

Voyages of the Heart

This is a powerful new work by renowned composer, producer, cellist and kora virtuoso Tunde Jegede; commissioned by Turner Sims Southampton and Southampton City Council as part of the Mayflower 400 programme. This new ensemble music project is inspired by the stories of Southampton's migrant and refugee communities, collected through the City Archive and a new National Lottery Heritage Fund-supported oral history project.

Supported by funding from Arts Council England, Southampton City Council and the University of Southampton, the piece involves 25 musicians from a range of backgrounds and disciplines including: Gospel and operatic choir and Gaelic, Indian classical, rap, reggae, soul and opera singers. Instruments include: a string quartet, Irish folk violin and flute, guitar, sitar, oud, tabla, kora, drums and bass. The piece beautifully blends these varied styles together to create a multi-layered musical journey which is reflective of Southampton's multicultural population.

Tunde Jegede, composer of *Voyages of the Heart* describes the piece as: *"about heritage, journeys, migration and the transitory sense of home and identities... [asking] pivotal questions of our perception of culture, memory, race and how we see the world."*