

David Stanley BEM

Founder of The Music Man Project Charity (1999-)

UK Government Disability & Access Ambassador for Arts & Culture (2021-2025)

SEND Advisor, National Plan for Music Education (2023)



Welcome to The Music Man Project

Overview

- Music education leading to performance (not therapy) for children and adults with SEND
- Original music
- Prestigious performance venues and ground-breaking collaborations
- Global impact

Transformative Impact

- Isolation → Belonging
- Silence → Performance
- Exclusion → Celebration
- Reversal of perceptions



Music Man Project



**The King's Award
for Voluntary Service**

The MBE for volunteer groups



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Ambassador Claire Alderton



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Ambassador Wendy Wilson (WOO!)



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Ambassador DJ Phil Migliorini



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The big picture...





Tony – my inspiration!

Saturday Music School



Building Momentum for Young Musicians with SEND



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Practical Guidance for SEND Musical Progress

- Repetition and consistency balanced with challenge
- Accessible instruments
- Accessible repertoire (warm-ups, songs and instrumental arrangements)
- SEND-led inclusive music education and performance – not therapy
- High expectations balanced with patience
- Structured and safe learning environment
- Opportunities for solo/individual attention within group setting
- Ongoing provision, not one-off workshops
- SEND role models
- Transition between Key Stages and progression to adult lifelong learning



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Typical Music Man Project Session

- Regular, ongoing provision (not a one-off workshop)
- Standard Music Man Project repertoire (original songs and arrangements)
- Standard Music Man Project instruments: Djembe drums, tambourines, woodblocks, triangles, handbells, glockenspiels and ukuleles
- Singing, signing and playing (and often dancing!)
- Hello and goodbye song to start and finish the session
- Education and enjoyment (not Music Therapy)
- Teaching leads to public performance
- Opportunity for massed Music Man Project performances at the Royal Albert Hall



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The Award-Winning Global Ambassadors – Role Models with LD

London Palladium
2015, 2017

Royal Albert Hall
2019, 2021, 2023, 2024
and 2027

San Diego (USA), Milan
(ITALY), Nova Scotia
(CANADA), Rome (Italy)
and New York (USA)

Guinness World Record

Royal College of Music,
Royal College of
Psychiatrists and Royal
Society of Arts

National Lottery 25th
Birthday TV advert

Performance to The King
and other members of
the Royal Family

Workshop at 10
Downing Street for the
Prime Minister

Performance at
Speakers House,
Westminster for Mr
Speaker

Collaborations with the
Royal Marines (incl. UK
tour, top-10 Christmas
single) and RAF Bands

Performances with
Michael Ball and Lee
Mead

TV appearances and
performances on BBC1,
ITV, Channel 4 and Sky
News



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Visit
www.themusicmanproject.com/ambassadors

Regional Music Man Projects (with partner organisations)

1. Essex (original, HQ)
2. Kent
3. Hampshire
4. Suffolk
5. Sussex
6. Bristol and Bath
7. Scotland
8. Nottinghamshire
9. Lancashire
10. Lincolnshire
12. Hertfordshire
13. Somerset
14. Portsmouth
15. East London (LCGC)
16. Wakefield
17. Hackney
18. Jordan (Amman)
19. Plymouth
20. Southampton

Visit www.themusicmanproject.com/regions



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Case Study – Kira Barrett



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Case Study – Kira Barrett



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Case Study – Kira Barrett

Kira, the disabled person:

- Life changing brain injury at 2 months old
- 50/50 chance of survival
- Severe bleeding and swelling in and outside the brain plus retinal bleeding in her eyes
- Quadriplegic cerebral palsy, epilepsy, severe learning difficulties and cortically blind

Kira, the musician:

- Performed twice at the London Palladium
- Performed twice at the Royal Albert Hall (included a solo via a recorded switch)
- Guinness World Record Holder
- Performed with The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines
- Performed with Michael Ball
- Appeared on Britain's Got Talent 2022 at the London Palladium



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Summary

Music:

- Differentiated to enable all abilities
- Age appropriate – not nursery rhymes
- Singing and playing accessible real instruments
- Repetition and variation
- Original music to encourage ownership and empower (they know what you don't know)

Teaching:

- High Expectations
- Teach the individual, not the disability (give individual attention)
- Consistent and patient
- Safe environment
- Fun but professional and with purpose



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International Impact

The Music Man Project's Global Outreach – Teaching/Research

- South Africa
- India
- Nepal
- The Philippines
- America

The Music Man Project's Global Outreach – Performance

- America (San Diego and New York)
- Canada
- Italy (Milan and Rome)



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The International Alliance of Accessible Music (IAAM)

Founded by The Music Man Project (UK) and [AllegroModerato](#) (Italy) to help reverse perceptions of disability through music education and performance, from the local to the global.

