



Concerts and Education & Outreach Programme

Final Report

Background to the project

1. How was the idea for the project developed?

During our previous projects we asked our audiences and participants about further cultural experiences they would see as being beneficial for their local communities. Therefore the ideas for each element of this project were developed directly from feedback and requests from all age groups of our remote, rural communities.

2. Who was involved in the project?

Absolute Classics worked with 36 individuals to deliver the project including internationally acclaimed musicians and vocalists as well as creative professionals, such as a composer, video games developer, conductor and sound engineer for our games music composition element. We also worked with local primary schools, academies and colleges.

3. What were the aims and objectives of the project?

Our project's aims were to work across Dumfries and Galloway to address the lack of opportunities for people living in our remote and rural communities to participate in musical, arts and cultural experiences of a world-class standard. This included reducing the regional lack of further educational and professional skills development opportunities, particularly within music and the arts.

4. How was the funding package assembled?

We were successful in our applications to Creative Scotland and The Holywood Trust for this project, which totalled £35,000. Our Board of trustees approved £5,000 to be ring-fenced for this project. We then applied to LEADER for the remaining £40,000.

5. How much money did LEADER provide?

£40,000.00

The Project Experience

6. When did the project take place?

From 01/07/2016 through to 30/06/2017

7. What actually happened?

Milestone 1 – 1st to 21st July 2016

During July we undertook preparations for the delivery of the project activities.

Milestone 2 – until 22nd August 2016

From August 5th through to 14th 2016, we delivered a stunning and varied programme of classical music concerts across Dumfries and Galloway including:

05/08 Dame Evelyn Glennie (percussion) & Philip Smith (piano) at the Crichton Church, Dumfries

06/08 Sasha Grynyuk (piano) at the Buccleuch & Queensberry Arms Hotel, Thornhill

07/08 Karine Georgian (cello), Anthony Pike (clarinet) & John Lenehan (piano) at the Crichton Church

09/08 Timothy Connor (baritone) & Simon Lepper (piano) at Broughton House, Kirkcudbright

10/08 Benyounes Quartet (string quartet) at the Cally Palace, Gatehouse of Fleet

11/08 Nicky Spence (tenor), Soraya Mafi (soprano) & Simon Lepper (piano) at the Crichton Church

12/08 Kirsten Jenson (cello) & John Thwaites (piano) at the Buccleuch & Queensberry Arms Hotel

13/08 Young People's Recital at the Buccleuch & Queensberry Arms Hotel

13/08 Pumeza Matshikiza (soprano), Nicky Spence (tenor) & Simon Lepper (piano) at the Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries

14/08 Young People's Recital at the Buccleuch & Queensberry Arms Hotel

14/08 Anna Fedorova (piano) at the Crichton Church

99% of respondents from our evaluation questionnaire stated that they would recommend our concerts to friends and family. In addition, 100% of respondents were satisfied with the quality of the event they attended.

The following comments were provided where respondents were given the opportunity to feedback on any issue they felt important:

"Please add any additional comments about any aspect of your experience"

The majority of these comments focus on how fortunate and privileged audiences felt to have the opportunity to experience high quality performances within the region.

"Glad of the opportunity to hear classical music beautifully played and presented."

Respondent 279

"Stunning quality. Amazing for Dumfries to be a venue for such musical excellence."

Respondent 373

"Sublime concert – we are so fortunate to be able to hear & experience this here in Dumfries & Galloway – thank you so much for making it possible. Free tickets for under 26 is also fabulous."

Respondent 381

Many of the comments provided did in fact focus on how positively the respondents felt about Absolute Classics' contribution and impact on their personal and community's wellbeing:

100% felt that the IMP has a positive impact on their wellbeing (yes/no question)

"A time to feel the emotion and ease the mind, wonderful."

Respondent 159

"Very enjoyable concert. They are a ray of light in this area and an inspiration for my children."

Respondent 296

"Hugely beneficial effect on the quality of life in the region"

Respondent 357

99% felt that our concerts have a positive impact on community wellbeing (yes/no question)

“For the future of D&G it’s vital to have events like these to attract potential business developers, entrepreneurs and others who want an intellectually stimulating environment to live in.”

