

PRESS RELEASE
29 January 2014

Spitalfields Music celebrates 25 years of its pioneering Learning & Participation programme throughout 2014

Highlights include:

- **TAKEOVER** at Kobi Nazrul Primary School in March 2014
- *Musical Rumpus: The Mountain Shakers* which tours community centres and libraries in the London Boroughs of Newham, Barking & Dagenham in March and Autumn 2014
- The first year of SHINE, a newly formed extracurricular music course for young people with and without disabilities
- *Crowd Out*, a new work for 1000 voices by David Lang which receives its London premiere as part of Spitalfields Music Summer Festival in June 2014
- Building a new generation of music leaders through the Trainee Music Leaders scheme

Since 1989 Spitalfields Music has run an extensive engagement programme in Tower Hamlets of learning and participation and in 2014 celebrates 25 years of making a difference to East London communities.

Music, in a borough where there are over 50 first languages spoken, has a unique role to play and Spitalfields Music's Learning & Participation programme offers ways for different parts of the community to come together. The programme focuses on schools, communities and continuing professional development and has been an innovator and a catalyst for a number of schemes that have since been taken into larger arts organisations to great success. It offers over 250 workshops to the very young (aged from 2 days-old) to people aged 90+, and draws 95% of its participants from across the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

The programme – which reaches 10,000 people annually, represents 50% of Spitalfields Music's activity and is free for participants – has an impact both on people individually and as communities. It builds musical skills and knowledge and draws creativity from participants. Beyond this, our research has shown that the programme supports personal, social and emotional development as well as increasing self-esteem and confidence in young participants. And over time, the programme has been proven to have an impact on participants' relations to their local community and their personal wellbeing.

Abigail Pogson, Spitalfields Music's Chief Executive said:

"Our Learning & Participation programme was founded in 1989 with the aim of offering the highest quality music to those who might not immediately choose to come to a festival event. Over 25 years the programme has become the charity's centre-point, giving East Londoners of all ages and backgrounds the chance to work with some of the world's leading musicians. I am proud that this programme is known nationally for its innovation and quality as well as the depth of its roots into local life. It seems to me that in 2014 there is more than ever a need for this activity and we are happily looking to the next 25 years of this programme."

In 2014, particular highlights include TAKEOVER, *Musical Rumpus*, SHINE and *Crowd Out*. Spitalfields Music's current and most recent cohort of Trainee Music Leaders will work across all of the projects.

TAKEOVER

In March 2014 Year 3 pupils at Kobi Nazrul Primary School will take over their school for one day and deliver their very own music festival. By giving pupils the chance to programme, produce and perform their unique TAKEOVER day, Spitalfields Music is developing a new model of creative learning in Tower Hamlets. TAKEOVER builds on a successful pilot project in spring 2013 which sought to address a decline in opportunities for pupils to access innovative and immersive creative learning experiences. The project aims to support pupils' personal and educational development – building on their music and life skills, increasing confidence and enhancing community cohesion as well as developing an innovative new model of education practice.

Musical Rumpus

Spitalfields Music's acclaimed series of multi-sensory, interactive opera experiences for babies and toddlers goes on tour again in March 2014. *Musical Rumpus: The Mountain Shakers* is a reimagining of Handel's pastoral opera *Acis and Galatea* by librettist and director Zoë Palmer, arranger and musical director Sam Glazer, and designer Sophia Lovell Smith. *The Mountain Shakers* is the fourth Early Years music commission for the *Musical Rumpus* series, and will visit community centres and libraries throughout Barking & Dagenham and Newham, and in June 2014 will also be performed at the Royal Opera House.

In autumn 2014 the *Musical Rumpus* series will embark on a newly commissioned production which will tour to libraries in Barking & Dagenham, community venues in Newham and venues across the UK including Sage Gateshead and Pegasus Theatre, Oxford.

SHINE

Research* indicates that participation in the arts, particularly music activities, gives children and young people with special education needs (SEN) unique opportunities for communicating and connecting with their non-disabled peers and wider community.

SHINE is a new out-of-school music project for young people with and without disabilities in Tower Hamlets. The project – designed, developed and delivered by Spitalfields Music in partnership with Drake Music and Toynbee Hall – gives young people with learning disabilities aged between 14 and 18 years opportunities to learn and compose music, event manage and curate concerts; provide occasions for public showcases to engage families and the wider community and provide training for staff to build skills and confidence in using music in special educational needs settings.

