

FLEXIBLE FUNDING ASSESSMENT

Applicant name:	Drake Music Scotland	
Application Reference number:	G201001094	
Amount Requested (Year 1/Year 2)	£98,000	£103,000
Officer's recommendation		
<p>Summarise the key points of your assessment and draw out the strengths and weaknesses of the application taken together with any comments you have received from source evidence (portfolio of evidence/ internal / external consultation). Highlight any specific risks</p> <p><i>Note: The amount of information you provide here should be sufficient for the decision maker to reach a decision. As with all previous commentary boxes please do not exceed 250 words</i></p>		
Comments:		
<p>Overall, I appreciate the value of what Drake is setting out to do. I have noticed as a YMI officer, that my clients/sector - YMI co-ordinators, HITS, National Organisations and Heads of Education and they are now paying more attention to the more vulnerable members/young people in our society. The educational sector are also more mindful of providing more inclusivity for special needs. Also, the YMI co-ordinators are asked to detail the support they give to special needs when applying for forum funding relating to the continuation of the P6 target.</p> <p>Drake are partnering with many more local authorities and creating more of a presence throughout Scotland's SEN and mainstream schools. Their technologies are improving all the time and are proving very popular within more schools throughout Scotland.</p> <p>Drake are also very pro-active in partnering with professional companies, such as Scottish Opera, Sistema Scotland, RSNO, SCO and Lung Ha's theatre.</p> <p>Their programme is, in my opinion, achievable and they now have the capacity to deliver what they have planned. They have also had support through Lottery to provide more training for individuals/teachers and adult workshops. They also have an education co-ordinator which releases the Administrator/Director's time to develop more partnerships and the work of Drake.</p> <p>Their work is mainly based in schools, creating access to all those with special needs. Drake is also successfully developing more equality awareness and parity of provision for the more vulnerable in our society.</p> <p>Drake does seem to have problems in recruiting and training the numbers of staff that it needs, in order for it to grow and develop, as planned. Some funding could potentially be made available towards developing a body of able and disabled people to work and train as trainers.</p> <p>Drake are in a niche market and their principals, values and programming are extremely valuable. If funding is made available, there would need to be a clearer breakdown of specific project and staffing costs.</p> <p>Drake's work fits in well within the music department's priorities, which is why I have given this application a medium to high rating.</p>		
Officer's overall priority recommendation		MEDIUM
Lead Officer signature:		Date: 29 January 2008
Print name:	Petrea Cooney	Revised: 20 March 2008

Stage 2: Heads of Departments prioritise applications with advice from Specialist Advisors

1. What were the strengths and weaknesses of the application identified by the Specialist Advisors? Please summarise their comments below. What were their ratings of the importance of the application in being supported?

The panel consisted of Murray Buchanan, Paul Bream, Jim Gaitens, Rachel Nelken and Susan Nickalls, with ratings received from Marie Fielding by email.

Comments:

- From the application process, the panel identified Drake Music Scotland as being leaders in their field particularly with regard to training for those working in this important sector.
- The organisation demonstrated an ability to see beneficial opportunities and to be adept at developing partnerships.
- The panel felt the organisation has an excellent programme of professional development for tutors. Tutor training is integral to Drake Music Scotland's programme and process, not merely an add-on, and this produces and attracts a high standard of tutors.
- The panel felt that the organisation is technologically advanced, and has the potential to have an influence beyond Drake Music Scotland's own activities.
- The panel felt that organisation's projects demonstrated the challenging nature of the work.

The panel rated the importance of the application in being supported as **High**.

2. Summarise the role of the organisation within the infrastructure of the sector. Assess to what extent the organisation's vision will contribute to the department's and to Scottish Arts Council's aims: (to fulfil artists' potential, to increase participation, to place creativity at the heart of learning)

Comments:

In terms of access and participation, especially for those members of our community who experience a handicap, however severe, then Drake is our most significant organisation by far within the music department's portfolio. They are also major players in the areas of CPD and training. Drake not only trains the participants, but more importantly trains the trainers and tutors who continually update their experience and pass that on to others.

Drake is also one of the market leaders in technological research and is one of the inspirations behind the NESTA funded project that will result in new instrument technology and a new interactive instrument being designed by professor Nigel Osborne at the University of Edinburgh.

Drake are equally able to create and innovate and everything they do clearly places creativity at the heart of learning.

1. Fit with FXO criteria: Yes.

1.1 Excellent artistic vision and leadership; role within sector/support to artists: As stated above, Drake are the leaders in their field and provide excellent training and CPD programmes.

