

Proms in the Park: Caerphilly Schools Celebration

An outdoor evening of music featuring local school choirs, orchestras, and young performers. Male voice choir and ladies' choir. Caerphilly Community Choir. Welsh folk and World music (drums)

Event Overview

Proms in the Park: Caerphilly Schools Celebration would bring families, residents, and visitors together for a welcoming open-air concert celebrating the musical talent of local children and young people. Inspired by the tradition of community proms events, the programme would combine uplifting choral performances, orchestral arrangements, familiar classics, and a closing sing-along suitable for all ages.

Suggested Programme

- Opening fanfare performed by a combined schools orchestra.
- Primary school choir showcase featuring joyful, accessible songs.
- Secondary school orchestra performance with film, musical theatre, or classical favourites.
- Massed choir item bringing together pupils from across the borough.
- Community sing-along with flags, picnic blankets, and family participation.
- Finale featuring choir and orchestra together for a celebratory closing number.

Practical Considerations

- **Venue:** A central outdoor location in Caerphilly with space for staging, audience picnics, and safe arrival and departure – Owain Glyndwr Playing Fields.
- **Performers:** School choirs, youth orchestras, music service ensembles, and guest community musicians.
- **Audience:** Families, school communities, local residents, and visitors looking for an inclusive cultural event.
- **Accessibility:** Clear signage, accessible viewing areas, suitable toilets, and family-friendly stewarding.
- **Weather planning:** Covered stage provision, wet-weather guidance, and clear communication before the event.
- **Timing:** Early July would be the best time, as exams would be over and children would have time to rehearse.

Promotional Copy

Pack a picnic, bring your flags, and enjoy a memorable evening of music as Caerphilly's young singers and musicians take centre stage. Featuring school choirs, orchestras, and a grand community finale, Proms in the Park: Caerphilly Schools Celebration would be a joyful showcase of local talent and a perfect summer event for the whole family.

Annex A

Proposal for Proms in the Park

A tentative event plan to scope out the shape of the event

Proposal: Proms in the Park Caerphilly

A community music celebration featuring school choirs and orchestras

Executive Summary

This proposal sets out a plan to stage a family-friendly Proms in the Park event in Caerphilly, celebrating young musical talent through performances by local school choirs, youth orchestras and community ensembles for example Male Voice Choirs and Ladies Choirs and Community Choirs. The event would build on Caerphilly's previous association with outdoor Proms-style concerts at Owain Glyndŵr Playing Fields, including past BBC Proms in the Park celebrations that drew large audiences and used the setting near Caerphilly Castle as a distinctive backdrop.

The proposed event would combine accessible classical music, popular favourites, Welsh cultural identity and opportunities for children and young people to perform on a professional-style stage. It would support music education, strengthen links between schools and the wider community, and create a positive civic occasion for residents, families and visitors.

Proposal Objectives

- Showcase the musical achievements of Caerphilly's school choirs, orchestras and young performers.
- Create an inclusive cultural event that is welcoming to families, older residents and visitors.
- Encourage participation in music education and raise the profile of school music departments.
- Provide a high-quality outdoor event that celebrates local identity, Welsh music and shared community pride.
- Develop partnership opportunities between schools, Caerphilly County Borough Council, arts organisations, local businesses and community groups.

Event Concept

The event would be an open-air evening concert in a park setting, with audiences encouraged to bring picnic rugs, low chairs and flags. The programme would follow the spirit of a traditional Proms celebration while placing local schools at the centre of the event. Performances could

include massed school choirs, school orchestras, youth wind bands, brass ensembles, string groups and invited community musicians.

A suitable venue could be Owain Glyndŵr Playing Fields, subject to permissions, availability and site assessment. This location has a recognised history of hosting large community events and past Proms-style concerts, with the nearby Caerphilly Castle helping to create a memorable sense of place.

