



# Musitrax Sing, Play, Band

**Musitrax is Lambeth Music Services' response to the Governments Wider opportunities and singing schools initiative, joining them together in a cohesive way. Both Marc Jaffrey (Music Manifesto Champion) and Howard Goodall (Singing Tsar) have endorsed LMS's approach.**

It provides an opportunity for schools and music services as well as class teachers and instrumental tutors to work together to provide a rich musical experience for whole classes of children.

It has been carefully designed to fulfil the Government's Pledge to offer every child the chance to learn an instrument. The Musitrax Band project has a proud track record, and has been adopted by many LA music services. The positive benefits for the children, teachers, schools and music services are incalculable and well documented.

**The support of the school, class teacher or TA is vital for its success.** The better prepared the pupils are musically, the greater will be the standards achieved. The intended benefits of the Musitrax programme are identified as:

***Benefits to pupils:***

- increases in pupils' concentration, self discipline, self-esteem and team work
- increases in the ability to learn and retain knowledge and skills across the curriculum
- enriching and extending a pupil's learning experience in school by reinforcing the skills, knowledge and understanding taught in the national curriculum and developing new areas of expertise
- Pupils are more positive about music and music education as a whole
- Provides a lifelong interest in music and opens up a wide range of career opportunities and not just in music
- helps with behavioural problems

***Benefits to class teachers:***

- in-built CPD - the class teacher and instrumental teachers learn from one another's experience and skills
- the class teacher works alongside the specialist instrumental teachers in delivering the national curriculum, resulting in a more enriched understanding of music education overall
- the class teacher learns alongside their pupils
- the benefits of teamwork are profound and far reaching

***Benefits to schools:***

- contributes to a dramatic improvement in children's sense of belonging to the school
- helps with a much improved pupil/teacher relationship particularly where teachers and children learn an instrument alongside each other
- improved concentration, self esteem and team working skills in learners  
the usual gender imbalance is avoided
- Widening opportunities through this KS2 programme is proving to be a powerful tool for school improvement
- A closer working relationship is formed between schools and the Music Service through involvement in the programme, which gives a greater understanding of each other's ethos.

## **Lambeth Music Service**

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enquiries@lambethmusic.co.uk



**Musitrax Sing** is for all year 1 and year 2 teachers and their classes, designed to encourage singing throughout the school day, lead by the teachers, but supported by the Music Service specialists. The first song book with 30 graded songs and rhymes (pictured) has been produced, with Book Two available in the Autumn. Teachers are trained in the use of Kodaly techniques to develop pupils' sense of rhythm, pitch and quality of singing. This empowers teachers to use songs and games throughout the school day to reinforce other work, and help embed singing in the life of the school. It also provides a secure skill base for subsequent instrumental tuition in KS2

**Musitrax Sing!**Song Book and  
Teacher's Manual

**Musitrax Play** has been piloted in 5 Lambeth schools this year. Designed for year 3 and taught by a team of LMS and school teachers, it extends the pupils' musical skills developed through the MX Sing project. Continuing the focus on singing and Kodaly principles, the pupils will additionally have the opportunity to perform on various instruments, including recorder, djembe and tuned percussion. Projects can incorporate the curriculum for the key stage. Having furthered their musical skills and learned to play on an instrument, perform and work together in an ensemble, the pupils will be fully prepared to make maximum use of the instrumental opportunities presented by Musitrax Band in year 4.

**Musitrax Band** is a whole class instrumental project where each year 4 class forms either a wind band or a string orchestra. Taught by a team of three specialists and a teacher from the school for one hour a week, the programme incorporates the national curriculum for music, including singing, listening, composing and performing, but using their instruments. Each pupil gets an instrument to take home where appropriate. Using a variety of teaching and learning methods, all pupils can achieve success at some level. This approach provides professional development opportunities for both teachers and musicians, provides a ready made ensemble to perform at school functions, and equips children with the skills, experience and knowledge to make informed choices about whether to continue studying an instrument, and which musical pathway to follow.

LMS will work with the schools and parent/carers to try to ensure there are opportunities for pupils to continue in music, regardless of the musical direction they want to take.

There is more detailed information in our prospectus (sent to all schools in 2006) and on the LMS website. [www.lambethmusic.co.uk](http://www.lambethmusic.co.uk)

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