**NEW MUSIC BIENNIEL 2017 COMPOSERS**

**SAM LEE**

Sam Lee is a **Mercury Prize nominated** folk singer, song collector, promoter (of **BBC award-winning folk club The Nest Collective**) and radio host. His two critically acclaimed albums (‘Ground of Its Own’ and ‘The Fade in Time’) which showcase songs he has collected first hand from the **Gypsy Traveller Community**. Lee comes from North London, studied at **Chelsea School of Art**, and worked as a forager and wilderness expert (while moonlighting as a burlesque dancer) until a chance encounter led to the door of the great Scottish Traveller singer Stanley Robertson, and a four-year apprenticeship into the world of traditional song.

Awarded the 2011 Arts Foundation prize and nominated for the 2012 Mercury Award for his debut album, ‘Ground Of Its Own’, he has taken his music worldwide to more than 20 countries, **appeared in ‘Peaky Blinders’ on TV**, and joined **The Unthanks** to commemorate the Great War at the Barbican in London. His second album, ‘The Fade in Time’, extends the borders of his music beyond its national boundaries to encompass *Bollywood beats*, Polynesian textures and contemporary classical music.

Lee’s performance of ‘The Tan Yard Side’ to the accompaniment of a nightingale on Radio 4 in May 2014 won ‘Pick of the Year’ and has led to the development of **‘Sam Lee’s Singing with Nightingales.’** Taking place in the woodlands of Sussex, invited stars of the classical, world music and jazz communities perform around the campfire, there are talks by ornithological experts and a journey through forest and fields to listen to the nightingales sing. In 2016, BBC Radio 3 broadcast the experience nightly, and in 2017, the project is expanding beyond Sussex into three new sites in Cambridgeshire, Kent and Essex in April/May.

**Sam Lee New Commission – *Hullucination* (**Commissioned by The Nest Collective)

The Mercury Prize nominated Sam Lee and driving force behind the eclectic, award-winning folk club The Nest Collective will explore the rich history of vernacular folk song in Hull City and District using a collection of songs from in and around the city. Through recorded testimonials that capture the current and historical oral traditions extant amongst the residents, Sam Lee creates a sonic triptych combining choral and arranged accompaniment to portrait the city and its ever changing character.

**EMILY HALL**

Hall describes herself as “**a composer who carries a dictaphone with me everywhere I go**, singing into it in muffled tones. Every song has hundreds of versions before it is ready. I love commissions which lead me to new places. I love writers who take me somewhere new and I get very inspired by the singers and musicians I write for.”

Hall studied composition at York University and the Royal College of Music, London. She has written for many different ensembles and orchestras including the **London Sinfonietta, LSO, BBCNOW, the Brodsky Quartet, Opera North, LCO, Hungarian Radio Choir. Her music has been broadcast on BBC Radio 2,3,4 and 6Music**. **She has written four operas**.

Hall’s first opera, ‘Sante’ (2006), produced by Aldeburgh Music, was described by The Times as "a dynamic new opera worth everyone's time and hopes”. Her second was a film-opera, ‘The Nightingale and the Rose’ (2010), written for Streetwise Opera and created with filmmaker Gaelle Denis. Her third opera ‘Folie a Deux’ (2015), is a concept album/opera, written with Icelandic author Sjon for singers Sofia Jernberg and Allan Clayton and produced by Mahogany Opera and released by Bedroom Community. And her fourth, ‘Found and Lost’ (2016), a site-specific opera installation created for the Corinthia Hotel, London. She has written a trilogy of song cycles with the author Toby Litt, about first love (‘Befalling’), motherhood (‘Life Cycle’) and death (‘Rest’).

In 2013, Emily Hall received the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Artists, in 2006 the Genesis Opera Prize and in 2005 the Royal Philharmonic Society Composition Award and in 2015 the Corinthia AIR. **Hall is a member of *Bedroom Community*, the Icelandic record label** comprising 11 different diverse but like-minded musicians from across the globe. **In late 2016 she debuted a new instrument (See-Through Squares**) made in collaboration with David Sheppard and Ann-Margreth-Bohl. The instrument triggers sounds and sequences she has composed as the squares are turned and prodded.

**Emily Hall New Commission –** ***Witchsong*** (Commissioned by Mahogany Opera Group)

Written by composer Emily Hall and author Toby Litt, Witchsong is a visual and atmospheric event for children aged 8-11 and forms part of the nationwide project ‘Snappy Operas’ of 10 new mini-operas from British artists created with and performed by children. The piece invites each child and audience member to explore the ambiguous nature of witches using chants, melodies and language from the playground and instrumental accompaniment made from everyday school equipment including recorder drones, chalk and skipping ropes. Hall works regularly with singers and writers and finds her own ways of using technology and live performance in her works.

**DANIEL ELMS**

Daniel Elms is a composer of humanist, post-minimal music. **He uses his music to address social and political inequality**, taking inspiration from the ideology of anarchosyndicalism\* and from the disparate social and economic conditions in and around his hometown, Hull.

Elms’ music has been performed by members of the **London Symphony Orchestra, Welsh National Opera, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, the Aurora Orchestra, Britten Sinfonia, the Balanescu Quartet, the Valido Quartet**, and prominent soloists such as Richard Harwood, Thomas Gould, Peter Gregson, Joby Burgess and Giacomo Bigoni. In 2013, Daniel was awarded the Musicians’ Benevolent Fund’s Emerging Excellence Award.

