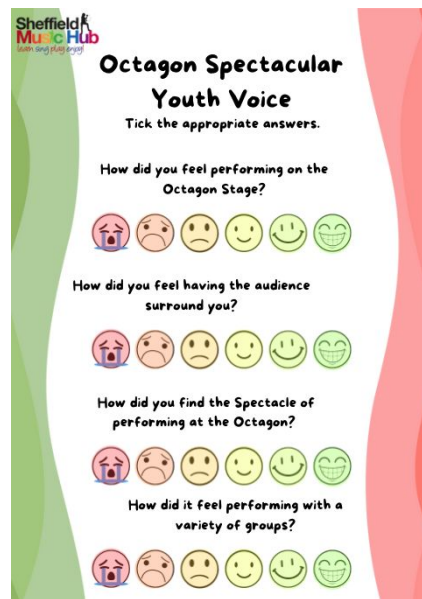


# December Concerts Youth Feedback



# The Octagon Spectacular Youth Voice

So to start with, for the Octagon Spectacular we used sheets (as shown below) to find more specific feedback from the students on a scale from 1-6\*.



The image shows a feedback sheet titled "Octagon Spectacular Youth Voice" with the Sheffield Music Hub logo. It contains four questions, each followed by a row of six smiley faces representing a scale from 1 (sad) to 6 (happy).

**Sheffield Music Hub**  
sheffieldmusic.org.uk

**Octagon Spectacular Youth Voice**  
Tick the appropriate answers.

How did you feel performing on the Octagon Stage?

How did you feel having the audience surround you?

How did you find the Spectacle of performing at the Octagon?

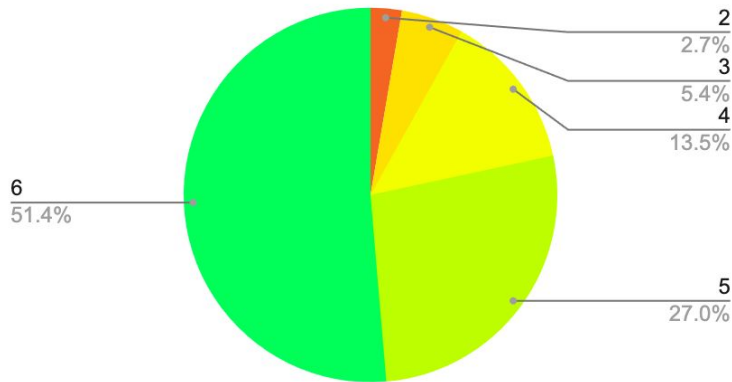
How did it feel performing with a variety of groups?

The Groups we asked for this feedback consisted of: Junior Voices; Youth Wind Band and Children's Orchestra.

\*(the following slides will use this scale to represent the faces, 1 will represent really sad and 6 will represent really happy.)

# How did you feel performing on the octagon stage?

Octagon Q1



Sample Sizes:

Junior Voices: 18

Children's orchestra: 18

Youth Wind Band: 1 Collective Response\*\*

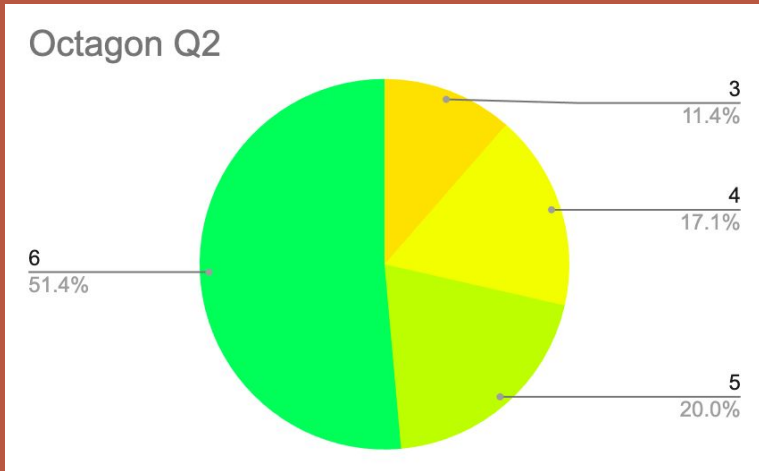
The first question we asked led to varied responses.

