



Turtle Song



A Turtle Key Arts, Royal College of Music and English Touring Opera collaboration in partnership with Chetham's School of Music.

As Nature Repairs *Tales of Winter*

Thursday 9th December - 3:15pm

The Atrium, Chetham's School of Music,
Hunts Bank, Manchester M3 1DA

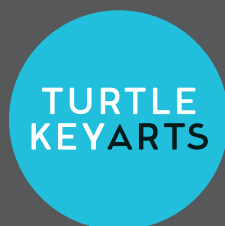
Turtle Song is a singing and song-writing initiative with people living with memory problems and all forms of dementia and for their carers. It gathers together professional musicians, workshop leaders and music students to deliver a high quality, challenging and enjoyable experience. Turtle Song has been running since 2008.

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COLLEGE
OF MUSIC
London



UNLOCKING CREATIVE POTENTIAL

Turtle Key Arts is a registered charity which produces and devises original, inclusive art to entertain and inspire. They believe that access to the arts helps to improve the quality of life by bringing people together, offering creative opportunities, social inter-action, confidence and self-esteem.

They have a long track record of running creative arts projects, free to all participants, for disabled, disadvantaged and socially excluded people including people with dementia, young people with autism spectrum conditions, dyslexia or living with HIV.

They also produce a number of innovative and original theatre, dance and circus companies including the internationally renowned Ockham's Razor and the unique integrated Amici Dance Theatre Company.

In a typical year their projects reach a national and international audience of 30,000, they work with up to 3000 participants and involve around 250 artists.

WE ARE REALLY PROUD THAT TURTLE SONG IS FREE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

Turtle Key Arts relies on the generous support from trusts, foundations and individuals, any donation is really appreciated and we promise to use every penny to make a difference to the lives of many. There are lots of ways to make a donation.

- Make a one-off payment
- Set up a Direct Debit
- Hold a sponsored event
- Set-up a pay-roll giving scheme
- Leave a gift in your will
- Funeral donations
- Choose Turtle Key Arts Centre Trust on Amazon Smile
- Recommend Turtle Key Arts to be your company charity

Please visit www.turtlekeyarts.org.uk to make a donation or do get in touch with charlotte@turtlekeyarts.org.uk to discuss further, many thanks.

“ I cried silent tears of sorrow,
of pride, of happiness, of loss,
of admiration, of gratitude and
more. Thank you for bringing joy
to my mum, I have not seen her
smile like that for a long time,
today she was my beautiful,
intelligent, kind and caring, fun
loving mum again”

DAUGHTER OF A TURTLE SONG PARTICIPANT.



‘As Nature Repairs: Tales of Winter’ is a poignant and joyous reflection on the coldest season of the year. Winter can feel like a relentless time as the light dims, the evenings grow longer and the temperature drops to freezing. Whilst it seems as though nature is shutting down, this work reminds us that it is only sleeping and that soon the sun will come again. As we wait eagerly for the next spring, we too can rest and refresh ourselves by passing round a cup of kindness and recalling those joyful moments that warm us from the inside.

Over the past 9 weeks our group has been meeting on Thursday with tea, biscuits, conversation and of course, song. Our Director, Jess Martin, Composer, Michael Betteridge and Project Coordinator, Mark Croasdale, have led our company on a magical journey through this foggy, frosty season, starting each week by warming-us-up both physically and vocally. We’ve mimed making various soups to heat the blood (recipes on request) and voiced wonderful firework displays to excite the body, before getting down to the art of song making.

Each of our 4 songs have been conceived by working together as an ensemble and each one required different skills and techniques to create. Sometimes songs came from our own histories, other times we re-imagined the words of poets or dreamt up our own futures.

During our 9 weeks we worked with a core cohort of participants and a changing company of Chetham’s School of Music students; both instrumentalists and vocalists. At the end of each session, we had the pleasure of cooling down by experiencing beautiful performances from the students. We also very much enjoyed singalongs and dancing at the end of several sessions, with Pamela leading us on her guitar through ‘Unchained Melody’ by Alex North and Hy Zaret (but notably covered by The Righteous Brothers in 1965). Our final rehearsals, and this performance, sees us all unite as one to form our Turtle Song collective. We hope you enjoy our musical reflections and will join us in raising a cup to celebrate our achievements.

In week one, we discussed our theme of winter and delved into 'what winter means to us'. We discussed places we like to visit, people we like to see, things we enjoy eating and activities we like to do. We pooled our ideas together forming verses and collectively evoked an encouraging coda to end our song, Winter's A Time for Memories, with the hope of spring.

We present:

WINTER'S A TIME FOR MEMORIES

The smell of the roast evokes the Christmas taste,
Making mince pies with a happy, happy face.
Christmas at Grandma's, chestnuts on the fire,
Winter with family is everyone's desire.

All around me branches bare,
Do whisper in the frosty air.
Winter's a time for memories,
Whilst nature repairs.

Sitting in front of an open, roaring fire,
The warmth of the soup makes me grow so tired.
Snowballs and snowflakes, fog and cold,
Brings back the thoughts of days of old.

All around me branches bare,
Do whisper in the frosty air.
Winter's a time for memories,
Whilst nature repairs.

All around me branches bare,
Do whisper in the frosty air.
Winter's a time for memories,
Whilst nature repairs.

After dancing and sledging and throwing balls of snow,
The crackling, sparking wood keeps the fire aglow.
Cosy and comfy, full of goodwill,
It's dank, dark and cold, but we don't mind the chill.

All around me branches bare,
Do whisper in the frosty air.
Winter's a time for memories,
Whilst nature repairs.

Whether travelling down the ship canal,
Or creating memories with visits from family,
We'll have our fun,
and the light of spring will come again.
Come again.

