

## **Feedback**

We ask for feedback from parents, children, staff and the musicians, and the comments received this year have been very positive. Sometimes, it is a just a case of the music bringing a smile to the children's faces, as they may be too sick to really engage. At other times the children chose the songs and parents and staff reported that the children were much happier after the sessions. The percussion instruments proved to be very popular, and it was reported that shy children frequently joined in with singing and clapping.

The sessions can be interactive, with the more mobile children getting up and dancing. It was also reported that children, who initially were reluctant to join in, were playing instruments and vocalising towards the end of the session.

### **COMMENTS:**

- "It's been the most energetic I have seen my daughter"
- "the children all became very happy and all joined in, forgetting about their illness and shyness"
- In one particular case, a 6 year old boy in Intensive Care who is paralysed from the neck down started singing along to "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star". The musician and parents reported that it was a very moving experience and the parents were very grateful.



*Bean Downes showing a child the "hang" instrument.*

## **Conclusion of what your donation achieved**

Overall, Making Music has been a vital part of assisting sick children during their stay at St. George's Hospital, and the program has been extremely well received. Children in hospital can experience a range of anxieties, partly as a result of separation from their families, an unfamiliar environment, experiences from treatment and loss of self-determination. Therefore a friendly, welcoming and enjoyable atmosphere, along with interactive programs, greatly assist with their welfare during hospital stays.

**Thank you to The Lord Leonard and Lady Estelle Wolfson Foundation for generously supporting our Making Music programme to assist sick children during their hospital stay.**