**New Music Biennial 2017**

**New Music Biennial** is a commissioning programme and festival which celebrates the work of talented music creators who push the boundaries of music in any genre. It aims to create a pop-up, interactive way for audiences to discover new music across two festival weekends: 30 June – 2 July as part of Hull City of Culture 2017 and 7-9 July in London at Southbank Centre.

New Music Biennial 2017 comprises twenty bite-sized pieces of music: ten brand new works and ten pre-existing works that have been composed within the last 15 years. These pieces were selected by an expert panel including Judith Weir Master of the Queen’s Music. They present a snapshot of contemporary music in the UK: from chamber opera, classical and jazz to folk, electronic and music for brass band and organ. BBC Radio 3 will be recording and broadcasting New Music Biennial performances from both locations. [www.newmusicbiennial.co.uk](http://www.newmusicbiennial.co.uk)

**The NMB Residency Programme in Hull**

The NMB Composer Residencies programme is an embedded community participation project in Hull, running from October 2016-March 2018.

It includes five composer residencies, a student CPD programme and a roll-out of Sound & Music’s Minute of Listening project to primary schools across Hull.

**The Composer Residencies**

Five New Music Biennial Composer Residencies will take place between September 2016 and July 2017 so that local communities in Hull can spend time and create music with some of the New Music Biennial’s brilliant music creators**.**

The residency will lead to the creation of music involving community participants, extracts from which will be presented as part of the NMB weekend woven together into a large-scale culmination piece, bringing together community participants and musicians from all five residencies for a ‘supergroup’ moment.

Each residency will be curated and led by a NMB composer, supported by a local music leader, two trainee student music leaders from Hull University and additional professional musicians.

Our New Music Biennial Composer Residencies will feature the following composers groups**:**

* Errollyn Wallen
* Brian Irvine
* Jason Singh
* Sam Lee
* Eliza Carthy

Although each of the five composers involved in the residency programme are taking a different approach to their time in Hull, the aim for all composers is for a 10-15 minute section of the resulting material generated to be fed to James Redwood by the end of May. This will give James a month to work on pulling together the collective contribution from the residencies for performance at the Festival weekend on 2 July 2017, in Princes Quay shopping Centre.

As it may not be possible for all contributions and contributors to the various residencies to be part of that supergroup moment, we are arranging a showcase event on Saturday 24 June, where as many participants as possible from across all the residencies will be encouraged to come to Hull City Hall, and share what has been created, with performances for friends and family, and members of the public in the afternoon.

James Redwood will co-ordinate this showcase day, which will also provide useful rehearsal time for groups coming together.

Opportunities to capture the residencies via film are being explored, both for marketing purposes and a series of short 3 or 4 min film documentaries for each residency. Suggested opportunities for filming/photography are highlighted in schedules below.

**ERROLLYN WALLEN**

Themed around the search for the modern spiritual, Errollyn’s residency is a song writing project, gathering people’s stories and reflections on hardship and how they use music to sustain themselves through hard times.  Work will reach out to the local refugee and migrant communities involved in Hull’s Open Doors project, and also work with year 4 pupils in 2 classes at Thoresby Primary School (with opportunities to do some creative work with parents in after school workshops).

Thoresby Primary runs a multicultural Kaleidoscope fortnight, in May, and the residencies will support this. There will be an opportunity to extend the work of the residency with other pupils brought together during that Kaleidoscope project, working with Errollyn and a team of residency supporting musicians.

A successful visit to Hull on 27 and 28 January provided the opportunity for Errollyn to meet potential local supporting artists, two schools, and clients and volunteers at Open Doors. A musical showcase was organized for 27 Jan at Open Doors, by volunteers involved in an existing music project with refugee groups. A range of participants of various nationalities offered performances showcasing their own music in a very special day. Hull 2017 will support Open Doors with a grant to support music group activity for the duration of the residency.

As a means of extending the reach of Errollyn’s residency, she will contribute a ‘Composition Lab’ masterclass day as part of the Albemarle Saturdays initiative, which coincides with the Hull WOW (Women of the World) festival, with the support of cellist Sarah Suckling. The workshop will allow people to compose music for solo cello in a day, this is accessible for a broad range of people, from the highly experienced to the complete novice, and provides and exciting opportunity for people to explore the compositional process.

