

Just So Singers Banners

A Surrey Arts Wardrobe project November 2019



Caroline Pearce, the new musical director of the Just So Singers, came and asked if the Wardrobe could supply scraps of fabrics, to help out the four schools who make up the choir, with banners they were making for their Christmas concert. One of the songs, about friendship, includes the words “hold your banners high”, and Caroline thought it would be lovely if the children and young people had banners for this part of the song. The idea being that each school would make a banner with their name on it and ‘hold it high’ every time they sang the words.

The wardrobe staff thought it might be easier for the schools at such a busy time of year, if we took on the whole project and went into school to run the creative workshops with the choirs and then make the banners. This way the children and young people could have fun and be creative whilst strengthening their enthusiasm for performing at the Christmas concert.

What we did

We stencilled the letters of the schools names onto pre-cut pieces of A4 sized white cloth and took them into the schools for the children and young people to decorate in their own way. Using Sharpie pens they drew patterns and coloured them in.



Those that were a little stuck for ideas used the dice game (a game devised by the wardrobe staff for a previous workshop) – by rolling the die the numbers would suggest patterns and colours to used.

Crazy Dice Designs

Select a design and grab a die – you're going to let the design of this garment be completely decided by chance!

Roll 1: Select pattern

Roll 2: Select first colour for pattern

Roll 3: Select second colour for pattern

If there is more than one garment on the design you have chosen, or more than one section to colour – go back to the start for each different area.

Pattern		Colour 1		Colour 2	
	Stripes		Black		Blue
	Spots		Orange		Brown
	Zig-zags		Grey		Yellow
	Checked		Green		Pink
	Flowers		Red		White
	Swirls		Purple		Turquoise



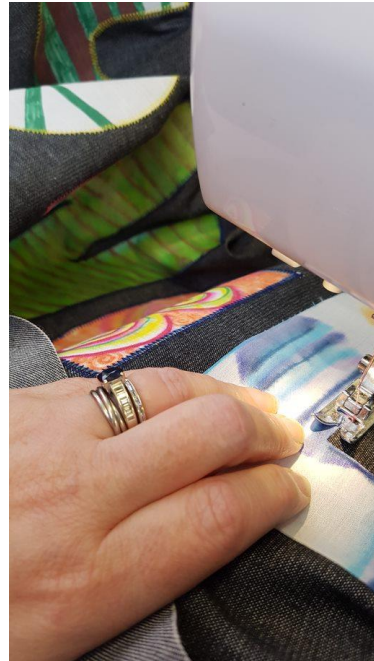
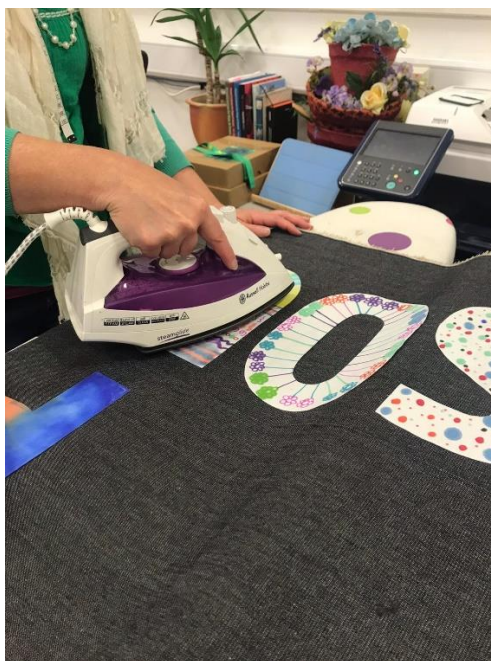
Then, if the participants wanted to, they sprayed their fabric with surgical spirit, this was done either outside or in a well ventilated area. The alcohol in the spirit makes the colours of the Sharpies run and each colour reacts slightly differently creating a marbled or watercolour effect.



Some worked on just one letter whereas other contributed not only to their own banner but also the Just So Singers one too.



We then brought the letters back to the Wardrobe and appliquéd them onto charcoal grey denim using brightly coloured threads. The denim, height of the banners and letter font gave coherence to the collection, leaving the designs and colourings unique to the participants.



The Concert Rehearsal



What did they learn?

The children and young people learnt a new art from that they could expand both in school or at home, with a little bit of science mixed in with art in the form of chromatography and colour theory.

During their workshop, the young people at Philip Southcote school decided they could take their new skills to the Friday afternoon art sessions and do some peer learning with the younger year groups.

Quote/Anecdotes

Students

One of the groups was rehearsing the songs at the same time as the art workshop: *"I love art choir"*.

"The workshop was awesome!"

Staff

"The sheet/dice to give ideas on how to decorate the letters was brilliant. It allowed everyone to access the session. "

"The techniques you used gave the letters a wonderful look and the banner itself looked so beautiful and professional it made the pupils lift it with pride"