO CARNIVAL BAND PROJECTS

'Brilliant – just like the real Tudors!' (Pupil Madresfield Primary School, Worcestershire)

'This event was of enormous benefit to the children and myself.' (Teacher Pitmaston Primary School, Worcester)

'Dear Carnival Band, thank you for coming to our school to play some music. I liked your performance so much it is the best music I have heard for a long time.' (Pupil Blairdardie Primary School, Glasgow)