

Notes from the first meeting of HQ Music Programming Group

In attendance:

Monty Adkins, June Asquith, Harry Cooper, Rachel Cowgill, Charles Cox, Sarah McWatt, Dave Smith, Dave Walker

Aims of the group

As this was the first meeting, initial discussions related to the group's identity and what its remit will be. To begin with, DS talked about the collections held at Heritage Quay:

British Music Collection (BMC)	Gosling Jazz Archive
Huddersfield Contemporary	Huddersfield Amateur Operatic Society
Music Festival archive	Huddersfield Music Society
Slaithwaite Brass Band	Viol Collection (1,800 LPs)
Goldberg Ensemble	Popular music 1920-40s (CC's collection)

The key things the group wanted to do were;

- Knowledge exchange between academics and audience
- MA – should be about people coming to appreciate BMC and education
- HC – open up BMC to people. Graphical elements should be there to be explored
- SMW – Bringing different collections together
- CC – About to deposit his archive of popular music of the 1920s-1940s so wants to use that + have record recitals
- RC – Academics talking to local communities/ public and scholarly interaction – University very keen on this and ties in with what they already do
- JA – The collections are something for town to be proud of and should be promoted
- Dave W – Interested in the choirs and brass bands of the area and would like to find ways to get them involved

Overall, the consensus was that the group should be finding ways of combining academic research and the rich musical collections of Heritage Quay in ways relevant to local people and music fans. DW made the point that this should not be done at an academic level but should be accessible to all, group was in agreement.

Programming ideas

We then talked about some initial programming ideas. The Lottery bid outlines a pilot event before September 2015, then six events 2015-2016 and six events 2016-2017, with a budget that averages out at £750 per event. The initial ideas we had were;

- The suggestion we talked about the most was to work with local Choirs / ensembles to introduce them to pieces they may not have played before, with the support of academic staff. This music would be predominantly from the BMC but be at the more conventional end of the collection. This could be an event where choir/band leaders are invited to spend the day explore the pieces before going away to practise, ending with a performance in the

Phipps. MA suggested we could offer them a recording of their Phipps performance for them to sell/share as a carrot. Everyone seemed very happy with this as a plan so to be explored in greater detail.

- MA: Something to do with dance (he wasn't offering to perform...) again to be explored
- RC mentioned a Ragtime conference in Spring 2016 which would fit well with CC's collection of popular music
- There was discussion of a Listening Club which is already in the HLF plan. The suggestion was that it should be called a 'Record Recital'. These will be taking place once a month – dates and structure to be discussed by the Programming Group
- There was general discussion about work around brass bands – linked to the Slaithwaite Brass Band collection. SMW mentioned that HCMF are doing a multicultural Brass Band project so there may be some links there. To be explored more in the future.
- There was an idea of the 'BMC on film' – DS suggested horror/halloween and MA had some initial thoughts too. Group to discuss at future meetings to identify pieces/themes which would be interesting to explore and programme – perhaps for HCMF 2016.
- Another potential event idea was around Improvisation /different notations. Using HCMF/Jazz/BMC collections and perhaps exploring 'How to improvise'?
- Composers and food!
- Open evening for ensembles

DS – I have a few ideas that I shared on the day or forgot to that I think are worth exploring

- Conductor taster/masterclass with staff teaching members of the public conducting techniques. Could be combined with something like this <http://thisismn.com/work-by-magnetic-north/bbc-maestro> using the big screen in Heritage Quay for younger people. I am investigating whether we would be able to use this software here
- Event to explore teacher-student relationships in music ie conductors or performers to trace the transfer of skills, techniques and ideas. This could be turned into an adult learning course or could be an event with live/recorded music and a lecture
- Speakeasy using music from CC's collection
- Composing for Kids workshop to on a day with summer
- Classical music open mic nights
- 'Unheard' – working with community orchestras to air forgotten gems, or more generally "Concerts based on old music scores

Exhibition

The Autumn exhibition October-January in Heritage Quay will be the Music collections. It was decided that the Programming Group would have an active role in curating this, perhaps by inviting groups to look at collections and pick stuff. A job for all is to think about how this might work to be planned more thoroughly at the next meeting.

Training needs

There was a short discussion about training opportunities for the group and an interest in Marketing skills (print and social) as well as general training on the collections seemed key. Rob Clegg, the

Collections Access Officer and DS will think about how this might work, either as an info pack or separate session.

Sharing contact information

Email addresses included above

Next meeting: Early July 2015, 17:30-19:30 Heritage Quay.