



Spitalfields Music report to City of London Educational Trust Learning & Participation Programme 2017- 2018

Summary - September 2017- August 2018

Spitalfields Music is extremely grateful to the City of London Educational Trust for its generous support towards our Learning & Participation Programme in 2017-18. With the Trust's support, from September 2017- August 2018 we delivered 180 free and inclusive creative project sessions in schools, care homes, public spaces and community centres across Tower Hamlets, reaching over 5,000 people of all ages and backgrounds.

The 2017-18 programme centred on our local area of Tower Hamlets, a borough with the highest rates of poverty amongst children and the older population in the UK, and facing significant ongoing challenges around educational attainment, aspiration, employability, and community cohesion. Our inspiring music projects aim to build participants' skills and confidence, and bring disparate groups together through positive shared experiences that celebrate the talent and creativity within us all. Having undertaken a thorough evaluation of the programme this year against our aims, we are delighted to share with you this end-of-year report, reflecting on the projects' successes and outcomes. We simply could not have achieved this without the support of our funders like the City of London Educational Trust and we hope you enjoy reading more about the impact your funding had on the lives of people in East London this year.

Our Aims 2017-18:

- **Support learning** through projects connected to the curriculum;
- Build pupils' **confidence, teamwork and social skills** through group music-making;
- **Inspire** children through experiences they would not otherwise encounter;
- **Involve parents** in their children's education;
- **Support schools** to build dynamic, inclusive and supportive communities.

Key achievements in 2017-18

- Worked with 13 schools, including one Special Educational Needs school, 21 libraries and community centres.
- Trained 28 young musicians to work as music leaders in education and community settings.
- Offered specialist sessions to 63 parents and 34 members of staff, supporting them to use music with young children at home.
- Won a prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society of Music award for *Schumann Street* and *Schumann Street Reimagined* projects.
- Delivered projects in partnership with the London Symphony Orchestra, Drake Music, Royal Academy of Music, Opera North and Tower Hamlets Arts and Music Education Service (THAMES).

Projects from September 2017-August 2018:

The Big Sing | January – May 2018 | 3 massed rehearsals, 1 performance, 94 students performing, 600+ people watching

Aims

- To build skills and enjoyment in singing;
- To raise musical aspirations of students through inspirational massed singing experiences;
- To provide teachers with a range of new warm-ups and songs to use in their own practice;
- To provide teachers with a peer network to share and develop practice;
- To continue to raise the profile of singing in secondary schools.

How we met those aims



In 2018 we delivered a series of professionally led singing workshops with young people from six local secondary schools, including Phoenix (below), where students learned songs ranging from the White Stripes to Bizet's *Carmen* to Clean Bandit! On Thursday 10th May, the students came together to perform in an energetic show in Spitalfields Market. An INSET day supported teachers to build skills and confidence in choral leading, ensuring ongoing impact.

Participants said:

"I gained more confidence in general, not just on stage"

"[I liked] that we could join other schools and perform all together"

"It was the best concert we've ever done."

"[I liked] being able to sing in a massive choir because it felt so powerful"

"A year ago I would have rated my confidence as 1 out of 10 but now because of Big Sing I feel confident."

Teachers said:

"This is a fantastic project which gives the boys in my small choir the opportunity to perform with a larger group of enthusiastic singers. There is a lot of stigma around singing at my school so it is wonderful for them to see that singing is normal and that lots of other people enjoy it too!" – Music Teacher, Stepney Green Maths and Computing College

"I found this to be a hugely rewarding project. Jessie & Patrick were excellent leads, engaging and tireless in pursuit of excellence." – Music Teacher, St Paul's Way Trust School

"The students' confidence has grown over the year and as a result many would like to continue choir next year. The Big Sing also helped with promoting the school in a positive way. Parents are very happy their child performed in public and they were able to come and watch for free." – Music Teacher, Raines Foundation

Phoenix School project | January – May 2018 | 4 sessions, 1 assembly performance, 24 students performing, 100 watching

Aims

- Support the schools' Expressive Arts Programme which aims 'to encourage self-expression, develop self-awareness and improve self-esteem;
- Increase pupils' confidence and instil a greater belief in their own ability to make change;
- Support the development of pupil's communication, language and social skills, through working together as a team and communicating their ideas to the rest of the group;
- Develop pupils' musical and creative skills, and their confidence to express themselves creatively;
- Build valuable life skills, incl. meeting and working with new people, travelling to external venues and encountering unfamiliar spaces.

How we met those aims



In 2018 we supported 24 students with autism from Phoenix School to take part in our Big Sing 2018. Students created their own original piece, entitled *I Climb the Mountain*, in four sessions with specialist music leaders through a group composition process. They also took part in three large-scale Singing Days with peers from five local mainstream secondary schools, before performing to their entire school and at Spitalfields Market.