Elms’ current work is focused on the social and political isolation of the individual; a reminder of the importance of empathetic discourse between differing ideologies in a time of divisive media and politics. Since late 2015, he has implemented electronic instrumentation as part of a more traditional, acoustic timbre and, currently, he is **developing a method of notation for the advanced performance techniques of electric guitar and signal processing**. Elms’ debut album, ‘Soft Machines’, features the first of these electro-acoustic compositions, which were written in isolation at the former home of Imogen Holst, courtesy of the Britten-Peers and Holst foundations. The album will be released in late 2017.

In late 2016, Daniel began work on a variety of media projects with composer Max Richter and, as part of this relationship, **composed the additional music for the** **BBC Series Taboo**. In 2015, Daniel was commissioned to create scores for Royal Court Theatre’s production of Nicola Wilson’s Plaques and Tangles and February Films’ feature film Road Games (now on Netflix). Daniel has written music for a variety of motion-picture projects, including the **BAFTA-nominated short film Ralph by Alex Winkle**r and the **Academy Award-nominated The Library of Burned Books** by Alasdair Beckett-King; his music has also featured on the **BBC’s Natural World: Africa** and the **BBC series Imagine**.

Elms’ is currently forming a collective with musicians, producers and curators from Hull, in order to develop a state-of-the-art recording and performance space within the city. More details about the collective and the artisan facility will be released throughout the year, and the New Sound Collective will soon be creating a series of recordings to showcase the raw potential of the new site.

\* Anarcho-syndicalism is a theory of anarchism which views revolutionary industrial unionism or syndicalism as a method for workers in capitalist society to gain control of an economy and, with that control, influence broader society

**Daniel Elms - New Commmission – *Bethia*** (Commissioned by British Film Institute)

Influenced by the natural landscape surrounding his Yorkshire Hometown, Daniel Elms’ piece for acoustic and electronic instruments celebrates the maritime history of Hull using re-imagined sea shanties and maritime hymns. It will be performed alongside projected film footage that has been edited and adapted to create abstract ambience and light. Written for a small group of chamber musicians the music will interweave cross-rhythms and interlocking harmony to create a texture similar to that of a tremulous sea.

**PETER EDWARDS**

Peter Edwards graduated with a **Masters in Jazz** from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in 2009. Participation in the **Tomorrowʼs Warriors young artist development programme** gave him the opportunity to sharpen his performance and compositional skills under the guidance of Gary Crosby OBE. He began recording and touring with the **Abram Wilson Quartet** and has gone on to work with **Rhythmica, Nicola Emmanuelle and Zara McFarlane**.

In 2010, Edwards formed his piano trio and released a Jazzlotion E.P. and in 2013, he returned to the studio to record his **debut trio album ‘Safe and Sound’**. The album received positive reviews – 4\* in MOJO, 4\* in The Evening Standard and 3\* in The Guardian. In July 2015 the group was selected play at the Montreal Jazz Festival for a ‘BBC Introducing’ showcase in association with the PRS Foundation. The performance was recorded and later broadcast on BBC Radio's ‘Jazz on 3’ and Jamie Cullum's Radio 2 programme.

Edwards’ has **collaborated with artists from a range of genres inside and outside the music world**, including QB Smith (House producer based in South Africa), Corine D’hondee (documentary film maker), Shlomo (beat-boxing artist), Emma Godebska (visual artist). In 2016 he released his second album 'A Matter of Instinct' and he intends to release further singles from that recording session, including a remix of his tune Samba City featuring MOBO and Jazz FM award winning singer Zara McFarlane and the London School of Samba Bateria. In December 2016 Edwards made his debut as a **film composer**, having been commissioned by the British Film Institute, in association with Tomorrow's Warriors Live, to write a new score to a 1925 silent movie entitled **'Body and Soul'**. The film was written and directed by Oscar Micheaux and features Paul Robeson in his motion picture debut. Edwards has very recently celebrated the work of Joni Mitchell in a performance of Hejira at the Southbank Centre, as part of the Women of the World Festival. Joined my Mercury prize nominees and other critically acclaimed artists.

**Peter Edwards - New Commission – *A Journey with the Giants of Jazz*** (Commissioned by Turner Sims, Southampton)

Pianist, composer and bandleader and nominee for the 2015 Jazz FM Breakthrough Artist Awards, Peter Edwards, looks into the year 1917, which was a defining year for jazz. It saw the births of some of the most influential jazz artists including composer ‘Tadd’ Dameron, singer Ella Fitzgerald, trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, pianist Thelonious Monk, drummer Buddy Rich and percussionist Mongo Santamaria. Taking inspiration from the motifs found in six of the artists’ classic works, Peter Edwards’ piece, to be performed by the Nu Civilisation Orchestra (a Tomorrow’s Warriors ensemble), deconstructs their themes to offer the audience a re-imagined and alternative musical experience*.*

**RAY LEE**

Ray Lee is an award-winning sound artist and composer. He creates spinning, whirling, and pendulous sound installations and performances that explore “circles of ether,” the invisible forces that surround us. His immersive and mesmerising works such as the world-wide hit *Siren*, *Ethometric Museum* and his monumental outdoor work *Chorus* aim to make contemporary music accessible and engaging for a wide audience.

