



Image: Becky Smart

Secondary school children fill the Round Chapel for the Senior Singing event on the third day of the three-week festival

## Memories of music

Written by **Rhasan Brunner, 13**  
Reporting **Jamila Sami-Ludlam, 14,** & **Ola Adeniran, 12**

**T**HOUSANDS of children brought music to life at the 11th Hackney Music Festival.

It saw more than 4,000 children performing at the Round Chapel over three weeks in July.

There were 55 schools lined up to perform a wide mix of music from countries all over the world such as Africa, Brazil, China and Greece.

We interviewed one of the young singers before the concert started. The nine-year-old said: 'If we all sing together it will sound good. I feel really happy and excited.'

We asked if this festival would help her in anyway and she

said: "It will make me more confident with singing." She had taken part in the concert before, and was inspired to take part again because she 'likes to sing the songs'.

We thought it was a marvellous festival to go to because the singers were really talented. It was good to see the different primary schools participating and such young, talented singers.

“It will make me more confident with singing. I like to sing the songs”

## The red carpet

By **Nyasha McLean, 14**

**YOUNG** people had their contributions to the local community recognised at the Hackney Youth Awards last month.

This annual event recognises not only achievements, but also shows the majority of young people in Hackney behave well and that it's actually a minority committing crimes.

I won an award. It was very scary in the run-up to being presented it, because I could see my name and what section I would be given my award in the programme. As it got closer to being called, I got a bit nervous about having to

walk up and receive my medal and certificate from somebody higher up in the community. Some people were lucky enough to get their awards from Radio One DJ Trevor Nelson.

The night was full of events, with acts performing in between the award presentations. It was a chance to show off the talent in Hackney, including a tribute song produced for the occasion.

The awards have been going for around nine years now and I feel very privileged to have won one.



Image: Tom Craggs

Trevor Nelson, who presented some of the awards (above) Nyasha (below) fellow winner and former choirboy Rahsan (right)

I wasn't there alone on the night – a few of my friends hosted the night and one of them performed a song.

I want to let you know something else, guess what? I now know what it feels like to walk on the red carpet. Do you?

### Special award winner

By **Rhasan Brunner**

I felt really happy about being nominated for the Hackney Youth Awards. I won a medal, a certificate and a trophy for being a Special Youth Award Winner.

I won because of my contribution to my community. It makes me happy to know that my volunteering skills are being appreciated. I've been involved in several volunteering organisations such as Contrast magazine and Headliners, where I've written a number of articles.

I've never won anything this important before so I think it's a great change for me. It's something I'll always treasure and remember.

“I got a bit nervous about having to walk up the ramp and receive my medal and certificate”



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