Better World Showcase 2018

Demonstrating how the Faculty of Science & Engineering is Making a Difference

The Robot Orchestra

Initiative

The Robot Orchestra is led by Professor Danielle George and funded by EPSRC, Siemens and The Granada Foundation. Young people learn computer coding and recycle things to make robot instruments which are linked together by a robotic conductor to play music. Students from the Music Department taught children how to compose music for the Robot Orchestra to play. It has involved working with the Halle orchestra, a 'Brighter Sound' soul band and hip hop singer and a robotic Ed Sheeran to produce free shows in the local community, at the Trafford Centre, Manchester Science Festival and Lowry Theatre. It then toured the UK with Professor Danielle George’s ‘Hack Your Home’ show and featured in a BBC iPlayer documentary ‘Can a Robot Replace Ed Sheeran?’ presented by Radio 1 DJ Greg James and including Professor Noel Sharkey from Robot Wars. Behind the Scenes footage of the Robot Orchestra appears on BBC Make it Digital website. It features in a music video ‘What if … Robots Replaced Teachers?’ to relaunch the BBC Microbit. It has a good profile on social media (@robotsmcr) and gains the most views each month whenever it appears on the University's Facebook.

How the Robot Orchestra Collective has Made a Difference

The Robot Orchestra outreach project involves everyone! Primary, secondary, sixth form and university students, engineers and musicians in industry and academia, volunteers, museums and the media. Everyone uses their skills and experiences to create a project that is very different. It is a citizen engineering project so people work in a different way. It encourages young people’s interest in engineering by involving them in the making process, showing it is creative and fun and providing role models. Around 40% of engineering jobs in the UK are unfilled. We are inspiring the next generation of engineers through the use of music.

Can a Robot Replace Ed Sheeran?
http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04sxvgw

Vote for the person or project you feel is doing the most to Make a Difference