Respondent 234

“Superb quality of music – so encouraging for aspiring local musician and entertaining for the public at large. Keep going and growing.”

Respondent 302

“Fantastic to have such a high standard of classical music in D&G and not having to travel to Edinburgh or Glasgow!”

Respondent 323

Some of the musicians and vocalists performing at the concerts also delivered free masterclasses for local young people under 26, where they experienced a half hour 1-2-1 session of professional tuition on technique and musicianship.



We also provided the opportunity for young talented musicians to attend a 7 day professional residency with Karine Georgian (cello) and John Thwaites (piano) which included intensive tuition and feedback on their performance techniques.

The young people attending the masterclasses and the residencies then had the opportunity to experience performing in a professional recital in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere. Ten of our participants performed during these two concerts.



We received many verbal comments from the participants and their parents who took part in the 1-2-1 masterclasses around how much they value this opportunity. One participant reported that he had never been comfortable taking a piano lesson before this.

Formal feedback from one parent demonstrates how these half hour sessions had a significant and lasting impact:

"That was very nice of Sasha to say that, yes, I think Dylan has potential too - it's sometimes just a challenge trying to channel it ;-). He enjoyed the masterclass very much, I could see that by how focused he was. It's a bit unusual for him to be that focused for that long when being taught - Sasha was very tuned in to him!"



Milestone 3 – until 31st October 2016

During September Slava Sidorenko delivered piano workshops and 1-2-1 masterclasses within Annan Academy and Kirkcudbright Academy. All of these sessions were extremely well received by teachers and students alike:

"Our pupils absolutely loved the sessions, these are just some of the comments:

'It was amazing to hear someone who is that talented, live in front of us'

'He inspired me to go home and practice'

'When can he come back?'

Personally, I thought the workshop was excellent and we feel very fortunate to have been given the opportunity. Slava gave the pupils some invaluable information that will stand them in excellent stead for their respective courses. I felt he really managed to pitch it at their level and everything was placed so well in context. The live performance of music through the periods was brilliant as this is something I think pupils really struggle to understand and recognise. We have looked at the Bach during class and used it for part of the unit work. We hope to look at the Beethoven next term."

Hannah Gill (Kirkcudbright)

"This workshop was of huge benefit to the 60 or so students at Annan Academy who heard his inspirational playing across the 2 sessions that he delivered for us.

In conjunction with Music Staff, Slava played an inspirational and virtuosic programme that spanned over 300 years of musical style and history, from Baroque to twentieth Century.

His commentary was appropriate to the level and both well-judged and delivered to enhance the learning experience and musical understanding of the students.

It also allowed music staff to pick up links in the context of both historical and social context as well as music outcomes from Curriculum for Excellence and National Qualifications."

Jamie Brand – Principal Teacher (Annan)

Also in September, we began our Games Music Composition element, bringing Luci Holland (Games Music Composer) and Stephen Chapman (Games Developer) to Annan once a month to mentor Advanced Highers Music students in composition.

Milestone 4 – until 31st December 2016

We continued our Games Music Composition element and delivered sessions that covered a range of topics focused on theory and practice of music composition, and in particular having control of the building blocks of compositional techniques to create emotion and atmosphere that match a visual stimulus. There was significant interest and dedication generated for the project, which can be demonstrated by the fact that these students attended sessions out of school hours.



“I've been hugely enjoying working with the students and Absolute Classics so far. Even after only three sessions, I feel like the enthusiasm, interest and energy for the project has been fantastic and the students are responding really well, especially to the hands on creative sound making. We've been exploring different avenues of composition and game music at each session so far to experiment and react to what seems to be engaging everyone the most - at some points I've felt the sessions have been a bit "info heavy" however I've been impressed at what the students are remembering month to month which seems to display their interest.

Keeping the course extremely youth led in how they want to present their final pieces has influenced how the course has evolved to support the range of experiences and interests in the group.”

