

Updated March 2009

ARTISTIC EVALUATION

This evaluation is intended to represent an objective aesthetic judgement. **Specialist advisors and officers should avoid making judgements based on their own personal tastes and preferences wherever possible.**

Artist/Company: Scottish National Jazz Orchestra

Venue: RSAMD

Title of Event : Scottish National Jazz Orchestra presents the music of Loud Jazz and Electric Miles featuring John Scofield

Type of Event: Music

Date of Visit: 6.3.10

Overall Rating: Excellent

Name: William Wells

Date: 7.3.10

Specialist Advisor

This report has been commissioned by the Scottish Arts Council to evaluate the artistic quality of the production named above. It has been prepared by either a specialist Advisor, or an officer of the Scottish Arts Council, as indicated on the form. The report will be circulated to the organisation which produced the work and to the management of the venue, if the venue is core funded by the Scottish Arts Council.

The report will form evidence for the Artistic Leadership and Public Engagement sections of the Quality Framework and be taken into account in assessing the work of the producing company in relation to future applications for funding to the Scottish Arts Council. It may also be used by the Joint Board to report on the overall performance of its funded organisations.

Evaluators should enter their rating under each section, explaining briefly their reason for the rating with reference to their comments under each section. Ratings should be given in accordance with the following:

Very poor- standard falls well below what is acceptable.

Poor - not well conceived and executed

Satisfactory

Good - well conceived and executed

Very Good – well conceived and executed to a very good standard

Excellent – Inspiring and executed to an exceptionally high standard

1. Artistic Assessment

Please evaluate the artistic quality of the event, with particular reference to the strengths and weaknesses of the following:

Artform	Criteria	Rating	Comments and key reasons for rating
All	Vision and imagination of work Quality of ideas if you have seen other work of this artist(s)/ company before, please comment on any relevant comparisons	excellent	Having seen this band a number of times before, this concert was up to their high standard.
All (if relevant)	Curatorial/ programming vision/ selection How does it fit within the artistic vision of the organisation? If the event is part of a Festival, please say how it contributes to the overall programme.	excellent	John Scofield is a world class musician, one of the leading contemporary guitarists. Also featured were specially commissioned charts by a selection of top arrangers.
All	Success of event against stated aims of project and/or performance How does it relate to information contained in the programme, the website or other printed material? How well did it communicate the artistic themes? How did the event originate eg from the exhibiting/ producing organisation, from the artist or from commission? Education events – see below for definition	excellent	Fitted well with programme notes. A detailed brochure was available with extensive notes a full set list and bios of all the relevant musicians / arrangers involved.
All	Performers/tutors What is the expertise of the performers? Where performers are amateur, please reflect this in your comments. How successfully did the performer(s) communicate with and engage the audience?	excellent	Musicians were all of an extremely high professional standard. There was an appealingly informal and friendly banter between Scofield and Smith which did much to

	In your view, was an artist as a tutor key to the success of the workshop?		engage the audience. Introductions to pieces were interesting and insightful.
Dance, Theatre	Choreography/Use of choreography Was the work original? How was the space used? How many dancers were there and how were they used? How long was the piece?		N/A
Theatre	Script Please comment on this for: new work second productions classics where the original has been substantially changed		N/A
Theatre, Dance	Direction Was the work well interpreted? Was it well cast? Was it well presented?		N/A
Dance, Theatre	Use of music Did the music/ sound used enhance the production? Is it live or recorded?		N/A
Dance, Theatre	Design How were the costumes, set and lighting? How did it work in the venue? Was it technically proficient? (eg lighting and sound cues, etc).		N/A
All	Quality of Public Engagement Performing Arts/Education - Was the production targeted at a particular audience? No Was the production /event appropriate for the audience/participants? Yes Were you/ engaged/inspired? Yes Did the audience/ participants appear to be engaged/inspired? Yes		Was the production targeted at a particular audience? No Was the production /event appropriate for the audience/participants? Yes Were you/ engaged/inspired? Yes Did the audience/ participants appear to be engaged/inspired? Yes

	<p>What was their response? Extremely Enthusiastic Approximately how many people were there? 300 Did there appear to be a broad mix of people – age, cultural diversity or disabled? Reasonably broad mix Are BSL/captioned/audio described performances offered as part of the run/tour/? If so how many? What activities or supporting materials were available to enhance the experience of the event eg workshops, artist's talks, discussion groups programmes, on line info? Above mentioned brochure. Were these targeted at specific age groups? No</p> <p>Education/learning events: In addition, please provide comments on the following (if appropriate): How was it taught/led eg one to one, group, child centred? What was the composition of the participant group – age range, gender mix? Is it strategically linked to the curriculum or national policy areas e.g. Early Years, Community Learning & Development What learning/skills development took place? What was the quality of the art produced by the participants? Did the workshop tutor have a teaching plan for the session and/or project?</p>		<p>What was their response? Extremely Enthusiastic Approximately how many people were there? 300 Did there appear to be a broad mix of people – age, cultural diversity or disabled? Reasonably broad mix</p> <p>BSL/captioned/audio described performances offered as part of the run/tour/? If so how many?</p> <p>What activities or supporting materials were available to enhance the experience of the event eg workshops, artist's talks, discussion groups programmes, on line info? Above mentioned brochure.</p> <p>Were these targeted at specific age groups? No</p>
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	<p>How were participants recruited?</p> <p>Did participants' views and choices help inform the structure and content of the project?</p> <p>Crafts/Visual Arts Use of equipment, space and overall layout/hang?</p>		
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2. Management of Event