*Siren* toured the world with significant British Council support. *Ethometric Museum* won him the 2012 British Composer of the Year for Sonic Art. *Force Field* was awarded an honorary mention in the 2008 Prix Ars Electronica. He is a Professor of Sound Art at Oxford Brookes University and an associate artist of OCM (Oxford Contemporary Music).

*Chorus* is going to be shown at the Hong Kong Arts Festival in March and an automated version of *Siren* will be on at Materado, Madrid later in March through to April.

***New Commission - Ray Lee – Ring Out*** (Commissioned by Oxford Contemporary Music)

Sound artist and composer Ray Lee, renowned for creating music for public places, will create an outdoor musical and visual spectacle composed for electronically generated bell sounds, each swinging from a giant metal tower. The composition builds a series of tonal pitches into a constantly evolving texture of pulsed tones created by the swinging of the bell-speakers by a team of local bell-ringers. The audience are able to walk around the space and experience the series of micro-melodies shifting and changing as the piece progresses.

**SIMON HOLT**

Simon Holt was born in Bolton, Lancashire in 1958. After completing a foundation course at Bolton Art College, he went on to study composition with Anthony Gilbert at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. He is a **Fellow of the Royal Northern College of Music and of the University of Bolton**.

Shortly after graduating from the Royal Northern College of Music, Simon Holt was firmly established on the new music circuit with a series of commissions and collaborations with the **London Sinfonietta** and the **Nash Ensemble**. Influenced by Messiaen, Xenakis and Feldman as well as visual artists such as Goya, Giacometti and Brancusi, his music is complex, dramatic and often enigmatic. During the 1980s he worked primarily in complex soundworlds, while since the 1990s the dense textures have often been offset by Feldmanesque moments of calm, that Holt refers to as ‘still centres’.

Holt was Composer in Association at the **BBC National Orchestra of Wales 2008 - 2014** and during that time wrote a number of successful orchestral works including St Vitus in the Kettle, Centauromachy, The Yellow Wallpaper and Morpheus Wakes.

**New Commission - Simon Holt – Concerto for clarinet & Orchestra** (Commissioned by BBC Philharmonic Orchestra)

Simon Holt is one of the UK’s leading composers and is currently Professor of Composition at the Royal College of Music. He will write a basset clarinet concerto for 2006’s BBC Young Musician of the Year Mark Simpson, inspired from a black and white print by the English artist, Cecil Collins, of a rampant bull-like creature with fearsome horns.

**MICA LEVI**

Mica Levi is an English singer, songwriter, composer, and producer. She is classically trained, studying viola, violin, and composition at the Purcell School and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Since 2008 she has released experimental pop music with her band **Good Sad Happy Bad** (**formerly known as Micachu and The Shapes**). Their work is experimental and blends indie, dance and hip-hop, and their debut album, ‘Jewellery’ received critical acclaim. The band became known for recording with household and handmade instruments including **hoovers and decks of cards**. A 2010 live recording with the **London Sinfonietta** (which resulted in the 2011 album ‘Chopped & Screwed’) gave a nod to Levi’s formal training.

In 2014, Levi branched out into film composing, creating the minimalist **score for the Jonathan Glazer film *Under the Skin***. Her work was widely praised and Levi received a **European Film Award for Best Composer, L.A. Film Critics Award for Best Music Score** and was nominated for a BAFTA Award for Best Film Music. In 2016, Levi and cellist Oliver Coates (who played on Under the Skin) collaborated on an album titled *Remain Calm*. Also in 2016, Levi completed her second film score, for Pablo Larraín's *Jackie,* starring Natalie Portman. She was **nominated for Best Original Score at the 2017 Academy Awards for her work on *Jackie***, making her only the fourth woman to be nominated as a composer in the scoring category, and the first woman in nearly two decades.

**New Commission - Mica Levi – New work for the BBC Concert Orchestra** (Commissioned by BBC Concert Orchestra)

Mica Levi is a classically trained singer, songwriter, BAFTA nominated composer and producer who is best known for her band Micachu & The Shapes. Mica will write an exciting piece with the BBC Concert Orchestra drawing on and utilising the Orchestra’s huge sound and great power.

**GAVIN BRYARS**

Gavin Bryars was born in Yorkshire in 1943. His first musical reputation was as a jazz bassist working in the early sixties with improvisers Derek Bailey and Tony Oxley. He abandoned improvisation in 1966 and worked for a time in the United States with John Cage. Subsequently he collaborated closely with composers such as Cornelius Cardew and John White. From 1969 to 1978 he taught in departments of Fine Art in Portsmouth and Leicester, and during the time that he taught at Portsmouth College of Art he was instrumental in founding the legendary Portsmouth Sinfonia. He founded the music department at Leicester Polytechnic (later De Montfort University) and was professor of music there from 1986 to 1994. His first major work as a composer was *The Sinking of the Titanic* (1969) originally released on Brian Eno's Obscure label in 1975 and *Jesus' Blood Never Failed Me Yet* (1971), both famously released in new versions in the 1990s on Point Music label, selling over a quarter of a million copies.

