



**BENEDETTI**  
FOUNDATION

# The Benedetti Foundation

## Impact Report 2022





# Foundation Directors' Welcome

*"I am so glad my family and I found the Benedetti Foundation. We are constantly impressed with how well and thought out your programs are, and with the quality of teaching. The Foundation is an amazing resource and I have learned so much through it. Thank you for all you do!" - Amelia, Participant*

2022 has been another successful year for The Benedetti Foundation. It gives us great pleasure to share with you throughout this report some of the year's highlights and the impact our activities have had on people of all ages from all over the UK and further afield.

At the centre of the mission of the Foundation sits a strong commitment to enabling access to music participation and appreciation for all, and to delivering transformational experiences through mass music events. This year alone, just over 18,500 people have directly participated in the Foundation's activity through in-person and online sessions. Notably, 10,385 of these participants were primary school children from the 97 schools we visited in the first 6 months of our Residency Sessions. Our teams have provided high quality participatory music workshops for these children in schools in areas of rural, social, or economic deprivation and vitally, we have worked with teachers on every visit, ensuring there is a legacy and ongoing impact to our work.

We are living in a period of enormous economic pressure where cuts and threats to music and arts education are prevalent. We firmly believe now is not a time to be cutting funds, but to be bold and radical with forging a new direction. Meaningful collaboration, uniting organisations that all too often work in isolation and bringing people together is at the heart of all the work of the Benedetti Foundation. Against this backdrop of nationwide threats to both music education provision and to the infrastructure of the wider music industry, our work is more vital and necessary than ever. We renew our commitment to advocating for the crucial place of music education in our schools and communities and our dedication to supporting and inspiring young people, musicians and non-musicians alike, teachers and those responsible for making decisions on the inclusion of music and the arts in schools.

We would like to pay tribute to the incredible musicians and educators who have worked alongside us as Tutors and Guest Artists during 2022 – their infectious enthusiasm, dedication and wealth of knowledge enable the depth of impact of our work can have, as demonstrated through the quotes and case studies in this report.

To everyone who has supported the Foundation through financial contributions this year - thank you for making our work possible and for your belief in the importance of access to music education for all.

Finally, our grateful thanks go to our Board of Trustees for their continuous guidance and dedication over the past 12 months and to all those who have given of their time and expertise in aid of the Foundation.

Welcome to our 2022 impact report.



Nicola Benedetti CBE  
Founder and Artistic Director



Laura Gardiner  
Foundation Director

# About The Benedetti Foundation

We deliver transformative experiences through mass music events and provide equal access to music participation and appreciation for all. Led by Nicola and a tutor team comprising exceptional educators and performers from across the globe, we unite those who believe music is integral to life's education.

Through our in-person and virtual programmes, in our first three years, we have worked with over 50,000 participants of all ages from 104 countries, instrumentalists, and non-instrumentalists, hundreds of schools, produced nearly 1,000 pre-recorded and live lessons and our video content has over 6 million views.



The Benedetti Foundation was established in 2019 by violinist and dedicated music education advocate Nicola Benedetti CBE, with the generous support of George and Daphne Burnett.

## Our Work

Our activity is divided into four main programmes:

- **Benedetti Sessions** - our mass music making experiences taking place all over the country which in 2022 included a new pilot programme of **Residency Sessions** bringing our teams into primary schools and working in close partnership with music services
- **Virtual Sessions** - bringing participants of all ages together from across the world to work towards a common goal and a united voice, breaking down musical, societal and cultural barriers
- **Ambassador Programme** - our training programme for young professionals developing the next generation of world-leading, innovative musicians and educators
- And the creation of **free digital resources** which ensure inclusion, access, and support for all

## Our Values

We aim to:

- grow music participation and appreciation at all levels
- model, deliver and revolutionise high quality music education available to all
- create innovative examples of what music education can be
- break down barriers to access on an international scale
- bring the performing and educating worlds into greater dialogue
- be a universal advocate for music education

# 2022 At a Glance

Alongside our exceptional team of musicians and educators, we have created meaningful and transformational programmes and resources of the highest quality open and accessible to all, including:

- **6 million+ views** of free online learning content across all platforms



- **3 Benedetti Sessions in Perth, Cardiff and Glasgow** reaching **4,124 participants**



- **8 Residency Sessions with 13 music services** across the UK, reaching **11,717 participants** including:
  - **primary school workshops with 97 primary schools, 10,385 children**
  - **8 mass string days, 632 beginner and intermediate string players**
  - **professional development for 700 + classroom and instrumental teachers**



- **127 Students (age 19-30)** on the 2022 Ambassador Programme



- **312 live Zoom sessions** across all programmes of delivery



- **11,646 downloads in 104 countries** [2021: 88] of Teaching Primary Music - lesson plans and video resources



- **6 short series of Mini Sessions** and Teaching Sessions



- **3 Virtual Sessions** – Global Violin Sessions Part 2, Baroque Sessions, and Building Foundations: Exploring the Physicality and Psychology of Playing



*“Thank you for a great day. It has inspired him. So many things stopped during the pandemic, and he had never had the chance to play with a group of string players before. Also, the cost of the workshops was very affordable when people are facing struggles with costs, thank you for levelling the playing field to include people who can afford the expensive music camps”*– Parent of Benedetti Sessions Participant



# Programmes of Activity: Highlights 2022

*“Nicky and the team were SO inspiring, SO giving of themselves and SO positive about commitment, hard work and freedom to make mistakes, that I think the experience is something she will never forget.” – Parent of a Participant*

## Benedetti Sessions

Throughout 2022, the Benedetti Sessions visited Perth, Cardiff and Glasgow taking our high energy, high inspiration 3-day workshops to school age string players, string teachers and classes of primary school children.

At the Benedetti Sessions, young musicians have the opportunity to explore playing with expression, storytelling, sound production, improvisation, physical and mental wellbeing and understanding the context of the music, as well as delving into specific technical challenges. They are encouraged to embrace opposites, to focus and to relax, to be serious and to have fun as we worked towards a common goal.

Side-by-side, we bring together string teachers for a weekend of professional development with workshops including back to basics, engaging students with scales, improvisation, physical wellbeing, performance anxiety, lesson planning, group teaching and more.

Each set of Sessions concludes with an engaging day of participatory primary school music workshop introducing pupils from local schools to the fundamentals of making music covering the basics of pulse, rhythm, pitch, and harmony.

## Impact of the Benedetti Sessions: Annalee and Zia Johnstone

Zia (13) first took part in the Virtual Sessions in May 2020 and has been a regular participant in our Virtual and Mini Sessions online ever since. She had the opportunity to attend the Benedetti Sessions in person for the first time in Perth in June 2022. Here Zia, and her mum Annalee share the impact involvement with the Benedetti Foundation’s sessions has had on them:



*“I normally find practice really fun, but it sometimes starts to get boring. The Benedetti Foundation has given me lots of tips and tricks to help me make my practice more enjoyable. The live sessions we did face to face I loved! I really loved how I got to meet new people around my age who play an instrument. I loved the exercises that we did, and the pieces were amazing. I’m pretty excited for the next face to face session with the Benedetti Foundation! I hope to see some familiar faces from the last session!”*

– Zia Johnston, Participant

*“The Benedetti Foundation continues to be such a helpful part of Zia’s violin education. The mini sessions during the year are great at getting her to focus on a particular area like left hand or bowing techniques which she might not normally think about. Sessions like the Global and Baroque are another fantastic opportunity. The daily challenges during these sessions I find have been really helpful for Zia. They are short and simple and easy to fit in round her busy schedule with schoolwork and other activities. The best part of 2022 was when Zia attended the live sessions in Perth. She absolutely loved it and found it so inspiring from the tutors, ambassadors to the advanced orchestra. It was good for her to be surrounded by so many young people that shared the same passion.” - Annalee Johnstone,*

Parent



# Residency Sessions

*“Projects such as these give our young people ownership of the arts and allow them to see that music is something for them, and something they can enjoy being involved in, and aspire to.” – Jonathan Gawn, Team Manager, East Lothian Council Music Service*

New in June 2022, the Residency Sessions are a branch of our live Benedetti Sessions. Delivered in partnership with music services across the UK, these Sessions provide a motivational opportunity for young people, instrumentalists and non-instrumentalists, and a source of support and uplift for teachers.

