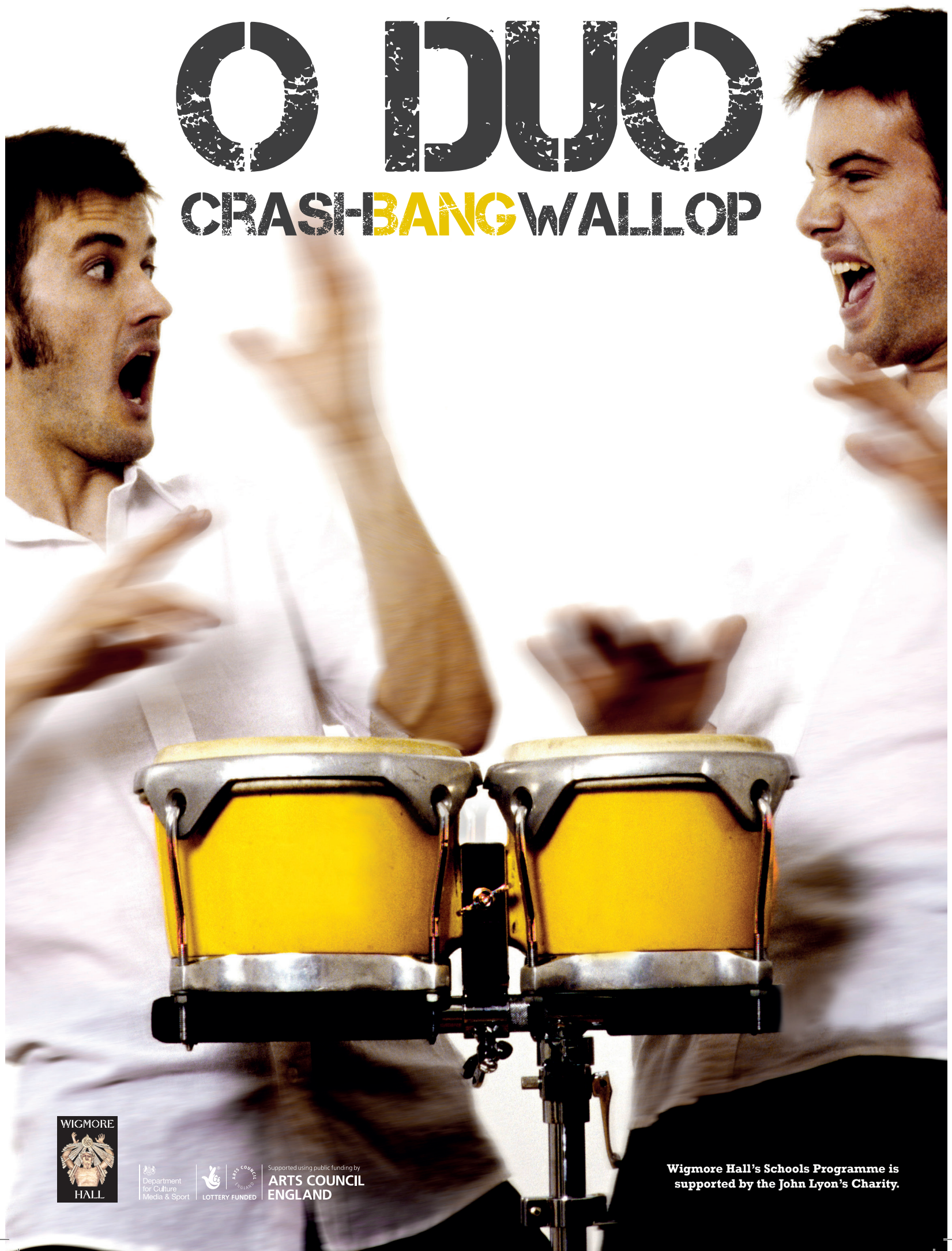


O DUO

CRASH-BANG-WALLOP



Department for Culture Media & Sport



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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

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ABOUT THE CONCERT

**This is a one-hour concert for Key Stage 3
Students and their teachers.**

**Virtuoso percussionists O Duo whizz around the
Wigmore Hall stage as you've never seen before!**

**With a marimba, vibraphone, glockenspiel,
drum kit, African and Brazilian drums and a
multitude of handheld percussion, Oliver Cox
and Owen Gunnell perform music by a diverse
range of composers including Bach, Philip Glass
and Chopin. The pair will illustrate the variety
of genres and styles that can be explored with
percussion instruments, playing many of their
own arrangements!**

ABOUT O DUO

O Duo has performed across the world from the BBC Proms to Al Bustan and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and is renowned for their 'phenomenal artistry' (The Daily Telegraph). As passionate supporters of new music they have won a Special Commissioning Award from the Borletti-Buitoni Trust, and as inspiring educators they have been appointed Artistic Directors of the Children's Classic Concerts series in Scotland.

O Duo's repertoire spans more than 300 years and is an invigorating mix of popular classics and accessible contemporary music, as displayed by their CD of Stephen McNeff, Chopin, Poulenc and Bach (Sony BMG).

