



Name: Jack Moore

Age: 15

Participation Project: Cumbria; Kendall & Keswick

**What instrument(s) do you play?**

Mainly alto sax, but I also play the drums, bass and tenor sax.

**Tell us about yourself - How did you begin playing your instrument?**

I went to the music centre where I live in Cockermouth one morning around the age of 7 and heard the senior sax group playing. After hearing them, I went to a music shop with my parents and bought one!

**When did you first discover jazz? What drew you to the sound of it?**

I listened to it from a fairly young age because that was the music my parents listened to but my interest mainly came from my lessons where I began playing jazz standards rather than classical pieces. One particular thing I remember is practising jazz and adding extra notes in - that's the kind of thing I couldn't do with classical music!

**Have you completed any of your jazz grades?**

Yes, I've completed my jazz sax grade 8 with Trinity, having done up to grade 5 with ABRSM.

**Other than music, what subjects are you interested in?**

I quite like science based things: physics, chemistry and computing.

**What did you learn most from the NYJO workshop(s) you took part in?**

I picked up the importance of listening to other people in the group. It definitely helped with reading in-between the notes. It also helped with interacting with others in the group.

**How easy would you say it is to access opportunities like the workshop(s) in your local area?**

Things like the workshop don't generally happen as often as it does in other cities like Manchester where there's probably a lot going on. There's not much in Cocker mouth and it's a 40-min drive to access anything jazz-related. This must put some people off and as there's so many classical music opportunities here, people end up doing that.

**How important do you think it is to a young musician to be exposed to live music of different genres and styles and from musicians at the top of their field?**

It's very important to listen to all genres because it gives useful ideas for your own music. And it's a way to learn vocabulary in a musical sense which is good for soloing. As for seeing the best musicians – seeing them do solos in the flesh is the best motivation to go away and get good too!

**How important would you say it is to have a performance at the end of a project?**

It's really good to have one like we did with NYJO. When there's other people that can listen to what you've been working on and you can see they're enjoying it, it feels really good.

**How does playing music affect your social life?**

It just makes you more social. There were definitely relationships formed with other members during the two projects. On the workshop in Kendall, there was no-one I knew but on the final day, I arrived early and ended up having a jam with the double bassist and guitar player before the show. That's the good thing about jazz - you don't have to have music in front of you to play.

**What would you say to a musician who is just starting out on an instrument like you did?**

Mainly to try and go to as many jazz events to meet other players around and learn how to do jazz styles of playing. Also, go to as many jam sessions as that's where you can really get into the music. Lastly, learning any style of music develops really good transferable skills: there's the technical stuff like hand eye co-ordination I've learnt from playing the drums, but also social skills and listening skills that you need to communicate with the band.

**Do you want to be in NYJO?**

Yes, if ever the opportunity arises I would definitely take it!