He has composed prolifically for the theatre and dance as well as for the concert hall and has written four full-length operas. Among Gavin Bryars' other works are three string quartets and a great deal of chamber music, much of it for his own ensemble. Orchestral commissions include Bournemouth Sinfonietta (*The Green Ray*, 1991), BBC Symphony Orchestra (*The War in Heaven*, 1993), Primavera Chamber Orchestra (*The Porazzi Fragment*, 1999, *Violin Concerto* 2000), *Double Bass Concerto* ("Farewell to St. Petersburg") for Duncan McTier (2002), London Sinfonietta (2004). He has written three "songbooks", the first setting the poetry of Etel Adnan, the second setting Blake Morrison and the third, setting the poetry (both English and French) of Samuel Beckett written for the Samuel Beckett Happy Days Festival, performed by his ensemble with his daughter Orlanda Bryars and counter tenor James Cave. Considered one of the world’s greatest living composers.

Most recent release was in late 2016 – the Fifth Century CD, a big piece for saxophone quartet and choir with words taken from the 17th-century English mystic Thomas Traherne. Bryars featured on the front cover of US’s Rolling Stone magazine with Carla Bley in late 2016 marking the announcement of the 2017 Big Ears festival programme, an international art and music festival held in late March in Tennessee. Bryars and his ensemble will be making their first-ever American appearance.

**New Commission - Gavin Bryars – *Winestead*** (Commissioned by Opera North)

Born in Yorkshire Gavin Bryars has been described as a composer ‘who falls under no category’ and since 2006 he has been collaborating with Opera North on numerous projects. Inspired by the eerie, flat landscape east of Hull towards the North Sea, ***Winestead*** sees the composer Gavin Bryars, originally from Goole, returning to his East Yorkshire roots in his first work directly inspired by his birthplace. He will also draw on the life and poetry of Andrew Marvell (1621-1678), the metaphysical poet who was born and raised in the Holderness region. When a young man of just 19, Marvell may have witnessed his father drowning as he tried to cross the Humber. The new commission will take two iterations; one a sound installation in the church at Winestead where Marvell’s father was the rector; and the second a live performance by an ensemble of musicians and possibly one singer. The piece will also be screened online by Opera North and Hull 2017 UK City of Culture.

**ELIZA CARTHY**

If there is one musician who embodies the dynamism and vitality of the current English folk revival, it’s Eliza Carthy. Beloved of staunch traditionalists and iconoclasts alike, Eliza’s music effortlessly crosses boundaries of genre and style. Whether performing a centuries-old ballad or a self-written song, her powerful, nuanced voice, fiercely beautiful fiddle playing and mesmerizing live performances have influenced a whole generation of young musicians.

Born into a formidable musical dynasty, Eliza grew up steeped in the folk traditions of England. Her mother Norma was one of The Watersons, whose tight harmony arrangements of traditional songs became one of the defining sounds of the 1960s folk revival. Her father, Martin Carthy, is a hugely significant singer and guitarist, who influenced the likes of Bob Dylan and Paul Simon. Bursting onto the scene in the early 90s and championed from an early age by the likes of John Peel, Andy Kershaw, Billy Bragg and Glastonbury founder Michael Eavis, Eliza has rarely stood still artistically. Eliza’s musical knowledge and ability is also well respected outside of the folk world: she has been a judge at both the Q Awards and the Ivor Novello Awards, and in 2005 co-presented the BBC Radio 3 World Music Awards with Benjamin Zephaniah. Her achievements have been acknowledged with numerous BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, two Mercury Prize nominations, and in 2003 she was the first English traditional musician to be nominated for a BBC Radio 3 Award for World Music. She has collaborated with numerous musicians working in different genres, including Paul Weller, Jools Holland, jazz legend Bill Frisell, seminal Scots Latin/trad fusion band Salsa Celtica, Finnish Lord of the Rings composers Vartinna, Joan Baez, Cerys Matthews, 90s dance pioneers Red Snapper and many more.

Eliza was appointed Folkworks Artistic Associate at The Sage Gateshead in 2014, a role that involved a number of curated performances, research, education, international collaboration, and large-scale legacy projects. Her latest album, Eliza Carthy & The Wayward Band: Big Machine. has received critical acclaim since its release in February 2017. She will be touring throughout 2017 in a variety of musical formats, including with the 12-piece Wayward Band and as a duo with Saul Rose in April then with Martin Carthy in summer/autumn.

**New Commission - Eliza Carthy in collaboration with the Moulettes – *Rivers and Railways*** (Commissioned by Freedom Festival)

Eliza’s new piece, Rivers and Railways is a collaboration with celebrated sonic adventurers Moulettes, exploring the theme of what makes a city what it is when it is perched on the edge of a place, a port, a destination, an identity. Touching upon themes of migration, Hull’s industries and history (Hull was the second most bombed city in the Second World War) and its pioneering son William Wilberforce who was instrumental in writing the Abolition of Slavery Act. Using local stories and music to create the new work, and through creative staging, using outdoor location and engagement with the singers from the Hull Freedom Chorus, will make something very special and unique and with a strong Hull flavour that will be unmistakeable and moving.

