# DAISY Music Braille Project: News & Call for Help

By email: 03 October 2019

From: Sarah Morley Wilkins, Project Manager, DAISY Music Braille Project

Dear friends,

1) Project News round-up  
  
Autumn is here (in Europe at least) so it must be the end of Quarter 3… and  we thought you might like a short update on what’s been happening in the project since our Geneva meeting at the end of May:

* Secured a great Steering Group - announcement already circulated.
* Received further funding from NLB of $11,000.
* Received funding from the Norwegian Association of the Blind of $34,000.
* Held talks with other agencies about their potential funding of the project, in cash and/or in kind.
* Drafted a project plan, timetable, budget and fundraising proposal - ready to be reviewed by Steering Group then will be shared with potential funders.
* Met with DZB to discuss arrangements for the technical development of Hodder and estimated costs.
* Identified additional User Requirements for Interactive User Tools and proposed priorities ready for survey to be created for consultation.
* Updated guidelines for Engravers using Sibelius to get good MusicXML export ready for trial.
* Ongoing submission of examples and proposals to DZB for Hodder improvements, which are being made.
* Reported MusicXML export issues to Sibelius and requested fixes.
* Discussed Global Virtual Competence Network with SBS ready for survey to be created for consultation.
* Ongoing discussions with two developers of MusicXML/Music Braille tools, in Vietnam and Switzerland.
* Ongoing discussions about our potential participation in an international Music Engravers’ Conference: <https://www.uni-mozarteum.at/en/kunst/music-engraving-conference.php>

2) Call for help with Hodder  
  
a) Testing Hodder: Could you test Hodder, especially right now for MusicXML import, and/or later testing new and improved features as they’re announced? Please reply and let me know. Thank you if you’ve already offered.  
  
b) Translating Hodder: Could you translate the Hodder interface into the language your country needs? DZB will provide the necessary text in German and English. Please reply and let me know.

## 3) Update on research into access to music education for 15-16 year olds - from Harry Cox, University of Birmingham, UK (full report attached)

"As part of my QTVI *[Qualified Teacher of the Visually Impaired]* course I chose to research music braille and the subsequent factors that either inhibited or facilitated learning. A large number of people involved with the VI Forum and DAISY Consortium were kind enough to contribute to my survey. Now that my assignment has been graded, I am allowed to release the data along with a copy of my assignment. Although it is unlikely that there are any surprises for you, please feel free to use the information to support any work that you are doing, but I would be grateful if you would reference any citations as I am currently waiting for my overall grade to be ratified by the board. Thank you, Harry”. *Note: Harry is also preparing resources to support teachers: writing a teaching pack which will be donated to RNIB for publication, and is also working with the Amber Trust in a video series that they are producing on music tuition with the blind.*

Thanks to you all for your continued support and engagement,

Sarah, Arne and Haipeng.

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