- Connect accessible music education and performance providers around the world
- Share music, teaching resources and techniques
- Perform joint concerts at prestigious international venues
- Promote accessible music globally through sharing of member's achievements, progress and events
- Convene annually to learn from each other and share best practice
- Train, mentor and inspire the next generation of Special Educational Needs music educators
- Help develop new technologies and explore the potential of AI in making music more accessible
- Fundraise to further the aims of the alliance and its members
- Attract new members to the alliance



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The International Alliance of Accessible Music - Membership

1. [The Music Man Project](#) (London, UK)
2. [AllegroModerato](#) (Milan, Italy)
3. [Community Access Unlimited/Kean](#) University Partnership (New Jersey, USA)
4. [Scoopciati Diversamente](#) Band (Rome, Italy)
5. [Jostiband Orchestra](#) (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
6. [Slow Label](#) Earth Pieces (Tokyo, Japan)
7. [Harmony Spectrum/Ahmed Al Hashemi](#) (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates)
8. [Bunayat Centre for Special Education](#): The Music Man Project Jordan (Amman, Jordan)
9. [Orient Spirit Development](#) (Amman, Jordan)
10. [Progetto Noi](#) (Imola, Italy)
11. [Lou-hi](#) (Helsinki, Finland)
12. [Orquesta Filarmónica de Medellín](#) (Medellín, Colombia)]
13. [Music of Life](#) (UK)



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Further Information

Online:

- Website: www.themusicmanproject.com
- Blog: www.themusicmanblog.com
- [The Music Man Project YouTube Channel](#)
- [Flickr Album](#)
- [Soundcloud](#)

To set up your own Music Man Project:

- Email: davidstanley@themusicmanproject.com
- Phone: 07786 864853



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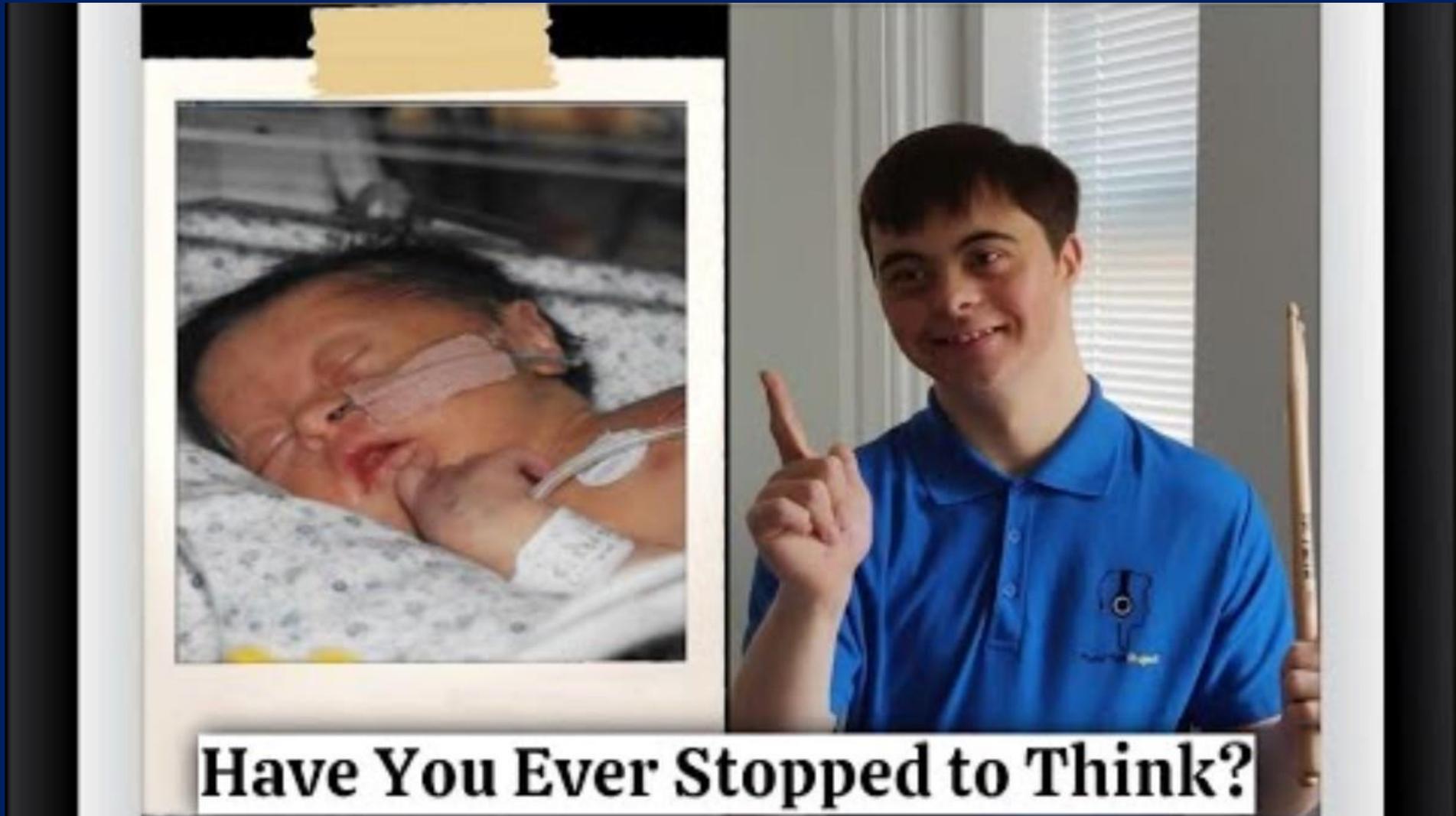
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The difference you can make...