Luci Holland – Games Music Composer

Milestone 5 – until 31st March 2017

During January we brought Rhys Matthews, percussionist, who delivered Samba workshops within a number of schools across the region, including Annan Academy, St Joseph's College, Eaglesfield Primary, St Columba's and Kirkcudbright Academy. Rhys' workshops were an amazing success, with feedback such as:

“Absolutely fantastic. The children thoroughly enjoyed the session. Rhys was a fantastic teacher who motivated and included all the young people.”

Mrs Anderson – Eaglesfield Primary

“This is such a valuable experience for pupils to be able to access professional musicians and after his last visit I was keen for pupils to experience the workshop. Arts are being cut, we are down to 45 minutes a week in S1/2 so it is important for us to raise the profile of music in any way we can.”

Mrs Somerville – St Joseph's College

During February, we brought the Aurea Quartet who delivered a number of successful workshops for local young music students, which explored more advanced aspects of musicianship. Feedback from the teachers demonstrates that our project is highly valued locally, and works to address the gaps in local music education:

“Thank you for a superb series of sessions this morning. By my reckoning 110 students ranging from 12-18 benefited from the programme. There is a massive enthusiasm, particularly from the older students. Interestingly, this is centred on the Bartok piece of which they heard a section at the end. I am delighted by this and they seemed to have really grasped the evolution of the compositional style of the Quartet.

Many thanks for being so responsive to the needs of the varying levels of understanding of the students. We remain hugely grateful for the superb standard of musicianship and support that we receive from Absolute Classics.”

Jamie Brand – Principal Teacher (Annan)



In March, we brought Opera Bohemia to the region to deliver vocal workshops focused around Bizet's 'The Pearl Fishers' and they featured 3 Opera Bohemia soloists with the company's musical director at the piano. Following a short introduction to Opera, they performed a half hour version of 'The Pearl Fishers' sung in English, with the singers stepping out of character to narrate the story. There was some student participation as they helped to direct, pitched some scenarios to the singers for improvisation, and asked questions. It was reported as a fun session that helped the students understand and appreciate more about the world of opera. There were links with elements of the curriculum, musical terms and support for different voice types. Also the students interested in studying performing arts found it useful to chat with the singers, all of whom studied at leading conservatoires.

Our Games Music Composition element continued to deliver 1 session each month until February 2017, with 3 sessions plus a live performance of the final compositions in March. Luci Holland, the Games Music Composer and mentor continued to provide interesting and engaging sessions that have inspired the participants' creativity and enthusiasm for the project. The students created compositions that match a specific scene of the video game provided by our Games Developer, Stephen Chapman. They used Sibelius composition software to each produce a midi file of their pieces, which was used to create their game audio engines, performance scores and parts, and the concert's programme.

The students engaged very well with this project and undertook a considerable amount of work on their compositions in their own time between sessions. The compositions demonstrate their varied interests and approaches to instrumentation, and included a range of instruments for the final performance such as flute, oboe, piano, acoustic guitar, timpani, violin, cello, glockenspiel and vibraphone.

In March we produced a live concert of the students' compositions by professional musicians. Through the support and mentorship provided by this project, these students produced excellent work that demonstrates a mature understanding of compositional theory and techniques, and at the same time they created a sophisticated atmosphere within the performance that was charged with emotional empathy for their audience. This is also evident in the programme notes where each student outlined their personal approach to their compositions. All of the students' feedback has confirmed how important this project was to them and the positive lasting impact:

"I would recommend the experience. It was great, as it gave us all the opportunity to work in a group with everyone else, sharing ideas and helping each other."

"It was enjoyable as it was a very innovative way of learning."

"It gave us the opportunity to experience new ways of composing in a way that related to the real world."

"It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for us and I hope that the opportunity can be given to other students in the future."



Milestone 6 – until 30th June 2017

In May we brought two world-class pianists to the region – Mei Yi Foo and Yuki Negishi to provide further 1-2-1 masterclasses with local young musicians. Participants and their parents all commented on how valuable this opportunity is for the region as they would not otherwise be able to experience 1-2-1 mentorship at this level.

