

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Culture, Heritage & Libraries	02 July 2012
Subject: City of London Festival 2012 Winter Free Events Programme	Public
Report of: Director of Culture, Heritage & Libraries	For Information
<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>The City of London Festival has presented a brief report on its 2012 Winter Free Events Programme, comprising 11 concerts whose overall attendance figures registered a 12% increase on the previous year.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members are asked to note to contents of the report and endorse its presentation of a successful programme of events. 	

Main Report

Background

1. Following on from the Governance Review, the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee has taken over responsibility for the oversight of the City of London Festival. In March 2012 the Committee approved the Festival budget for 2013-14 and it will periodically receive reports on the Festival's activities. The purpose of this report is to introduce the Festival's report on its 2012 Winter Free Events programme.

Current Position

2. The Festival, through its management board the City Arts Trust, receives two discrete blocks of funding from the Corporation. Its major grant (now set at the level of £297,000) supports the Festival's core ticketed programme, while a smaller grant (£87,676) is devoted to a programme of free outdoor events. This smaller grant is itself divided between a summer programme, running alongside the core Festival, and a freestanding winter programme. In 2011/12, a sum of £26,399 was allocated from the smaller grant to underwrite the Winter Free Events.
3. The attached document is the Festival's report on its 2011/12 Winter programme. It speaks for itself but a few key points may be brought out:
 - The Winter programme was delivered through 11 lunchtime concerts held at six venues between 24 January and 3 April 2012, covering classical, jazz, world, folk and contemporary music

- The concerts were well-attended and received positive feedback; the total audience numbers were 2197, an average of 199 per event
- Attendance figures showed a 12% increase overall on the previous year.

Conclusion

4. The Festival's Winter Free Events programme continues to add a valued dimension to the cultural provision within the Square Mile for relatively modest outlay. A further series of eleven concerts is planned for January-March 2013. Members are asked to note to contents of the report and endorse its presentation of a successful programme for Winter 2012.

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