Music is Magic



London Palladium
2015

Music Magic

AT THE
LONDON PALLADIUM



London Palladium
2015

A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a white button-down shirt, is singing into a microphone on a stage. He is looking upwards and to the right with an expressive face. The background is filled with an audience of people, mostly young adults, wearing white shirts. The scene is lit with blue stage lights, creating a dramatic atmosphere. The boy's shirt has a small red tag or piece of fabric hanging from the bottom. The microphone is on a stand in front of him.

**London Palladium
2015**

A man with glasses, wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt, is playing a blue Squier electric guitar on stage. He has a focused expression. The background is filled with a crowd of people, some of whom are smiling and looking towards the stage. The lighting is dim, with blue and purple hues. A microphone on a stand is visible on the left side of the frame. The text 'London Palladium 2017' is overlaid in the bottom left corner.

London Palladium
2017



London Palladium
2017



**London Palladium
2017**

A young man with dark hair, wearing a white short-sleeved button-down shirt, is performing on stage. He is smiling and looking towards the camera, with his hands raised in a rhythmic gesture. A microphone on a stand is positioned in front of him. The background is filled with a diverse group of people, many of whom are clapping and have their hands raised in the air, indicating a lively and engaged audience. The lighting is warm and focused on the performer, with some purple and blue hues in the background. The overall atmosphere is one of a high-energy live performance.

**London Palladium
2017**



Guinness World Record 2017



CERTIFICATE

The largest triangle ensemble consists of 1,521 people, and was achieved by students of The Music Man Project at an event organised by David Stanley (both UK) in London, United Kingdom, on 15 October 2017.

OFFICIALLY **AMAZING**



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**Music Man Project in India
2018**



Royal Albert Hall
2019



Royal Albert Hall
2019



Royal Albert Hall
2019

Royal Albert Hall

2019



A close-up photograph of a man and a young boy smiling together. The man, on the right, has short dark hair and is wearing a white polo shirt with a blue collar and blue sleeves. The boy, on the left, has light blonde hair and is wearing a white shirt with a colorful pattern. They are both looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred crowd of people in a large hall, likely the Royal Albert Hall. In the bottom left corner, there is a semi-transparent dark grey box containing white text.

Royal Albert Hall
2019



Music Man Project in Nepal 2019

A photograph of three individuals, two women and one man, standing in a dark environment. They are all wearing matching blue polo shirts and maroon pants. The man on the left has his hands on his hips. The woman in the center is wearing glasses and has her right hand behind her head. The woman on the right is waving with her right hand. Bright, dramatic light rays stream down from the top of the frame, creating a high-contrast, theatrical atmosphere.

**National Lottery TV Advert
2019**

A man with short blonde hair, wearing a bright blue t-shirt, is smiling and playing a black digital keyboard. He is surrounded by children and a woman. One young girl in a white shirt is leaning over the keyboard, looking at the keys. Another child in a light blue shirt is being held by a woman in a purple floral shirt. In the background, several other children are watching, some with their hands clasped. A microphone on a stand is positioned in front of the keyboard. The setting is outdoors with green foliage in the background.