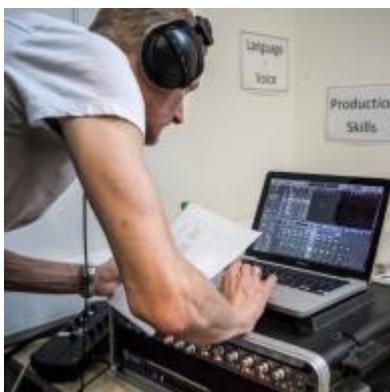


For the Games Music Composition element, the pieces were arranged for a live ensemble recording by a professional recording studio which took place on 8th June. This provided the young composers with the opportunity to experience their pieces being recorded and in addition, they now have a professionally recorded CD of their work which they can include in their resumes.

“It was a really exciting experience and really cool to be a part of.”

“At the end of it I had something to be able to present to somebody later on.”

“I really enjoyed the whole experience. It was great to hear what we had created on computer software being played by a live band. It really topped off the whole experience.”



Masterclass Evaluation Results

We provided the young participants of the 1-2-1 masterclasses with an Evaluation Form to complete if they wanted to provide us with feedback about their experience. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many participants requesting to be informed of any future masterclasses. Please see a summary of the evaluation results below.

- The students' average rating for how much they enjoyed their session was 4.75 out of a best score of 5 for 'Really enjoyed'.
- 100% of the young participants rated the musician as 5 out of a best score of 5 for 'Excellent'.
- 100% stated that they felt their masterclass would help improve their music practice.

The following are some of their responses to the question; [What did you learn today?](#)

"How to put some more colour on the music and when to use the pedal more"

"Breathing – sing long vowels and draw voice together, use full voice and energy

How to build contrast and how to tell story

Exercises to practice to improve range & even out voice"

"The musician helped me with my posture while holding the violin. This was something that needed work and she helped a lot."

"I learned to remember that technical accuracy is as important as acting and storytelling throughout a song. I also learned ways to increase my breath and sing through lines."

"Power with the bow, opening strongly and confidently, string crossing near the bridge and practicing separate hands - just bowing arm then just fingering. AND LOTS MORE!!!"

"4th finger, switching quickly with slurs"

"How to approach playing a piece more maturely and effectively and useful technique tips."

We asked the participants if there was anything else they wanted to [tell us about their experience](#), and some of their responses include:

"The masterclass was really good and the musician was really nice"

"Found it both helpful and enjoyable"

"Friendly teaching and I learnt so much 10/10 experience"

"My first ever music lesson – great opportunity"

"It was motivating and inspiring me to practice more. I would love to come back."

8. How the project fits with the Local Development Strategy

- **Economic focus, increasing sustainability & strengthening rural towns**

Our project increased awareness, local tourism and income generation for the host communities. From independent Economic Impact Evaluation, local spend by our audiences was significantly above the council's expected average. Our concert audiences commented they became aware of local attractions and would return – generating sustainable growth for our rural towns.

- **Positive engagement - young people**

Our masterclasses and workshops with highly successful professionals provided inspiration for the self-motivation and commitment young people need to achieve greater ambition and their own potential, whether pursuing a career in music or any industry. The Games Music Composition element engaged young people in skills development in a way that excites, inspires and speaks to them in a language that has personal relevance.

- **Integration of older people**

Our concerts were attended by a high proportion of older age groups. We supported greater social inclusion by ensuring accessibility for these groups, both geographically and financially.

- **Innovation & collaboration**

Our activities for young people were developed through collaborations with local music departments and tutors and our unique innovative approach is to bring internationally acclaimed musicians to work within our remote communities – overcoming many access barriers. The Games Music Composition's performance and recording showcased the participants' achievements, and they can add this innovative learning experience and creative output to their resumes.

9. How was the project delivered?

The project was overseen by Alex McQuiston – Director and Narelle Freeman – Education Coordinator, who were supported by Absolute Classics' Board of Trustees. The project was delivered locally through:

1. The performance of classical music concerts of the highest international standard within remote D&G communities, with low-cost tickets and free attendance for those under 26.
2. Free workshops and masterclasses for young people under 26 living throughout D&G.
3. Professional Residencies for emerging, talented young musicians
4. Games music composition element that brought creative professionals to the region to mentor young music students in composition and modern multi-media music production, and included a live performance and professional recording of their work.