**GOGO PENGUIN**

Manchester based trio GoGo Penguin (drummer Rob Turner, double bassist Nick Blacka and pianist Chris Illingworth) have had a busy couple of years. Their trademark mash-up of minimalist piano themes, deeply propulsive bass lines and electronica-inspired drums has seen them shortlisted for the Mercury Prize and fuelled their exhilarating live shows from Manchester to Montreal and Paris to London.

They’ve written and performed a new score for Godfrey Reggio’s cult film Koyaanisqatsi and collaborated with noted choreographer Lynn Page for a Gilles Peterson-curated night at the Barbican. And in the midst of all this they’ve signed a multi-album deal with Blue Note Records. Their latest album is called Man Made Object and it was released in February 2016. Although they're predominately an acoustic piano trio, GoGo Penguin’s music draws from many areas of contemporary electronic music, one where you can hear arcade game bleeps, glitchy breakbeats, hypnotic Aphex-style melodies, grinding bass lines and a rumbling low-end. It has been described as “acoustic electronica”.

The band will be on tour in the Europe in March/April 2017 and will be attending SXSW in Texas in mid-March (funded by PRS Foundation).

**New Commission - GoGo Penguin – Abstractions of the Industrial North** (Commissioned by Jnight Jazz Promoters)

Renowned for the minimalist piano themes, deeply propulsive bass lines and electronica inspired drums, the Mercury Prize nominated Manchester based jazz trio GoGo Penguin will create a piece of music inspired by the Northern industrial landscape in 2017 for the documentary film *Mind On The Run*. The film will be created by producers from Nova Studios, the University of Hull and Hull 2017 and will be about Basil Kirchin, who died in Hull in 2005. Basil Kirchin is the forgotten genius of post-war British music. British pioneer of musique concrete, leading light in the free jazz movement, a film composer who inspired Bernard Hermann and according to Brian Eno, the founding father of ambient.

**DARKSTAR**

Since their early dancefloor 12”s on Hyperdub from 2008 and through two vocal-led albums in 2010 and 2013, Darkstar have been an influential force in the UK’s electronic scene. Foam Island, the third studio LP from Darkstar, is a contemporary electronic pop album, dealing with powerful themes of ambition and hope against the odds in the 21st century. Released in 2015, the band described it saying: “*it’s a culmination of everything we’ve written up to this point, the club and electronic side but also trying to tell a story*”.

During trips to visit family in Northern England, Darkstar founder members Aiden Whalley and James Young noticed a change in the area’s social atmosphere. This climate began to increasingly influence the duo’s writing sessions, and they began a three month project of documenting this by talking to local young people in nearby Huddersfield. The lyrics and the sound palette for Foam Island were shaped by the people and emotions they encountered there, and their recordings of interviewees’ speech were compellingly woven into the tracks. In July 2016, Darkstar released a new EP ‘Made To Measure’, featuring collaborations with Empress Of and Gaika.

In December 2016, Darkstar’s track ‘Bed Music – North View’ was used as the soundtrack for the Gucci Bamboo TV advert and their song 'Timeaway' has soundtracked the new 'Voices Of 4' diversity campaign on Channel 4.

**New Commission – Darkstar** (Commissioned by James McVinnie)

Having recently scored the the Palm D’or nominated short film ‘Dreamlands’ Darkstar (James Young and Aiden Whalley) will compose a piece of music that reflects the landscape of Hull and its community. They have recently collaborated with Gaika and Empress Of on their EP on Warp Records ‘Made to Measure’ and now look forward to working with James McVinnie in exploring the Organs capabilities and how it merges with their sonic palette. On the New Music Biennial piece, James Young said: *“For the piece we are writing we’d like to explore the industry of Hull as a City, what is intrinsic to Hull and what makes it tick? How can we immerse musically and sonically so that the piece we write not only compliments Hull but feels at home there too? We’d like our collaboration to reflect as many facets of Hull that we can encompass so it ebbs and flows as a recording and a performance.”* Organist James McVinnie has collaborated with some of the world’s leading composers, producers and performers from classical, contemporary, popular and experimental music. 2017 includes solo performances and a concerto appearance at the Walt Disney Concert Hall with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Kilkenny Festival and the Köln Philharmonie. He is a member of the Icelandic record label Bedroom Community.

**COMPOSERS WITH EXISTING WORKS SELECTED FOR INCLUSION**

**JASON SINGH & ANNE MARTIN**

**Ceumann // Footsteps** brought together contemporary sound artist Jason Singh with Skye-based Gaelic musician Anne Martin in an intercultural exchange exploring the artists’ personal biographies. Tracing the ancestral roots of beat-boxer, vocal-sculptor and musician Jason Singh, ATLAS Arts director Emma Nicolson, Martin and Singh visited Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, Northern India. This journey took the collaborative sound-making practice of Martin and Singh on a three-week research trip exploring the vocal similarity between Gaelic and Indian work-songs, rhythms and beats – whilst looking at the common histories found in these two cultures.

**Anne Martin** is a highly regarded Gaelic singer based in the Isle of Skye. Born and bred in the Trotternish area of Skye, Martin learned her craft from the traditional songs passed through the generations in her community. Martin has been invited to sing and teach Gaelic song across the globe, from Ireland, Canada, Australia to India.