Errollyn will also be contributing a performance at the WOW launch on Friday 10 March, and will be part of a panel discussion on Sunday 12 March, paid for from WOW Festival funds. We welcome the opportunity to make connections with the Residency and this high profile event within the Hull2017 programme.

**Supporting Musicians:**

Hull

Gary Hammond, percussionist (formerly in Beautiful South, now folk and session musician)

Pete Jack & Frankie Banham (aka Mambo Jambo)

Volunteer music leaders at Open Doors, Cecil Jones and Gabrielle Awre, and ethnomusicologist, Nola Marshall, will support the project as Assistant Workshop leaders

A Choral leader, Em Whitfield Brooks will support in workshops, with a particular emphasis on building vocal confidence in performing songs with Primary School children & parents

Students on the University CPD programme

Stanislava Svarogina

Sandy Clarke

Visiting

Sarah Suckling, professional cellist will support the final stages

Two additional players from Errollyn’s Orchestra X will be brought in to support final stages and performance – Errollyn has yet to identify which players.

Participants

* Pupils and parents from two classes in Thorseby Primary School
* Open Doors (community organisation working with refugees, migrants, asylum seekers)

Still to contracting with supporting artists.

A grant arrangement with Open Doors has been drafted – to enable them to support the residency at no additional cost to the core project. This will include a facility to pay volunteer expenses, participants travel expenses, translator fees, and room hire.

**JASON SINGH**

Jason will collaborate with technology company Kinicho to create a 2,017-second 3D

immersive audio piece based on output from community collaborations. It will be installed in the foyer of Hull History Centre over the NMB weekend. He has been successful in obtaining funds from Arts Council England to support the creation of this installation, enabling project funds to be spent on workshop delivery.

It’s envisaged that the residency will also include an element that will lead to live performance.

Installation: Ebb and Flow

Ebb and Flow explores people’s memories of Hull. It connects to Hull’s links with water, transformation, regrowth and change. Jason is interested in capturing people’s memories of Hull through sound. I would like to include stories, songs, vague and vivid accounts of the past, seasons, descriptions of spaces that once existed, fond memories, stories about the war and its effects on people’s lives.

The sound piece will also contain sounds of spaces, buildings and places around Hull. These may also be re-interpreted/manipulated to create musical textures which may in turn provoke a dialogue about perception of a place and space.

Ebb and Flow will be a 23-speaker, fully immersive Ambisonic sound installation. It will be constructed using a Higher Order Ambisonics sound-field, almost like a dome-shaped structure, which will be programmed and installed in the History Centre by Liverpool based 3D/Ambisonic’s company, Kinicho. Aesthetically, the sound of the piece will incorporate an “ebb and flow” feel to simulate tidal movement and breathing. The content will include speech, field-recordings and music.

The content of the installation will be derived from various workshops working with people of different ages, cultures and communities in Hull. The sessions will be facilitated by a wide range of artists from Hull, Jason Singh and possible technical support from Hull University and Hull College. The length of the piece will be 2017 seconds and play on loop.

On 15 December 2016 – We took the opportunity to bring together the local practitioners involved in leading work with young people involved in Jason’s residency, including projects funded through Youth Music, and Colours of Music Orchestra Project which works with Special Schools. Jason’s timetable is shaping up and he will be working in Hull from March 2017.

**Supporting Musicians**

Hull

Jez Riley French

Rob Mackay

Wai Wan

Stewart Baxter (The Warren)

Gary Hammond, Donna Smith working on the Colours of Music Orchestra

Paul Clark, Santino Roberts, DJ Chile,

Special School staff: Dale Cavany (Ganton Special School), Patrick Plunkett (Frederick Holmes School).

Other local music leaders currently being identified by Clare/The Warren – could include a regular Warren worker, Liam Van Rijn – who’s currently working on Hull2017 Mind on the Run project.

Will support workshop delivery, field recordings, studio mixing

Students on the University CPD programme

|  |
| --- |
| Marios Adamopoulos |
| Shahriar Hashemi-Parast |

Visiting Musicians – proposed by Jason

Yazz Ahmed

Giuliano Modarelli

John Ellis

Will rehearse and perform in live iteration as part of NMB weekend.