10. What marketing was undertaken?

Region-wide promotion of the events was undertaken through:

- DnG24 online <http://www.dng.co.uk/13851-2/>
- DGWGO online news <https://dgwgo.com>
- Website www.absoluteclassics.co.uk/whats-on
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/InternationalMusiciansPlatform/>
- Emails to our contact list
- DGWGO online what's on listings <https://dgwgo.com>
- DGWGO online header banner advertising <https://dgwgo.com>
- Dumfries & Galloway Life magazine – August 2016 issue pp102-103

Please see below for examples of these marketing activities

Wigtown Book Festival

International Musicians Platform - BENYOUNES STRING QUARTET IN CONCERT

August 10 @ 7:30 pm



Winners of the 2017 14th International 'Young People' String Quartet Competition in Bulgaria and 2nd prize winners at the 2014 12th International String Quartet Competition - the Benyounes Quartet is gaining a reputation as one of the most engaging, dynamic and successful young quartets to have emerged from the UK in recent years.

International Musicians Platform - TENOR, NICKY SPENCE & SOPRANO, SORAYA MAJI IN CONCERT

August 11 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm



Named as 'Young singer of real promise' by Opera magazine, and featured as a 'Starface of opera' in the Telegraph (2016), Soraya Maji was born in Iraq, studied Music and graduated with Honours from the Royal College of Music. Her national opera school experience, in the last year she has won the Virginia Coward League Competition, The Peter Hubert Choral and Song Awards, Second Prize at The Ashcroft Prize and 2nd Second Prize and Audience Prize at the International Opera Singing Competition.

Named by the Daily Telegraph as 'a voice of real distinction', Nicky Spence is fast emerging as one of 'the finest young singers'. An artist of great integrity, Nicky's unique skills as a singing actor and his own history in the music industry are steadily earning him a place at the top of the profession.

JOIN US 5-14 August 2016

International Musicians Platform

Young people's vocal masterclasses with Nicky Spence and Soraya Maji

August 12 @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm



11 August, 7:30pm
Crichton Memorial Church, Dumfries

TICKETS FROM WWW.ABSOLUTECLASSICS.CO.UK

An extraordinary opportunity for young people of Dumfries and Galloway to experience a Master Class from two of the world's most successful vocalists. Nicky Spence and Soraya Maji, both winners of the 2015 International Songwriting Competition, will provide masterclasses for any young vocalists who wish to attend the event. Tickets are available from the event website.

DANIELLE DE NIESE

International Musicians Platform - CELLIST, KRISTEN JENSON & PIANIST, JOHN THWAITES IN CONCERT

August 12 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm



Winner four professional and three amateur prizes at various international and national competitions across Europe and America, most recently with Ralph Brunsdon at the 2012 International Pro Musica Summer Festival, with Steven Jansen at the 2012 Los Angeles International Music Festival, and with Raphael Hoffmann at the 2010 Mendelssohn Youth Festival. Kristen was selected as a Young Concert Artist for the 2011 Swedish International Lullu-Festival and the 2013 UK International Musicians Platform, and has also received numerous prizes from Wolfgang Strassburg, Anne Sofie von Otter, Alan Civil, Song and Queen Consort.

YOUNG MUSICIANS' CONCERT - all welcome in support of our local youth

August 13 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm



A number of young people from Dumfries and Galloway have recently experienced an extraordinary opportunity to work a Master Class with internationally renowned vocalists who appear in the region's top international festivals. As part of this experience, we are also providing the opportunity to perform in a youth song and folk concert with other young people at the Crichton Memorial Church, Dumfries, on Sunday 13th August at 2pm. All are welcome to join in supporting our talented local youth.

