RNCM and Cathay Pacific Take Pupils Around the World in Music Showcase

Percussionists from the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) spent time working with Year 6 pupils at Medlock Primary School this week on a new piece of music centered on travel.

Sponsored by airline Cathay Pacific for its *Life Well Travelled* series, the educational project formed part of this year’s [One Education Music Showcase](http://www.rncm.ac.uk/production/one-education-music-showcase/) which saw children from local schools perform three concerts at the RNCM between Tuesday 7 and Thursday 9 July.

Over the course of three days, Medlock pupils learnt about composition, rhythm and performance with RNCM Tutor Andrea Vogler and students Theo Fowler and Alex Smith, before writing their own piece, entitled *Around the World*, which they performed live at the RNCM on Thursday 9 July. The finished project also included a short specially commissioned piece for solo marimba called *Take Flight*, written by RNCM student Tom Kelly and performed by international percussionist and College graduate Le Yu.

Andrea, who also managed the project, said: *‘I was delighted to design and deliver this exciting project. Creative partnerships like this provide a unique opportunity for pupils to get an insight into the world of classical music, and offer valuable practical training for RNCM students.’*

Angus Barclay, Cathay Pacific’s General Manager Europe, said: *‘We were thrilled to support this initiative. Music has the power to inspire and connect people, and that is what we aim to do every day at Cathay Pacific. I was delighted to hear that so many students benefitted from this project and thought the finished piece was fantastic.’*

Suzie Thompson, the RNCM’s Director of Development, added: *‘The RNCM was fortunate to have a partner like Cathay Pacific for this project and we are tremendously grateful to them. They have a genuine commitment to supporting the arts and education and for the children involved, this project will be something that will stay with them for a long time.’*

The work that the RNCM did at Medlock Primary School is part of [RNCM Engage](http://www.rncm.ac.uk/engage); the College’s inspiring learning and participation programme and the training ground for students in creative and professional practice.

**To learn more contact Liz Rowley, Communications Manager, on 0161 907 5369 or email** [**liz.rowley@rncm.ac.uk**](mailto:liz.rowley@rncm.ac.uk)

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editors**

**One Education Music Showcase**Music Showcase 2015 was a series of concerts showcasing the amazing musical talent of children in the local area. School groups and ensembles from One Education’s out of school activities programme performed across three evenings at the RNCM between 7 – 9 July.

**RNCM**

Located in the heart of Manchester, the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) is a leading international conservatoire and thriving live music venue, with a reputation for attracting talented students, teachers, conductors, composers and artists from all over the world.

Founded in 1973 through the merger of the Royal Manchester College of Music and Northern School of Music, the RNCM is home to around 320 teaching staff and over 800 students from 60 different countries. Each year the College presents in excess of 400 live performances, ensuring RNCM students receive unparalleled opportunities to perform regularly to public audiences and to work alongside professional musicians and visiting artists.

**Cathay Pacific**

* Cathay Pacific flies from London Heathrow to Hong Kong five times daily and from Manchester to Hong Kong four times per week, to over 190 destinations globally, including 22 in China.
* Cathay Pacific Airways is Hong Kong’s pre-eminent international airline offering scheduled passenger and cargo services to Asia, North America, Australia, Europe and Africa, using a fleet of more than 140 wide-body aircraft.
* Cathay Pacific is a member of the Swire group and has made substantial investments to develop Hong Kong as one of the world's leading global transportation hubs.  The airline is a founder member of the oneworld global alliance.
* In the last three years, it has made significant product enhancements having consulted with its Marco Polo members and other customers. This has included introducing a new long-haul Economy, Premium Economy, award-winning Business Class and a refreshed first-class cabin.
* Significant ground product developments have also been made in Cathay Pacific’s flagship airport lounges, including The Wing, The Pier and the introduction of The Bridge in Hong Kong. In addition, Cathay Pacific introduced its fifth daily flight between London and Hong Kong providing 35 flights per week in 2013, and at the end of 2014 launched its new route from Manchester to Hong Kong which flies four times per week.