We asked "How did you feel performing on the octagon stage?" Which we only received 51.4% of responses feeling as good as they possibly could.

We can infer that people were not feeling as confident as usual during other concerts and I explore this in following slides.

\*\*Note this for following slides as it could cause bias against Youth Wind Band in data

# How did you feel having the audience surround you?



Sample Sizes:

Junior Voices: 17

Children's orchestra: 17

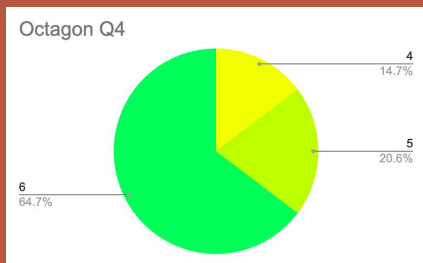
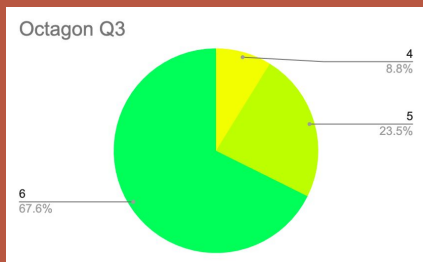
Youth Wind Band: 1 Collective Response\*\*

The Second Question we asked answered some of the queries left from Question 1.

It shows that some of the discomfort the students feel may be due to having an audience surrounding them whilst performing.

However, as we still have an overly positive response (which seems to be the general trend during these questionnaires) we can just take that feedback and act by still having concerts at venues with the audience surrounding the performers but, mainly attending venues with the audience directly in front of the performers. Which I believe we do a good job of doing anyways so we just need to keep it up!

# Questions 3 and 4



Sample Sizes:

Junior Voices: 17

Children's orchestra: 16

Youth Wind Band: 1 Collective Response\*\*

Finally, we asked the questions “How did you find the Spectacle of performing at the Octagon” (Q3) and “How did it feel performing with a variety of groups” (Q4).

The responses to both these questions were overwhelmingly positive confirming for us firstly, the students love performing at venues of high prestige. On top of that we also observed that the students love performing with a variety of groups which shows us to continue running events with such diversity whilst also keeping the occasional event with group specific focus.

# Conclusion for Octagon Spectacular

In conclusion, the feedback we received from the Octagon Spectacular was very constructive and we can take the following steps moving forward:

- Selecting Venues with an Audience directly in front of the performers for the majority of concerts. (We already do this very well.)
- We know we have support in place for any students struggling with stage anxiety. Possibly making this more known to the students?
- Keep selecting venues of high prestige.
- Keeping the majority of Concerts with a wide range of Groups.

So mostly all stuff we are already on top of. However it's obviously important to listen to the feedback of the students and stay on top of things.

And as for collecting Youth Voice, I think it's very important to hear the students individually. I think we need to make it clear to Music Leaders and J.A.Ms to not just get a general idea of the group and get responses from every student. The Youth Wind Band is an example of this happening and I believe it's a lot less constructive.

# End of Term Showcase - Tuesday (Winds) Youth Voice

**End of Term Showcase - Winds Youth Voice**  
Sheffield Music Hub  
*Learn sing play enjoy*

Tick the appropriate answers.

How did you feel performing at the same place you rehearse?

How do you find performing with groups of similar styles?

Did performing at your practice venue make you feel more confident and why?

**YES NO**

.....

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

.....

.....

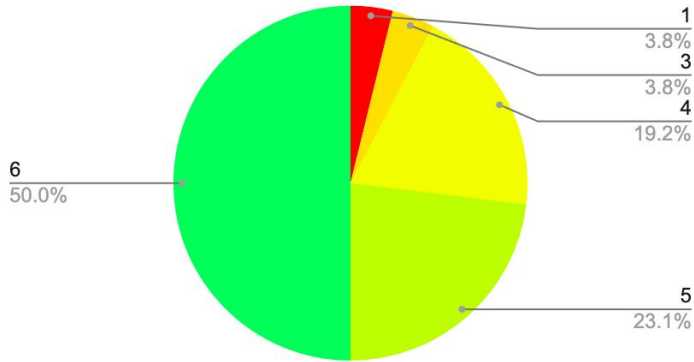
For the End of Term Showcase on the Tuesday, we used sheets, as shown on the left, to gather feedback from the students.

