

## FLEXIBLE FUNDING ASSESSMENT

<b>Applicant name:</b>	Live Music Now	
<b>Application Reference number:</b>	G201001095	
<b>Amount Requested (Year 1/Year 2)</b>	£ 77,200	£79,200
<b>Officer's recommendation</b>		
<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  <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>		
<b>Comments:</b>		
<p>I have been in a position, in my previous post as a music teacher, to experience a performance organised through Live Music Now Scotland. A group of traditional musicians visited my music department (in Tobermory) where they performed and gave workshops. The concert was excellent and the workshops were very engaging.</p> <p>The musicians engage with their audiences quickly and work with the local staff at venues where they are going to perform. If additional workshops becomes a priority for LMN they will need to plan very carefully on how they engage with their audiences. They will need to plan very closely with the music teachers/personnel for these anticipated audiences, as this is very specialist work and needs to be pitched very carefully and methodically in an inclusive and well informed way.</p> <p>LMN will need to ask about resources and levels of those that they are going to be engaging with, particularly with regard to their future plans of working with pre-school children and young offenders. Working with young people requires a lot of skill which some performers naturally have but others don't. Not all excellent performers make excellent teachers, and LMN will need to collaborate very closely with the experts in the fields of all types of education. LMN is, however, an excellent organisation regarding the training of young musicians and this gives us confidence that they can deliver a more diverse programme as outlined.</p> <p>LMN also plan are to get involved with disabled groups, pre-school, primary, mainstream, young offenders, older audiences and international exchanges. This is a very ambitious programme they may find the advise of experts in the field i.e. Drake Music Scotland for Special needs invaluable.</p> <p>The LMN programme is an excellent education opportunity for their up and coming professional musicians. It will keep music 'live' and also attain one of music's main priorities 'Provision and distribution of high quality live music performance and (associated) education outreach'.</p> <p>Their application form and business plan both lack some detail, particularly from a financial point of view and for the planning of their objectives. Their equal opportunities policy also needs to be reviewed simply from the perspective of their work in Scotland.</p> <p>This FXO application could easily be rated high, but for the slight lack of financial detail and its request for a significant increase in funding, but is nonetheless a strong application.</p>		
<b>Officer's overall priority recommendation</b>		<b>MEDIUM</b>
Lead Officer signature:		Date: 29 January 2008
Print name:	Petrea Cooney	Revised: 20/3/08

## 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:

- The panel noted the organisation's excellent continuing professional development element. The organisation employs high quality young professionals using a stringent audition process. The organisation plays a role in influencing future careers, and provides training in a context that furthers musicians' musical and other skills.
- The panel noted the merit of a possible link-up with Drake Music Scotland.
- The panel recognised the organisation's work in reaching those on the margins of society, and those who would not normally be engaging with this musical experience.
- The panel questioned the rather arithmetical increase in performance numbers (from 360 to 400 to 450).
- The panel questioned the large increase in the number of proposed events from 12 – 52, but felt that there was huge potential for this ambition to be realised.
- The panel noted that the organisation had submitted an Action Plan rather than a Business Plan but that everything contained within it was coherent.

The panel rated the importance of the application in being supported as **Medium – 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:** Live Music Now (LMN) plays a key role in promoting live music performances by predominantly young professional performers in often difficult environments, such as hospitals, day care centres, homes for the elderly and of particular relevance, in schools for children with a wide variety of special needs. LMN has a stringent audition process which ensures the young musicians and ensembles chosen to perform also receive the essential training and support.

LMN is one of the key organisations in our departmental portfolio and eminently satisfy all three stated priorities for the Scottish Arts Council.

1. **Fit with FXO criteria:** Fully.

**1.1 Excellent artistic vision and leadership; role within sector/support to artists:** LMN play an exemplary role in preparing young professionals for performance and in their CPD. They fulfil a

unique role in bringing live music to many different and challenging environments, much to the benefit of those who participate.

**1.2 Improving your engagement with the public:** LMN seeks to broaden output and is doing so.

**1.3 Good practice in the governance and management:** Good governance and strong artistic direction, plus the benefit of a major UK umbrella organisation.

**1.4 Practical implementation of your equal opportunities policy; widening access:** A more bespoke version of the UK Equal opportunities policy for the work of LMN in Scotland would be welcome. Access to the range of performers on offer is excellent.

**1.5 Raising other income at least 25%:** Yes.

**2. Fit with Departmental priorities:** LMN fully meet departmental priorities, especially in the provision of high quality live performance and educational benefit, especially to the performers themselves.

