

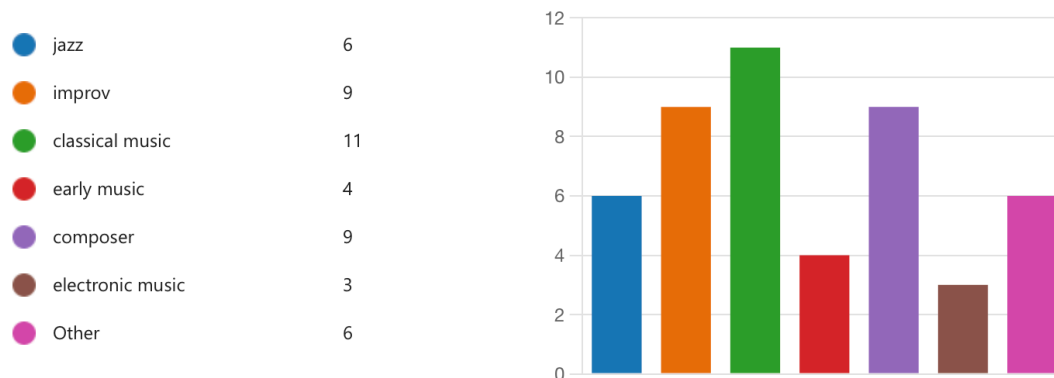
Questionnaire for Splendor musicians – outcomes

The Amsterdam based musicians collective Splendor exists for almost 10 years now. It was curious to ask its members what it means for them to be part of such a group, what their motivation was and is, what could or should be different, and if there are wishes or desires for the future.

An invitation for an anonymous questionnaire was send out to all 50 members of the group, 18 responses (around 1/3) had been send back.

<https://splendoramsterdam.com>

1. Overview of the musical field(s) of the collective members:



2. What was your motivation to join Splendor? What did you expect and/or what did you hope to experience (musically) within the collective?

The members mention the following reasons for joining the collective:

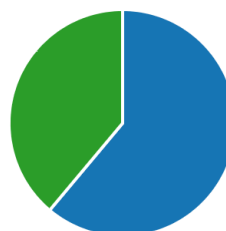
- entering a new artistic network
- experiment and artistic freedom
- the opportunity of doing musical cross-overs
- the availability of space (building)
- being part of a community with like-minded people

3. Is there something you miss in Splendor in a musical context?

When asked what members miss at this point, many actually mention working together as a collective and in cross-over settings, next to certain instruments, more young members and activities like club-nights. Some also mention missing artistic depth in certain projects and activities.

4. Would you like to work together more often with other Splendor Musicians from other genres?

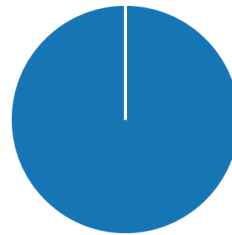
When asked if the members would like to work more with people from other genres the majority says yes, but some mention to be doing that already extensively.



5. Is Splendor enriching your (musical) life?

All members mention that Splendor is enriching their musical life!

● Yes	18
● No	0
● Other	0



6. What exactly did Splendor add to your musical existence that you would not have otherwise?

Members mention

- having all kinds of opportunities concerning music, (work)space and initiatives
- being involved in and experiencing pressure-cooker formats
- artistic freedom and a creative surrounding to develop new ideas and inputs
- exploring in general
- widening stylistic horizons

Some even mention that a significant part of their career is based on connections and experiences made within the community.

7. What do you get out of collective cross-genre projects?

Members mention:

- not being frightened for cross-genre encounters
- artistic surprises, social contacts and inspiration
- artistic adventure and bending the borders of the own comfort zone

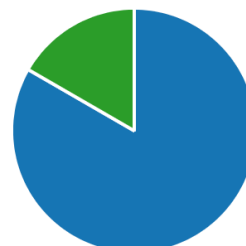
But: members also mention that occasionally they miss depths and elaboration of the played material and therefore do not get so much out of these experiences due to unsatisfying results!

"Using the own classical craftsmanship in a totally unorthodox context next to letting go that craftsmanship, in order to enter unknown musical territories, at the same time, is a very special experience."

