

Documentary

Touch Trust and Welsh National Opera collaborate on a documentary about their work together.

Musicians from WNO regularly visit us at Touch Trust to make music with our guests. Some of the singers in the WNO Chorus have undertaken our certificate training course and one of them – Simon Curtis – has formed a choir that regularly fundraises on behalf of Touch Trust. WNO's Dramaturg Simon Rees is also a frequent visitor to Touch Trust with his amazing collection of unusual instruments which always intrigue and amuse our guests and we always receive tickets for our guests to attend dress rehearsals of WNO's performances. We have worked on several projects with WNO's MAX Department which have resulted in award-winning DVDs and, as a result of all of these collaborations, we have a very special relationship with the opera.

Last autumn, Touch Trust was invited by Welsh National Opera to make a documentary about the collaborative work we do together. Penny Simpson – Head of Media at WNO – introduced us to Davina Payne the Director of Davina Media who was to make the documentary and we discussed with her at length what we all hoped to achieve. We all agreed that the Touch Trust College of the Arts would be the focus of the film.

Davina came to watch our six students at work to get a real feel for the group, the personalities within it and the way in which the WNO musicians integrated into their programme. She decided to follow the group over a month-long period focussing on three particular students.

The filming began on 26 February 2009 in the Touch Trust suite at Wales Millennium Centre and the students were joined by Baritone Owen Webb, Trumpeter Dean Wright and Trombonist Roger Cutts. Over the following weeks, Davina and her team filmed the students during their activities which included lots of music-making with visitors from WNO, a visit to the Hilton Hotel in Cardiff for a day of cooking with their chef and a day at the beach.

The finished film – Touching Lives – is beautiful and fully captures the work being done in the Touch Trust College and the unique relationship we have with WNO.

To view the film, visit WNO's website at www.wno.org.uk/touchtrust