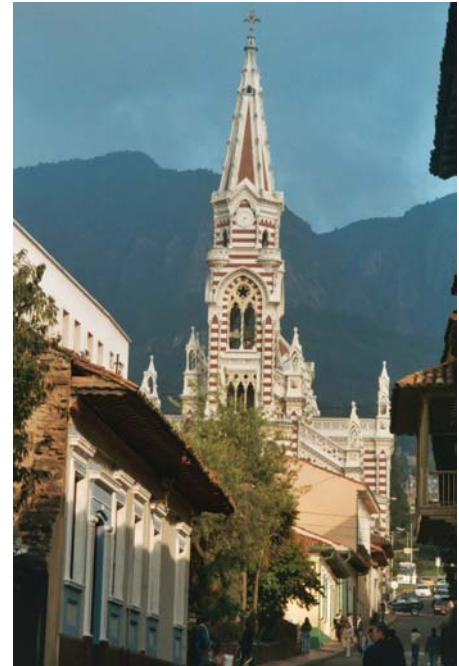


## COLOMBIA - JULIA BOWEN & CHRISTINE WRIGHT

During March we were very fortunate to be included in a trip to Colombia, South America, with other staff from local Music Services in the South-West focusing on creativity, teaching and learning.



We saw many schools from the state and private sector, mainstream and special visiting Bogota and Medellin.



The dedication patience and commitment of all the teachers was humbling.



In Medellin we visited an institution for adult learners and children where we saw performances of dance, singing and instrumental ensembles. A memorable quote from one adult learner was:

**"Music is in my blood and now I have life in my veins"**



It was the Music project in Medellin that was particularly outstanding and one that made a great impact on the whole group.



Medellin was and still is a city with drug problems. The project was set up in 1996 to entice children in the local areas off the streets and into a music school where they are taught to learn an instrument, sing and receive social education. With over 22 schools set up the project has flourished so much so, that their top orchestra has reached an exceptionally high standard.

"In all this dynamics the teacher plays a fundamental role, because first of all he must be a great human being, comprehensive, amiable and ready to the service of the student, the school and the programme"



As a result of our admiration for the project, the Federation of Music Services and the British Council were persuaded to contribute to Juan's airfare and accommodation to attend the FMS conference held in Bristol in May. Here he was able to talk directly to staff from Music services across the UK and share his ideas and philosophies. It is hoped that the Youth Orchestra will be able to visit the UK in the near future. We certainly recommend attending one of their concerts! Watch this space!