Collaboration is key to these sessions. They are designed closely with the partner organisations to ensure they are of greatest benefit in enhancing their day-to-day work. During each residency, we visit local schools to lead participatory primary music workshops and host professional development sessions for primary classroom and instrumental teachers, as well as delivering a Benedetti Sessions Strings Day.



## 2022 In Numbers

Between June and December, **8 Residency Sessions** were delivered in partnership with **13 music services** reaching **11,717 participants** including:

- primary school workshops with **97 state primary schools, 10,385 children**
- **8 mass string days, 632 beginner and intermediate string players**
- **100% of participants were state educated**
- **professional development for 700+ classroom and instrumental teachers**

Click here to experience the final sharing session from the Ayrshires and Dumfries & Galloway String Day where we focused on Intermediate level string players in October 2022



# Case Study:

## Inverclyde Music Service

During our Inverclyde Residency, we delivered nine primary school workshops across three days reaching every Primary 4-7 child in all 20 Inverclyde Primary Schools, c.2,200 pupils, as well as a training session for classroom teachers, a mass strings day with 180 beginner players and an instrumental teacher training day.



Amanda Currie, Youth Music Initiative Practitioner for Inverclyde, was present throughout the week, participating alongside the young people and taking a collaborative role within the delivery of the workshops as the week progressed. She had the opportunity to meet and work alongside percussionist Calum Huggan and workshop leader Esther Sheridan. She explains below the impact of the Inverclyde Residency Sessions on both her professional development, in addition to the impact they've had on the teachers and children of Inverclyde Music Service:

*“Having the Benedetti Foundation come and work with us was completely inspirational, and for me personally the Primary School Workshops reinforced my own teaching abilities and knowledge, but also gave me lots of new ideas to then take back to the classroom and build on. It also gave me lots of confidence and invigorated me to go back and deliver my lessons to the best of my ability. It was also really great for the teachers I work with – it gave them confidence as well as lots of ideas during the training session that they can then take back to their classrooms and apply to any different subject area. **One of my teachers actually came to tell me that she'd delivered a music lesson herself, and if it hadn't been for that training session with The Benedetti Foundation, she wouldn't have been able to do it – so that's great. The impact that that then has on the children is completely invaluable.**”*





# Virtual Sessions:

The Virtual Sessions provide musicians of all ages and stages with inspirational and consistent online tuition over a short, focused period. The Sessions break down musical, societal and cultural barriers as people come together from across the world to prepare towards a final activity that showcases the learning and celebrates our global musical community.



## Impact of Virtual Sessions

The impact of the Virtual Sessions goes far beyond the session itself:

*“I am an 18-year-old violinist from regional Australia. I have been attending your online Sessions since 2020. Your workshops gave me motivation to keep practicing, and every session I learnt something new, whether it was score study, techniques for warming up, or how to practice scales. I was really excited to learn from Andrea Gajic, Rachel Podger and Amy Beth Horman, even at 3am in Australia. These opportunities inspired me to look further afield for my studies. I applied to five conservatoires in the UK and received four offers to study. I am now excited to be a student at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama [RWCMD] in 2022-23.” – Mattea, Participant*





# Ambassador Programme

*“The Ambassador Programme has opened my eyes in many new ways to the value of music education. I feel like I'm part of a supportive community of like-minded musicians and educators, which I love, because I know that I can learn so much from them.”*

– Simone, Ambassador



127 musicians and educators, age 18-29, the majority of whom are current students or recent graduates took part in the Ambassador Programme this year. This Programme is our annual training scheme for students (18+) dedicated to developing their practical, instrumental teaching and workshop leading skills, as well as growing their love for performance. Through taking part in the programme, which is led by our Head of Creative Learning, Lucy Drever, along with a team of educators and performers, students gain a greater insight into all areas of the music and education communities through informative and engaging sessions, better preparing them for entering the profession.

