

Project Name	MUSIC FROM THE ATTIC - KIRKSTALL
Amount applied for	£8,975
Lead Organisation	Music from the Attic
Ward/Neighbourhood	Kirkstall

Community Plan Objective	Best City for Communities
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Project Summary	
<p>The principal aim of MFTA is to bring together new and existing (non-professional) musicians to play and sing, and to develop the musical skills of the members in a safe group environment. MFTA achieves this in our weekly sessions by exposing members to many of the same experiences as any professional band or artist; playing/performing in an ensemble, writing and arranging songs, recording, and staging, promoting and performing concerts. Wellbeing funding will be used on masterclasses, venue and technical hire for events, purchasing own PA equipment, for resources generation and for the delivery of sessions.</p> <p>Our constitution states that our main objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide facilities for the playing of, performances of and tuition of music in a safe group environment. 2. To develop the interests, education and performance of music generally in the North/West Leeds area. 3. To develop and extend the amenities, equipment, musical abilities and facilities of the group. 4. To foster and promote music at all levels within the community providing opportunities for recreation, performance, tuition and social intercourse for its members. 5. To be open to all, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion, physical impairment, sexual orientation, social background or musical ability. <p>As well as the clear health benefits of using the entire body, and deeply using the lungs and voice, many members attest to MFTA's mental health benefits including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased social isolation • Support from the MFTA community, friendship, caring for and helping one another <p>It has now been proved in tests conducted by the University of Nottingham that community singing produces a higher percentage of Endocannabinoids (a natural release of 'feel-good' chemicals) than other activities such as cycling, dancing and other physical exercise.</p> <p>Furthermore, as we are now performing as a 'fully functioning' band, over the last year we have played at a whole host of community-based gigs throughout Leeds, entertaining the elderly, isolated and less privileged, raising money for a number of charities in the process. We are also now engaging with the NHS in delivering music sessions to aid those suffering with dementia.</p>	

When will the project run?
01/04/20 – 21/12/20

How many people can attend?

We have an overall membership of around 40 people, with between 20-30 attending on a weekly basis.

Targets for the project and how success will be measured

MFTA is extremely proud of the fact that it is 'open to all' – something we consistently remind people of on social media and during our gigs. Our Pay What You Want mantra opens up access to culture, and participation in the arts, to all, offering full inclusivity. Also, our home base, Kirkstall Educational Cricket Club, (KECC) has full accessibility to anyone with mobility issues. Sessions are physically intensive, contributing to better physical and mental health of the community, and through the real life experience of being in a band, empower participants, helping them feel included in their local community.

Shows are family friendly and in the tradition of KECC we will continue to welcome people of all ages, backgrounds, race, sexual orientation, gender, religion. Our events are a wonderful coming together of people of all backgrounds.

Maybe some of the comments we have received in writing from the Lord Mayor of Leeds Cllr Eileen Taylor and Rachel Reeves MP give an indication as to our success and the impact we have had on local communities.

How the project will be promoted and/or participation encouraged

Throughout 2019 we played at a variety of events around Leeds, large and small. At each event we always explain who we are and that anyone can join us, letting the audiences know how they can contact us. We also always make a point of pointing out that we receive funding from Leeds City Council (something that Cllr Judith Blake was thrilled about when we mentioned in whilst playing at the Lord Mayor's Charity Dinner in November). In fact one of our catch-phrases now is telling the audience that if they're there, they've already passed the audition to join us! Other notable events in 2019 where we were able to promote MFTA and encourage people to join were when we headlined the prestigious Kirkstall Festival in July and at the Leeds Compassionate City Awards Ceremony in the Civic Hall last December (for which we have already been re-booked for Dec 2020).

We have increased our reach to other community groups by getting further involved with the Jo Cox Foundation, East Street Arts, Hollybush TVA and will soon be having a meeting with Engage Leeds with a view to working with them and have recently struck up a relationship with The Mount, the NHS's service for Leeds Older People Inpatients caring for people with mental health needs such as dementia and learning difficulties. OWLS, HOPS and Westward Care are other organisations we are proud to have helped out with free of charge.

We will continue to seek to increase our reach through collaborations with other community groups, venues and music projects.

MFTA is active on social media with established Twitter, Facebook and Instagram profiles for growing our group and promoting events. We also have good links with BBC Radio Leeds and Made in Leeds TV.

Web: www.musicfromattic.co.uk

Twitter/Instagram: @musicfromattic

Facebook: facebook.com/musicfromtheattic

Exit strategy/How the project will continue after the funding

Beyond the funding period, MFTA will continue to utilise the resources we have built and continue to run sessions on a PWYW basis. We may seek additional from other bodies to extend the growth of our group. However we very much hope that now with a proven track record of how we are benefitting not only our members but audiences from a broad cross-section of communities across the city that the Council will continue to support us.

Financial Information	
Revenue funding requested	£8,975
Total cost of project	£23,524
Match funding/Other funding sources	
Available Funds in Group Bank Account	
Funding received since 2010	

Full Breakdown of Costs			
Item	Wellbeing	Other (with funding body)	Date of Decision
Music Leader (50 weeks @ £120 each)	£3,000	£3,000 (PWYW)	
Rent (50 weeks @ £45 each) 3 hrs/week @ £15/hr	£1,125	£1,125 (PWYW)	
Masterclasses (6 per annum @ £200 each)	£600	£ 600 (PWYW)	
Recording Sessions (4 days x 2 per annum @ £300 each)	£1,200	£1,200 (PWYW)	
Admin (print, musical resource development, online resources) 12 months @ £200 per month	£1,200	£1,200 (PWYW & event/merch income)	
Purchase of Musical/Sound Reinforcement Equipment	£1,250	£1,250 (PWYW & event/merch income)	
Gig Costs: Venue Hire, Sound Engineer, Equipment etc Staging 4 gigs per annum @ £300 each	£600	£600 (PWYW & event/merch income)	
	£8,975		

Details of volunteers	2 Volunteers x 3 hrs per wk x 50 weeks £3318.00 1 Volunteer x 4 hrs per month x 12 months £530.88 Managing Social Media & Website 3 hrs per week x 52 weeks £1,725.36 PLUS countless hours where members give up their time, often during working hours, to perform at community events.
Volunteer role	

Communities Team Comments