



## **Madeleine's Musical Adventures!**



*Supported by*



**Interactive Music Classes for Pre-school Children and their parents/carers at Chestnut Tree and Oughton Children's Centres in Letchworth and Hitchin**

**It has been a great pleasure to run musical workshops for children as part of Hertfordshire's Five Gold Rings, supported by North Hertfordshire Homes.**

What makes our classes special is that we provide live, classical music- alongside familiar children's nursery songs- in a friendly environment in which we encourage very young children to explore different musical experiences. At the same time, our aim is to encourage parents and carers to use and enjoy musical games and activities with their young ones.



The classes - led by myself, Madeleine Bradbury Rance, and the pianist Iain Lacks - are shaped around the recurring character of Oliver, a little boy who likes to create mischief and have musical adventures! The Oliver doll leads the class through different adventures each week. Each class also includes a 'Welcome Song' , (devised especially for this project by Madeleine and Iain from a familiar tune from Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel) interactive songs using musical instruments for the participants, and an introduction to two classical instruments: the cello, and the piano.

We provide a wide variety of activities to stimulate and engage our very young participants, including bubbles accompanied by classical music, parachute games, using coloured scarves to encourage the connection between music and movement, familiar songs, and the opportunity to listen to and touch instruments such as the cello.



**Week One: Oliver's Adventures in Space!** Oliver flies on his rocket-ship to the moon, where he is stranded and needs to complete three special musical challenges (with the help of class participants) before he can travel back home with the help of a friendly Alien. Activities include singing the familiar songs *Twinkle, Twinkle* and *Zoom to the Moon*; musical challenges such as following the conductor and shaking in time; listening to different types of dance music and dancing along!



**Week Two: Oliver's Animal Adventures!** Oliver goes to the nearby Old Macdonald's Farm to rescue his beloved bear. Meanwhile he meets lots of animals who help him find his missing friend. Activities include singing familiar songs such as *Old Macdonald* and sleeping bunnies; waving the parachute to recreate the giant canopy of a tree where Oliver sleeps; identifying and suggesting animal noises that can be made on the cello...





**Week Three: Oliver's Olympic Adventure!** Oliver decides he wants to be involved in the Olympics! He learns how to warm up his body like an athlete (along with the class participants, who join him in limbering up their *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*) and then follows the Olympic torch around the country using various methods of transport! Activities include singing the familiar travel songs *Wheels on the Bus* and *Row the Boat*; waving coloured scarves as Oliver waves to the Olympic Torch; using your body to move to the music!



**Week Four: Oliver's Musical Adventure!** Oliver goes on a mission to discover who can sing? He learns that his mummy loves to sing, his daddy loves to dance, his beloved Little Bear likes to listen to music, and his wise granny teaches him that *everybody* can sing and enjoy music. This class really reiterates the central idea of our classes, which is that we should encourage music, and particularly singing to our children, informally at home and part of our everyday life. Activities include more opportunities to hear and touch/play the cello; dancing to the music like Oliver's daddy; learning about breathing and using air to sing or blow bubbles!





### **What have we achieved so far?**

We have been delighted by the response to our musical classes, in association with Hertfordshire's Five Gold Rings and North Hertfordshire Homes.

It is especially rewarding to watch the young children and their parents/carers over the four weeks and see how their interest and attention grows, and how, by the end of the course, there seems to be more confidence in joining in, singing along, and enjoying the musical experiences available.

We would like to thank North Hertfordshire Homes, Chestnut Tree and Oughton Children's Centres for their support in running our workshops between July and October.

We have had some very positive feedback from participants at the Oughton Childrens Centre, who were fantastic and supportive hosts:

***'Teacher full of energy. Lovely and varied to hold babies' interest'***

***'Class is brilliant, teachers full of energy and involve everyone even babies. Thank you'***

***'Fun, educational, great music theme'***

***'Really great fun. Lovely for the babies to get so involved with musical instruments'***

***'Excellent. Great to attend a music group led by obvious musicians!'***

***'Very good. Great to have a bit of classical!'***

***'Very different! I like the intro to musical instruments eg. Cello. Lots of energy. Good songs!'***



**Madeleine Bradbury Rance**

**Early Years Workshop Leader**



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