

Programming Policy

Background

Music is at our heart. We have a 130 year legacy of world-class performance and local engagement. We present a mix of live music genres including Classical music, Rock & Pop and World music. Recently we have diversified our programming to include Folk, Blues & Americana, Jazz and festival experiences. In addition to our music programme, we have a well established comedy programme, featuring the monthly comedy club, together with comedians including Sarah Millican, Ross Noble and Jason Manford. Our programme is a variety of promotions, hires and commissions.

Our learning programmes and presentation of live performances in different spaces help us diversify the type of engagement experiences we offer. This, in turn, allows us to widen our public benefit impacts and strengthen our position as a critical cultural and community resource.

Our purpose:

Establish Middlesbrough Town Hall as a place where everyone can experience world-class music, feel at home and have a good time.

Our mission is to:

Promote positive experiences through music.

Our ambition is to be:

The best, most exciting, innovative and welcoming music inspired venue in the UK.

and

A much loved and trusted world-class music venue and community resource.

Our values

We are passionate about our work and the benefits it can deliver to our community.

We are committed to being brave, ambitious and imaginative when curating our programmes.

We want everyone to know that, however you engage with us, we will treat you with respect and make you feel welcome and included.

Our vision

Inspiring music from the heart

We share our passion for music through commissioning, promoting and presenting the very best music programmes. By collaborating with others who share our love of music,

we will broaden our network to reach further and connect with more people, more often. We will become the People's Town Hall.

Local stage. World class ambition

We are renowned for presenting global performers as well as breakthrough, new artists. By supporting, engaging and inspiring the next generation, we believe we have the power to influence the future of music regionally, nationally and internationally.

Dare to surprise

Our brave, bold and innovative approach will surprise and excite audiences. We will capture imaginations and provide experiences that evoke immediate emotions and genuinely stay with people long after they have left our sight.

Authentic experiences

A bustling part of life in Middlesbrough, we are proud of our Town Hall heritage as we stride forward into the future. Our unique environment is contemporary yet historic, providing inspiring and creative spaces for people to explore, participate, enjoy and create together.

Programming

We select work based on the mission, purpose and values outlined above, in addition to commercial considerations and availability.

In addition to our core cultural programme, we offer free space to artists developing work, to community groups undertaking arts based activities, a number of special events, and a music engagement programme (classes and workshops), as well as a targeted engagement programme for Middlesbrough residents and a free tickets scheme for our classical concerts.

Ethics

As part of Middlesbrough Council and in line with our diversity and equality plans, we endeavour to ensure that our programme meets our mission, values and vision.

Middlesbrough Town Hall works in line with [What Next's? arts sector guidance](#) on meeting ethical and reputational challenges when making decisions on programming. Decisions are based on whether the work is consistent with our vision, mission and values and is in line with our commitments to diversity and equality.