We used the same 1-6 System for the first 2 questions and then left space underneath for any further feedback the students wanted to provide. We were meant to have a similar section on the back of the Octagon sheet however it didn't end up being printed.

The groups asked consisted of: Intermediate Clarinets; Intermediate Flutes; Recorders; Senior Brass and Children's Wind Band

# How did you feel performing at the same place you rehearse?

Showcase Q1



Sample Size:  
26 Across Groups

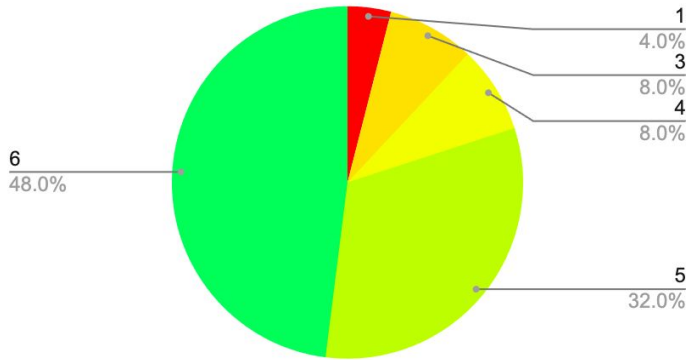
This question received a lot more negative feedback compared to our usual responses to these type of questions with only 50% giving it a 6/6.

This shows us that students generally prefer to perform at venues other than the ones they practice at. This is also shown in the results from the octagon feedback as the majority of students loved the spectacle of performing at the octagon.



# How do you find performing with groups of similar styles?

Showcase Q2



Sample Size:  
25 across Groups

This Question also received a generally more negative response in comparison with other questions we asked.

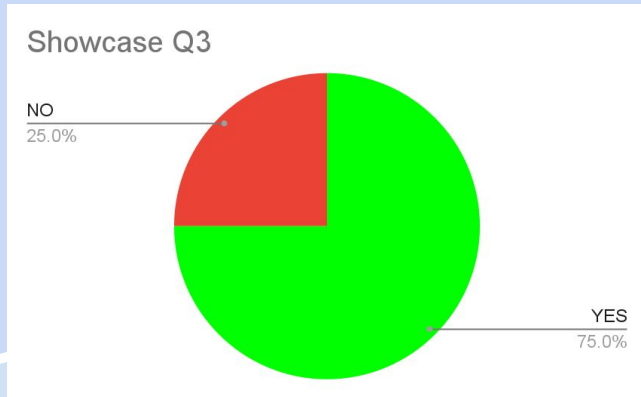
This also re-enforces the feedback from the octagon in that students prefer concerts with a diverse range of groups.

However, 8/12 of the young people that put 6/6 were from Children's Wind Band and the Recorder Clubs.

This may show that the younger groups enjoy these types of concerts more as they have the older groups to aspire to. Whereas the older groups prefer to expand their musical horizons to other styles/genres.

However also to counter this point the most negative response ( $\frac{1}{6}$ ) was rated by also a member of the Children's Wind Band so there is still a strong lean to enjoying concerts with a more diverse range of groups.

# Did performing in your practice venue make you feel more confident and why?



Sample Size:  
20 across Groups

For this question we opted for a simple yes or no answer with space to elaborate to more definitely find the young people's thoughts and erase any "fence sitters".

We see a majority finding that the space did help the students feel more confident despite the general dislike of performing at their venue of practice.

However, 100% of respondents from Senior Brass and intermediate flutes responded saying the venue didn't make them feel more confident. This could be as these groups have more experience performing compared to the other 2. Unfortunately, we got a lot less responses as only 3 people filled in the questionnaire across these 2 groups so results will be bias.

As for respondents reasoning why they answered the way they did we didn't receive a lot.