1.2 Improving your engagement with the public: Drake specialise in working with children facing a myriad range of disabilities, but also engage with adults where they are successful in re-establishing self-esteem and self-worth.

1.3 Good practice in the governance and management: The Board of Trustees is extremely effective.

1.4 Practical implementation of your equal opportunities policy; widening access: Some concerns were expressed on EO, but the organisation is dealing with any imbalance in this regard.

1.5 Raising other income at least 25%: Yes.

2. Fit with Departmental priorities: See my comments above. Drake absolutely meets departmental priorities, especially in terms of outreach.

3. Fit within Scottish Arts Council aims: Fully.

3. Based on the lead officer's assessment and the subsequent meeting with Specialist advisors, please rate the application (High, medium, low) summarise your reasons for assessing the application as you have (drawing out the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation and highlighting any specific risks)

Comments: As evidenced above and particularly in the comments of the specialist advisors, Drake is a hugely significant organisation, not only for the music department, but also for Creative Scotland. The programme they are proposing is both deliverable and sustainable with a modest increase in financial support to £98K and £103K respectively.

Drake is committed to our sector forum development agenda, embracing different styles and genres and is a significant partner for YMI related funding outcomes. Drake also recognises and is actively seeking to improve the current paucity of music provision, both in performance and in training within the special schools sector, where they have identified in a research programme with the RSAMD that 14% of special needs schools in Scotland have no dedicated music provision whatsoever.

Drake has a proven record in partnerships, both within and outwith the formal sector and work with the major professional performing ensembles on a regular basis. They have a clear strategy for training and indeed are seen as an exemplar trainer and facilitator for their sector. They are also engaging with El Sistema Scotland from the earliest stages of that development in Stirling.

This application is judged as being strong and purposeful. Drake clearly fits within both departmental and corporate priorities and is one of the highest rated organisations in the music department's portfolio.

1.1 Application rating: High

The assessing officer marked the application medium/high, but I absolutely concur with the Specialist Advisors in rating this application High.

1.2 Reasons for assessing at this rating: Drake are simply the leaders in their field and not only provide such an invaluable service to those with whom they engage, but are equally leading in advancing technology which can benefit those with severe handicaps and disabilities, thus enabling them to benefit from experiencing music as we are able to experience it-one of the most beneficial mediums for communication at every level.

1.3 Strengths of application: Well thought through and deliverable.

1.4 Weaknesses of application: Very few, other than the capacity to deliver.

1.5 Specific risks associated with the application: As in 1.4.

1.6 Development areas identified: Ensure that the whole area of equalities is addressed, including from a staffing perspective.

1.7 Recommended level of support: As requested at £98,000 and £103,000.

4. Please comment on the geographic reach of the programme

Comments:

1.1 Where will the activity/programme take place? Drake's geographical reach is significant from its Edinburgh base and embraces dedicated programmes in Orkney and in Aberdeen alongside working with 23 of Scotland's 32 local authorities, which is a major achievement.

1.2 Where will the audience come from? N/A

Head of Department's overall priority recommendation		HIGH
Head of Department's signature:		Date: 12 February 2008 Revised 20 March 2008
Print name:	Ian Smith	

Stage 3: Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) make recommendations to Directors (Acting Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive and Co-Directors of Arts)		
1. Summarise the reasons why the final rating has been made.		
Comments: Good overall fit with FXO criteria. The amount reflects development areas identified, the competitive funding context and assessment recommendation. Support of £98,000 annually is proposed.		
Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) priority recommendation		Strong Medium
Chair of Meeting signature:		Date: 2 April 2008
Print name:	Iain Munro	

Stage 4: Directors make recommendations to Joint Board (strategic fit)		
Record the Directors' recommendation and confirm the suggested level of support. If the recommendation differs from Stage 3, please summarise the reasons why.		
Comments: Agree with Stage 3 recommendation. Support of £98,000 annually is proposed.		
Directors recommendations to Joint Board		Strong Medium
Acting Chief Executive signature:		Date: 10 April 2008
Print name:	Jim Tough	

Stage 5: Joint Board's decisions		
Record the Joint Board's recommendation. If the recommendation differs from Stage 4, please summarise the reasons why.		
Comments: The Joint Board accepts the Stage 4 recommendation.		
Joint Board Final Decision		APPROVE
Date: 24 April 2008	If approved for support, enter sum awarded	£98,000

End of Assessment