



Queen Mary
University of London

Developing Music at Queen Mary University of London

A Strategy for Music within
the cultural environment
of the university, 2015-2020

qmul.ac.uk/musicstrategy

Introduction

Queen Mary's location in England's capital city is unique in terms of London's mix of educational and artistic culture. Based around The People's Palace, we belong to a profound history of arts provision which has long enriched and developed the lives of those in London's East End.

From the 1880s to the 1950s, the People's Palace was home to the finest opera (Carl Rosa, Sadlers Wells etc), orchestral music (LSO, LPO, Boyd Neel Orchestra, etc), UK and world premieres (Copland's 'Appalachian Spring', Martinu's fourth symphony, Goosen's second symphony), BBC broadcasts, ballet (Markova and Dolin), theatre and performing arts. Now, as a leading university and formative force in its sector, QMUL is home to the UK's number one-ranked Drama department (REF 2014) and one of the world's leading research centres for music and music development, the Centre for Digital Music (C4DM).

Music possesses the ability to develop and transform lives; it has the power to bring people together in recognised ways; and it fosters transferable skills that are paramount to the betterment of life, opportunity and employability.

This Strategy supports QMUL Strategy (Strategic Aim 5), Arts and Culture Strategy and Public Engagement Strategy.

“Music has a power of forming the character and should therefore be introduced into the education of the young”

(Aristotle)



Members of the QMUL choir.

“...without music, life would be a mistake”

(Friedrich Nietzsche)

“One good thing
about music:
when it hits you,
you feel no pain”

(Bob Marley)

A Strategy for Music, 2015-2020

Mission

- To enrich, inspire and develop QMUL students, staff and the QMUL community

Vision

- To be a beacon of - and leading London music community university for - participation, diversity and performance
- For music to be at the heart of a thriving East London community

Values

- Diverse and inclusive
- Open and accessible
- Progressive, innovative and creative
- Welcoming and engaging
- Love of music and the arts
- Community engagement



Engagement in music encourages:

- QMUL community spirit
- Talent recognition, performance and celebration
- Leadership, team spirit, employability/transferable skills
- Self-discipline and motivation
- Social and cultural awareness as well as a global perspective
- Wellbeing and stress relief
- Regeneration via cultural opportunities and aspiration
- Socialising and bonding.

Queen Mary University of London has...

- The Centre for Digital Music – one of the foremost centres in the world sector for music innovation
- The UK's number one Drama department (REF 2014)
- Some of the best performance spaces in the UK university sector
- A history of supporting arts in the community
- A cosmopolitan global community on and off campus.

Current physical resources:

- Music Centre with medium-sized Music Rehearsal Room and practice facilities
- Pianos and keyboards (two full sized concert grands including Steinway Model D)
- Spaces large enough and appropriate to rehearse in:
 - Great Hall, People's Palace [suitable for large ensembles such as Orchestra, Choir]
 - The Octagon [suitable for large ensembles such as Orchestra, Choir]
 - The Old Library, Whitechapel [suitable for large ensembles such as Orchestra, Choir]
 - Music Rehearsal Room [suitable for small ensembles such as Chamber Ensemble, Big Band, A Cappella, etc].



Members of the Queen Mary Music Society.

Current human resources:

- Director of Music
- Assistance to support the promotion of events from the Service Liaison team
- Artistic Group (representatives from Student Services, the Students' Union, Events, Music Societies, Centre for Digital Music, the Centre for Public Engagement, Drama, Director of Music)
- Instrumental and vocal tutors supported by Music Scholarships
- Additional Ensemble Directors funded by music societies and other sources.

Music Societies:

Music Societies based at both QMUL's Mile End campus and Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry offer a range of music ensembles such as:

- Choirs
- Orchestras
- A Cappella groups
- Chamber groups
- Big Band
- Jazz groups
- ...and new ensembles are being formed to reflect QMUL's rich cultural capacity, such as an Indian Music Group and an Irish Folk Group among others
- Informal bands (rock, jazz, folk etc), singer songwriters and underground creative artists
- Quest Radio (which promotes digital and contemporary styles).



