

Worshipful Livery Company of Wales
RWCMD Outreach Award Report – Oliver
Manning



Being a classical guitarist, I am all too familiar with the solitary nature of practicing and performing on my instrument as a soloist. Team working and collaborative skills are often skipped over and forgotten about within guitar education, with very little opportunity to play within orchestras as a non-orchestral instrument. The RWCMD Outreach Award has enabled me to assist in tutoring, mentoring and shadowing within the Youth Cardiff County Guitar Ensemble scheme. Through the enablement of the RWCMD Outreach Award, I have gained invaluable experience working within a professional environment, learning refined approaches to group music teaching from music tutors employed by the Cardiff County music service.

Throughout my time working within the guitar ensemble scheme, I was entrusted to conduct and direct rehearsals with the children, with the aim to improve their ensemble skills such as playing at

dynamics, tempi and ensemble coordination together as a team. In doing so, I began to develop my own style of teaching which relied heavily on applying my own rather wild imagination into the music, to allow the children to feel a sense of narrative and connection to the notes that they were playing. This has been beneficial to me at the start of my educational career, as I was previously unsure of how to engage with the children to nurture their own musical ideas to life. However, I am now more comfortable with being able to refine my newfound approach and style to teaching due to being a part of this scheme. I must also thank the Cardiff County Guitar Ensemble tutors, Daniel Whitting and Michelle Preece for the guidance they provided to me throughout my time in the ensemble scheme. Michelle often had great advice on how to keep the flow of rehearsals going, as well as strategies to keep the children engaged. Daniel was very generous with his time, and often gave me career advice within the teaching space, which has been beneficial to my awareness of the career moving forward.