In 2014/15 O Duo made its debut at the Luxembourg Philharmonie with an artistic and theatrical bonanza. Highlights for 2015/16 include performances at UK Festivals, they return to perform in Luxembourg and debut in Hong Kong.



PROGRAMME

Bongo Fury **O Duo**

Short Excerpt **Bach Suite**

Take 5 **P. Desmond**

Czardas **Monti**

AUDIENCE IMPROVISATION

Mad Rush **Philip Glass**

O Drumming **O Duo**

Minute Waltz **O Duo**

MEET OUR MUSICIANS

Hello guys! Tell us how O Duo was created.

Owen: Olly and I formed O Duo when we were in our first year at the Royal College of Music. We got together as we enjoyed making music together as opposed to just on our own! Someone asked us to do one concert playing a double violin concerto on two marimbas, dressed in period costume (e.g. tights!), and we did it... and here we are now!!

What is your favourite venue that you've ever played in?

Olly: That's very tricky, there are so many! The Usher Hall in Edinburgh, the Albert Hall and of course, the Wigmore hall!

What's the best thing about being a duo?

Owen: It very rarely gets boring, as you have company!! Like I mentioned earlier, there is something that's a lot more fun, when you are making music with a mate - you should try it!

How many hours a day do you have to practise?

Owen: Some days- eight hours, other days-zero hours!

MEET OUR MUSICIANS

Q&A with Oliver

Oliver, what is your favourite instrument to play?

It's got to be the marimba. Although I do love the piano for when I'm writing music too!

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

Probably the Safri Duo, a Danish percussion duo who I saw when I was just beginning to think about studying percussion seriously (aged about 15). They were really amazing. It's quite funny that I've ended up being in a percussion duo too!

If you weren't a musician, what would you do?

Well, if I wasn't a percussionist, then I would love to be composing more music. Outside of music completely, hmm, maybe a professional golfer? I'd need to do a lot of practice though...

What is your favourite tune to dance to?

That's a tricky one... So many to choose from and it depends what mood I'm in! I'll go for Johnny Too Bad by the Slickers.

.....

Q&A with Owen

Hi Owen! What is the best thing about being a musician?

Playing music! And travelling...sometimes!

If you didn't play percussion, what would you play?

I used to play the piano, cornet and the french horn. While I enjoyed them, once I began percussion, I gradually gave them all up. I don't think there is another instrument I would like to play, well; maybe I'd play Jazz music on the saxophone.

Who would you like to duet with (apart from Oliver)?

I do play with other groups as well, and occasionally duet with other people which is also enjoyable! The percussionists I think I'd like to duet with are my brother, Colin Currie and Patrick King, among others. I've always fancied doing a gig with Nile Rodgers from Chic though!

What is your favourite box set;

At the moment, Episodes. Although I tend to watch Peppa Pig more these days!

ACTIVITIES/ INFORMATION

Marimbas From Around the World!

A marimba is a percussion instrument that is made up of wooden bars that you hit with mallets to make a sound. The modern marimba is has a rosewood keyboard with brass resonators. The range is normally 4.5-5 octaves (like the one O Duo will be playing).

Marimbas are different all over the world!

AFRICAN MARIMBA



ACTIVITIES/INFORMATION

GUATEMALAN MARIMBA



WESTERNISED MARIMBA



ACTIVITIES/INFORMATION

What is Minimalism?

Minimalism is a style of music that was created on the West Coast of America in the 1960's. Composers Steve Reich, Terry Riley and Philip Glass were all at the forefront of this scene; going back-to-basics of classical music and subsequently, creating a whole new sound world.

Minimalist music includes:

- ▶ **layers of rhythmic, harmonic or melodic patterns, which are repeated many times (a technique known as ostinato)**
- ▶ **constantly repeated patterns that are subjected to gradual changes**
- ▶ **the harmonies are made by layering these different patterns over each other**
- ▶ **there is no real melody- you can't sing along!**



Philip Glass doesn't actually like to be called a 'minimalist composer'; instead he prefers to be called 'a composer of music with repetitive structures'. He has composed hundreds of pieces of music, and is one of the few minimalist composers to work in film and opera!

Why not take a listen to his *Violin Concerto*, *Rubric* and *Truman Sleeps* (from *The Truman Show*).

ACTIVITIES/INFORMATION

ACTIVITY: CREATE YOUR OWN!

Why not create your own Group Minimalist piece? Get into a pair and each come up with two, eight note patterns based around the Key of C.

Example 1



Example 2



Then finding a common tempo with a partner, play your Pattern A six times, then Pattern B six times together. How does it feel playing the same pattern repeated over and over again?

What about adding accents to your pattern? What happens to the sound if you add emphasis to some notes within your repeated pattern? Try playing your newly accented piece with your partner.

ADD A CONDUCTOR!

Now get into bigger groups (no less than six) and pick a Conductor. The Conductor will have bring in the musicians (why not try at different times?), give an idea of dynamics, indicate the tempo and for the purpose of this piece, show everybody when to switch from pattern A to pattern B. Musicians, remember your accents!

