
The Met: 50 Years of Culture in Bury

Highlights of the Year & Future Vision

January 2026





A Vital Cultural Hub for Greater Manchester

The Met serves as a cornerstone for the arts in Bury, blending heritage with modern creativity.

- Based in the historic Derby Hall, providing a unique platform for live music and theatre.
- A small-scale arts centre with a large-scale impact on community engagement and local pride.
- Core mission: Developing artists, entertaining audiences, and fostering cultural innovation.
- A key player in the Greater Manchester cultural ecosystem and economic growth.

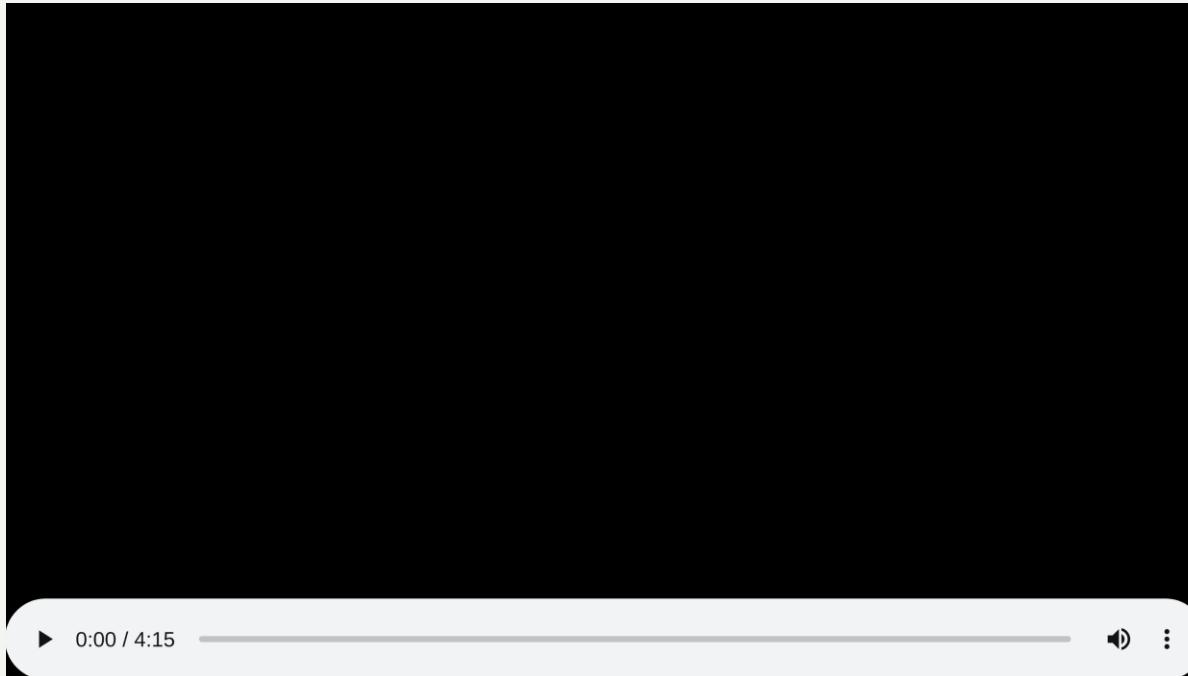
Celebrating 50 Years of Artistic Excellence

Our 50th anniversary honored our rich history while launching a new era of growth.

- Founded in 1975; celebrated 50 years in September 2025
- World premiere of a commissioned poem by Tony (Longfella) Walsh, capturing the spirit and testimonies of The Met.
- Heritage tours and panel discussions reflecting on five decades of cultural impact in Bury and beyond.
- Performances by John Bramwell and Liam Frost, and special events from Mark and Craig Potter of Elbow and Q&A with past Directors bridging the venue's history with its vibrant present.



We Leave Here More





The Bury Panto 2025

The Pied Piper of Hamelin

Our annual pantomime is a major cultural event that drives engagement and supports social inclusion.

6,100+

Tickets Sold

1,100

School Tickets

Community Impact: East Ward Primary

We provided 250 complimentary tickets to East Ward Primary, supporting families in one of the top 10% most deprived areas in the UK. This ensures high-quality cultural experiences are accessible to all children in our community.

Two Crows Arts Studio: Reimagining Creative Spaces



Transforming our ground floor into a vibrant, multi-functional social and artistic hub.

Located in the former Automatic restaurant space, now home to six resident artists.

"Art is for everyone": Offering weekly workshops for all ages and abilities.

A social hub featuring a shop for independent makers and a community cafe space.

Integrating visual arts directly into the daily life and accessibility of the venue.

Nurturing Talent: Recording Studio & Artist in Residence

Our professional recording facilities are actively developing the next generation of Manchester talent.

■ Professional Facilities

A high-spec sound recording and mixing facility featuring a superb live room for local artists.

■ Artist in Residence

Liam Frost is in residence, mentoring young people and developing their music.

■ The Mini Met Project

Artist development programme running Oct 2025 – Mar 2026 for emerging talent.

■ Music and Mental Health

Programme for young people to explore music as a means for expression and good mental health.



Looking Ahead: The Next 50 Years

The Met is committed to remaining an innovative, dynamic, and inclusive leader in the arts.

Expanding our programme, reach
and impact across the Greater
Manchester cultural landscape.

Strengthening our role as a catalyst
for local economic and community
growth.

Fostering new partnerships across
Greater Manchester to drive artistic
innovation.

Thank you for your continued support of The Met.