Recent developments are enhancing the student and staff experience. They include:

- Music Scholarships, which have been awarded to students across all years (1st year undergraduates to PhD); the application process revealed the considerable musical talent that exists at QMUL
- Music teaching, which is being offered in a developing range of ways: from paid lessons to those given by current conservatoire students as part of their Teaching Skills modules.

Strategic Aims

“Music is a moral law.
It gives soul to the
universe, wings
to the mind, and
life to everything...
Without music, life
would be an error.”

(Plato)

Strategic Aim 1

To embed music-making at the heart of the QMUL community:

Develop and sustain an exceptional musical environment at QMUL that becomes a beacon of excellence in the university sector. Many students learn a musical instrument, sing or participate in musical activities in their home communities; whilst most choose to study another subject at university, music can continue to be a significant part of their life through participation in music-making and engagement in music activities. The healthy membership of the music societies at QMUL shows that many students and staff value this opportunity.

Objectives:

1. Create a world-class Music Centre
2. Create easily accessible facilities and provide appropriate resources for practice and performance by defining and implementing a policy for Music Centre facilities, including times of availability, access control and a bookings system
3. Develop and implement a policy for musical instrument provision and maintenance for practice and performance
4. Develop sources of income generation to support activity (eg charging for public events, bidding for funds [internal and external]).

Strategic Aim 2

To promote music excellence:

Provide opportunities for students to develop musical skills to the highest levels possible while ensuring support and encouragement across all abilities. The introduction of Music Scholarships and the significant demand for them is one example of the desire of students to develop further. A full range of skills development encompassing initial, intermediate and advanced levels should be supported by appropriate tuition, coaching, direction, and practice and rehearsal facilities.

Objectives:

1. Provide opportunities for students (currently circa 300) to improve their standard of music engagement, embracing:
 - i. Tuition, coaching and direction
 - ii. Improved standards of performance
 - iii. Increasing ambition of repertoire and engagement
2. Promote participation in national music activities (eg National Youth Choir of Great Britain).

Strategic Aim 3

To increase and improve opportunities to engage and perform:

Enrich the community life of the university by offering and supporting music events based on internal and external ensembles. These can include performance opportunities for internal groups as well as other opportunities for cooperative and collaborative events with other music and arts organisations.



Objectives:

1. Support internal and external collaboration to achieve events of high quality and impact by providing advice, guidance and seeking funding where appropriate
2. Develop a coherent and inclusive yearly calendar of music events
3. Develop a balanced and inclusive framework for music provision in university events (i.e. Graduation ceremonies, services, etc)
4. Provide opportunities for all QMUL staff to develop music engagement activities (e.g. singing days, etc)
5. Develop and maintain a Promotion and Marketing Plan in cooperation with Student Services and Marketing and Communications.

Strategic Aim 4

To facilitate a thriving community music programme:

Facilitate a range of activities that contribute to the work of external-facing departments and research groups. In 2014, Music at QMUL has collaborated with external organisations such as the Inside Out Festival, profiled work by the Centre for Digital Music and delivered school workshops.

Objectives:

1. Work with the university's arts and culture programme to develop external funding to support Queen Mary's cultural programming aspirations
2. Develop a mechanism for confirming and recognising links with external organisations together with CPE and VP for PESE
3. Provide musical expertise and relevant support to departments and initiatives that will benefit the cultural impact of the university
4. Provide events for alumni in conjunction with music societies along with Development and Alumni
5. Support and work with music and arts festivals
6. Support niche events for profiling QMUL (press and media).



Strategic Aim 5

To open up music opportunities through inclusivity:

Expand the range of music engagement and events that embrace the diversity of the university community. Examples of this include the formation of an Indian Music Ensemble and an Irish Folk Group as well as support for African Gospel traditions. It is essential to foster a framework that allows for the creation of a wide musical expression.

Objectives:

1. Widen range of musical styles encompassed in university music activities to reflect the diversity and interest of the QMUL community
2. Create a framework to nurture and support a range of music
3. Support associated events such as: skills workshops, masterclasses, talks and lectures, displays and presentations, recording opportunities, radio and digital mediums.

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