**Participants**

The Warren

Colours of Music Orchestra (which brings together young people from 4 special schools with Youth Groups)

Youth Music-supported projects in Hull (via Ruth Drake)

Local Authority Day Centre (Adult Support Services)

History Makers (creative workshop for young people at Hull History Centre)

**Additional Partners**

Hull College (studio time)

Hull History Centre (host venue and sound archive)

Contract is finalised and signed. First payment made.

**SAM LEE**

Sam’s ideas are firming up around his project, and he has appointed a lead artist Jack Durtnall who will be the main point of contact for the residency.

Phase 1: interviewing members of the Traveller and former sea faring communities, recording those interviews, and producing resource to use as a starting point for creating songs with young people. Some inspiration may also be drawn from rare artifacts within the collection of Trinity House.

Phase 2:  Work in schools to explore listening and recording sounds in their own lives, and interviewing their elders or inspirational people from their own families.  Later development of the project would involve building on this work as a resource for song writing, creating lyrics and exploring musical forms and song construction. This phase might include opportunities from members of the Traveller and former sea faring community to visit schools, and Sam is interested in taking a group of children out into the community to perform the results of their creative work.

Potential for digital platform to host residency material has not been progressed.

Polly Eldridge is supporting Sam to manage the project, and Sam has identified Jack Durtnall to be the lead artist.

Sam and Jack had an exploratory visit on 2/3 February. An introduction to the Trinity House Brethren was postponed due to illness, however, they were given a guided tour of ‘The House’ which was very much appreciated. Sam’s words: “Trinity house OMG!!!! trip of a lifetime”.

Sam and Polly have developed a proposal (including proposed schedule of work and lesson plans) which have been shared with Buckingham Primary School and Trinity Academy. Some negotiation needs to take place before the Primary school will accept the proposal. Jack visited the Head to discuss the project on 14 February, work in schools started on 8 March. Jack also met with Trinity Academy with Sam Pirt on 14 February to progress plans for the work there, working through Year 8 and 9 music lessons. I

Sam introduced Jack to Renee Smith, a local Traveller in her 80’s whose story he would like to focus on. Renee was ill with a cold, so unable to undertake an interview on their visit. She did indicate that she would be interested in being further involved, and in having her story told to young people. Sam has decided not to pursue the idea of video portraits at present, but this is not ruled out completely.

The idea is now that local musician Sam Pirt will be utilised in the project as much as possible, he is a strong leader and his involvement would help for future legacy of the project.

**Supporting Musicians**

Students on the University CPD programme

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| --- |
| Michael Betteridge |

**Jack Durtnall** musician and ethnomusicologist, Jack will be workshop leader to oversee the programme of workshops in partnership with Sam working on a series of Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Visiting

Richard O’Neil - Romany Gypsy Storyteller mid 50s regular workshop. Knows Hull and the G&T community well and lots of the Smiths there

Local

Sam Pirt - East Yorkshire based folk musician, accordion player, highly experience leading workshops in schools and community settings with a range of ages. Interested in song and tune collection from various cultures, including Scandanavia and Europe

Hazel Richings – local folk singer (formerly half of Hissyfit duo)

**Participants**

Trinity House Brethren, old boys and residents of Trinity House Care home (older men linked to former seafaring community of Hull)

Traveller community – possible focus on one or two characters who are approachable

Buckingham Primary School (Yr 5 pupils)

Trinity Academy (boys secondary school) (classes in Yr 8 and 9)

Contract in negotiation with Sam’s management.

**BRIAN IRVINE**

Brian is working in a specific geographical area just outside the city centre to the East. It is economically deprived and neglected, with housing nestled amongst industrial units.

He visited Hull on 30th November to meet with groups and organisations in this area and is currently working on a schedule of dates with Clare. His approach is different to the other residency artists – he plans to base himself in the area, engage with a wide variety of groups, run open workshops and develop the creative work as the residency develops.

**Supporting Musicians**

Brian does not want to recruit any supporting musicians until he has started working in the area and can establish what is needed. Clare has identified local musician Dave Gawthorpe as a potential good fit for the project, but he has yet to be approached, pending the outcome of Brian’s development work.