**3. Fit within Scottish Arts Council aims:** All three aims are fully met as per my comments.

**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 clearly evidenced by the assessing officer (Petrea Cooney) LMN did not submit a business plan in the expected format, but rather an action plan, which nonetheless provided us with most of the information we need to assess the application. The forecast of between 360 to 380 performance/workshops in the current year rises to 450 in 2010./11 which is a significant leap not entirely evidenced in their application which asks for £77,200 and £79,200 respectively. This is a significant increase on current levels of funding.

The music department recognises the crucially important role that LMN plays in career development and "in service" training for young music professionals, who are also all paid industry standard rates and above. Whilst this is a prerequisite of our funding, this has always been seen as a high priority by LMN and always applied and operated without question. I also agree with the assessing officer that the performances given in such a wide range of different and often challenging venues provide not only entertainment, but also have a therapeutic value that often cannot be measured other than in observing the reaction of the listener. LMN should also explore a closer relationship with Drake.

LMN want to expand their area of activity to include younger children, in line with our YMI early years priority which will continue in 2008/09. The LMN Director; Carol Main has a proven track record and I have no doubt will continue to drive this organisation forward and expand and benefit its portfolio of activities. LMN's governance is strong and is part of a larger UK organisation.

I feel that based on the positive input from our specialist advisers, the assessing officer's comments and my own and the department's experience of Live Music Now that subject to the necessary clarification in budgets, this organisation is critically important both strategically and artistically and whilst the request for funding represents a rise, their activities and administrative creativity and management overall would be rated high. A slightly lesser level of funding could certainly be considered, but I feel the application stands on merit.

**1.1 Application rating: High**

Both the assessing officer and the specialist advisor’s panel were recommending a strong and/or medium/high rating. I firmly believe this organisation has done enough to merit a high recommendation and for their benefit to the professional performers of tomorrow alone, it is merited.

**1.2 Reasons for assessing at this rating:** As above, but also because under the direction of Carol Main, this organisation will continue to grow and flourish as per their application.

**1.3 Strengths of application:** The variety of performance spaces utilised, the wide variety of the constituency performed to and the immense CPD opportunities engaged with.

**1.4 Weaknesses of applications:** Slightly more clarity in their budgets.

**1.5 Specific risks associated with the application:** No specific risk but more budgetary clarity as above..

**1.6 Development areas identified:** Expansion into work with younger children and more partnership potential to explore with YMI.

**1.7 Recommended level of support:** £70,000 for both years.

**4. Please comment on the geographic reach of the programme**

**Comments:**

There is a satisfactory geographical reach, not clearly evidenced in the application but known to me and to this department. A closer partnership with more of the local authority sector would be welcome.

**1.1 Where will the activity/programme take place?** Throughout Scotland.

**1.2 Where will the audience come from?** Uniquely the audience is determined by the location of the performance-see commentary for full detail.

<b>Head of Department’s overall priority recommendation</b>		<b>HIGH</b>
<b>Head of Department’s signature:</b>		<b>Date: 12 February 2008 Revised 23 March 2008</b>
<b>Print name:</b>	<b>Ian Smith</b>	

<b>Stage 3: Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) make recommendations to Directors (Acting Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive and Co-Directors of Arts)</b>		
1. Summarise the reasons why the final rating has been made.		
<b>Comments:</b> Strong overall fit with FXO criteria. The amount reflects the competitive funding context and assessment recommendation. Support of £60,000 annually is proposed.		
<b>Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) priority recommendation</b>		High
Chair of Meeting signature:		Date: 2 April 2008
Print name:	Iain Munro	

<b>Stage 4: Directors make recommendations to Joint Board (strategic fit)</b>		
Record the Directors' recommendation and confirm the suggested level of support. If the recommendation differs from Stage 3, please summarise the reasons why.		
<b>Comments:</b> Agree with Stage 3 recommendation. Support of £60,000 annually is proposed.		
<b>Directors recommendations to Joint Board</b>		High
Acting Chief Executive signature:	Jim Tough	Date: 10 April 2008

<b>Stage 5: Joint Board's decisions</b>		
Record the Joint Board's recommendation. If the recommendation differs from Stage 4, please summarise the reasons why.		
<b>Comments:</b> The Joint Board accepts the Stage 4 recommendation.		
<b>Joint Board Final Decision</b>		<b>APPROVE</b>
Date: 24 April 2008	If approved for support, enter sum awarded	£60,000

**End of Assessment**