**Jason Singh** is a beatboxer, vocal sculptor and sound artist whose work is rooted in inspiring people to engage in creative experiences through voice, technology, performance and participation. A prolific solo artist, he also collaborates and performs alongside artists such as Nitin Sawhney, Rokia Traorè, Sebastian Rochford, Leafcutter John, Shabaka Hutchings and Soumik Datta. Singh has also had numerous residencies, including at the V&A Museum, London, and Aberdeen Performing Arts. In 2016, Singh took his live performance of Following the Fleet: DRIFTERS on a UK tour of former fishing communitities starting in Unst, Shetland Isles. The work was an original vocal score for John Grierson’s 1929 silent herring trawler film, commissioned by the BFI for the film’s DVD/Blu-ray release. In 2017, there are plans to continue the journey from Leith to Great Yarmouth. In January 2017 he undertook a six-week project, India 2017 Warli Heart:Beat Project which involved working on a collaborative, cross artform project in Palghar, Maharastra.

In 2017 Singh will be resident artist in Hull as part of the Hull 2017 City of Culture and PRS New Music Biennial creating a piece called Ebb and Flow. The result of this will be a 23-speaker, fully immersive Ambisonic sound installation taking place over the weekend in Hull, at The History Centre.

**Jason Singh & Anne Martin (UK) with Sharat Chandra Srivastava, Gyan Singh (India) –**

***Ceumannan – Footsteps. 2.*** (Commissioned by Atlas Arts)

Performed by Anne Martin, Jason Singh, Sharat Chandra Srivastava, Gyan Singh and Joe Harrison

A synthesis of traditional Gaelic song and North Indian Raga, this piece interweaves contemporary rhythms and acoustic sounds with the struggles of culture and identity pertinent to both of the artists’ roots. The work is a continuation of ***Ceumannan – Footsteps*** which explores the struggle for land use experienced by both the Highlanders of Scotland and communities of Northern India, and emphasises the commonality and creativity of human experience.

**BRIAN IRVINE & JENNIFER WALSHE**

13 Vices was nominated for a British Composer Award in October 2016.

**Brian Irvine**

Composer/conductor Brian Irvine was born in Belfast. His huge body of work includes operas, orchestral works, large-scale participatory work, films, multi-media installations, dance works as well as ensemble, solo, and chamber pieces. His sound world is a personal concoction of contemporary classical, cartoon, punk, jazz, thrash and trash and combines the lost, the fixed, the free, the learned, the naïve, the precious and the junk. It often takes the form of giant super structures - as in the head on collision of two symphony orchestras, improvising choir and two conductors in the study of madness that is Praise aloud the trees (collaboration with Seamus Heaney) or the 7 day performance installation of 3000 collected objects, symphony orchestra, choir, intervention performers and soloists in NEST (the Northern Ireland Artists Taking The lead commission for the London 2012 Olympics). In February 2017 his collaboration with lyricist John McIlduff, Anything But Bland, which tells the story of Lilian Bland – thought to be the first woman to design, build and fly and aeroplane – was performed at the Northern Ireland Science Festival.

**Jennifer Walshe**

Jennifer Walshe was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1974. She studied composition with John Maxwell Geddes at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Kevin Volans in Dublin and graduated from Northwestern University, Chicago, with a doctoral degree in composition in June 2002. From 2006 to 2008 she was the composer-in-residence in South Dublin County for In Context 3. In 2007 she was awarded a grant from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, New York. In 2008 she was awarded the Praetorius Music Prize for Composition by the Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Kultur. In 2009 she lived in Venice, Italy as a guest of the Fondazione Claudio Buziol. She is currently Reader in Music at Brunel University, London.

In addition to her activities as a composer, Jennifer frequently performs as a vocalist, specialising in extended techniques. Since 2007 Walshe has developed Grúpat, a project in which Walshe has assumed twelve different alter egos - all members of art collective Grúpat - and created compositions, installations, graphic scores, films, photography, sculptures and fashion under these alter egos. Walshe’s most recent project, Historical Documents of the Irish Avant-Garde, involved the creation of a fictional history of the musical avant-garde in Ireland. She won the British Composers Award in December 2016 for innovation ‘in recognition of her lifelong dedication to questioning and challenging the status quo through music and performance’.

**Brian Irvine & Jennifer Walshe – *13 VICES*** (Commissioned by Moving on Music)

Performed by Brian Irvine, Jennifer Walshe & Red Note Ensemble

A collaboration between two of the UK and Ireland’s most dynamic compositional voices, Brian Irvine and Jennifer Walshe, this piece explores the weird, humorous, dark and exotic world of contemporary vices. Written for ensemble, improvisers, conductor and voice it melts the boundaries between various disciplines including theatre, opera, poetry and contemporary music.

**ERROLLYN WALLEN**

Errollyn Wallen is as respected a singer-songwriter of pop influenced songs as she is a composer of contemporary new music. Born in Belize, Errollyn Wallen gave up her training at the Dance Theater of Harlem, New York to study composition at the universities of London and Cambridge. She founded her own Ensemble X and has been commissioned by outstanding music institutions from the BBC to the Royal Opera House and performed her songs internationally.