The majority of people who answered "No" explained that it felt the same as any other concert or just the same as rehearsing therefore they didn't feel any more confident.

We also had someone respond saying the space felt "cramped" and "uncomfy" which could also be something to take into account when selecting future venues.

The 1 respondent that furthered on their answer to "Yes" stated "because I did more practice" which I can only assume relates to the idea of they have had more time to practice in the performance space.

# Conclusion for End of Term Showcase.

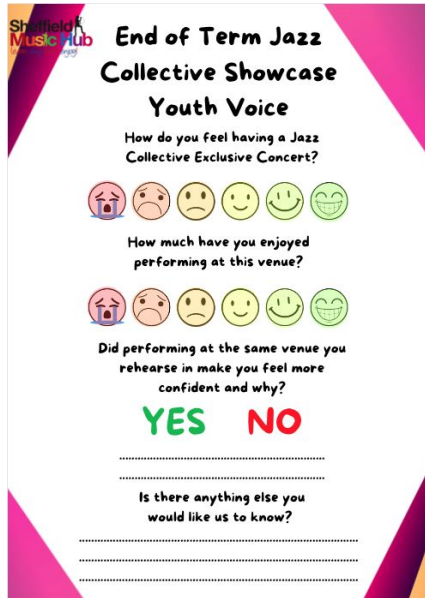
Overall, I believe that the feedback we received from the End of Term Showcase is very positive.

These are the things we can take away moving forward:

- Selecting venues of high prestige and not in practice spaces if possible. (Furthering on the point made from the octagon's feedback.)
- Keep majority of concerts with diverse range of performances.
- When selecting venues, make sure it will make students feel comfortable and safe. (Which again I believe we already do a very good job of we just need to continue this.)

As for how we can improve collecting youth voice, I think it's very important making sure Music Leaders and J.A.M.s know how important youth voices are and making sure that we get a good amount of students from each group rather than just 1 or 2.

# End of Term Jazz Collective Youth Voice



**Sheffield Music Hub**

## End of Term Jazz Collective Showcase Youth Voice

How do you feel having a Jazz Collective Exclusive Concert?

☹️ 😞 😐 😊 😄 😁

How much have you enjoyed performing at this venue?

☹️ 😞 😐 😊 😄 😁

Did performing at the same venue you rehearse in make you feel more confident and why?

**YES NO**

.....

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

.....

.....

For the End of Term Jazz Collective Showcase we used very similar sheets to those used for the End of Term Showcase with altered questions.

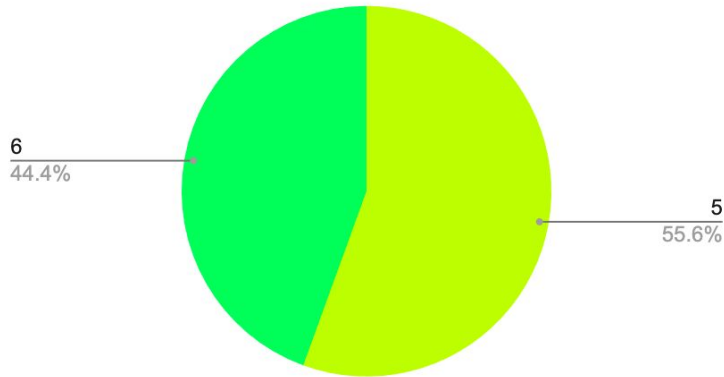
We kept with the 1-6 format for these sheets.

The group asked was Jazz Collective (which consisted of 9 responses).

George collected the responses and must have only gathered them from the older group

# How do you feel having a Jazz Collective Exclusive Concert?

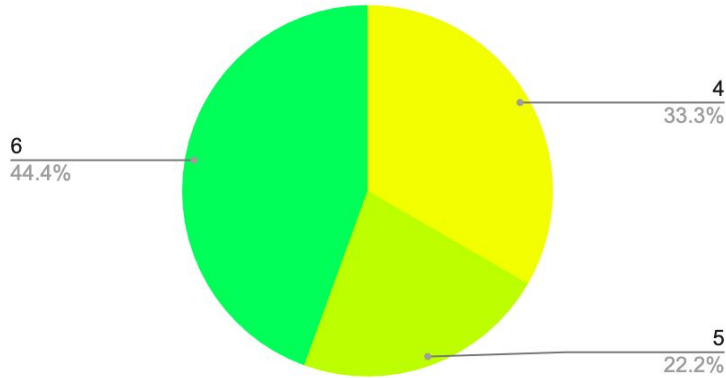
Jazz Q1



This question received an overwhelmingly positive response and this simply tells us that having a Jazz Collective Exclusive Concert should continue to happen as the students love it!