International Musicians Platform - SOPRANO, DANIELLE DE NIESE IN CONCERT

August 13 @ 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm



Danielle de Niese has been featured in 'opera world's top 100' by The Daily Telegraph and 'top 100' in a recent performance. Her 'astonishing vocal' by Opera News, in order to be ranked, she has won gold medals, including the first prize, in singing and has the ability to connect with an easy flow. She regularly appears on the world's most prestigious opera and concert stages and is a prolific recording artist, in particular with her debut album.



Evelyn Glennie



Nicky Spence



Karine Georgian



Danielle de Niese

Stellar line-up

Classical superstars are set to draw the crowds at the 10-day International Musicians Platform

Edinburgh percussion sensation **Dame Evelyn Glennie** will beat the drum for a host of International superstars who will headline a 10-day classical music festival at the beginning of August in some of Dumfries and Galloway's most prestigious venues.

On Friday, 5 August, in the splendour of the Crichton Memorial Church, Evelyn, a triple GRAMMY award-winner and BAFTA nominee, will kick off the 2016 International Musicians Platform which brings world-class classical music to the doorsteps of communities throughout Dumfries and Galloway.

Brought to the region by Absolute Classics – a classical music charity based in Annan which produces an annual festival and concert series at venues from Langholm to Gatehouse of Fleet – the festival has attracted the attention of some of the biggest stars in classical music as well as sponsorship from Dumfries and Galloway's most prestigious corporate venues.

In 2015, Macmillan Hotels came on board to bring events to the Cally Palace in Gatehouse of Fleet. For 2016, support from the Crichton Development Company has opened up a new central Dumfries location for concerts



Kirsten Jenson

throughout the year: the Crichton Memorial Church and the Easterbrook Hall. These venues, together with the Buccleuch and Queensberry Arms Hotel in Thornhill, all now have their own grand pianos in situ, thanks to ongoing sponsorship by Blüthner – one of the world's leading piano makers.

This year's exciting festival takes place between August 5 and 14 and the line-up includes concerts by three of the

biggest stars of the International opera circuit: "opera's coolest soprano" **Danielle de Niese**; the "voice of real distinction" **Nicky Spence**; "a young singer of real promise" **Soraya Mafi**; and rising star of opera **Timothy Connor**.

The 10-day concert programme also includes music by world-acclaimed cellists **Karine Georgian** and **Kirsten Jenson**; Principal Clarinet of the English Chamber Orchestra, **Anthony Pike**; award-winning piano maestros **Sasha Grynyuk**, **John Lenehan**, **Philip Smith**, **Simon Lepper**, **John Thwaites** and one of the world's premier young pianists, **Anna Fedorova**; and four very talented young musicians who are gaining a reputation as one of the most engaging, dynamic and successful young quartets to have emerged from the UK in recent years: **The Benyounes Quartet**.

The International Musicians Platform is committed to the support of young emerging talent. Each year a number of workshops and masterclasses are held for young people to learn from, and experience playing alongside, some of the best classical musicians in the world. The youngsters will also be given a chance to showcase their work during



John McGee, Alex McQuiston and Adam Balchin

'IT IS ALWAYS THRILLING TO BRING SUCH A VARIED RANGE OF HIGH CALIBRE MUSICIANS TO THE REGION'

the festival at two recitals in Thornhill on August 12 and 13.

Absolute Classics director Alex McQuiston said: "Absolute Classics was initially developed to bring world-class musicians to the doorsteps of communities across the region and we are delighted that, not only are we achieving our goals, we are exceeding them each year with the excellence of our musicians, the quality of our venues and the popularity of our concerts.

"We are committed to giving people an all-round classical music experience: the excitement of seeing and hearing some of the most renowned musicians on the international platform in grand, but intimate, settings.

"We are delighted to be introducing the likes of Dame Evelyn to the region. Evelyn is a classical superstar in every way. Her concerts sell out across the world's most prestigious halls and she has performed with the greatest of conductors, orchestras and artists.

"It is always thrilling to bring such a varied range of high calibre musicians to the region. The skill and talent we have lined up this year stands as testament that the best quality classical music is diverse,



Anna Fedorova



Beryounes Quartet

exciting and within the reach of everyone.

