

CHILDREN SING OUT IN EDINBURGH

200 children from Hermitage Park Primary School in Edinburgh performed The City Sings, a new composition by Music Lecturer Dee Isaacs, and songs from around the world, to an audience of 800 people in the Grand Gallery of the National Museum of Scotland in March.

This was the culmination of three months intensive work undertaken by the students and staff of the University of Edinburgh's Music in the Community programme, the school and the museum.

The City Sings was the latest in a series of Music in the Community productions where students and staff work with schools in deprived areas to develop new creative and social skills as well as a broad range of musical and performance skills among the pupils. By making their own instruments and learning songs from other countries, the children developed skills across several disciplines.

An evaluation conducted after the performance showed that 94% of the children had enjoyed the experience and that for many performing in front of so many had increased their confidence and made them and their families proud. One of the teachers said the project hits all four elements of the Curriculum for Excellence: confident individuals, responsible citizens, successful learners and effective contributors. Dee Isaacs is now planning the next Music in the Community production, a spectacular night promenade based on T S Eliot's 4 quartets in the Glasshouses of the Royal Botanic Garden in March 2013.

200 children singing out
in the National Museum's
Grand Gallery

PSYCHOLOGY AT CAMERA OBSCURA

This autumn undergraduate students in Psychology will work with Camera Obscura World of Illusions on a new teaching approach to orient psychology to the real world. As part of their module on Perception, the students will engage with the museum and help develop the educational signage for the exhibitions to better explain the psychological principles at work when viewing illusions. The work of the students will be assessed as part of their course and the best will be incorporated into the exhibition bearing the University crest. The project is led by Dr Rob Macintosh and received funding from the Principal's Teaching Award scheme.



NURSING STORIES

Writing about nursing and encouraging nurses to write are both part of award-winning author Nicola White's Leverhulme writer in residency programme with the University of Edinburgh's Nursing department. A writer of short stories, White is particularly interested in the uses of fiction and narrative in real life settings. The ten month residency which started in March 2012 is particularly exploring the building of emotional and compassionate capacities among nurses. It will culminate with a publication containing work by nurses and stories by Nicola. White's blog 'Nurse Stories' contains her reflections on her residency as well as creative writing from nurses, including some of our academics.

www.nursingwriter.blogspot.co.uk