Proposed Programme

Time	Programme Element	Description
4:30pm	Gates open	Audience arrival, picnic area opens, school displays and community stalls available.
5:30pm	Community stage	Short performances from individual schools, small ensembles and young soloists.
6:45pm	Welcome and opening fanfare	Opening remarks from civic representatives and a youth brass or wind ensemble.
7:00pm	Main concert	Massed school choir, school orchestras and invited community musicians perform accessible classical and popular repertoire.
8:30pm	Proms finale	Audience sing-along, Welsh favourites, flag-waving finale and closing acknowledgements.
9:00pm	Close	Managed audience departure and site clear-down begins.

Participation and Education

Schools would be invited to participate through a structured performance pathway. This could include a shared repertoire pack, rehearsal tracks, school-based rehearsals, area rehearsals and a final massed rehearsal before the event. The approach would allow pupils of different ages and abilities to participate while ensuring the final performance is coordinated, confident and enjoyable.

The event could also include music education workshops in the weeks leading up to the concert, such as conducting introductions, instrumental demonstrations, singing technique sessions, composition activities and mentoring from older students or local professional musicians.

Operational Requirements

- Event permissions, site hire and licensing arrangements.
- Stage, sound, lighting, power and backline suitable for choirs and orchestral groups.
- Covered performance areas or weather contingency arrangements for performers and equipment.

- Safeguarding procedures for all participating children and young people.
- First aid, stewarding, crowd management and emergency planning.
- Accessible toilets, audience welfare facilities and clear site signage.
- Transport planning, including park-and-ride options, public transport advice and accessible parking.
- Risk assessments covering weather, ground conditions, electrical equipment, crowd flow and pupil supervision.

Budget Framework

Cost Area	Indicative Items
Production	Stage, sound, lighting, power, technical crew and equipment hire.
Site and operations	Venue hire, fencing, toilets, waste management, signage and site infrastructure.
Safety and compliance	First aid, security, stewarding, licensing, insurance and risk management.
Education and participation	Rehearsal materials, workshop leaders, conductor fees and transport support for schools.
Marketing	Design, print, local advertising, school communications and digital promotion.
Contingency	Weather mitigation, additional staffing and unexpected operational costs.

Funding and Income Opportunities

- Local authority cultural or community event funding.
- Arts, heritage, education or youth participation grants.
- Business sponsorship packages linked to stage branding, programme listings or community recognition.
- Ticket income, with consideration given to affordable family pricing and free or subsidised access for children or charity donations on the night.
- Food and drink concession fees, subject to site rules and licensing.
- Donations or fundraising activity through participating schools and community partners.

Risk Management

Key risks include poor weather, low ticket sales, transport congestion, safeguarding pressures, performer availability and technical disruption. These risks can be managed through early planning, a clear event safety management plan, strong school communications, robust rehearsal coordination, contingency budgets, and suitable wet-weather provisions for performers and essential equipment.

Indicative Timeline

Stage	Activity
6–9 months before	Confirm lead partners, venue, permissions, budget assumptions and funding approach.
4–6 months before	Invite schools, appoint musical director, agree repertoire and open sponsorship conversations.
2–4 months before	Begin rehearsals, confirm suppliers, launch publicity and finalise event management plans.
1 month before	Hold combined rehearsals, confirm running order, brief schools and test operational plans.
Event week	Complete site build, final safety checks, performer briefings and public communications.
After event	Evaluate attendance, participation, audience feedback, educational impact and financial outcome.

Recommended Next Steps

1. Establish a small steering group including school music leads, event officers and community representatives.
2. Undertake an initial feasibility assessment for Owain Glyndŵr Playing Fields and any alternative venues.
3. Prepare a draft budget with three options: modest, standard and enhanced production levels.
4. Contact schools to assess likely participation numbers, musical capacity and rehearsal needs.
5. Identify potential funders and sponsors before committing to final event scale.
6. Agree a target date that avoids major school examination periods and conflicting local events.