



**Concert poster for the Big Noise Chorus**

# Big Noise Chorus

## 12 March 2016

Back in January the PTFA were approached by the Big Noise Chorus who asked if we would like to be part of their spring concert in Exeter. One of the choir members, Liz Stevens, is the grandmother of a pupil in Early Years and she kindly nominated the school. Lyndsey Trimmer and Bobbie Potter from the PTFA met with the concert organisers to get the process underway.

We suggested that it would be a lovely idea to do some singing and signing, demonstrating Makaton sign language in action. After all, communication is at the heart of what we do with all our pupils at school. It was agreed that we would provide the support act on the night.

In truth, we had a bit of a wobbly start, but a group including teachers, TAs, governors and admin staff came forward to rehearse with the SASSY Choir at the Beehive in Honiton. With only one rehearsal, Sue King and Sharon Parnell knocked us into shape. I was told that there was a fair bit of one handed driving as the songs and the signs were learnt going to and from work.



**The combined Staff and SASSY Choir rehearsal at the Beehive**

You know what they say about rising to the occasion, well I am happy to report that on the night, under pressure of a 200 strong audience, we smashed it! The singing was strong and tuneful, the signing was spot on. We had the audience singing and clapping along with us. Sharon's favourite 'Country Roads' was the hit of the evening.



**The combined Staff and SASSY Choir Performing in Southernhay Church**



**Everyone together with the commemorative plaque kindly donated by the Big Noise Chorus**

On behalf of the PTFA, I would like to thank everyone who put such a lot of time and effort into this event on behalf of the school. Not just our fantastic performers, but also to our dedicated Headteacher, Sarah, who came along to give a talk on the night; our senior leaders who went out of their way to welcome Big Noise visitors and showed them around the school; Amelia, Lyndsey and Bobbie who went to various Big Noise rehearsals to introduce the school to them and enthuse people about the work we do. To Karen for all the behind the scenes work with displays, leaflets and stickers; to Dee for the ticket sales. Not forgetting the cake bakers, cake buyers and PTFA members who enabled us to provide refreshments on the night. We make a great team!



**The Big Noise Chorus in action**



**Winding down after the show**

Finally, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the Big Noise Chorus who gave us this super opportunity, made us so welcome and who sang so brilliantly. Special thanks are due to Beth, Pru, Caroline and, of course, to Colin Rea from the Big Noise. It was a truly memorable night.