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THE FITZWILLIAM LIONS



THE FITZWILLIAM LIONS



In 1816, Richard, VII Viscount Fitzwilliam of Merrion donated his library and art collection to the University of Cambridge, as well as £100,000 to construct a building to house them all in. This building is what we now know as the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge.

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THE FITZWILLIAM LIONS



In 1937 the first stone of the Fitzwilliam Museum was laid. Two years later, in 1939, William Grinsell Nicholl was commissioned to create the lions that still decorate the outside of the Fitzwilliam Museum today!

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The Fitzwilliam Lions Come Alive!



The Fitzwilliam Lions have their very own story in folklore. The story goes that when the clock on the church of Our Lady's and the English Martyr's Church strikes midnight the lions rise from their plinths and make their way to drink from the gutters in front of the museum on Trumpington Street and sometimes even make it all the way to Hobson's Conduit.

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THE FITZWILLIAM LIONS



Michael Rosen wrote a poem inspired by this story about what the lions might see and hear outside the museum, which was then arranged into a song by Kirsty Martin.

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Michael Rosen Talking About his Inspiration for the Listening Lions Poem



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LISTENING LIONS SONG

CHORUS

We are the Listening Lions

We hear you walking the steps of
the Fitz

Your voices come and go

What you say is what we know

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A close-up photograph of a person with long dark hair singing into a black microphone. They are wearing a floral patterned shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a stage or recording environment.

LISTENING LIONS SONG

REFRAIN

Trip-trap, amble, clamber or
run

We are the Listening Lions -
ROAR!

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LISTENING LIONS SONG

VERSE 1

We hear your feet on the steps

We hear you moan about the
weather

We hear you laugh when you
see the sun - ROAR!

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LISTENING LIONS SONG

VERSE 2

We hear you talk of war and peace
We hear you pockets full or empty
what you say is what we know -
ROAR!

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LISTENING LIONS SONG

VERSE 3

We hear you whisper, We hear
you sigh

We hear the hug of hope and the
smile of pride

We hear the hug of hope and the
smile of pride

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LISTENING LIONS SONG

VERSE 4

We hear you studying our faces

We hear you wonder if we
slumber

Like lions hunting in far-off
places - ROAR!

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LISTENING LIONS SONG

VERSE 5

And we are dreaming of other
times

We hear a dream of how we rise
and breathe in the living air -
ROAR!

A close-up photograph of a person with long dark hair singing into a black microphone. The person is wearing a floral patterned shirt. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor setting with a clear sky.

LISTENING LIONS SONG

VERSE 6

And we all four together
walk the street, none last or first
to find the water
to help us quench this terrible
thirst - ROAR!

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The Fitz Trip Trap Round

Trip-trap, Amble, Clamber
or Run

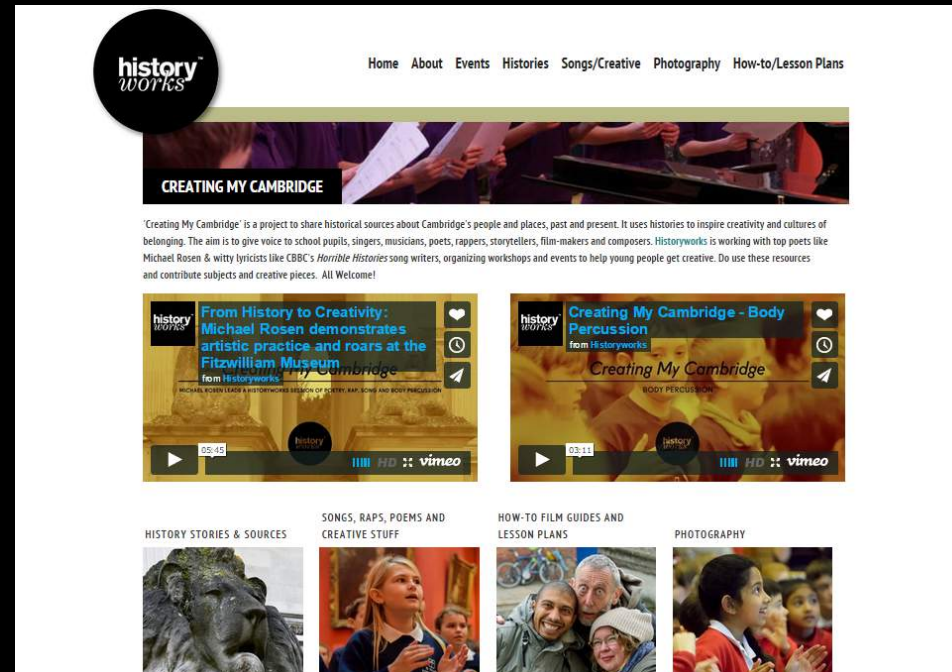
We are the Listening
Lions! ROAR!

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Web Resources available at:

[www.creatingmycambridge.com/history-stories/
lions-fitzwilliam-museum](http://www.creatingmycambridge.com/history-stories/lions-fitzwilliam-museum)



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