Music Man Project in the Philippines

2020

A man with short reddish hair, wearing a bright blue t-shirt and grey trousers, is sitting on a wooden bench. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. Behind him, a large group of school children, mostly in white and blue uniforms, are sitting on the same bench and standing behind it. The children are of various ages, from young children to teenagers. The background shows a clear blue sky and a building with a green roof. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Music Man Project in the Philippines

2020

Response to COVID 19





Response to COVID 19

Response to COVID 19



**Mr Motivator for BBC1 TV
2021**





Salvation Army Christmas Spectacular
Royal Albert Hall 2021



A drummer in a yellow shirt is performing on the Britain's Got Talent stage. The background features a large, illuminated 'BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT' logo with a star in the 'A'. The stage is lit with vibrant blue and purple lights, creating a dynamic and energetic atmosphere. The drummer is positioned in the foreground, slightly to the left, and is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. A microphone on a stand is positioned in front of him, and a cymbal is visible in the foreground.

BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT

**Britain's Got Talent (4 yes votes from the judges!)
2022**



**Britain's Got Talent (4 yes votes from the judges!)
2022**

A group of approximately ten people are gathered on a stage, celebrating. They are positioned in front of a large, illuminated sign that reads "BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT". The sign features a large star on the left with a smaller star inside it, and the words "BRITAIN'S GOT" on the top line and "TALENT" on the bottom line. The letters are white with a blue and red neon glow. The background consists of red curtains. The people are dressed in various styles, including a red sequined top, a yellow shirt, and a striped shirt. Some are giving thumbs up or clapping. A bright light fixture is visible on the right side of the frame.

BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT

**Britain's Got Talent (4 yes votes from the judges!)
2022**



Queen's Commonwealth Baton Relay 2022

musicismagic



Christmas Charity Single with the Royal Marines 2022



Christmas Music Video Recording 2022

@jonsphotos1



Christmas Charity Single with the Royal Marines 2022

A photograph of two people in a recording studio. In the foreground, a man with dark hair, wearing a blue t-shirt and large headphones, is shown in profile, looking towards the left. He has his hands clasped over his chest. In the background, a woman with dark hair, also wearing headphones, is visible, looking towards the left. She has her hands clasped over her chest. Both are positioned in front of professional microphones with pop filters. The studio environment is dark, with some equipment visible in the background.

**Christmas Charity Single with the Royal Marines
2022**



**Portsmouth Guildhall with the Royal Marines
2022**



London Train Stations Tour 2022



**London Train Stations Tour
2022**



ITV Good Morning Britain Live Broadcast 2022



sky news

S

NEWS

Sky News 2022



NEC Birmingham
2022, 2023



**Workshops for 15,000 mainstream school children
2019-2023**

San Diego, USA
2023





Big Night of Musicals on BBC1

Manchester Arena 2023

Big Night of Musicals on BBC1
Manchester Arena 2023



Of the world we hold dear,
bringing loved ones ever near.
'Cos music is magic to me.

Of the world we hold dear,
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Mountbatten Festival of Music 2023





Mountbatten Festival of Music
2023



Mountbatten Festival of Music 2023

Mountbatten Festival of Music 2023



Gallery
Raising Circle
Ridge Room / Bar & Grill
Café Restaurant
North Castle Bar
Second Tier Boxes
The Great Exhibition Bar
Lobby & Outreach Studio
Grand Tier Boxes
Ward - Italian Kitchen
Lambert Pavilion - Champagne Bar
Stella Antica Bar
Henry Cole Room
Prince of Wales Room
Club Room
Stalls
Choirs & Loggia Boxes
Box Office
Café Bar
Old Spiced Ham Bar
Riverside Restaurant
Porch Bars Decks 2 and 3
Exit
Private
Public Access to Areas via Doors 1, 2 and 3





**10 Downing Street
2023**

A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a blue polo shirt, is smiling and dancing with a young girl in a pink and orange patterned dress. They are in a grand, ornate hall with large columns and a painting on the wall. Other children in yellow and blue shirts are visible in the background, some also dancing. The scene is lively and joyful.

**10 Downing Street
2023**

The Music Man Project

A photograph of Rishi Sunak, a man with dark hair wearing a white shirt and a brown patterned sweater, smiling warmly as he hugs a young girl from behind. The girl is wearing a blue polo shirt with the word "Pro" visible on the back. They are in a crowded, ornate room with other people in the background, some of whom are wearing white shirts. The lighting is warm and indoor.

**10 Downing Street
2023**



**College Green, Westminster
2023**



Royal Marines UK Tour 2023



Royal Marines UK Tour 2023



HMS Excellent Portsmouth 2023

A photograph capturing a lively moment during a visit by Michael Ball. He is the central figure, wearing a black turtleneck and a black blazer, with his mouth wide open in a shout or song. He is surrounded by several men in blue polo shirts, some of whom are also shouting or singing. The polo shirts feature a logo of a head with headphones and the text "Music Hub Project". The setting is a large, brightly lit room with a high ceiling and windows in the background. A few colorful balloons (blue, green, yellow) are visible in the top left corner. The overall atmosphere is energetic and celebratory.