Please evaluate the way the event was presented/organised by the organisation and the venue, with reference to the checklist below, including additional comments/observations. Please try to view the venue and the services, and interpretative material as though you had never visited it before eg if you did not know the venue's location, how easy would it be to find your way there, and to find your way around once you had arrived?

Criteria	Comment
<p>Location and suitability of the venue for the event</p> <p>Is it easy to find?</p> <p>Is it on a main transport route?</p> <p>Are the spaces clean?</p> <p>What were the sight lines like?</p> <p>How big was it?</p>	<p>Yes, easy to find.</p> <p>Yes on a transport route.</p> <p>Yes , clean</p> <p>Sight lines very good.</p> <p>Medium sized venue.</p> <p>Lighting was amateurish and occasionally distracting, eg. the house lights were still on for the first few minutes of the second set.</p> <p>Sound could have been better - eg. piano sometimes difficult to hear. Small PA system.</p>
<p>Information/ interpretive material at venue—</p> <p>Are there programmes, posters and displays about the event?</p> <p>Is there information on the venue's website?</p>	<p>brochures, posters, flyers</p> <p>yes, information on website.</p>
<p>Publicity/ pre-publicity –</p> <p>What leaflets, posters, websites, did you see the event listed in?</p> <p>What publicity materials are produced?</p> <p>Is it easy to understand?</p> <p>Where can you get the information?</p> <p>Is there Acknowledgement of Scottish Arts Council Funding ?</p> <p>Please be alert to the publicity available prior to your visit to the event and comment on the company/organisation's website.</p>	<p>The list, article on Scofield in the Herald,</p> <p>Posters, flyers</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Info on artist's website</p> <p>Yes acknowledgement of SAC</p> <p>Website was clear.</p>
<p>Ease of booking and payment</p>	<p>Tried to book (twice) by phone and call rang out with no answer.</p> <p>Online booking was straightforward.</p>
<p>Timing of the event</p> <p>Did the start and finish time seem to be appropriate for the audience?</p> <p>Was the length appropriate?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>

<p>Signage and signposting Is the entrance clearly marked? Is there clear internal directional signage? Is there Braille signage or signage for audio loops?</p>	<p>Yes Yes N/A</p>
<p>Access and provision for disabled people Please insert yes/no in the boxes to reflect what you notice about the venue/event</p> <p>Please add in any additional comments below the table</p> <p>How many BSL/captioned/audio described performances are there at the venue?</p>	<p>BSL interpretation N/A Audio description of performances N/A Captioning N/A Lift Yes Accessible toilets Yes Accessible marketing materials eg website or alternative formats eg large print, Plain English Yes</p>
<p>Customer service How was the quality and efficiency of staff (e.g. box office, front of house, bar and/or catering) If possible, comment on how responsive they were to the needs of disabled customers?</p>	<p>Good although there was some confusion about the brochure - I paid £2 for a copy and then was given another free as I entered the auditorium. Very responsive</p>

3. Organisation's Comments (optional)

This is the organisation's opportunity to respond to points raised within this assessment. Please do not feel obliged to fill this section in. In the spirit of the Quality Framework, we would ask that any comments are self-evaluating, providing an insight as to why, if there is, a major disagreement of response between the organisation and the evaluation, in a constructive way.

This will not alter the rating given by the assessment, but will allow the organisation the opportunity to give their opinion/feedback. The Scottish Arts Council reserves the right to edit comments if they are deemed to be libellous or defamatory.

As the Scottish Arts Council implements the Quality Framework internally, we intend to publish artistic evaluations on organisations that we support regularly on our website. The final artistic evaluation, including the organisation's response will be published on a quarterly basis on our website.

Please keep your response to max 500 words. If we do not hear from you in 15 days, we will assume that you do not want to respond.

Education is a bridge between artform excellence and increased access and participation, and it is people centred. Providing opportunities for learning and progressing in an artform or using an artform to address other, non-artistic, outcomes are equally valid; in either case a high quality strategic approach is required in order to benefit the participants and the organisation. Delivery can be through workshops, post/pre-show discussions, outreach work, etc aimed at any age group.

In press releases, at launches, on all published materials (including leaflets, brochures, programmes,

posters, company's website, notices display, exhibition materials, websites and advertising, recordings, publications, video, broadcasts, computer programmes etc.) Where the event is publicised in the programme brochure of another organisation (eg venue, gallery, etc) then SAC acknowledgement should appear against the particular programme entry for this event.

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