

David Marcou

██████████
██████████
Watlington, Oxon, OX49 ██████████

Tel: ██████████

Email: ██████████

NIKHIL DALLY

My first meeting with Nikhil Dally was in 1998, when I observed him introducing a group of Hertfordshire school children to the music and magic of the Gamelan. It was clear from the outset that I was in the presence of a skilled and dedicated music educator, whose knowledge of and enthusiasm for his subject engaged his audience from the very beginning of the session. Nikhil's organisation and communication skills enable pupils with no previous experience to establish a secure foundation for music making together in a very short time, regardless of their ages.

Nikhil Dally was appointed Gamelan Co-ordinator for Berkshire Maestros (formerly Berkshire Young Musicians Trust) in 1999. He was responsible for every aspect of the Gamelan programme in schools, from initial contact with music teachers to delivery of workshop sessions and final performances. His organisation and administration skills are first class, and have won high praise from heads of music grateful for his expertise.

Nikhil always puts the needs and interests of his pupils before all other considerations. Although many of the Berkshire-based school workshops were "one offs" Nikhil established a musical base for pupils to build on, even if there was no immediate prospect of follow up sessions. He is an outstanding teacher, and I have the greatest admiration for his work.

David Marcou

Principal Berkshire Maestros 1996 – 2007

NIKHIL DALLY REFERENCE.

I met Nikhil about seven years ago at the Festival Hall. He was tutoring a gamelan course, on which I was a student. Prior to Nikhil's workshop, I had played gamelan before and done two other courses, but had no real understanding of the structure of the music. During that workshop I became increasingly impressed by Nikhil's teaching method and by the end of the day, I had achieved for the first time, a real understanding of the structure. The memory of Nikhil's workshop stayed with me, and two years later, after I had initiated the purchase of a gamelan for the Hertfordshire Music Service, I engaged him to run it. I have never regretted that decision.

It has been a complicated business setting up the gamelan project. The schools had to be informed of our new acquisition, workshops set up, inset courses organised and lately a scheme for gamelan residencies initiated. and Nikhil has organised it all. Music Education is as much about organisation as music I feel. Unfortunately many musicians are poor organisers. Nikhil combines great administrative/organisational ability with musicianship. He is meticulous about detail.

More importantly perhaps he can also teach! I have watched him lead Special Needs groups, Top Infants classes, Years 3-6, GCSE/AL students and groups of music teachers. His teaching is excellent at all levels. His method is practical and aurally based. He is imaginative in his approach, very clear and each lesson is immaculately prepared. The success of these workshops is reflected in the evaluation sheets we ask visiting schools/groups to complete. They are full of praise. The success of our project is the result then of commitment and sheer hard work. Nikhil has put in many hours at home (on various leaflets and publicity) as well as on the computer at the Music Centre, to get the whole enterprise underway.

It must be clear from the above, that I feel Nikhil Dally is a great asset to the Music Service and I know that John Witchell, the County Music Adviser, shares my view. His skills as a musician range far beyond the gamelan. I know he is an excellent and experienced keyboard player, a composer and that he has a good knowledge of Music Theatre.

I am quite sure that Nikhil would be successful in any educational musical enterprise. He is firm in his handling of children but they enjoy his teaching, because the musical outcomes are always good. [REDACTED]



SYLVIA DOWNES.
AREA MUSIC PRINCIPAL