



Exeter Children's Orchestra

I am just writing this brief note to let you know what we are about !

The Exeter Children's Orchestra (ECO) was formed to give children (aged 7-18), who are learning to play musical instruments, the opportunity to play and perform together, whilst promoting the development of musical talent and appreciation. We are aware that funding constraints across the education sector are squeezing the provision for music and the arts at all key stages, and the ECO aims to help fill this gap for children from all backgrounds.



ECO meet every Saturday morning at 9.45 (during term time) at St Leonard's Primary School, Exeter. We also play several concerts during the year. The photos in this letter show our recent successful outdoor concert in Sidmouth in July. We have also just had a busy open day for new members but welcome new children any Saturday.

What's happening next...?

We try to organise a varied programme of experiences for the children:

- In October - we are running a workshop with professional musicians from the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.
- In November - we are doing a 'Flash Mob' performance in the Exeter Princesshay shopping centre (don't tell anybody!).
- In December – our most ambitious project to date - we are performing **THE SNOWMAN...more on this below...**

2018 marks the 40th anniversary of the classic Christmas story, **The Snowman**. Under licence from Penguin Books, ECO will be performing the only screenings of the animated film with live orchestral accompaniment in Devon this year. There is a special matinée performance and tea party for a younger audience at 4.00pm on Saturday 8th December. Details about the performances and how to buy tickets can be obtained via our website.

We want to spread the word about ECO!

We would be grateful if you could inform parents of children at your school about us, perhaps in your next school newsletter? Children in ECO make rapid progress through their music exam grades and they bring their enhanced musicianship into school every single day. What's more, they really enjoy their Saturday mornings with us!

With best regards,

Geraldine Baylis
Chair

