



Primary Big Sing: Overview – Autumn 2025 & Spring/Summer 2026

Outline

The Primary Big Sing was initiated three academic years ago (2022-23) in response to the lack of regular singing in primary schools during the pandemic, with the aim of rebuilding singing in schools following Covid-19, and this year the project enters its seventh iteration. Feedback from the many schools who take part in this project has always been overwhelmingly positive: over 1500 students in Y4 & 5 from schools across Tower Hamlets have taken part in the Primary Big Sing over the past three years, and the overwhelming majority of participants said that they now felt more confident both in singing and in singing in front of others. In addition, 88% of children said that they were now more likely to speak up in class as they felt more confident in speaking in public since taking part in the project, so the impact on students' wider school life has also been significant.

Spitalfields Music will be running two more Primary Big Sing projects this academic year, working with a similar number of primary schools and participants. The project will comprise two discrete but linked projects, one taking place in the Autumn term 2025 and one taking place in the Spring or Summer term of 2026. Each project will work with up to 250 KS2 students from Tower Hamlets Primary schools who will come together to sing together and rehearse across a series of four sessions in November 2025 & June 2026.

Students and their class teachers will work with experienced vocal leaders Naveen Arles ([Naveen Arles](#)) and Gabrielle Chudi ([Gabrielle Chudi](#)) to learn and perform varied repertoire arranged by another experienced choral leader, Leanne Sedin, that explores the power of singing together, and the associated benefits with wellbeing, which is a common thread running through our ongoing Learning and Participation work. The project includes resources for teaching staff to support the learning of the songs, and will culminate in a public massed singing performance at [Tower Hamlets Town Hall in Whitechapel](#). Individual coaching sessions at school are available to every school between the massed sessions. One performance will take place on [Friday 28th November 2025](#), and one at the end of the Summer term 2025.

Context and Need

Young people have been badly affected by the lingering after-effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing cost of living crisis, and are facing anxiety about educational achievement, employment and future opportunities. Many of our Neighbourhood Primary schools have cited the fact that creative extra-curricular and music activities were lessened or stopped due to COVID-19 regulations, and some have never re-started, due to the difficult financial situation that schools are increasingly finding themselves in, and subsequent budget cuts to Music and the performing arts.

Group singing provides a dedicated space to focus on students' mental wellbeing and their emotional development, to be creative, and to use their voice. At Key Stage 2, Music (and singing and performance in particular) presents a cross-curricular opportunity to regain lost confidence in communication and learning stamina across all subject areas, particularly via the benefits of group performance and vocal work.

Time Commitment

Teaching Staff will need to be present for:

- Three massed rehearsals – in two participating schools
- One coaching session in each school
- A final rehearsal and informal performance at a public venue (in the Autumn Term this will be Whitechapel Town Hall).

Teachers are also encouraged to practise the songs with their students in between the massed rehearsals and performance.

Timeline

There are two options:

Option 1: Winter Project

Friday 7th November: 10.00am – 11.30am OR 1.15pm – 2.45pm: Workshop 1

Thursday 13th November: 10.00am – 11.30am OR 1.15pm – 2.45pm: Workshop 2

Week of 17th November: Coaching sessions in schools

Friday 21st November: 10.00am – 12.00noon: Workshop 3

Friday 28th November: Final Rehearsal & Performance @ Tower Hamlets Town Hall

Option 2: Summer Project

Week of 2nd June 2025: Workshop 1

Week of 9th June: Workshop 2

W/c 16th June: One-hour choir coaching slots at participating schools

Week of 23rd June: Workshop 3

Week of 30th June: Final Rehearsal & Performance

Activity & Outcomes

We would like to involve a class of Y4 or Y5 students or a school choir from each participating school. Students will:

- Learn and perform high quality repertoire that celebrates the power of music and singing together
- Undertake structured creative learning that acts as a celebration of being together and performing.
- Regain confidence in communication and improve vocal skills by being part of a performance, working alongside professional musicians.
- Improve wellbeing by taking part in communal singing, which is proven to boost mood and release endorphins.

Cost:

Spitalfields Music is very keen to support the re-introduction of singing as an integral part of school life, and therefore we are charging schools a reduced fee of £150 per class to take part. This fee includes the teacher resource pack (scores, lyrics ppts, guide tracks which can all be used in subsequent school performances), one coaching session specifically for each school, three workshops and the final performance at Spitalfields Music.