Errollyn Wallen’s song Daedalus appears alongside songs by Bjork, Sting, Elvis Costello and Meredith Monk on the Brodsky Quartet’s CD Moodswings. The two solo albums Meet Me at Harold Moores and most recently Errollyn feature her songs in her own voice/piano performance and in collaboration with outstanding jazz artists. Her multi-media show Jordan Town, a modern day song cycle with dance and film, was a sell-out hit at the Edinburgh Festival. The Errollyn Wallen Songbook, published by Edition Peters, comprises twelve of her celebrated songs for voice with piano accompaniment.

Her classical vocal works include: ‘Are You Worried About the Rising Cost of Funerals’, a song cycle for soprano and string quartet commissioned by the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group on her classical solo album The Girl in My Alphabet. ‘Fairy Scary’ comprises song settings of fairy stories for voice and small instrumental ensemble and was commissioned by the Wigmore Hall; the Dunedin Consort commissioned and world-premiered ‘Comfort Me with Apples’ for soloists and instrumental ensemble with words from The Song of Songs in September 2006.

Errollyn Wallen’s opera ‘The Silent Twins’, about the love-hate relationship of black twin girls, was commissioned by Almeida Opera and first performed in July 2007. Other stage works include the ballet Horseplay which was commissioned and choreographed by Tom Sapsford for the Royal Ballet. Horseplay is also used in a new ballet, ‘Tempest’ choreographed by James Bailey which was first performed by Leipzig Ballet in April 2007.

Her film Falling (made with Dan Farberoff ) was broadcast on Australian ABC television and Channel 4 in 2009. Her hit opera for children, ‘Cautionary Tales’ was commissioned by Opera North for 2011, touring in 2012. YES was the groundbreaking opera commissioned by the Royal Opera House in 2011 with a libretto by Bonnie Greer. Her original music for the 2012 BBC drama One Night won the 2013 FIPA d’Or for Best Original Music in a Television Series. Her works Principia and Spirit in Motion were commissioned for the opening ceremony of the 2012 Paralympic Games and their premiere was watched by a capacity audience of 80,000 people and broadcast to a billion people around the world. Recent projects include a collaboration with David Pountney and a new work for Welsh National Opera to be premiered in 2014.

Forthcoming performances include a London performance Of ‘Scenes From Sabina Spielrein’ in May and the world premiere of ‘The Negro Speaks of Rivers’ in October 2017, a new choral work for The Ebor Singers, setting of Langston Hughes’ acclaimed poem.

**Errollyn Wallen – *Mighty River*** (Commissioned by Oxford Contemporary Music)

Exploring themes of slavery and freedom, ***Mighty River*** combines contemporary classical techniques with spirituals which were introduced to Hull in 1871 by the Fisk Jubilee Singers - an African-American a cappella choir of ex-slaves. The piece, written for orchestra, takes its inspiration from William Wilberforce the English politician, philanthropist and leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade who was, very fittingly, a native of Hull. Errollyn Wallen is at ease both as a singer-songwriter of pop-influenced songs and a composer of contemporary new music. She describes her own Ensemble X with the motto, ‘We don’t break down barriers in music…we don’t see any.’

**PHILIP VENABLES & DAVID HOYLE**

Philip Venables

Venables produces new opera, concert music and multimedia work that encompasses spoken word, theatre, sexuality, violence and politics. From 2013–2016 he was Doctoral Composer in Residence at the Royal Opera House and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He is a director of Bright Ivy. In January 2017 he took part in the British Composers Showcase at the Casa da Musica in Porto, organised by the British Council.

David Hoyle

David Hoyle is an English performance artist, avant-garde cabaret artist, singer, actor, comedian and film director.

**Philip Venables & David Hoyle – *Illusions***

Commissioned by London Sinfonietta

Illusions is politically -engaged contemporary music exploring themes of government, LGBT rights and the rituals of music and art performance, featuring footage of avant -garde performance artist David Hoyle. The interplay between music and the cut-up video snippets of Hoyle searing and topical polemic is reflected in the erratic, boisterous and aggressive nature of the composition. The piece is written for an ensemble of nine musicians and is an extended and further developed version of Philip Venables’ existing composition which was part of the London Sinfonietta’s Notes to the New Government in May 2015. Philip Venables’ music is often concerned with violence, politics and speech within concert music and opera. Performance artist David Hoyles’ often focuses on themes in the LGBT community attacking what he sees as dominant trends in ‘bourgeios Britain’.

**ANNA MEREDITH**

Anna Meredith is a composer, producer and performer of both acoustic and electronic music. Her sound is frequently described as ‘uncategorisable’ and ‘genre-defying’ and straddles the different worlds of contemporary classical, art pop, electronica and experimental rock. Her music has been performed everywhere from the BBC Last Night of the Proms to flashmob body-percussion performances in the M6 Services, PRADA & Fendi fashion campaigns, numerous films, installations and documentaries, pop festivals, clubs and classical concert halls worldwide and broadcast on Radio 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6.

Her debut album, Varmints was released in March 2016 on Moshi Moshi/PIAS to huge critical acclaim with numerous 4 and 5 star reviews from press and media around the world including Pitchfork’s coveted Best New Music. She was voted Number One in The List's Hot100 (of Cultural Contributors to 2016).

Her recent piece Connect It was written for the BBC’s award winning Ten Pieces scheme which involved half of all UK Primary school children working on Connect It as well as Anna leading broadcasts, workshops and performances including at Radio 2’s Proms in the Park to 40,000 people. Anna's two EPs - Black Prince Fury and Jet Black Raider were released on Moshi Moshi Records to critical acclaim including Drowned in Sound's Single of the Year.

