

PHILHARMONIA EDUCATION: ORCHESTRA UNWRAPPED

Lindsay Wilson - Director of Education, Philharmonia Orchestra
Paul Rissmann - Animateur
Sarah Levitt - Leicester City Council
also featuring children involved in Orchestra Unwrapped

START OF VIDEO

[Music: Mozart: Overture, The Magic Flute]

Lindsay Wilson

Orchestra Unwrapped is a series of schools' concerts for Key Stage 2 pupils, aged seven to 11. We do three concerts per year at De Montfort Hall.

Paul Rissmann

Orchestra Unwrapped is a special designed concert experience for primary school children in Leicester. It involves workshops for the children's teachers, resource packs for schools, lots of creative preparation, and then a full concert experience with the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Sarah Levitt

Orchestra Unwrapped is really good for Leicester, simply because it brings the Orchestra really engaging with local people, and it inspires and enthuses every child in Leicester, it's just fantastic.

[music continues]

Lindsay Wilson

Teacher training is a vital element of *Orchestra Unwrapped*. It enables the project to have a legacy beyond the concert experience itself, by providing teachers with an opportunity to develop their skills and confidence in using music in the classroom, generally.

Paul Rissmann

Today I met all the teachers who are bringing their classes along to hear *Orchestra Unwrapped* and we have been getting closer to the orchestral repertoire, so we have been learning some of the audience participation music, that the children will perform with the Philharmonia in the concert, but also we have been exploring some of the orchestral repertoire in a very kind of a "hands-on" and practical way.

[Music: Copland: Suite, Billy the Kid]

Lindsay Wilson

Orchestra Unwrapped has definitely plugged a gap in cultural provision, locally. There simply is not another opportunity for Leicester city schoolchildren to hear a professional orchestra, so it's our job, I think, to break down the barriers to provide a really fun and enjoyable experience and a positive impression of classical music and the orchestra.

Paul Rissmann

The *Orchestra Unwrapped* concert experience is a little bit different from a conventional concert experience. We focus their listening towards instruments or different sections in the orchestra in various pieces, we set the children some listening challenges, as well, but also, most importantly, we invite the young people to participate with the orchestra.

Child one

I have been before, but this time I am really looking forward to it, because we are going to be singing with it.

Child two

I am looking forward to singing with the orchestra, to see how it feels like. Well, I feel real shy (laughs).

Paul Rissmann (on stage)

Well, do you know what, boys and girls? I think it is time we got you guys to make some music now. How about we have our legend of Merlin?

Children

Yeah!

[Children singing The Story of Merlin (Paul Rissmann)]

Sarah Levitt

The children were clapping and singing, and they were really wrapped in what I thought was quite a complicated thing, but it was so beautifully done and it was pitched at their level. And at the end, again, the children flooded out of the building and they were just abuzz. So it was just a real privilege to be there.

Lindsay Wilson

Orchestra Unwrapped has been really well received in Leicester, to the extent that we are now oversubscribed. So we hope to continue the programme for many years to come, and the overriding aim is, I suppose, to inspire children.

Sarah Levitt

I think it will enrich children's lives, and what I hope is that our children in Leicester will remember this fantastic thing that happened to them when they were at school for the rest of their lives. I see it has been something really life-changing for them.

[Music - Bizet: Carmen Suite n.2, Chanson du toreador]

[Children clapping and cheering]

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