



PCS SUPPORTS DISABILITY HISTORY MONTH 2018

disability & music



Supporting disabled members celebrating achievements





DISABILITY HISTORY MONTH 2018

Playing an instrument or developing a concert singing voice is a complex, specialised form of development of body control. When disability is juxtaposed with 'talent' or extraordinary ability it contains the power to disrupt the socially developed and oppressive distinction between disability and ability. Examining a range of great disabled musicians should give pause for thought on such socially created prejudices.

Research is showing that music has particular significance for those who are Neurodiverse, particularly those on the autistic spectrum. People with dementia are stimulated and still recall music when other memory has gone.

Music is valuable for the development of all, but its place in the school curriculum is being squeezed. In 2012/13, 84% of 13/14 year olds had music lessons by 2018 this was down to 47.5%. (Guardian 10.10.18)

In many cultures around the world many blind people have thrived with music. This is backed by research showing blind children's brains undergo radical changes in order to make better use of the sensory inputs they can gather.

The spirit of disabled people making and enjoying music is everywhere. We should

take heart in our struggle for equality from proms to hip hop!

KEY FACTS:

- Full-time disabled workers earn on average 12.6% (£75 a week) than full-time non-disabled people.
- There are 4.2million disabled people living in poverty – 29% of all people living with a disability.
- There are more disabled women than men in the UK (23% compared to 19%).
- Every day in the UK, 250 people start to lose their sight.
- The number of people living with sight loss will increase to more than 2.7 million in 2030 and 4 million in 2050
- By 2030, there are expected to be 2 million more adults with mental health problems than in 2013.
- 50% of mental health problems are established by age 14 and 75% by 24.
- Disabled people are twice as likely to be unemployed than non-disabled people
- By the age of 26, disabled people are four times more likely to be out of work or not in education compared to non-disabled people.
- 1 in 5 employers say they would be less likely to employ a disabled person.
- Two thirds of single disabled people living alone are in poverty.