

AROUND THE UK



NEWCASTLE

Hot stuff

The Chilli Road Band's Young Leaders blaze a trail with original composition

This year, the Chilli Road Band's younger members had a chance to take the reins, from writing and rehearsing their own composition, through to a recording session and première performance at the Heaton Festival.

First formed to mark the new millennium, the community-based Chilli Road Band is still going strong seventeen years later. The band welcomes players aged nine and upwards and plays a wide range of Latin, jazz, rock and world music on a mix of steel pans, brass and woodwind instruments.

The band's Young Leaders Programme — supported by past and present musical directors and committee volunteers — was set up to develop its young adults aged 14 to 17. Joe Horrell, Isaac Fuller, Tom Henery and Robert Henery attended informal composing and arranging sessions during the summer of 2016, followed

by workshops on leadership and teaching skills. Putting into practice what they had learned, the composers taught their new piece to the rest of the band, leading the rehearsals.

Although the composition sessions were initially just for fun, the results were successful enough to incorporate into the Young Leaders Programme, funded by grants from Music for All and John Lewis' Music Matters. The project culminated in the band spending a day recording the track in a studio earlier this year and giving a warmly-received performance at the Heaton Festival in June.

You can listen to the Young Leaders' composition, *Samba de Heaton* and find out about the Chilli Road Band's upcoming gigs at chilliroadband.co.uk/listen-to-the-band or visit facebook.com/chilliroadband

Above:
Chilli Road Band
Photo:
Lucas Knowles-
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