



**Feedback from Reem Kelani's workshop
programme
Artist-in-residence 2007**

As Heart of the World's artist-in-residence for 2007, Reem Kelani inspired audiences of all ages through a varied programme of work as part of this year's Festival. As well as performing a sold-out concert at The Maltings in Ely on Monday 7th May, Reem was part of a thought-provoking discussion event produced in partnership with the RSA and Living East, and led five vocal workshops.

Reem's workshop programme ranged from working with school groups to open access workshops for adults. In all cases Reem delivered energetic workshops, which were captivating for those involved and perfectly pitched at the skills and interests of any group. Participants learnt a huge range of vocal skills using a range of techniques found within Arabic music traditions. All participants were surprised by how much ground was covered during the session, how much they achieved and how much fun they had.

In total just over 100 people experienced one of Reem's workshops. Very few had any previous experience of Arabic music and their ethnic

background was roughly reflective of the area as a whole. Of the participants who completed feedback forms, 89% were White British, 7% White Other, 1% British Asian / Indian, 2% Black British / Dual heritage, 1% Dual Chinese.

The workshops were organised in partnership between Serious, Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and ADeC.

Coleridge Community College

Participants were selected on account of their music interests from Year 7 to Year 11. 85% of students gave it 10 out of 10

'It was fun and we didn't rush in.'

'It was fun and exciting.'

'I think she delivered really well and she taught me how to sing.'

'Very fast moving and fun.'

'I thought it was very lively and passionate.'

Swavesey Village College

Workshop participants were all approximately 15 years old. 90% gave the experience 8 out of 10 or higher.

'It was great and good how it involved people on different layers.'

'Very good! Excellent! Amazing!'

'Fantastic – really energetic with loads of passion! How music should be.'

'Very simple to follow. Friendly, welcoming atmosphere. No pressure.'

'Very interactive, entertaining, fun and she created a great atmosphere.'

Cottenham Village College:

Here Reem worked with young people between 12 and 16 years old. During a brief break, the young people composed some impressive lyrics themselves, with very little prompting or direction. 90% gave the workshop 9 out of 10 or higher

'It was presented amazingly and kept me well interested.'

'Very fun, energetic. Everyone had a smile on their face.'

'[The high point was] when we got to make our own music.'

'[The workshop was delivered] with lots of enthusiasm and love for her work.'

Ely – Adult Open Access:

In total 15 people attended this workshop, which was less than originally anticipated due to exceptionally bad traffic in the area. Nonetheless, of those who attended, 95% gave the experience 9 out of 10 or higher.

'[The workshop was delivered] dynamically, with passion and good humour'

'Fantastic energy and encouragement.'

Cambridge Adult Group – St Augustine

This was a lively group attended by a wide range of different people from 2 months to 80 years old. Some participants sang regularly as part of community choirs, whilst others had no previous singing experience. Several mothers brought very young babies with them. Rowena Whitehead was very supportive and encouraged people linked to projects she works with to attend. 90% of those who attended gave Reem's workshop 8 out of 10 or higher.

'She is an excellent workshop leader. Lively, inclusive and informative.'

'She is very clear, articulate and engaging. Very good at drawing people in and making them feel that they can!'