Crowd Out

On 21 June Spitalfields Music presents the London premiere of *Crowd Out*, a new work for 1000 untrained voices written by Pulitzer Prize-winning American composer **David Lang**, conducted by **Simon Halsey**, together with a team of London vocal leaders led by **Isabelle Adams**, choral director of Spitalfields Music's award-winning community opera *We Are Shadows*. *Crowd Out* explores what it feels like to be part of a crowd and the choices people make to either retain or lose their individual identities. The London premiere will be a free public performance at Arnold Circus Bandstand on the historic Boundary Estate,

Crowd Out was commissioned by **Birmingham Contemporary Music Group**, **Spitalfields Music** and the **Education Programme of the Berliner Philharmoniker**. The world premiere will take place on 8 June in Birmingham.

Trainee Music Leaders

Spitalfields Music is at the forefront in the field of training musicians to work in education and community settings – the organisation has been working in this area for over 20 years and is able to offer a very real context for emerging leaders to develop their skills – the results of which now finds voice in organisations across the country. Over 12 months, the Trainee Music Leaders shadow, support and receive mentoring from professional leaders and educationalists, equipping them with the skills and confidence needed to design, deliver and evaluate their own projects. We estimate that each Trainee will reach over 5,000 participants in the first five years of completing the course.

Listings

TAKEOVER

28 March 2014, Kobi Nazrul Primary School, London

Musical Rumpus: The Mountain Shakers

3 March 2014, 10.30am, Altmore Children's Centre
3 March 2014, 2.30pm, Plaistow Primary School and Children's Centre
4 March 2014, 10.30am, Asta Community Links Hub
4 March 2014, 2.00pm, Gallions Primary School
5 March 2014, 10.30am, Chandos East Community Links Hub
5 March 2014, 2.00pm, Rokeby Community Links Hub
10 March 2014, 10.30am, Dagenham Library
10 March 2014, 2.00pm, Valence Library
11 March 2014, 10.30am, Robert Jeyes Library
11 March 2014, 2.00pm, Marks Gate Library
12 March 2014, 10.30am, Barking Learning Centre
12 March 2014, 2.00pm, Thames View Library
6 June 2014, 11.00am, 12.30pm, Rich Mix
7 June 2014, 11.00am, 12.30pm, Rich Mix
17 June 1.00pm & 3.30pm, Royal Opera House, Clore Studio
18 June 11am, 1pm & 3.30pm, Royal Opera House, Clore Studio

SHINE

10 April 2014, Performance, Toynbee Hall

Crowd Out

21 June 2014, 3.30pm and 6.00pm, Arnold Circus Bandstand (part of Spitalfields Music Summer Festival 2014)

Notes to Editors

Spitalfields Music is a creative charity presenting Summer and Winter Festivals and a year-round Learning & Participation programme in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. It reaches over 10,000 people a year, with participants and audiences ranging in age from newborn to over 90 years-old.

World-class artists perform in high-profile twice-yearly music festivals known for artistic excellence, including a commitment to commissioning new music. To ensure access to all, 30% of tickets for Spitalfields Music's two annual festivals are free or £5.

Spitalfields Music was a double winner at the 2012 RPS Music Awards, picking up the RPS Music Award for Learning and Participation for its community opera *We Are Shadows*, and the RPS Music Award for Audiences and Engagement for the ticket initiative Buy One, Donate One.



Crowd Out is commissioned by Birmingham Contemporary Music Group with financial assistance from Arts Council England West Midlands and individuals through BCMG's Sound Investment scheme; Spitalfields Music with major funding support from Arts Council England and financial assistance from its New Music Commission Fund; and the Education Programme of the Berliner Philharmoniker.

*SHIELDS (C.). Music education and mentoring as intervention for at-risk urban adolescents: their self-perceptions, opinions, and attitudes. In: *Journal of Research in Music Education*, vol. 49, no. 3, pp. 273-286. Sage Publications, Inc., 2001.

*HARRISON (C.) & MULLEN (P.). *Reaching Out – music education with 'hard to reach' children and young people*. 2013, UK Association for Music Education.

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