Students had the opportunity to express themselves in new ways through song-writing and performance. They were also supported to interact with and collaborate with classmates and peers from other schools, building their social skills and encouraging them to try new things in a safe environment. We were blown away by the musical and creative skill demonstrated by their original song and the confidence they displayed when performing – this was commented on by teachers and many audience members alike.

On writing their own song:

"Students have been singing the song back to me in lessons this week. It was great for our students to have ownership over a song, it built up their confidence." Teacher at Phoenix School

"Can I please just say another HUGE THANK YOU to the Spitalfields Music team! ...it has been an absolute pleasure and treat to work with such amazing people! The kids had such a great time the quote of the day was from Nathon, who on the way to the tube said 'Such a great day yeah..' Thank you so very much to you all!" Beth – Music Teacher at Phoenix School

Schumann Street Reimagined | October – December 2017 | 14 sessions, 4 performances, 71 children performing, 700 watching

Aims

- Give KS2 children a unique and inspiring experience of singing and song-writing, raising aspirations through access to new types of music and professional artists;
- Empower children's self-expression and creative skills through a supportive process which values each participants' ideas, and offers new constructive ways to express themselves;
- Develop children's social and teamwork skills through a collaborative song-writing experience, with pupils working together to create and perform their own music that they are collectively proud of;
- Enrich schools' music curriculum learning and teachers' confidence in using creative activities with pupils to enhance educational attainment;
- Support schools to build supportive, engaged communities by connecting with other schools, engaging families, and showcasing their pupils' work to the public.

How we met those aims



71 pupils from three Year 4 classes took part in creative sessions during the Autumn term, working with experienced music leaders to create their own songs and words inspired by Robert Schumann's *Dichterliebe*. They came together on Friday 8 December to perform their original music, alongside renditions by international artists involved in the 5* *Schumann Street* finale of Spitalfields Music Festival 2017.

Over four weekly sessions in October – December 2017 the children worked with specialist music leaders and professional artists to explore themes of love and family through Schumann's music, contributing their own ideas and words which became full collaborative songs.

The project opened with professional level performances of the material by two professional classical singers, and during the weeks they met and performed with world-class professional artists from a huge range of genres including folk singer Sam Amidon, oud player Saied Silbak, guitarist Aart Strootman and classical tenor Rob Murray; broadening their musical horizons and raising their aspirations.



Once created, each class performed their song in a school assembly alongside their *Schumann Street* song-cycle artist, sharing their work and introducing the music to their peers and teachers. In December all three classes, music leaders and *Schumann Street* artists came together to share and perform their songs as a full song-cycle to a 200+ strong audience of family, peers (including 90 pupils from other local primary schools) and public at Rich Mix on Friday 8 December 2017. Pupils commented that the performance element "felt amazing", "made me feel brave", and "gave a good feeling because people liked our music".

“I felt really proud as a teacher... nearly cried!” Class teacher, Osmani Primary School

The collaborative music-making sessions certainly built up trust and teamwork within classes. Warm-up games involved eye contact and trust-building, which music leaders observed as “powerful” and “positive”.

Teachers increased their confidence in using creative activities with pupils: Osmani class teacher Saleha is using games we brought as a reward for good behaviour and to regain focus in the classroom. The teachers supported learning of songs between sessions through playing and singing songs with children in class. They continue to do so – the Osmani pupils even recently performed some of their creations from the project in their school concert.

Schumann Street case study: Subair

Subair was a new pupil at Shapla Primary School, having joined just after October half-term. He found school very difficult at first and was very shy, finding it hard to make friends. But, through the course of the project, he started putting his hand up during class discussions, offering ideas for words and tunes for the songs. He started getting more confident, enjoying singing and feeling more able to collaborate with his new class mates.

By the end of the project, he volunteered to sing a solo in the final public performance in front of an audience of 200, an amazing achievement. His parents came to the performance and were particularly surprised and delighted by his confidence to sing a solo. Class teachers have now reported that he has lots of new friends and a new-found confidence to share his ideas – the project opened up a whole new side to Subair.

Soundbox: Inclusive Ensemble | Jan – July 2018 | 12 sessions, 2 performances, 15 participants

Aims

- Improve skills in music, particularly creative composition, music technology and performance; raise musical aspirations and ambitions;
- Develop wider key skills such as communication, team-work, collaboration and leadership;
- Increase awareness of and sensitivity to disabilities;
- Establish a social and mutually supportive group; increase cohesion between young people from different backgrounds and with different abilities.

How we met those aims

We offered fortnightly Saturday inclusive music sessions for local disabled and non-disabled young people aged 14-25, offering a vital opportunity for disabled young people to work as equals with their



peers. The sessions were led by experienced workshop leader and percussionist Jez Wiles, supported by professional musicians from Spitalfields Music, Drake Music, the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) and Tower Hamlets Arts and Music Education Service (THAMES). Participants were also supported by carers and a dedicated pastoral support worker.

