

One year after Paul Harvey's Four Notes captured the nation's hearts, he fulfils a lifelong ambition by conducting the BBC Philharmonic playing his composition

- **2020 saw 81-year-old concert pianist, composer and music teacher, Paul Harvey, playing his spontaneous Four Notes composition on BBC Breakfast. Paul lives with dementia.**
- **Four Notes was recorded virtually by the BBC Philharmonic last Autumn**
- **Music for Dementia has worked with the BBC Philharmonic to help Paul fulfil a lifelong dream of conducting a symphony orchestra**
- **Paul conducts the BBC Philharmonic in person as they play two of his compositions and also plays piano with the orchestra.**

A year after Paul Harvey played his Four Notes composition on BBC Breakfast, Music for Dementia teamed up with the BBC Philharmonic to help him fulfil a longstanding dream of conducting a symphony orchestra. It resulted in an emotional and spine-tingling afternoon, with Paul conducting the BBC Philharmonic playing two of his compositions and also playing the piano with the orchestra.

Many will remember seeing 81-year-old Paul Harvey on BBC Breakfast after his son, Nick, videoed his spontaneous Four Notes composition, which went viral across social media in September 2020. It was arranged by a BBC Philharmonic player, Daniel Whibley and recorded virtually by the BBC Philharmonic in October 2020 in the height of lockdown.

To celebrate the one-year anniversary of the viral video, The Utley Foundation's campaign, Music for Dementia, asked the BBC Philharmonic if it could help Paul fulfil his ambition of conducting a symphony orchestra and the answer was a resounding 'yes'.

Paul was overwhelmed but delighted when Nick broke the news to him and went on to enjoy an emotional afternoon, during which he conducted both Four Notes, while his son Nick played the piano, and also an older composition of his called Where's the Sunshine. He was also given the opportunity to play Four Notes on the piano, alongside the 45-strong orchestra.

In addition, Paul was also able to enjoy his very first plane journey thanks to Music for Dementia, which worked in conjunction with the BBC Philharmonic to make his trip to Manchester as special as possible.

Campaign Director at Music for Dementia, Grace Meadows said: "We thought that Paul conducting the BBC Philharmonic and playing piano with the orchestra would be a fitting way to celebrate this one-year milestone in his journey and we're really proud to be a part of it. What was so fantastic about this was watching Paul being defined not by his condition, but by his musical talent. We could see from the joy on his face how much this means to him. We hope it shows that many people with dementia can continue to follow their dreams, and experience happy and fulfilling moments."

Nick Harvey said: "When I told dad he would be playing with the BBC Philharmonic he burst into tears. He was completely overwhelmed. The experience has been a pure delight for him. It has also been a real thrill for me and my two brothers, as we were able to accompany him and see him fulfilling his dream. When he was conducting and playing with the orchestra, he was completely in his element. What an incredible year it has been for dad. We hope his story inspires other families and carers to use music to evoke memories, relieve anxiety and bring joy to people's lives, wherever they are at with their dementia journey."

BBC Philharmonic Director, Simon Webb said: "The BBC Philharmonic makes music to bring people together. After the lockdown success of Paul Harvey's Four Notes we were thrilled to meet Paul in person for the first time, performing with him in our studio in Salford to celebrate the impact the

first recording has had on dementia patients in the UK, and to keep raising the awareness of the power of music and musicians in people's lives."

Music for Dementia was introduced to Paul and Nick, when their BBC Breakfast TV appearance caught the eye of philanthropists Sir Tom and Lady Marion, who then made a donation to them of £1m. Paul and Nick subsequently nominated Music for Dementia to receive £500,000 grant to offer to musical services working with people with dementia throughout the UK.

There are 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK today and Music for Dementia is campaigning for music to be an integral part of dementia care. It believes that everyone living with dementia should be able to access music and musical services to improve their quality of life and wellbeing.

Paul's recording with the BBC Philharmonic was first broadcast on BBC Radio 4 (Paddy O'Connell's Broadcasting House) on Sunday 3 October and covered by BBC Breakfast on Monday 4 October. Both pieces of coverage can be found on BBC Sounds and BBC iPlayer respectively.

Music for Dementia is a national campaign to make music an integral part of dementia care in the UK. There is no cure for dementia, but there is something readily available and easily affordable that can help – that thing is music. The campaign is calling for people living with dementia to have access to music as part of their daily care. Add your voice to the campaign to show that you believe in the power of music for people living with dementia by visiting www.musicfordementia.org.uk

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For further media information or to set up interviews please contact Paula Hunter or Sam Jones at Big Bang PR on Paula@bigbangpr.co.uk 07739 989915 or sam@bigbangpr.co.uk 07531 625233.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

About Paul & Nick Harvey

Paul Harvey is a former classical pianist and music teacher, now in his 80s, who lives with dementia. His spontaneous Four Notes composition, videoed by his son Nick, went viral across social media in September 2020; it was orchestrated by a BBC Philharmonic player and recorded by the BBC Philharmonic in October, then made available as a single. Music for Dementia was nominated by the father and son to receive half of the sales proceeds alongside Alzheimer's Society.

About Music for Dementia

[Music for Dementia](http://www.musicfordementia.org.uk), funded by The Utley Foundation, campaigns for people with dementia to have music as an integral part of their care whatever their circumstances. We are calling on the music industry, philanthropists, and the health and social care sectors to help make this possible.

The campaign offers several invaluable resources for people living with dementia and their carers:

[M4d Radio](#) – launched in June 2020 to bring meaningful music direct into people's homes, this group of five online radio stations plays tunes from the 30s to the 70s. m4d Radio won two dementia care awards in 2020.

[The Musical Guide](#) – a 2-page leaflet listing a range of musical activities for people with dementia and their carers to incorporate into the lives during COVID-19 and beyond.

About The Utley Foundation

[The Utley Foundation](#) was founded in 2014 by Neil and Nicky Utley. The Foundation exists to advance social causes and to act as a catalyst for greater funding and wider action for the causes it supports. Music is a personal passion of the founders and trustees and underpins many of the key funding areas of interest to the foundation. The trust has other charitable objectives including Armed Forces Veterans, Children and Overseas Aid.