Brian is exploring forming music groups within the community, and a call out has been issued to residents of Pickering and Ferens homes for people who have some musical skill (however rusty) to contribute to the Big Elastic Band. The Manager of Buckingham Street Day Centre has undertaken to ascertain which of their service users may have played an instrument or sung in the past. Residents at The Crossings are keen to form a band, and are open to inviting people from the surrounding area to get involved. Companions at Emmaus Project on Lockwood Street are also being approached to contribute to the project, and collaborate with the Crossings Group.

An approach to work with classes across year groups at Mersey Primary has been warmly accepted. Each class in years 1 to 5 will work with Brian to create their own music during the course of the project.

An approach to Hull2017 volunteers to ascertain if they have any instrumentalists in their ranks who live in the project area is being scoped out.

Later on in the project Brian will bring in members of his band to support the rehearsals and performance.

Brian will contribute a composition masterclass to Albemarle Saturdays programme on 27 May. The format will be based on improvisation and will be open to all comers.

Students on the University CPD programme

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| --- |
| George Patterson |
| George Marshall |

**Participants**

Buckingham St. Day Centre (older people with dementia)

Pickering and Ferens Homes – Humber View and others (Sheltered Housing scheme)

The Crossings (place of change scheme for former homeless people)

Emmaus Hull (place of change scheme for former homeless people)

Mersey Primary School

Contract signed.

**ELIZA CARTHY**

Eliza is planning to run a residency entitled **‘Hull Is’** based on a reworking of Three Day Millionnaire by Mike Waterson, working with Gary Hammond and Sam Pirt to write a cup percussion pattern which could be learned by non-professionals.  Eliza would then write a new song to layer on top of TDM which would be about Hull in the present.  The material for this song would come from local people that she works with.  She wants to hand-pick some musicians from local non-professional groups to create a band to work with.

The resulting work with create a brand new song about "Hull is" with participants generating text and music.

Eliza is spent 5 days in Hull during February and March undertaking interviews/workshops with local groups to ascertain what ‘Hull Is’ to them. She will then work up ideas into a song, and work with Gary Hammond and Sam Pirt to create music in a cup song style (over 3 days). She is then proposing to work on this for performance.

A final day on 10 March will see Eliza workshoping with Hull2017 volunteers, and dancers from the Hull & East Riding Hindu Cultural Association.

Gary and Sam will do follow up with music students from Wyke 6th Form College, 16 and 20 June 2017.

Contract signed.

**Supporting Musicians**

Hull

Sam Pirt, folk musician

Gary Hammond, percussionist

Students on the University CPD programme

Sarah Dew

**Interview Participants**

Wyke College (dancers, music students and creative writing)

Kingston Boxing Club (with links into former fishing industry)

Dancers from Hindu Cultural Association

Boulevard Village Hall Coffee Morning

Giroscope Housing Co-operative

Spring Cottage Primary School – Year 1 and Year 5 pupils

Dock Workers – Associated British Ports employees

Market Traders – Walton Street Market and Trinity Market

1. **Composer Masterclasses**

James Redwood has run successful masterclass activities at Hull University on 4th November - the morning session for local music leaders (10 participants) and the afternoon for our Residency Students (a further 10), a further masterclass on 15 December and recent masterclass attended by 15 music leaders on 24 February.

Feedback about this work has been very positive and it’s highly valued by those attending.

Errollyn Wallen and Brian Irvine are contributing masterclass sessions to Albemarle Saturdays project.

The project’s CPD offer for each of the composers has been extended to a range of local music leaders, musicians and all local practitioners involved in the residencies, thus extending the broad impact of the project beyond the narrow focus of communities involved directly with each composer.

**3. Student CPD**

10 Hull University music students are recruited to the CPD programme. Three students have had to withdraw from their studies due to personal circumstances. Students have indicated their preference for the composers with whom they would like to work, a shuffling exercise is necessary to match up with their availability.

Some have limited availability and it is proving a challenge to establish matches with composers schedules for the residency work. Rob Mackay is assisting with this.  
  
Further CPD session is scheduled for Friday 21st April and will take place at the Albemarle Music Centre in the City Centre, which has a considerable capacity for participants, and easy access to public transport.

