



## PRESS RELEASE

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# Spitalfields Music launches reinvigorated Artist Development Programme with support from Help Musicians UK

Spitalfields Music is delighted to have been selected as one of 20 recipients of the inaugural **Help Musicians UK (HMUK)** National Grants Programme. The charity will be receiving three years' funding towards its sector-leading artist development projects.

The grant will enable the expansion of Spitalfields Music's **Trainee Music Leader scheme**, which supports young musicians to develop the skills and experience to begin careers as workshop leaders in education and community settings. Over the past fourteen years, the scheme has launched the careers of some of the UK's leading music leaders including Sam Glazer, Jessie Maryon Davies, and Abimaro Gunnell. With HMUK's support, the scheme will increase its intake to eight by 2018 and expand its recruitment nationally, to engage a more diverse group of musicians.

The programme also includes the second year of the **Open Call** initiative, building on a successful pilot supported by PRS for Music Foundation in 2016. Three music creators from any genre and career stage will receive the time, resources and support to develop ambitious ideas and stretch their practice, leading up to work-in-progress sharings each Spring.

Spitalfields Music Chief Executive **Eleanor Gussman** comments: "We are thrilled to be working with Help Musicians UK at this pivotal point in Spitalfields Music's development, as we launch our reinvigorated vision that places artists truly at the heart of our work, and aims to be even more diverse in the artists and communities we work with. Having celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016, this three-year project is a statement about our ambitions and aspirations for our work going forward, and we are delighted that HMUK are able to support us in this vision."

**Richard Robinson**, Help Musicians UK Chief Executive added: "Supporting and enabling these organisations to develop and grow reflects HMUK's commitment to sustaining the sector and ensuring that there continues to be innovative and impactful opportunities for music makers across the UK. The combined investment of £1.7m over three years will ensure that more musicians can be reached in areas of the UK where we have had little impact in the past."

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## **Notes to Editors**

A creative charity based in Tower Hamlets, **Spitalfields Music** provides high quality, relevant and inclusive opportunities for people of all ages across east London to engage with music as creators, performers and audiences. Through participatory work, performances and artist development Spitalfields Music creates opportunities for people to learn about themselves and others, and to understand and shape the world around them. Spitalfields Music currently reaches over 30,000 people a year, with participants and audiences ranging in age from newborn to over 90 years old, and enjoys an international reputation for its quality, reach and innovation. Spitalfields Music regularly commissions new music, supports emerging artists, explores how music interacts with other art forms and curates works that challenge, provoke and inspire. The charity's award-winning Learning & Participation programme, which celebrated 25 years in 2014, innovates within the sector, particularly in work for young people (from 0- 8 years-old) and training music leaders. Spitalfields Music is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), and the only NPO working in classical music based in East London.

Website: [spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk](http://spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk) Twitter: @SpitsMusic



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