"Developing the International Musicians Platform has taken a lot of work and would not have been possible without our dedicated audiences, patrons and trustees as well as the support of the Holywood Trust, Creative Scotland, LEADER, Robertson Trust, Crichton Development Company, McMillan Hotel Group, DG Link, Thrive for Business, DGUnlimited, Dumfries and Galloway Council, the Hugh Fraser Foundation and The Buccleuch and Queensberry Arms Hotel."

The 2016 International Musicians Platform takes place between August 5 and 14. Further information and tickets from www.absoluteclassics.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL MUSICIANS PLATFORM 2016 CONCERT PROGRAMME

Friday, August 5
7.30pm, Crichton Memorial Church, Dumfries: Evelyn Glennie and Philip Smith

Saturday, August 6
7.30pm, Buccleuch and Queensberry Arms Hotel, Thornhill: Sasha Grynyuk

Sunday, August 7
7.30pm, Crichton Memorial Church, Dumfries: Karine Georgian, Anthony Pike and John Lenehan

Tuesday, August 9
7.30pm, Broughton House, Kirkcudbright: Timothy Connor and Simon Lepper

Wednesday, August 10
7.30pm, Cally Palace, Gatehouse of Fleet: Beryounes Quartet

Thursday August 11
7.30pm, Crichton Memorial Church, Dumfries: Soraya Mafi, Nicky Spence and Simon Lepper

Friday, August 12
7.30pm, Buccleuch and Queensberry Arms Hotel, Thornhill: Kirsten Jensen and John Thwaites

Saturday, August 13
2pm, Buccleuch and Queensberry Arms Hotel, Thornhill: Young Artists Recital

Saturday, August 13
7.30pm, Duncan Rooms, Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries: Danielle de Niese, Nicky Spence and Simon Lepper

Sunday, August 14
2pm, Buccleuch and Queensberry Arms, Thornhill: Young Artists Recital

Sunday, August 14
7.30pm, Crichton Memorial Church, Dumfries: Anna Fedorova



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International Musicians Platform

July 11 at 4:12pm

The amazing Dame Evelyn Glennie kicks off a stunning line up of summer concerts on 5 August at Crichton Memorial Church at 7.30pm. Visit <http://www.absoluteclassics.co.uk> for more information
 This programme is part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Union - LEADER 2014-2020 programme.



Like Comment Share

3

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Write a comment...



International Musicians Platform

July 8 at 1:00pm

The truly phenomenal Edinburgh percussionist, Dame Evelyn Glennie, kicks-off this year's International Musicians Platform with a concert on Friday, 5 August at the Crichton Memorial Church, Dumfries, at 7.30pm. Tickets £20/Under 26 FREE. For more information and to book visit: <http://www.absoluteclassics.co.uk/evelyn-glennie.html>
 This programme is part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Union - LEADER 2014-2020 programme.

Evelyn Glennie

"My first experience with percussion was seeing and being inspired by my school orchestra at the age of 12. I knew I needed something else to go alongside my piano playing, which was my main..."

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Like Comment Share

1

1 share



Write a comment...

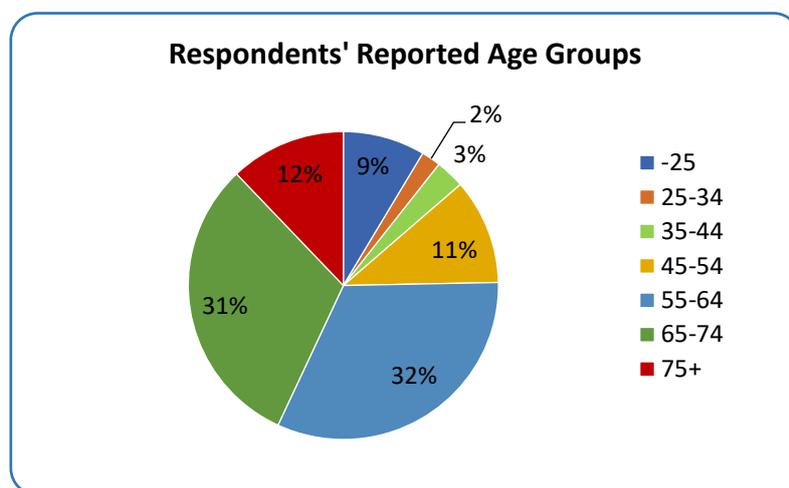


11. Who benefitted from the project?

Concerts

Our project's concerts were attended by people across all age groups and from many localities throughout the region. From our evaluation questionnaire we are able to determine the following about those who benefitted from this part of our project.