In each 2.5-hour session, participants worked together, in small groups and one-to-one to explore music-making and create their own pieces using a wide range of traditional musical instruments and cutting edge music technology which enabled young people of all abilities and experience to participate equally.

The sessions led up to two brilliant public performances as part of the local Music Hub's Easter and Summer sharings, seeing the ensemble perform alongside peers from the Big Band, Brass Ensemble and Community Choir. Soundbox stood out in these performances as the only group creating their own original music, which has since inspired a number of other young musicians and ensembles to give composition a go themselves. This also marked the Tower Hamlets Music Hub's first inclusive provision, and through continued upskilling of their music tutors, we are ensuring legacy and ongoing provision of this kind in future.

The ensemble were also invited to perform at the London Symphony Orchestra's Create & Friends event on 20th July, a wonderful concert of community performers which took place at LSO St Luke's.

Feedback from participants (through online post-project survey)

"My confidence is increasing and I smiled at our last performance when I saw the audience. The music sessions help my anxiety to decrease."

"I like to sit next to other young musicians and listen to how they play. Sometimes I reach out to hold their hand as a way to connect."

"The musicians really help to find out ways I can join in. They take some of my movements and incorporate them into the music. I like this."

"Everybody got to know each other really well and there was a lot of camaraderie."

"Soundbox is unique and allows me to work with other young musicians like me as well as my peers."

"It's brilliant and inspiring. Truly amazing music making."

Musical Rumpus | Autumn 2017 | 45 shows, 2,603 audience members

Aims

- Bring high-quality opera to **over 2,000 children and their families;**
- Support children's **creative, social and emotional development**, and encourage **imaginative** thinking and musical play;
- Support parent-child **bonding and music-making**; support learning of English language (a second language for many families we reach);
- **Build new audiences** for classical music in east London;
- **Support local venues** to provide music activities for young children.

How we met those aims



Musical Rumpus is our award-winning series of opera productions reimagined for young children, which tours to libraries and community centres in culturally isolated areas of East London. In 2017 we revived our Spring 2017 show, *Fogonogo*, which tells the story of a sad volcano and the experiments of scientists Mica and Feldspar. We toured the show to libraries and children's centres across East London and Europe, reaching 1,155 children and over 1,200 adults.

The production was designed to immerse the audience of young children and parents in a multi-sensory world of sights, sounds and textures. Through the use of props, instruments, hand-held percussion and imaginative set design, Musical Rumpus supported children's creative, social and cognitive development, while giving many of them their first experience of high-quality live music.

"I spoke to many parents who really appreciated attending a performance that wasn't 'dumbed down' - lots of parents seemed to find it refreshing to see something that was musically and dramatically challenging." Artist

"I loved having the space to make a quiet interaction with a weeks old baby who was holding my finger and copying my faces. It felt so nice to know that freeplay didn't have to be extrovert, and her mother said it was the first time she'd been so engaged in something like that." Artist

"Yusuf was very captivated by the whole thing which was nice as he usually doesn't sit still!" Parent

"Brilliant, how wonderful to have opera and not nursery rhymes" Parent

"I now want to use more musical instruments at home" Parent

Trainee Music Leaders scheme | September 2017 – July 2018 | 5 trainees, 23 Skills Lab participants

Aims

- To support talented emerging musicians to establish successful careers in music leading;
- To increase the diversity of the music leader workforce;
- To create greater infrastructure for music leader training across the UK and increase provision of skilled music leaders in the regions;
- To ensure that music leaders in community/education settings are highly skilled and experienced, ensuring that music projects have a positive impact on beneficiaries of all ages and backgrounds.

How we met those aims



The Trainee Music Leaders Scheme underpins all of the work we do in educational settings, and provides vital training for the next generation of Music Leaders, ensuring that Spitalfields Music's legacy of high quality music education can continue in communities across London and the UK.

Last year we offered traineeships to five talented young musicians, two of which were in partnership with London Symphony Orchestra and Opera North. The scheme provided them with a bespoke year-long programme of training, mentoring and hands-on experience in supporting and leading music workshops in community and education settings. The Trainees worked with experienced leaders on several projects before working together to devise and deliver their own project with pupils at Cannon Barnett and St Matthias Primary Schools in June 2018.

Thank you

Spitalfields Music would like to thank the City of London Educational Trust for their crucial support of our Learning and Participation Projects over so many years. Without your support these projects would not have been possible and would not have enabled so many young people to experience this level of music-making.

As a charity, we receive just 21% of our income from core public funding, less than 20% from ticket income, and we must fundraise a huge amount each year to continue our work. These projects are only possible due to the support of charitable trusts, donors and livery companies and we are extremely grateful for your support. We hope you enjoyed reading this report about the impact of your support, and we look forward to keeping in touch.