# How much have you enjoyed performing at this venue?

Jazz Q2

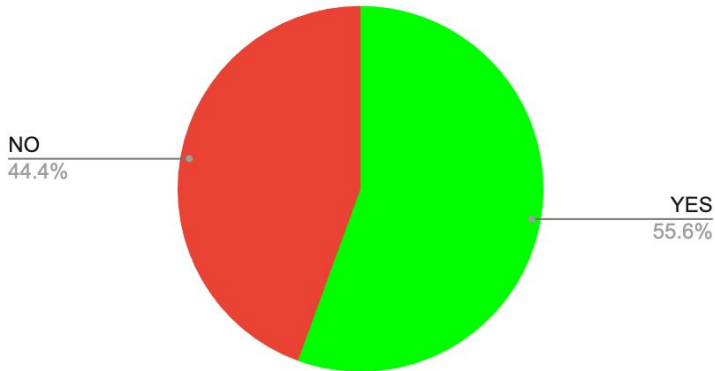


This question again received such a positive response and shows us that the students love to perform at Red Tape despite it being the same venue they practice in (contradicting the End of Term Showcase responses).

Although this may be because it is the Foundry rather than RedTape (so slight change)

# Did performing at the same venue you rehearse in make you feel more confident and why?

Jazz Q3



This question received a very mixed response.

Two respondents that answered “Yes” stated it’s because they know the venue better and have gotten to know the practice space better.

One respondent that answered “No” elaborated that they “still felt nervous”.

As there is such a mixed response i believe it’s hard to use this response as a catalyst for our improvements however we can use the responses from the End of Term Showcase to extrapolate that answers will lean towards more confident.

# End of Term Jazz Collective Conclusion

Overall, I believe the Jazz Collective Exclusive Concert was a huge success given the student feedback. It feels like the young people loved having the stage to themselves and their group.

Moving forward I believe these are some of the steps we can make:

- Asking more groups whether they want an opportunity for exclusive concerts.
- Making sure if we are using a practice venue we still make the event feel special. (I say this as judging by the responses from this event compared to the End of Term Showcase this event has resonated more with the young people.)

In terms of collecting youth voice I think it is just the same with every concert by this point in that we just need to encourage getting as many responses as possible.



# Christmas Extravaganza Youth Voice



Sheffield Music Hub  
Learn sing play enjoy

## Christmas Extravaganza

### Youth Voice

Tick the appropriate answers.

How did you feel performing on The Cathedral Stage?

How did you find the acoustics of the room?

How did you find the Spectacle of performing at The Cathedral?

How did it feel performing with a variety of groups?

For the Christmas Extravaganza we used sheets, as shown on the left, to gather feedback from the students.

Unfortunately during this concert we were only able to gather feedback from Concordia Voices.

This is a problem I will discuss in later slides.

All the data from the following slides came from a sample of 13 people all from Concordia. (Not including myself).

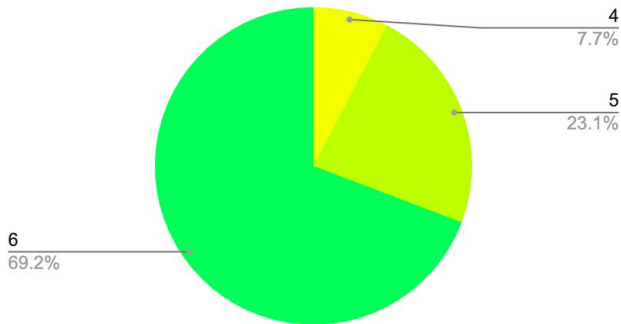
# Questions 1 and 2



## How did you feel performing on the Cathedral stage?

As Concordia is a senior group we observe a general confidence within the group when it comes to performing. We do however observe some unease as there are some responses of 4s or 5s. However I am aware of the students who felt less confident (who will remain unnamed) and they did get the help they needed within the group to get that boost of confidence otherwise we would be observing a generally more negative response.

