

PRESS RELEASE

5 December 2016

Spitalfields Music opens a new chapter André de Ridder announced as Artistic Curator for Winter Festival 2017

Following a review of its purpose and activities, **Chief Executive Eleanor Gussman** today announces a reinvigorated vision for Spitalfields Music that reflects the changing world in which it operates. Building on the spirit of its founding values, the charity will be ambitious and inclusive, bringing artists, audiences and communities together to **find, explore and share extraordinary music experiences in one of the most vibrant areas of London.**

At the heart of Spitalfields Music's programming will be one annual Winter Festival, led by an Artistic Curator and encompassing exceptional artists and fresh collaborations in beautiful and often surprising venues. Celebrating classical music in its widest sense, the programme will include a renewed commitment to sharing outstanding early music interpretations and groundbreaking contemporary work alongside an ambitious series of site-specific commissions to reimagine seminal works.

The Artistic Curator for the Winter Festival 2017 will be **André de Ridder**, internationally renowned conductor and one of the most influential musicians and curators across genre boundaries in today's musical scene. The Winter Festival 2017 will focus on inclusivity, challenging the perceptions and expectations of the classical sector and raising questions about the ownership of creativity and art. Full details will be announced in early 2017.

Moving to a more flexible model over the summer months, 2017 will build on the Spitalfields Salon series with **Elizabeth Kenny**, one of Europe's leading lute players, as the inaugural curator of a short series of 'in residence' performances in unique and intimate Spitalfields venues. Spitalfields Music will also continue its award-winning year-round programme of work in community and school settings, responding to social and learning needs and empowering local people. Summer 2017 will include a celebration of the Neighbourhood Schools programme and a new commission for Musical Rumpus, the interactive opera series for babies.

In the meantime, Winter Festival 2016 is currently in full swing, marking the culmination of the organisation's 40th anniversary year. This year has seen 15 new commissions, 5,000 local people taking part in free music activities and over 65 performances across East London.

Spitalfields Music Chief Executive Eleanor Gussman commented, 'We are thrilled to be building on our heritage of working with visionary artists. It is a great privilege to be working with André and we look forward to bringing his fantastic ideas to life with our audiences.'

Spitalfields Music's Chairman Professor Maurice Biriotti commented, 'Eleanor and her excellent team have developed a vision for the organisation that is genuinely distinctive and brings together an artist-led approach to programming and our deep commitment to working with communities.'

Artistic Curator André de Ridder commented, 'I love London's East End and was introduced to it through Spitalfields Festival as a student, when Judith Weir was Artistic Director and invited me to perform. Now when I come to London I usually stay in the East End and have watched as the area becomes more and more vibrant. I am very excited to translate this energy into an invigorating multi-faceted music programme. What

Spitalfields Music stands for – creating a festival that is deeply rooted in the area, connecting with the community around it, and making meaningful music performances in the wonderful spaces it inhabits – these are the hallmarks which will allow us to creatively thrive.’

The new model comprises the following programmes of work:

- **Winter Festival**: led by an Artistic Curator; their vision will inform the whole festival.
- **Summer In Residence Performances**: taking high quality music in to the heart of the community through intimate performances in local homes and community spaces, building on the recent Spitalfields Salon series.
- **Commissions**: increased commitment to commissioning high quality innovative work with composers and partners. Recent commissions include *Depart* and David Lang’s *Crowd Out*.
- **Musical Rumpus**: award-winning, interactive and multi-sensory opera series for babies.
- **Neighbourhood Schools**: innovative music projects in local schools to support children’s learning and creativity, school improvement, and parental engagement.
- **Soundbox**: an integrated music ensemble bringing together young people with and without special educational needs in partnership with Drake Music and the London Symphony Orchestra.
- **Living Arts**: an initiative successfully piloted earlier this year to develop person-centred multi-arts work with care home staff and residents, particularly those living with dementia.
- **Open Call**: laboratory-style commissions offering opportunities to challenge compositional practice and explore working in new ways. This programme is currently in its inaugural year with three Works in Progress being showcased during the current Winter Festival.
- **Creative Leadership Programme**: building on Spitalfields Music’s longstanding training programme, this initiative enables musicians to gain the skills and experience to lead creative music workshops in schools and community settings.

Embedded across each of these programmes are the following principals:

Commission & Curate

Spitalfields Music will bring people together to share and enjoy extraordinary musical experiences in the local area working with artists, communities and partners placing classical music in new contexts.

Create & Explore

Spitalfields Music will continue to respond to social, learning and community needs, empowering people to explore and create music, express themselves, come together and grow.

Artist Development

Spitalfields Music will continue to nurture a diverse range of artists, giving them space, time and resources to explore, experiment and push boundaries, and training a new generation of skilled music leaders.

Notes to Editors

Spitalfields Music

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 Twitter: @SpitsMusic

André de Ridder
Conductor

'One of the world's most daring conductors.' Wall Street Journal

Born in Berlin, de Ridder is the Artistic Director of Musica nova Helsinki and founder of the groundbreaking ensemble *stargaze*. He has given premieres of works by Bryce Dessner, Kaija Saariaho, Donnacha Dennehy, Mica Levi, Wolfgang Rihm and Nico Muhly, amongst many others. He is a regular at such festivals as Edinburgh International Festival, Sydney Festival and Holland Festival and conducts such orchestras as New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, BBC Symphony, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony, Orchestre de Paris and the Concertgebouw Orchestra. With *stargaze*, his appearances include Ruhrtriennale with Owen Pallett, Sacrum Profanum Festival with These New Puritans, Holland's Rewire Festival, Paris Philharmonie, BBC Proms and the ensemble's own festival at Volksbühne-Am-Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz. His discography includes Max Richter's *The Four Seasons Recomposed* (DG), works by Bryce Dessner and Jonny Greenwood (DG), and *Africa Express Presents: In C Mali* (Transgressive), a recording he produced of Terry Riley's *In C* with Malian and western artists including Brian Eno and Damon Albarn.

For further press information please contact:

Rebecca Driver Media Relations

Tel: 020 7247 1894

Email: rebecca@rdmr.co.uk | nasarene@rdmr.co.uk | emily@rdmr.co.uk | ruth@rdmr.co.uk

Web: www.rdmr.co.uk



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

