

Report of Chief Officer for Culture and Sport

Report to Executive Board

Date: 5th March 2014

Subject: Leeds International Piano Competition

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. In January Dame Fanny Waterman addressed Full Council and spoke about the historical success of the International Piano Competition and invited elected members to support the Competition in September 2015
2. Dame Fanny Waterman's specific request was for the City Council to consider granting the Competition free use of the Civic Hall on the two final nights of the Competition in September 2015.
3. The Head of Facilities and Resources is aware of the request and following consultation with the Chief Officer is able to grant free use of the Banquet Hall on these two occasions on the understanding that the event does not proceed beyond midnight. The competition would still be required to pay any marginal costs which arise from the event such as catering and staffing.
4. The Best City Plan defines the main priorities for Leeds to be the best city in the UK. The Leeds International Piano Competition, with its enormous international reputation contributes significantly to the distinctiveness of the cultural offer in the city, furthering Leeds' reputation as the best city for business by getting more people involved in cultural activities and by increasing its international reputation.

Recommendations

5. To note that free use of the Civic Hall has been granted to the Piano Competition in 2015.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To make recommendations to Executive Board following the presentation to full council by Dame Fanny Waterman.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The Leeds International Piano Competition, informally known as The Leeds, takes place every three years. It was founded in 1961 by Marion, Countess of Harewood and Dame Fanny Waterman, who is today its Chairman and Artistic Director. The competition was first held in 1963. Its second competition in 1966 was televised by the BBC and also featured in a documentary also on the BBC produced by John Drummond. Every competition since has been televised. This broadcast has been picked up and relayed internationally. The BBC streamed the 2012 competition making it available worldwide.
- 2.2 There have been 16 instalments of the Competition to date, the first of which was back in 1963 when the first prize was won by British pianist Michael Roll. The Competition has occurred triennially ever since (except notably after 1996 when it was held four years later to coincide with the turn of the millennium), and each time has helped to bring many great pianists to prominence. Rafael Orozco won in 1966, was followed three years later by Radu Lupu in 1969, and whose triumph in turn was followed by that of Murray Perahia in 1972. More great winners followed - Dimitri Alexeev (1975), Michel Dalberto (1978), Ian Hobson (1981), Jon Kimura Parker (1984), Vladimir Ovchinnikov, Artur Pizarro (1990), Ricardo Castro (1993) and Ilya Itin (1996). This high standard has continued into the new century with Alessio Bax (2000), Antti Siirala (2003), Sunwook Kim (2006) and the Competition's first ever female First prize-winner, Sofya Gulyak in 2009.
- 2.3 Competitors who reach the Finals of 'The Leeds' have the opportunity to play a concerto with orchestra in front of a sold-out audience at Leeds Town Hall. The Competition has enjoyed excellent relationships with some of Britain's finest orchestras and their conductors, including the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic with Sir Charles Groves (1963-1975) the BBC Philharmonic with Vernon Handley (1984) and The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Sir Simon Rattle (1987-2000). The Competition has been in partnership with the Hallé and Sir Mark Elder since 2003.
- 2.4 The Leeds International Piano Competition joined World Federation of Music Competitions in 1965 and has been of its most significant members. Of the 120 music competitions in the organisation the Leeds competition is thought of as being in the top two with the Van Cliburn Piano Competition in Fort Worth, Texas.
- 2.5 The Leeds Competition is one of this City's foremost international cultural ambassadors. It has enormous international reach and profile. Its brand is very

important to the City and should be nurtured, not just because it is a great ambassador for the City, but because it is artistically excellent. The competition name contains that of the City, and prize-winners appear in concert halls all over the world with their biographies proclaiming their success in the Leeds competition.

2.6 The 17th competition took place from 26 August to 13 September 2012. The competitors are accompanied by the Halle Orchestra conducted by Mark Elder. Previously, it was accompanied by Sir Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. It has been televised live around the world by the BBC and other national broadcasting organisation. The 2012 competition was televised on BBC4.

2.7 83 competitors were accepted into the 2012 competition and travelled to Leeds from around the world demonstrating the scale and global significance of the event

Countries represented

Australia	1	Belarus	2
Brazil	1	Canada	4
China	3	Cyprus	1
Czech	2	Estonia	2
Finland	2	France	1
Georgia	1	Germany	5
Hungary	1	Italy	7
Japan	2	Korea	4
New Zealand	1	Philippines	1
Poland	1	Russia	11
South Africa	1	Sweden	1
United Kingdom	7	Ukraine	3
United States	5		

3 Main Issues

3.1 In January Dame Fanny Waterman addressed Full Council and spoke about the historical success of the International Piano Competition and invited elected members to support the Competition in September 2015. Dame Fanny Waterman's specific request was for the City Council to consider granting the Competition free use of the Civic Hall on the two final nights of the Competition in September 2015.

3.2 The Head of Facilities and Resources is aware of the request and following consultation with the Chief Officer is able to grant free use of the Banquet Hall on these two occasions on the understanding that the event does not proceed beyond midnight. The competition would still be required to pay any marginal costs which arise from the event such as catering and staffing.

3.3 There is significant cost attached to the Competition. Only £40,000 comes through public funding (Leeds City Council). The remainder is from earned income but mostly through private support.

3.3 Dame Fanny Waterman is singularly responsible for the fundraising for the competition and is currently planning on working through the 2018 competition.

- 3.5 The competition has healthy reserves and although vulnerable to future changes is in a position to operate and deliver a competition in 2015.
- 3.6 The Executive Member for Leisure and Skills and the Head of Arts and Venues have recently visited Dame Fanny Waterman and had discussions around how the City can support, nurture and develop partnerships for the Competition. The meeting also brokered the contact between the competition, Leeds & Partners and the Chamber of Commerce.

4. Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 This report has been produced following conversations with the Administrator of the International Piano Competition.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 This report is for information only therefore an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.
- 4.2.2 A diverse audience is vital to the health event. The Piano Competition supports entrants from around the world. 83 such pianists competed in Leeds in 2012.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 Increasing participation in cultural activity is a core priority for the city.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 Granting free use of the Civic Hall to the Competition will mean a corresponding loss of income to the City from two night's free hire. The continued association with the city is a significant benefit and this investment therefore represents value for money.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 This report is an information report and has no legal implications.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 The Leeds International Piano Competition is a significant event for the City. It is arguably this City's foremost international cultural ambassador. It has greater international reach and profile than any other cultural event we host.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 To note that free use of the Civic Hall has been granted to the Piano Competition in 2015.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.