The following graph shows the percentage of each age group of the respondents:



The large majority of our audiences reported they live in Scotland, with 81% from Dumfries and Galloway. 15% travelled from throughout the UK to attend our concerts and 1% travelled from elsewhere in the world, including Norway, Canada, India, France and Germany. There was a direct correlation between the town where the venue was held and the increase in audiences from the local area. However many of our respondents reported they travelled throughout the region to attend as many concerts as possible, regardless of their home town.

Education & Outreach Programme

Young people under 26 living throughout Dumfries & Galloway benefitted from these project activities, with the majority from rural communities including Annan, Gretna, Thornhill and Kirkcudbright. The numbers of young people who benefitted from each activity are listed below with the full list of participants provided in our Project Evidence.

Games Music Composition element – 9

Masterclasses – 30

Residencies – 5

Schools Workshops – 762

We delivered workshops for 762 young people under 26 at Annan Academy, St Joseph's College – Dumfries, Kirkcudbright Academy, Kirkcudbright Primary, St. Columba's Primary and Eaglesfield Primary.

12. How did the final budget turn out?

There were issues with cash flow, particularly towards the beginning of the project however these were managed with the support of our Board of Trustees and Treasurer. The final budget totalled exactly what we had originally budgeted for this project. Funding received matched the original budget:

Creative Scotland - £15,000

The Holywood Trust - £20,000

Our Board of trustees approved £5,000 to be ring-fenced for this project

LEADER - £40,000

13. What lessons have been learnt?

Our Games Music Composition element has not been attempted anywhere else and our Education Coordinator had intentionally developed and delivered the project in a way that was driven by ongoing feedback from the participants, and what they thought was important to develop their own creativity. We learnt from this that although the young participants highly valued the experience and the opportunity, there were at times some discord between their expectations and the outcomes.

To address this in future, we will use the *Is this the best it can be?* reflective toolkit produced by Creative Scotland, which provides a perfect framework for overcoming this issue by establishing expectations on a range of important creative and practical issues from the very beginning. We will use the toolkit to ensure that our future young participants always have the opportunity to direct their learning from the outset and that everyone involved are agreed on how we evolve the project to ensure we achieve their creative goals and fully develop their potential.

14. Will the project be mainstreamed or transferred?

We are using the experiences of delivering this project and the learning we have gained to develop our future programmes. Although these experiences will be used, the actual project will not be mainstreamed or transferred.

We used the feedback from our Games Music Composition participants to design one of our 2018 projects and we also incorporated their suggestions for further learning:

- More detail on how music and sound is designed and integrated into video games
- Include practical learning on digital music and sound production
- Production of a large scale live performance, event or tour

Our learning around including participants in the development phases has been applied to our new project's design so that we can determine exactly what they want to learn and build the sessions accordingly. We have also designed our 2018 project in line with the ethos outlined in the King's College's *Towards Cultural Democracy*, by providing an environment where young people are supported by high calibre professionals to be genuinely empowered to create their own culture.

15. Sustainability of the project and/or exit strategy

Our exit strategy centred on maximising the grant funding received to deliver high quality concerts and educational projects to raise our profile and reputation amongst potential sponsors and patrons. This project has successfully generated wider recognition of our work and the benefits we have achieved for the region amongst patrons, sponsors and funders.

This project has also provided us with evidence of the outcomes achieved against our mission and aims, which we can use to demonstrate the success of our approach in generating support and developing further programmes that meet local need and address lack of opportunities for our communities.