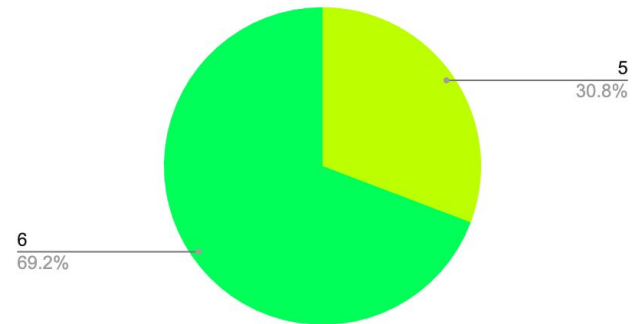
Concordia Q1



## How did you find the acoustics of the room?

We asked this question to try get responses from groups other than the choir to see how the environment designed for voices would suit them whilst they perform. However, since we only got responses from Concordia the results are pretty self explanatory as the space is designed for choir voices anyway.

Concordia Q2



# Questions 3 and 4

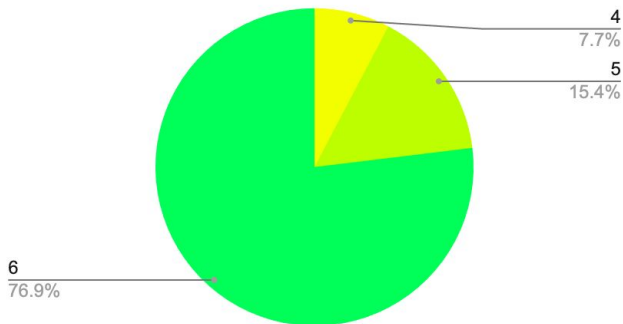
## How did you find the spectacle of the Cathedral?

Overall in the question we see the majority of respondents loved the spectacle of performing at the Cathedral. This shows us that obviously students love performing at venues of higher prestige and it's worth putting the money and effort into getting concerts at these venues.

I believe why we don't see a 100% positive response is I have observed recently in Concordia, after the performance of the Monster in the Maze, that it feels like we've come down from such a high as performing at the Crucible was such a big thing for so many of us that this concert then seemed more boring as it was just after such a big event.

I believe that the majority of the students still loved the opportunity and experience of the cathedral however, it's hard to compare that to the opera we had just taken part in.

Concordia Q3

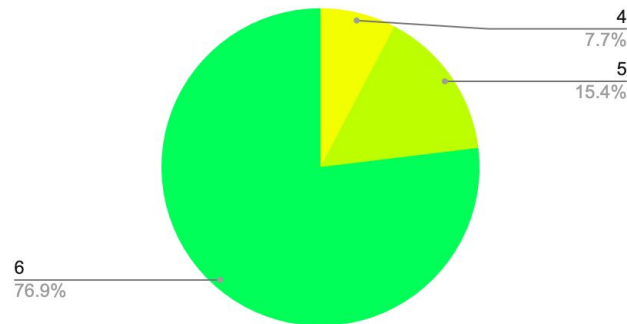


## How did it feel performing with a variety of groups?

As we have since observed during the Octagon Concert, the majority of students love performing with a variety of groups.

This shows us that we should keep holding concerts with a variety of performers as students love seeing a variety of different music when they perform.

Concordia Q4



# Christmas Extravaganza Collection Issues



I think the first issue to address with this concert is the lack of youth feedback. I would say the concert was still a huge success however we run these concerts for the youth to enjoy so not knowing why they enjoyed it or even if they enjoyed it is an issue.

I believe the issue is when collecting feedback, the students do not like filling out questionnaires. I have observed in Concordia that when you ask them to fill it out it is like a chore and they do not enjoy doing it. This also leads to swayed responses as people also seem to tick the face furthest right to get it over and done with whilst keeping us happy. Again these students will remain unnamed. I believe our biggest takeaway from all the feedback (but this concert specifically) is we need to find a way where our youth is, not only willing, but actively wanting to give us feedback on how we can improve our concerts.