8. Are these projects an added value to the Splendor program in your opinion?

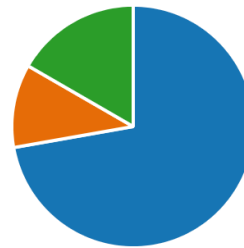
Almost all members mention that it is, for some it's not always the case personally, some mention that it is for the audience and not for themselves.

● Yes	15
● No	0
● Other	3



9. Are you comfortable with improvising in front of an audience?

Yes	13
No	2
Other	3



Five out of 18 members mention not to be comfortable with improvising in front of an audience, or needing certain circumstances to feel comfortable.

10. In which music genres have you had experience participating in?

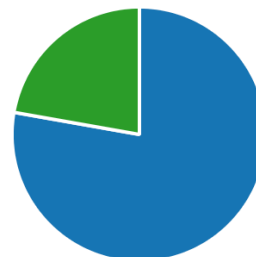
Every member mentions to have musical experience in at least two or three different genres.

11. What kinds of music do you like to listen to?

Almost all members mention multiple genres they like to listen to! Some do not listen to music at all...

12. Are you involved in cross-genre projects?

Yes	14
No	0
Other	4



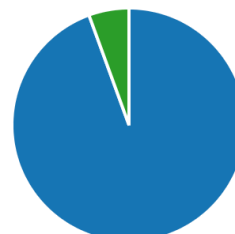
The big majority mentions to be involved in cross-genre projects in general.

Time is mentioned as an enemy for more musical cross-over experiments, but also concerns about musical quality and a lack of space for the own expertise.

Asking what keeps them from taking part or initiating more cross-genre projects the majority mentions time issues, only some mention the pressure of eventually being judged.

12. Did you experience valuable collaborations in Splendor with musicians from other genres?

Yes	17
No	0
Other	1



All members mention to have experienced valuable collaborations within Splendor.

Asking if successful collaborations coming out of the Splendor community still exist, most answer that those collaborations do not exist anymore due to time-issues, though many still mention plans to continue with these projects. Just some mention that it was about one-time experiences only.

Findings

If we look at the answers of this questionnaire we see that the group of musicians is involved in multiple genres. We see a wide field of genres with a small majority in the classical genre. Almost all members have a musical taste exceeding one genre and the big majority mentions to be involved in cross-genre activities. When asked what their initial motivation has been to join such a creative cross-genre collective, the colorful artistic network, experiment and artistic freedom and the opportunity of doing musical cross-overs have been mentioned as main aspects. It is also mentioned that these are the aspects that enrich the members' musical life. Outcomes and positive effects of working in cross-genre settings for them are the loss of fear for musical unknown encounters, artistic surprises, social contacts and inspiration, as artistic adventure and bending the borders of the own comfort zone.

But when asked what they miss in Splendor at this moment, as well cross-genre activities and working as a collective group are mentioned; in fact, the majority expresses the wish to work more often with colleagues from other genres.

Asking what keeps them from taking part or initiating more cross-genre projects the majority mentions time issues, only some mention fearing pressure of eventually being judged or not feeling free.

Some members are concerned about the possible lack of quality, preparation and artistic depth when it comes to cross-genre activities.

It is also mentioned that certain projects and activities are great for the Splendor audience, but maybe less interesting for the musicians. On this point it has to be stated that a big part of the Splendor audience likes to witness musical experiment and cross-overs of genres since this is also for the listeners one of the key elements of Splendor, being a musical laboratory.

Though all members mention to have experienced valuable and successful collaborations within Splendor, many of those do not exist anymore due to time-issues only, and not because of a lack of motivation.

The artistic exchange and environment seem to be the key reasons for the existence of a group like Splendor. Enjoying artistic freedom with the right people, getting to the edge of one's comfort zone, or crossing it, are the fundamentals of its members motivation. But the personal barriers of one's comfort zone need to be respected and a friction between the playful and spontaneous experiences and the depth and quality of the created musical result is an ongoing issue, though depending on individual perception. An additional, overarching issue is the lack of time for those activities, that overshadows the motivation for it.

The follow up question might be: How to find the right balance between artistic freedom, playfulness and spontaneity on stage on the one side, and satisfying artistic results on the other side, combined with the will and the possibility to invest enough time?