Visit from Michael Ball 2023



**Visit from Michael Ball
2023**



Visit from Michael Ball 2023



Speaker's House
UK Disability History Month Reception 2023



ITV's Good Morning Britain with Michael Ball 2024



Music is Magic at the Royal Albert Hall
2024



Be the change make a difference
Be the one who sees another's worth

Music is Magic at the Royal Albert Hall 2024

A man with a beard and short dark hair, wearing a blue polo shirt with a white diagonal sash, holds a flag with a Union Jack design. He is looking off to the side with a serious expression. In the background, other people in blue shirts and a woman with glasses are visible, along with a drum set and other event elements.

Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo 2024



Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo
2024



**Music is Magic Concert in Milan
2024**



**The RAF Central Band
2024**



**The RAF Central Band
2024**



**Normansfield Theatre, Langdon Down
2024**



Painted Hall, Greenwich
2022, 2023, 2024



**HRH, The Princess Royal
2024**



ITV's Good Morning Britain 2024

Michael Ball at Coutts Bank 2024



A photograph of Michael Ball performing on stage. He is in the center, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a black t-shirt, holding a microphone and singing with his mouth open. To his left, a young woman in a blue polo shirt is also singing. To his right, a woman in a blue polo shirt is looking at him. In the background, several other people in blue polo shirts are clapping. The polo shirts have a logo that says "Music For Project".

**Michael Ball at Coutts Bank
2024**



Battersea Power Station 2024



Battersea Power Station 2024



**MMP East London Launch
With London Community Gospel Choir
2025**

A group of people, many wearing blue shirts, are seated in a room, participating in a community event. In the foreground, several individuals are playing djembe drums. A man in a blue shirt stands on the left, holding a microphone and gesturing with his right arm raised. To his left, another man is seated at a keyboard. The room has wooden floors, white walls, and several wooden doors. A large screen on the right wall displays a presentation. The overall atmosphere is energetic and communal.

MMP East London Launch With London Community Gospel Choir 2025



Hackney Empire
With London Community Gospel Choir
2025

A photograph of two men in the foreground, smiling and looking towards the camera. The man on the left is wearing a blue polo shirt with a 'Music Man Project' logo and glasses. The man on the right is wearing a dark blue polo shirt with 'ROYAL AIR FORCE Music' and 'BUFFET CRAMPON' logos, and is holding a baton. In the background, other band members are visible, including a woman playing a violin and a man at a music stand. The setting appears to be an indoor rehearsal space or stage.

RAF Regiment Band At RAF Northolt 2025



**Buckingham Palace
King's Award for Voluntary Service
2025**



**Royal Marines Music Videos
At HMS Nelson
2025**



**Royal Marines Music Videos
At HMS Nelson
2025**



The Music Man Project

Best Life Concert in Rome 2025

A group of approximately ten people, mostly men and one woman, are standing on a stage. They are all wearing bright blue t-shirts and dark trousers. They have their arms raised in the air, some holding hands, suggesting a celebratory or energetic performance. The stage is lit with purple and blue lights. In the background, a large, dense crowd of people is visible, many with their arms raised, indicating a lively atmosphere. To the left, a man in a white jacket is seated at a keyboard instrument. The stage is equipped with various musical instruments, including a keyboard, a microphone stand, and a small screen. The overall scene is a vibrant and engaging live performance.

Best Life Concert in Rome 2025



The Last Leg
Channel 4 TV
2025



Dame Penny Mordaunt DBE
President of The Music Man Project Charity

A man and a woman are smiling and giving thumbs up. The man is wearing a blue polo shirt with a logo that says "Mask Me Project". The woman is wearing a black top. They are standing in front of a stone wall, likely inside a church or cathedral, with other people visible in the background.

Jodie Whittaker



Sally Phillips



Dame
Judi Dench

Dame Judi Dench

Portcullis House
Wednesday



Lee Mead

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A photograph of two men at an outdoor event. On the left is Charles Dance, an older man with a grey beard and hair, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a white collared shirt. He has his right arm around the shoulder of the man on the right. The man on the right is younger, with dark hair, wearing a bright blue polo shirt and a white lanyard with a badge. He has blue face paint on his cheek and is smiling broadly. The background shows a large crowd of people, a white tent, and a large brick building with many windows. The scene is outdoors with trees and a clear sky.

Charles Dance