INSTRUMENTAL

As Winter Draws In, is a song devised from the poems Winter Time, by Robert Louis Stevenson and Sonnet 97, How Like A Winter Hath My Absence Been, by William Shakespeare. After reading these poems together, we split into two small groups to select words or phrases that meant the most to us. These words now form the basis of our verses. We enjoyed getting creative with our voices and instruments to help write a melody to accompany our words which you will hear in the opening of the song

AS WINTER DRAWS IN

Birds sing, birds sing,
Summer's pleasure cheer.
Teeming autumn,
Pleasures of a fleeting year.

All the leaves are turning brown,
Evenings grow dim.
All the leaves are falling down,
Dreading the winter's near.

Summer says goodbye,
As winter draws in.

At morn when I rise,
I bathe and dress by the candle.
December's bareness everywhere,
Found at every angle.

In winter all the singing is summoned,
Carols at our front door.
Glittering snow you will find in abundance,
Robins and reindeers galore.

Summer says goodbye,
As winter draws in.

As winter draws in.

Our next song, The Best Christmas Yet transports us to our dream Christmas holiday destination. Participants and students had fun working together to write their own verse about their dream travels, finding out who they would meet, how they would greet people and what they would eat! This light-hearted song creates the perfect opportunity for us to have a dance, so please feel free to get those feet tapping along!

THE BEST CHRISTMAS YET

I wanna go to Canada, because I have many relatives there.
The snow will be up to my shoulders, but I don't really care!
I'll meet Auntie Joan, and I'll eat till I groan,
And I'll greet everyone with 'How ya doin?'
I wanna go to Canada, the best Christmas yet!

I wanna go to Scotland, because Blackpool's getting boring.
It's not very far, so I'll go in my car, to see the Loch Ness Monster.
I'll meet a man in a kilt, and I'll drink a hot toddy,
And I'll greet everyone with 'fit like a noo'.
I wanna go to Scotland, the best Christmas yet!

I wanna go to the Arctic, to see the sea lions swim.
I'll say hello to the walruses and maybe the polar bears too.
I'll meet Father Christmas, and I'll eat chicken soup,
And I'll greet everyone with 'Ho Ho Ho'
I wanna go to the Arctic, the best Christmas yet!

I wanna go to Australia, to see my little sister,
She's the youngest of all of us and I've really missed her.
I'll meet Craigie and Lloyd, the big 'Aussie' boys,
And I'll greet everyone with 'G'Day Mate!'
I wanna go to Australia, the best Christmas yet!

I wanna go to Singapore, to meet my granddaughter there.
We'll meet in the orchid gardens and reunite as a pair.
I'll meet Dave, Kay and Evie, and I'll eat Wonton mee,
And I'll greet everyone with 'Ok Lah'.
I wanna go to Singapore, the best Christmas yet!

INSTRUMENTAL & DANCE BREAK

To end our sharing today, we have the joyous celebration song 'Pass The Cup'. This song transports us to a celebration time with family, sat together around the table. Students and participants created their own verses together, discussing what they would pass round the table and share with loved ones.

PASS THE CUP

Pass the cup around the table
Cheers to friends and family
Whether sat on a throne or sat in a stable
Here's a toast to you and me

Pass the roasties
'round the table
Soft in the middle
and crunchy outside

Pass me the turkey
Pour on the gravy
Pass me the stuffing
Be full for a week

Pass the cup around the table
Cheers to friends and family
Whether sat on a throne or sat in a stable
Here's a toast to you and me

A small piece of pudding
Would do me nicely
Pour on the brandy
And load it with cream ("shovel it on")

Pull on a cracker
Put on a hat
Tell a bad joke
And blow ta-doo-dahs!

Pass the cup around the table
Cheers to friends and family
Whether sat on a throne or sat in a stable
Here's a toast to you and me

Embrace the goodwill
Feel the joy
Happy with family
Together again

Letting our love
Feed our hunger
Singing together
And feeling the joy!

Pass the cup around the table
Cheers to friends and family
Whether sat on a throne or sat in a stable
Here's a toast to you and me

Pass the cup around the table
Cheers to friends and family
Whether sat on a throne or sat in a stable
Here's a toast to you, to you, to you, to you, to you,
and me!
Cheers!

As Nature Repairs

Tales of Winter

Turtle Song Manchester 2021

PERFORMERS

Susan Clare
Elsie Knight
Ian McGrath
Pamela Miller
Sophie McKay
John Reade
Sue Reade

Megan (voice)
Megan (trombone)
Milly (voice)
Rhiannon (voice)
Samantha (oboe)
Sebastian (trombone)
Sephie (violin)
Sophie (voice)

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Gail Lomax
Stuart Glenn
Allan Peckitt
Irene Peckitt
Paul Knight
Hannah Goddard
Kieran Turner
Kyanna Cronshaw

CHETHAM'S SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Claire Campbell Smith
Emma Cunliffe
Julia Harrison
Tom Redmond
Nancy Cunliffe

CREATIVE TEAM

Composer: Michael Betteridge
Director: Jess Martin
Project Coordinator: Mark Croasdale

TURTLE KEY ARTS
Charlotte Cunningham
Alison King
Shaun Dawson
Alan Bowyer
Holly Cameron-Jennings
Ruth Naylor-Smith
Kelly Codling-Bray
Carolyn von Stumm

CHETHAM'S SCHOOL OF MUSIC STUDENTS

Alexei (double bass)
Amy (piano)
Annie (violin)
Beth (trumpet)
Eleanor (violin)
Elicia (supporting role)
Emily (trombone)
Eve (voice)
Florence (trumpet)
Jasmin (piano)
Katie (piano and voice)
Leela (voice)

ENGLISH TOURING OPERA
Bradley Travis

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC
Katie Hemingway
Naomi Russell

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