The programme is delivered through these key areas:

- Personal and Professional Development
- Ambassador Days
- Workshop Delivery and Practical Teaching Experience
- Mentoring



# Impact of the Ambassador Programme

*“This programme has been absolutely life-changing for me.”*

– Jenna, Ambassador

The impact of the Ambassador programme goes far beyond the individual taking part. The 2022 cohort have successfully gained employment in organisations including in a teaching capacity: Services for Education Music Service, Junior Department of Royal Northern College of Music, Junior Department of Royal Welsh College of Music, Haringey Music Service, Sistema Scotland, Music in Secondary Schools Trust, Music Masters, Royal Scottish National Orchestra Learning Department, Live Music Now, National Children’s Orchestras of Great Britain, and in a performance capacity: Chineke! Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Aurora Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra and more.

*“The programme has had a really big impact upon my confidence and my competence as a teacher and communicator. It has encouraged me to step outside of my own fear and apply for jobs that I was previously scared to, whether that be performing jobs or teaching jobs. I feel that the specific skills that one requires to develop for teaching music, specifically an instrument are developed but not directly spoken about at university/music college, and I feel the programme has created a space where a holistic approach to teaching and learning to teach as a musician, is at the forefront.”* – Serena, Ambassador



## Ambassador Spotlight

### Ellie Knott

Ellie is a flautist, teacher and community musician based in Cardiff. She studied music at the University of Durham and a postgraduate degree at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Ellie joined the Ambassador Programme in 2022 and has also been offered the role of Lead Ambassador for 2023. Ellie shares her thoughts on what being a part of the programme has meant for her.

*“The Ambassador Programme has had a huge impact on me as a musician and educator. It has allowed me to explore what being a musician and educator means and looks like to me in a supportive way that has provided great opportunities for growth. I have continually felt inspired to push my creativity to try new activities, practices and seek out other working opportunities. The greatest impact the Programme has had is that it has allowed me to explore and begin to find my voice, to advocate and feel empowered to always push for more for participants and of myself. The programme has undoubtedly supported and guided my growth as I begin my career.”*





# Adult Learners



Back in May 2020 when we held our first Virtual Sessions, it quickly became clear that a new strand was developing in adult learning. We were overwhelmed by the response from adults who wrote in high numbers to say how much the online activity had helped them during the challenges of the pandemic. Many people were furloughed and lacked any structure or purpose to their days, and this opportunity helped them to dust off their instruments and gave them a community to join.

During 2022, this community continued to grow, and to date we have now supported over 3,500 adult learners who either picked up their instruments again after a prolonged period or have taken up an instrument. We have developed regular online activity for adults through our Mini Sessions and Virtual Sessions programmes open to all, with a particular highlight being the online chamber music sessions delivered in January and September 2022.

## Impact

*“Just a quick note to thank you all for the wonderful Chamber Music Weekend. I gained so much from the excellent tuition from all the tutors, particularly Andrea with her attention to detail when taking us gradually through the pieces, and all the brilliant little nuggets of technique which she and Alex and all the tutors pass on are worth their weight in gold and just what I wanted to take from the weekend.”*

– Dorothy, Adult Learner

*“Just to say thank you so much for continuing these sessions. The improvement in my playing over the last (wow, 3 years!) is amazing. Alex’s exercises and enthusiasm have helped me conquer my left-hand pinkie ‘judder’ and have completely changed how my right pinkie can stay on my bow and be effective. Last year I played in my very first orchestra (student/teacher orchestra at the Jersey Academy of Music) and I am still trying to keep up with my son by playing one of his G7 pieces (I never thought I would get beyond Suzuki Book 1!).”*

– Jane, Adult Learner





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*“Days like the one we have just experienced are the magical gateways which spark and inspire those future musicians. They are so precious and crucial, not just for the musical development of our young people but for their mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing and for the social connections they offer through the shared language of music. Days like these offer a safe space, where there are no barriers, where friendships begin to emerge, and music is the bond.*

*The focus and learning from all the children throughout the session was impressive and was fostered and guided by the expertise of the wonderful tutors. You could feel the excitement and wonder when the tutors performed at the start of the day, and as the session unfolded the confidence of the children grew...every child who attended had an absolute blast.”*

*– Pamela Black, Head of Glasgow CREATE Instrumental Music Service*

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