Record it and listen back, what do you think?

WAYS TO DEVELOP YOUR PIECE

- ➡ Add in extra notes to your 8 beat patterns
- ➡ Take out notes from your patterns and add in rests
- ➡ Try recording your pattern and distorting the sound

ACTIVITIES/INFORMATION

What is Musical Arranging?

Writing a musical arrangement is when an already composed piece of music is reworked so it can be played by different instruments. For example, when a piece written for voice and piano piece is arranged for a four-part choir, or when a piece for violin is arranged to be played on clarinet.

HOW DO O DUO GO ABOUT ARRANGING THEIR MUSIC?

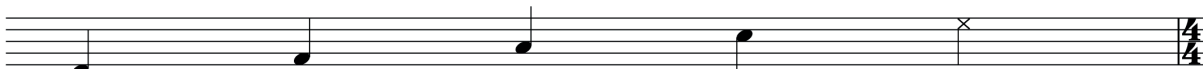
I'd say we do it slightly differently to a lot of people in that we don't tend to write our arrangements down! We will find a piece we would like to arrange (usually a piece of piano or keyboard music) and just get together and work out who is going to play which bit. Sometimes that can be very straightforward, such as with a Bach prelude where we each just take one hand of the original part. Sometimes it's a lot more fiddly, and we will take copies of the piano part and scribble notes on them so we know which bits each of us are playing. Once we have figured out a way of making it work, we take our parts away and memorise them, then get back together and rehearse!

ACTIVITIES/INFORMATION

Body Percussion Activities from O Duo

Using your body, and following the Key, can you work your way through the following examples? Why not try do them in a group? Can you do them at the same time?

KEY NB. Always give 4 counts in



= stamp = thighs = chest = clap = click/2 finger claps

1



2



3



4



Group Body Drum Kit

Now, split into three groups and make your own Body Percussion Drum Kit using the following rhythms!

Group 1



Group 2



Group 3



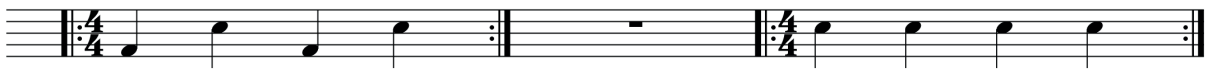
ACTIVITIES/INFORMATION

Let's try some Samba Rhythms!

Samba is a musical genre and type of dance originating in Brazil. Can you split into 4 groups and bring in each group, one at a time?

Group 1

or



Group 2



Group 3



Group 4



Now, make up your own body percussion!

DOES YOUR SCHOOL HAVE ARTSMARK STATUS OR RUN ARTS AWARD?

Did you know that taking part in projects, concerts and workshops can contribute towards both?

Artsmark is Arts Council England's flagship programme to enable schools and other organisations to evaluate, strengthen and celebrate their arts and cultural provision.

For more information including how to apply for Artsmark status visit www.artsmark.org.uk.

Arts Award supports young people to deepen their engagement with the arts, to build creative and leadership skills, and to achieve a national qualification.

For more information on how your students might take part and how to become an Arts Award centre visit www.artsaward.org.uk.

Wigmore Hall Learning is a proud supporter of Artsmark and Arts Award. If taking part in a project, workshop or concert with us has contributed to your Artsmark status or your students' Arts Award please tell us! You can contact us on 020 7258 8240 or by emailing us at learning@wigmore-hall.org.uk.

Wigmore Hall Learning provides access to chamber music and song through innovative creative programmes, online resources and events. We invite a broad audience to get involved in music-making of the highest standard, particularly focusing on those who may be excluded from regular arts provision. We make connections through projects and partnerships, using music to inspire people, to explore opportunities and to enhance learning and development.

For further details about Wigmore Hall Learning contact us:

020 7258 8247

learning@wigmore-hall.org.uk

www.wigmore-hall.org.uk/learning





ABOUT WIGMORE HALL

Europe's leading venue for chamber music and song, Wigmore Hall currently presents over 400 concerts a year in addition to 250 education events. Many of the Hall's concerts are recorded for broadcast on BBC Radio 3, including a live broadcast every Monday lunchtime.

Wigmore Hall is renowned for its excellent acoustics and intimate atmosphere. It has just 550 seats compared with nearly 6,000 at the Royal Albert Hall. The size of the Hall makes it ideal for singers and small groups of players. These are ensembles that would have originally been heard in people's living rooms!

Wigmore Hall was built in 1901 and is a beautiful example of Renaissance-style architecture and many original characteristics remain - gas lights are still lit for every concert. Wigmore Hall's auditorium features a cupola above the stage with a beautiful mural depicting the 'Soul of Music'.

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Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1U 2BP
Director: John Gilhooly
The Wigmore Hall Trust. Registered Charity No 1024838
Facilities for Disabled people



For full details ring 020 7935 2141

Pack written by Lucy Drever and O Duo, edited by Stacey Campkin, Wigmore Hall Learning
Designed by Susannah Swift Ltd

