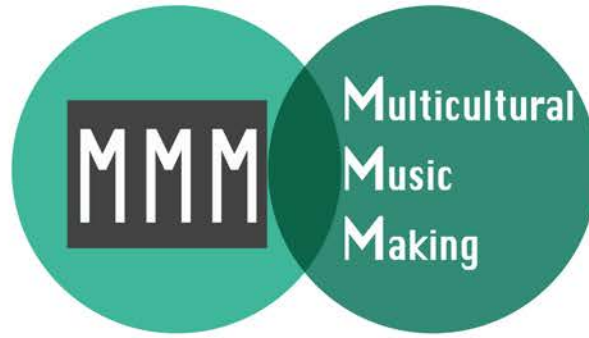




**MMM** Multicultural Music Making





## What is MMM?

**Multicultural Music Making** is a high-quality music in education programme for young people in the West Midlands. Now in its sixth year, the project works in partnership with primary and secondary schools in Birmingham and community settings in Walsall. Each week small groups of Key Stage 2 and 3 musicians work with our team of professional artists to learn and share a range of international repertoire, compose original work, and engage critically with traditional and contemporary sounds. The choice of material is primarily based on the heritage of the young people, as we seek to connect to our parents' and grandparents' cultural and musical heritages, and better understand the global journeys of people, stories, instruments, and songs. As the young musicians grow in confidence and skill they perform with one another's schools, for families and neighbours, sharing what they've learned and created in their communities. **MMM** is a partnership between Natalie Mason and Friction Arts.



“When you're from another country, you can learn more about your country. Because I actually did!”  
Ada



## Many Perspectives

**Multicultural Music Making** draws on the strengths of the young musicians taking part, who live in and around Birmingham and Walsall and have connections to all the corners of the world. The project creatively celebrates the international journeys that music and the young musicians themselves have made, with participant-led sessions based on our *Principles of Practice*, developed and supported by high quality ethnomusicological research. Visiting musicians from many different musical disciplines also participate in **MMM**, introducing instruments, songs and narratives from across the globe.

## The MMM Creative Team

**MMM** is led by a core team of musicians who plan and facilitate responsive weekly sessions. Creative Director Natalie developed the **Multicultural Music Making** methodology with mentorship from Friction Arts, enabling young people to meaningfully engage with international repertoire and develop creative, musical and social skills. In 2019, Natalie began her AHRC-funded PhD, researching international and intercultural music-making with children and families in communities and schools.



“ We are all part of the same solar system ”  
Wiktorja



### Partnerships

Friction Arts have created a framework with Natalie Mason to develop **MMM**. Natalie is Creative Director, supported by associate professional musicians; she has devised the core programme, structure and content. Becky Woodcock of Friction Arts is Project Manager and Co-Director of Friction Arts, Sandra Hall, is the artistic mentor for the project, providing strategic and creative support. They are also responsible for the development of partnerships and creative ways that **MMM** can connect to a range of projects in Friction Arts' current portfolio.

Our partnerships with our schools has inspired new projects that speak directly to, and positively impact, broader aspirations of school and community settings to connect with people. Projects such as *Recipes & Stories* were created as a response to the passion and generosity of **MMM** families who were contributing food to events and demonstrate the lateral cross-art, inter-generational approach that Friction Arts embed in their work. We have also co-financed a drama programme in three of our schools, developing imagination, verbal, presentation skills and self-confidence with, and for, children.

Strategic partnerships for **MMM** include Youth Music, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, macBirmingham and regional Music Hubs. Friction Arts are an Arts Council *National Portfolio Organisation*.

For more information please visit: [www.frictionarts.com](http://www.frictionarts.com)



### Our Settings

We work with St. Patrick's, St. Edmund's and Summerfield Primary Schools in Ladywood. Headteachers, staff and community workers have welcomed, supported and positively collaborated on key aspects of the project. We are privileged to work with these extraordinary organisations, developing new ways of working with music education and finding opportunities to extend and 'art' partner via additional CPD and drama opportunities. In 2021 we will reconnect with **MMM** musicians as they progress to Secondary school; launch our **MMM** holiday scheme at Friction Arts' venue, The Edge; and deliver training for macBirmingham, Furthering Talent, Birmingham Music Education Partnership and *Fair Play* music hubs initiative.



“ **MMM** has made the pupils more confident and enthusiastic about music. It really adds to the school culture ”

Mr Davies, Y4 teacher

### The Future

This programme provides a depth of thinking, sharing, skills and engagement for intercultural music-making that is bespoke, responsive and vital in our changing world. Now in its sixth year, the project continues to demonstrate a range of successes from pure joy, to significant personal and academic impact for our students. We continue to develop the **MMM** programme to include training, research and academic partnerships, to evaluate and inform how music education can be positively influenced by the project's *Principles of Practice*. We are committed to the continued development of **Multicultural Music Making** and associated projects, seeking creative opportunities and partnerships to enable us to deepen and share the work.



For more information please contact: [becky@frictionarts.com](mailto:becky@frictionarts.com)



**YOUTH  
MUSIC**



Supported using public funding by  
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Natalie Mason Music