

**REPORT TO: ARTS AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE - APRIL 17 2000**

**REPORT ON: MUSIC PLUS INITIATIVE - DUNDEE GUITAR FESTIVAL**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ARTS AND HERITAGE**

**REPORT NO: 242/2000**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To advise members about the Dundee Guitar Festival 2000 programme - a Music Plus initiative.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the Committee approves a grant of £6,000 to the Dundee Guitar Festival, to be met from Music Plus.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 Dundee Guitar Festival receive financial support of £6,000 from Music Plus, which is Dundee City Council's music development initiative. Music Plus is a three year initiative supported by Dundee City Council Arts and Heritage (£20,000), a Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Award (£60,000) and the Social Inclusion Partnership (£10,000). The total cost of the Guitar Festival is approximately £50,000. The balance is made up through ticket income, sponsorship, Discovery Campaign, ERDF, grants from charitable trusts and project support from the Scottish Arts Council. In addition, this year's education programme 'Inventions' received a Millennium Community Chest grant of £1,500.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Music Plus helps to ensure that opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation, specific to music, are readily available to all.

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Music Plus offers a full range of activities which are accessible. Dundee Guitar Festival has specific policies to encourage participation in the event, both in the course and concert programme, including reduced prices for under 18's. All venues used for the course and concert programme are fully accessible.

## **6.0 MAIN TEXT**

6.1 The Dundee Guitar Festival takes place from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> August and this year is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Since 1991 the festival has grown from an ambitious local project, to the UK's most prestigious guitar event, providing a stage for the best of Britain's up and coming talent and attracting well known artists from both the UK and abroad.

6.2 Culturally it provides an event unique to Scotland, which through its standing, improves the city and civic profile in national and international media and attracts people to Dundee from the rest of Scotland and beyond. There are a variety of economic benefits including visitor bed nights, employment opportunities and trade generated at the Guitar Fair.

6.3 The Festival's Artistic Director is Allan Neave. A classical guitarist respected in his field, the strength of the programme owes much to Allan's personal contacts. A small voluntary team supports him.

6.4 The Festival has two parts - a concert programme and a course programme and this year has also embarked on an ambitious education project with support from a millennium Community Chest grant.

6.5 The concert programme features:

- The Landesjugendzupf Gitarre Orchestra on 2<sup>nd</sup> August at Bell Street Music Centre. This is the national, youth guitar orchestra of Germany and their UK tour is supported through the German Government. The Orchestra features 25 young musicians who will also stay on and take part in the Guitar Festival's course programme.
- The Assad Duo on 3<sup>rd</sup> August at Dundee Rep. Billed as the best guitar duo in the world, this is their only Scottish performance and will feature works from their native Brazil.
- Paul Galbraith on 4<sup>th</sup> August at Dundee Rep. A previous BBC Young Musician of the Year, he plays a custom designed 8 string guitar.
- Allan Neave and the Psappha Ensemble on 5<sup>th</sup> August at Dundee Rep. They will be performing the premiere of new works by Gordon McPherson and Audrey Mackie - both Dundee based composers.
- There are also three, free lunchtime concerts, a late night jazz event and a chance for students on the courses to perform on the 6<sup>th</sup> August.

6.6 The course programme takes place at Dudhope Arts Centre and includes:

- An expanded composers course - the only one of its kind in Scotland. The course is being led by Gordon McPherson and includes appearances by James McMillan and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies (who are both giving public lectures at the event).
- A beginners and advanced classical course, improvisation classes and a recording techniques course.
- 'Inventions' is the new education project which is a search in Dundee schools to find ten young composers. The schools are being offered workshops to support the pupils and the ten finalists have the opportunity to have their pieces performed by a range of Dundee music groups.

6.7 The organisers of the event are to be congratulated on the high calibre of artists and tutors appearing at this year's event. The Festival provides an outstanding opportunity for the people of Dundee to learn, participate, hear and enjoy quality musical experiences from artists regarded as the best in their profession.

6.8 The Festival has an excellent website for further information: [www.dundeeguitarfestival.com](http://www.dundeeguitarfestival.com)

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance and Director of Corporate Planning have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None

Director of Arts and Heritage \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_