



PRESS RELEASE

11 May 2017

Concert to celebrate proud relationship between Hull and twin city in Sierra Leone

The relationship between Hull and its twin city Freetown in Sierra Leone is to be celebrated this summer at a diverse concert showcasing the rich musical history of the two cities.

Hull Transforming Lives in Freetown (HTLIF) takes place on August 12 at KC Lightstream Stadium.

The diverse concert has been put together by Freetown Mix and Jive Express, and is supported by Hull UK City of Culture 2017.

Hull has a proud history of supporting its twin city in Sierra Leone which spans decades.

The event - part of Hull 2017's Creative Communities Programme - will also feature real stories about the people of Freetown whose lives have been transformed beyond recognition because of support received from Hull-based individuals and organisations.

HTLIF organiser, Rev Lansford Penn-Timothy, said: "The concert will be a mixture of English rock 'n' roll and African traditional music.

"It will be an experience of a lifetime to have such diversity in one concert. It is going to be amazing, exciting and historic. Come and be a part of Hull's rich past, present and future relationship with our twin city, Freetown."

Hull's relationship with Freetown, and other international partners, has allowed an open exchange of knowledge, ideas and culture enabling Hull to become a city global in ambition.

The show aims to provoke discussion around how we further strengthen existing bonds and create new opportunities for mutual cultural enrichment.

Martin Green, Director of Hull 2017, added: "Hull's long-standing relationship with Freetown may not be well known but it is certainly worth finding out about.

"This is just one of 60 fantastic events going on this year as part of the Creative Communities Programme."

The concert at the Legend Suite, KC Lightstream Stadium, will start at 6.30pm, with doors opening at 5pm, and finish at 9.30pm.

Tickets are free but you need to book in advance via www.hull2017.co.uk/events/hull-transforming-lives-freetown (on sale from 10am Friday 12 May).

There will be refreshments available and children must be accompanied by an adult.

This is one of a number of events taking place throughout the year reflecting and celebrating the close links between Hull and Freetown including [How Do You Have a Happy Life?](#) and [Hull - Freetown](#).

Councillor Daren Hale, Deputy Leader of Hull City Council, said: "The connection between Hull and Freetown is an important one, which has historically worked to strengthen the commercial, educational and cultural links between the two cities.

"This twinning link has a long and prestigious history and events like this will ensure it continues into the future."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Hull Transforming Lives in Freetown is one of 60 new projects to receive funding through the Hull 2017 Creative Communities Programme, which is being delivered in partnership with the Big Lottery Fund, a Principal Partner of Hull 2017.

A total of £750,000 is being invested in the programme, which was set up to celebrate, nurture and support local talent and develop opportunities for emerging artists.

In addition to cash from Hull 2017 and the Big Lottery Fund, the projects will receive staff support to build capacity in the arts sector, helping to create a legacy. The Creative Communities Programme is also being supported by Hull and East Riding Charitable Trust.

The projects - which range from photography exhibitions to music and food festivals and choral and orchestral concerts to audio-visual installations - will see local artists, community groups, cultural and other organisations in the city working with local people of all ages to create new artistic work, events, installations and other activity throughout 2017.

For a full list of projects visit: <https://www.hull2017.co.uk/discover/article/sixty-community-projects-inspire-creativity-across-hull-2/>

About Hull UK City of Culture

Hull UK City of Culture 2017 is a 365 day programme of cultural events and creativity inspired by the city and told to the world. Hull secured the title of UK City of Culture 2017 in November 2013. It is only the second city to hold the title and the first in England.

Divided into four seasons, starting with Made in Hull, this nationally significant event draws on the distinctive spirit of the city and the artists, writers, directors, musicians, revolutionaries and thinkers that have made such a significant contribution to the development of art and ideas.

Hull 2017's second season, Roots and Routes, runs from April to June and explore Hull's unique place as a gateway to Europe and one of the world's busiest ports. Its maritime history and global connections inspire the stories of the city; this season of work will also celebrate Hull's international links, including Rotterdam, Reykjavik and Freetown.

Freedom runs from July to September. Building on the legacy of Hull-born anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce MP, *Freedom* will explore the concept of freedom in all its many forms. The final season, Tell the World will run from October to December.

The Culture Company was set up to deliver the Hull 2017 programme and is an independent organisation with charitable status. It has raised £32 million, with over 70 partners supporting the project, including public bodies, trusts and foundations and local and national businesses.

Key contributions are coming from: Host City - Hull City Council; Principal Partners - Arts Council England, BBC, Big Lottery Fund, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, KCOM, KWL, Spirit of 2012, Yorkshire Water and the University of Hull; Major Partners -Associated British Ports, Arco, BP, the British Council, British Film Institute, Green Port Hull, Hull Clinical Commissioning Group, MKM Building Supplies, P&O Ferries, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Sewell Group, Siemens, Smith & Nephew and Wykeland Group. The National Lottery has contributed more than £10m of this funding, making it the largest single funding body for Hull 2017.

68 per cent of the funding is dedicated to public facing activities, including the widest range of cultural events in every corner of the city, with a further 11 per cent for legacy and contingency. More than £5 million is being invested in volunteering, learning and community engagement. £1.6 million is being invested to ensure a legacy after 2017. This includes capacity building, such as supporting existing events so they can grow, staging curtain-raiser events, developing future programming for after 2017 and building a new platform to support a unified ticketing system for the city.

Hull 2017's International Partners are: Aarhus, Denmark, which is European Capital of Culture 2017; Reykjavik, Iceland; Rotterdam, The Netherlands; and Freetown, Sierra Leone (twinned with Hull). These relationships are reflected in a number of events throughout the year.

For information go to www.hull2017.co.uk

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About Big Lottery Fund

- The Big Lottery Fund is the largest funder of community activity in the UK. It puts people in the lead to improve their lives and communities, often through small, local projects.
- It is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised by National Lottery players for good causes. Every year it invests over £650 million and awards around 12,000 grants across the UK for health, education, environment and charitable purposes.
- Since June 2004 it has awarded over £8 billion to projects that change the lives of millions of people. Since the National Lottery began in 1994, £34 billion has been raised and more than 450,000 grants awarded.

About Hull & East Riding Charitable Trust

The Hollingbery Family founded the business in 1933 with the first Comet superstore opened in Hull in 1968. The business was subsequently sold to Kingfisher and in 1985 the charity was established with the defined purpose of donating funds to help and support charities, both national and local, and other deserving causes, provided that direct benefit was forthcoming for people who live in Hull or the East Riding of Yorkshire.

For more information, including on how to apply for funds, see <http://hullandeastridingtrust.org.uk/>