

For immediate release

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## **Horniman awarded £90,000 for Music Gallery upgrade**

The Horniman Museum and Gardens in Forest Hill, London is set to upgrade its Music Gallery thanks to £90,000 of funding from the DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund.

The Horniman is among 35 museums and galleries across the country to receive a share of £4 million to increase access to their collections, Michael Ellis, Minister for Arts, Heritage and Tourism and Paul Ramsbottom, Chief Executive of the Wolfson Foundation announced today, Monday 14 January 2019.

The DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund supports national and regional museums and galleries across England to improve the quality of displays, enhance exhibition spaces and public access, and increase awareness of their collections.

The Horniman's designated Musical Instrument Collection includes more than 9,500 objects that make sound. Around 1,300 instruments can be seen in its dedicated Music Gallery – the largest number on display in the UK.

The Horniman will use its share of the funding to help transform the Music Gallery, improving visitor access, engagement and interpretation, and opening up this important collection to new audiences. Work to the Gallery will include the installation of new lighting which will transform visitors' experience of the collection, as well as audio visual projectors.

This work will be fundamental to the Horniman's ***Music in the Making*** project, a major four-year programme to improve understanding of and access to its musical instrument collection and maximise its potential through creative programming, performances, collaborations and commissions.

Nick Merriman, Chief Executive of the Horniman said: 'The Horniman's musical instrument collection is arguably the largest and most diverse in the UK and one of the most important in the world. This grant gives us a wonderful opportunity to both transform our visitors' experience of the Music Gallery and to engage new audiences with the instruments and their stories within it.'

Minister for Arts, Heritage and Tourism Michael Ellis said: 'Our museums and galleries are among the best in the world and we are rightly proud of these institutions. The DCMS/Wolfson Fund demonstrates how the government and philanthropic organisations can work together to boost our museum sector.'

'We want people up and down the country to enjoy culture and heritage wherever they are. The 35 grants awarded today will make important contributions towards improving the visitor experience; ensuring our wonderful collections are open to as many people as possible.'

Paul Ramsbottom, Chief Executive of the Wolfson Foundation said: 'We are delighted to provide this funding through our longstanding partnership with DCMS – an excellent example of how we as a charity can work together fruitfully with government. We are grateful to DCMS for matching our funding.'

'One of the great treasures of this country is the sheer quality and range of our heritage collections – stored and displayed in wonderful museums and galleries. This funding will help to provide even better visitor experiences and greater awareness of these fascinating collections. A particular joy of this funding round has been the impressive mix of the projects supported: from a dress collection at Carlisle's Tullie House to temporary exhibition space in Falmouth's National Maritime Museum.'

The Horniman aims for the work to start on the Music Gallery in May 2019.

## Ends

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### Notes to Editors:

A [Google Map](#) details the 35 successful projects.

This is the thirteenth round of a joint fund which **DCMS** runs in partnership with the **Wolfson Foundation**. The fund aims to provide capital funding for museums and galleries across England to deliver projects in one or a number of the following key areas:

- Material improvements to the display and interpretation of collections, in both permanent galleries and exhibition spaces
- Improvements to access and/or interpretation for visitors with disabilities
- Physical improvements to public spaces to enhance visitor experience
- Improvements to environmental controls, collections storage and conservation facilities to enhance the care of collections

**About the Wolfson Foundation.** The Wolfson Foundation ([www.wolfson.org.uk](http://www.wolfson.org.uk)) is an independent charity that supports and promotes excellence in the fields of science, health, education and the arts and humanities, including awarding the Wolfson History Prize, the UK's foremost history prize. Since it was established in 1955, over £900 million (£1.9 billion in real terms) has been awarded to more than 11,000 projects throughout the UK, all on the basis of expert review.

The **Horniman Museum and Gardens' Musical Instrument Collection** is internationally renowned and includes more than 9,500 sound-making objects representing many periods of history and diverse musical traditions from all over the world. Around 1,300 of these instruments are exhibited in its dedicated Music Gallery – the largest number on display in the UK. The Music Gallery also features short films and listening stations linking instruments on display to the cultures and contexts in which they are played. An 18th-century English harpsichord is maintained in playing order for regular live performances and specially commissioned instruments can be played in a separate Hands On Space. The themed displays include examples from many of the major collections acquired by the Horniman, including Boosey & Hawkes, Adam Carse (wind instruments), Dolmetsch, Neil Wayne (concertinas) and the Horniman's founder himself, Frederick Horniman. The musical holdings have been augmented most recently by Brazilian instruments associated with carnival in Rio and historic keyboard instruments from the former Finchcocks Musical Museum – the latter will be restored to playing condition. To date, the records of some 2,000 musical instruments from the Horniman's collection form part of [MINIM](#), the UK's largest online collection of historical musical instruments.

**Music in the Making** is funded by Arts Council England. The programme will be complemented by activities linked to the Horniman's HLF-funded acquisition of Finchcocks keyboards.

**The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium. A new World Gallery of anthropology opened in June 2018 and a new arts space, The Studio, opened in October 2018. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London.  
[horniman.ac.uk](http://horniman.ac.uk)

The Horniman Museum and Gardens is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.

**Opening times and admission.** The Horniman Museum is open daily 10am-5.30pm, except 24 - 26 December, when it is closed. The Gardens open at 7.15am Monday to Saturday and 8am on Sunday and Bank Holidays, and close at sunset. Entry to the Museum and Gardens is free but charges apply for the Aquarium, Butterfly House and some special exhibitions and events. Horniman Members and Benefactors go free – [horniman.ac.uk/members](http://horniman.ac.uk/members).

**Access.** The Museum and the Gardens are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly with accessible toilets. Limited on-site parking is available for Blue Badge holders. [horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access](http://horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access).

**Travel.** The Horniman is situated at 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ on the South Circular Road (A205). It can be reached easily by train to Forest Hill station (London Overground/Southern, travel time approx. 15-20 minutes from east/central London or East Croydon) and by local buses (176, 185, 197, 356, P4).