The only possible ways I can currently think of doing this may be directly interviewing more students and getting their responses which we can record a few to put on socials or impress the council etc. However, the main reason I suggest we do this is as we will have firstly, more honest responses and secondly it may be easier for the youth as all they have to do is speak.

The only problem with this method is that it will get rid of the anonymous aspect of the feedback which could in fact lead to less honest responses. I am open to suggestions for this as I cannot currently think of a solution as of writing this. (Hopefully by the time I'm presenting this I may have some better ideas. No pressure future me ;D).

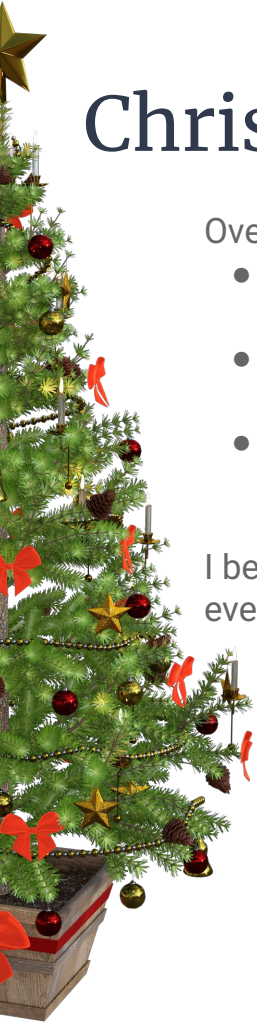


# Christmas Extravaganza Conclusion

Overall I think our main takeaways from this event is as follows:

- Youth Voice collection needs improvements on how to get students to respond (as stated on previous slide).
- Giving the students opportunities to perform at prestigious venues is really important to the students.
- And as stated during previous Conclusions, having events with a variety of performers is very positive for the students.

I believe these results show this concert was successful and continuing to host events at the Cathedral is a very good idea.



# Overall December 2024 Concert Review (Based on Youth Feedback)



# What are we doing well that we should continue to build on?

Firstly, I believe we should focus on what we're doing right as an organization in the eyes of the young people.

- Hosting the majority of events with a variety of performers whilst still keeping fewer with similar groups for younger students.
- Selecting Venues of high prestige making the performances more special for the students.
- Making sure students feel in a comfortable and safe environment when rehearsing and performing.
- Starting to give groups opportunities for exclusive concerts (e.g. The Jazz Collective Showcase). I believe we should possibly expand this to other groups that would benefit from this.
- Specifically (from the octagon feedback) select majority - not all - of venues with seats directly in front of performers.



# Steps to take moving forward.

Moving forward I believe these are priorities based on Youth feedback:

- Obviously methods to collecting youth voice needs to be improved.\*
- Continue hosting events with variety of performers.
- Keep selecting Venues that make the students feel special.
- Make sure students are aware of support thats available.
- Make sure venues are comfortable.
- Keep similar venue choices with less performances at venues where the students rehearse.
- Consider more exclusive concerts for groups that we think would benefit.

\*Results and conclusions may be extrapolated because of this.



Thank you for listening!!



# What do we need to improve on?

Despite having a lot of positive feedback, there is still evidence that we need to improve in certain areas during concerts.

- As I stated on the last slide, we do a good Job of making students feel safe and comfortable whilst having support in place for those who don't. However, I think it's important to make sure this is aware to the students that are struggling on the day so they know they can come to us and receive the help they need.
- Making sure all venues make students feel comfortable whilst performing (i.e. making sure chairs are comfy etc.). - Mainly a problem for End of Term Showcases at All Saints.
- YOUTH FEEDBACK - Overall reluctance from the students to give feedback. This led to swayed responses and lack of feedback from certain groups. Some sort of change needs to be made on how we collect Youth Feedback (discussion for Rory, Heather and me to have.) Also push music leaders to encourage J.A.Ms to gather as much youth voice as possible and not just 1 or 2 people per group.