



**Mid-grant report for City of London
[Funding agreement 2013/14 – 2015/16]**

1. Introduction

City of London and Spitalfields Music have a three year funding agreement with a grant of £45,000 per year for 2013/14 - 2015/16. This report marks the mid-point in the grant and is an update to the Culture Committee. It also precedes a proposal later on in 2014 to the Culture Committee and with its approval then to the Finance Grants Committee requesting a renewal of this grant for 2016/17 – 2018/19.

2. Context – City of London and Spitalfields Music

Spitalfields Music has received grants from the City of London since 1996 to support the full range of the charity's work including its two annual music festivals and its year round Learning and Participation Programme.

Spitalfields Music has strong relationships with other City arts charities and a distinctive role to play within the City's arts portfolio. Through regular dialogue with City partners, Spitalfields ensures that it can bring something distinctive to the portfolio both in terms of geography and its creative approach.

Spitalfields Music was founded in 1976; five years later it established its year-round Learning and Participation Programme. Now it reaches a live audience of 30,000 people, a broadcast audience of c. 1.2million and offers c. 250 music workshops each year in Tower Hamlets, Barking & Dagenham and Newham for participants aged 6 months – 97 years old.

The aim of the charity is to change lives and aspirations through music in east London. Its reputation and unique characteristic is that its festivals and its Learning and Participation Programme have equal status for the charity and these two aspects have a strong influence on each other. World-class artists and local people are at the heart of both.

3. Highlights and achievements in the past 18 months

Spitalfields Music is riding high artistically. In April 2014 the charity was shortlisted for two prestigious awards – the Royal Philharmonic Society Awards and the Civic Society Awards – for its work bringing the highest quality music to audiences in east London.

Over the past 2 years we have extended our geographical reach and are now working regularly in Barking & Dagenham and Newham in partnership with the two local authorities through their library and community centre networks.

In 2014/15 Spitalfields Music's work will move to a national scale as we begin a two year programme working with four arts partners in English regions (south east, north east, south west and east) to transfer our models of working with the very young through music.

The charity is now seen in two lights:

- As a creative charity for east London for the benefit of the widest range of people in this part of the city.
- As a model of arts practice whose ways of working can be adopted by others or applied in other parts of the UK.

In 2013/14 the charity's turnover exceeded £1million for the first time, which places statutory grants at 12.5% of turnover and the City of London's grant at 4.5% of turnover. We raise or earn over £19 for every £1 given by the City of London.

In the past three years, our audiences have increased by 30% and media coverage has increased by 100%.

In 2014 Spitalfields Music marks 25 years of its Learning and Participation Programme with a programme of celebration and a fundraising campaign. In 2016 the charity will mark its 40th anniversary.

4. Corporate and strategic implications – how Spitalfields Music connects with the City's corporate strategy

Spitalfields Music's work supports the City of London's Strategic aims, particularly KPP4 and KPP5 in the following ways:

- Working as a part of the City community bringing business and communities together, particularly around Spitalfields where the two now overlap and live very much alongside each other

[Example – In June 2014 we will produce a major event called *Crowd Out*. This brings together 1000 people from the City and east London – a project in which people from very different backgrounds will rehearse and create a new piece of music together.]

- Working with partners and neighbours to promote employability and provide jobs and growth

[Example – We are part of the Tower Hamlets Apprentice Network offering 12 month apprenticeships and our programme works together with the formal and informal education sectors to increase hard and soft skills in participants.]

- Contributing to the City of London's focus on high quality education, through an extensive programme of activity for young people and adults both in formal and informal settings

[Example – Around 60% of our year-round programme focuses on young people and music-education. We are making a significant contribution to the City's education offer to east London, particularly in Tower Hamlets, Barking & Dagenham and Newham.]

- Helping increase the City's cultural and heritage offer for the life of London and the nation

[Example – our programme throws a spotlight on the City and east London, offers a cultural programme to local communities and draws Londoners into our part of the city. Recently our programme has established itself nationally and is now transferring activity to other regions in England.]

We also support the City of London's values:

- The best of the old with the best of the new – the focus of our programme is on the historic and contemporary
- The right services in the right place – we bring music to people in their own community, rather than requiring them to come to a centre point which we have defined. This ensures that we can reach a wide range of people.
- Working in partnership – everything we do is through partnership – for example Royal London Hospital, Barking Libraries, Providence Row, Crisis, Spitalfields Farm, East End Homes

5. Conclusion and next steps

Spitalfields Music has had a very successful 18 months since the beginning of the City of London's current grant. With support from the City of London matching Arts Council England and London Borough of Tower Hamlets' grants, this provides a small but crucial base for the charity's other income streams. We are continually struck by how companies and livery companies see the City of London's grant as a kite-mark to help them decide whether to support our work.

It is proposed that Spitalfields Music prepares a grant application to the City of London in autumn 2014 requesting support for its plans for 2016/17 – 2018/19. This will be brought to the Culture Committee for comment and recommendation before going to the Finance Grants Committee.

Appendix - our 2014/15 programme

Festivals

- **Winter Festival 5th – 15th December 2014**
Including The Sixteen, The English Concert, Le Concert Spirituel, Fretwork, Siglo di Oro, Diotima Quartet, two new shows by Claudia Molitor and Alan Gilbey, two musical restaurant evenings, Joanna Macgregor and Andy Sheppard, two shows for families – Musical Rumpus and Alles (a dance show for 5–11 year olds).
- **Takeover Festival April 2015**
Pupils from Cherry Trees, Osmani and Stewart Headlam Schools will curate a week-long festival.
- **Summer Festival 5th – 21st June 2015**
La Nuova Musica and Shabaka Hutchings will be Associate Artists. The middle weekend will focus on a street party made by the community around Hanbury Street (which links Brick Lane and Whitechapel High Street).

Festivals take place in 11 different venues and locations in Spitalfields. The music presented by Spitalfields Music is primarily early and contemporary music, often unusual in some way and brings together world-class artists with chances for local people to perform. No matter who is performing, they will be treated in the same way and profiled equally. Tickets are priced so that anyone can attend. A third of tickets are free or £5. Our regular audiences have donated the value of 1000 free tickets in the past 2 years, which we give to local residents who have not previously attended an event and who might not have the means to do so.

Touring

- **Musical Rumpus on tour November 2014** in east London, the Sage Gateshead and Pegasus Theatre Oxford. *The Fairy Queen in the Forest* with OAE Experience and Genesis Sixteen.
- **Musical Rumpus on tour May 2015** in east London, Brighton Festival and Wiltshire Music Centre. New production with La Nuova Musica.

Learning and Participation Programme

There are three strands to this programme in 2014/15: Young People, Community, Training of music leaders. About 60% of the work is with young people and the remaining 40% is split between the other two areas.

Young People

- **0–5s:** Touring shows for 0-5s and their families, and a year-round programme in the Royal London Hospital working with young patients and their families.
- **In School:** Neighbourhood Schools programme includes 8 local schools in a series of listening, composing and performing projects.
- **Out of School:** Focusing on teenagers with disabilities and creating projects which allow them to engage with music alongside their peers. We will also create a version of Dido and Aeneas with Unicorn Theatre with teenagers from Tower Hamlets.

Community

- Year-round community choir – Women Sing East.
- Crowd Out follow-up project for all participants.
- Midsummer Street Party around Hanbury Street, produced in collaboration with Housing Associations and Youth Groups.

Training

- 12 month training programme for 26 musicians who want to work in education and community settings.