Other recent projects have included collaborations with Laura Marling and The Stranglers for the first 6Music Prom, commissions for the Aurora Orchestra, Scottish Ensemble, Netherlands Chamber Orchestra and Living Earth Duo, Installations for Sleep-Pods in Singapore and Park Benches in Hong Kong and the world's first Concerto for Beatboxer and Orchestra.

Recent work includes a new piece for the Kronos Quartet, working with her sister, illustrator Eleanor Meredith on a new piece Anno, incorporating Vivaldi's Four Seasons for the Scottish Ensemble, pieces for Big Band, remixes, arrangements of David Bowie for the Tribute concert at the BBC Proms and film work including new music for Jaques Audiard’s latest film Dheepan. In March 2017 she will be on tour in the US, and in late April she will premiere new work, an installation commission for Sound Unbound 2017 at the Barbican Centre.

**Anna Meredith – Concerto for Beatboxer & orchestra**

Commissioned by Southbank Centre

Anna Meredith is a composer, producer and performer of both acoustic and electronic music. Her sound is often described as ‘maximalist’, ‘uncategorisable’ and ‘genre-hopping’ and straddles the worlds of contemporary classical, avant pop, electronica and experimental rock. Southbank Centre commissioned Anna Meredith and internationally renowned Beatbox Artist Shlomo to write a new piece for Beatboxer and Orchestra in 2010. The Concerto is an acclaimed modern classical work recognising the human voice box as a musical instrument.

**HANNAH PEEL new commission but now made.**

Northern Irish artist and composer, Hannah Peel first came to recognition with her mesmerizing, hand-punched ‘music box’ EP ‘Rebox’, featuring covers of ‘80s bands Cocteau Twins, Soft Cell, & New Order. Having released her critically lauded solo debut album ‘The Broken Wave’, Peel then formed The Magnetic North, a highly praised and expansive collaborative project with Simon Tong (The Verve, The Good The Bad And The Queen, Gorillaz) and Erland Cooper (Erland & The Carnival). She also created a series of limited edition EPs, - the increasingly electronic ‘Nailhouse’ in 2013, followed by the stunning analogue beauty of ‘Fabricstate’ in 2014.

A year later Peel released ‘Rebox 2’ with music-box covers of ‘Queen’ (originally performed by Perfume Genius), John Grant’s ‘Pale Green Ghosts’, Wild Beasts’ ‘Palace’, as well as her glorious cover of East India Youth’s triumphant ‘Heaven How Long’. 2016 was another prolific year for Peel, including collaborations with Beyond The Wizard’s Sleeve (aka Erol Alkan & Richard Norris) - she features on two BBC6 playlisted singles ‘Diagram Girl’ and ‘Creation’ - and composing under her new synth-based, space-age alter-ego Mary Casio with an experimental piece combining analogue electronics and a 33-piece colliery brass band (which debuted to a sold out Manchester audience in May 2016). Her second solo album ‘Awake But Always Dreaming’ is an investigation of dementia and “is a record about memory: the luminous and beautiful formation of memories and the devastating loss or slow, insidious damage to the mind.” She will be on tour in England in March/April 2017.

**Hannah Peel - Tubular Brass featuring Mary Casio: *Journey to Cassiopeia*** (Commissioned by Tubular Brass)

Inspired by a brand new brass band score of Mike Oldfield's multi -million selling classic 'Tubular Bell's’, Tubular Brass were keen to commission a further new piece combining 70’s analogue synths and brass. Drawing from her influences of electronic pioneers Daphne Oram and Delia Derbyshire, Hannah Peel tells the story of Mary Casio, now 86 years old, and her lifelong stargazing dream to leave her South Yorkshire home in the mining town of Barnsley. Mary Casio makes her journey into space via home-constructed, hand-made machines that 'buzz and whirr' alongside her ever-growing collection of antiquated analogue synths, of which she started collecting ever since her father gave her a Casio keyboard as a child . As her vehicle 'stirs into life', oscillating with home-made technology, she faces space alone without ever leaving her garden shed. This is her greatest journey - destination Cassiopeia!

**MARK SIMPSON new commission**

At the age of 17, Mark Simpson became the first ever winner of both the BBC Young Musician of the Year and BBC Proms/Guardian Young Composer of the Year competitions. In 2015 Mark was appointed Composer in Association of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, a position he will hold for four years. Mark’s recent commissions include Israfel for the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and The Immortal, a 35-minute oratorio commissioned with support from Sky Arts Futures Fund and IdeasTap that was premiered by the BBC Philharmonic and Exaudi under Juanjo Mena at the 2015 Manchester International Festival.

Forthcoming composing projects also include the first of a series of orchestral commissions for the BBC Philharmonic as part of his residency and a new work for the Gould Piano Trio’s 25th anniversary celebrations in 2017, supported through Beyond Borders and the PRS for Music Foundation. For the 70th Aldeburgh Festival (June 2017) Simpson has composed one of a new set of six companion pieces which take Ted Hughes’ Tales from Ovid as inspiration. He also continues to perform as clarinettist. His music is published by Boosey & Hawkes.

**Mark Simpson – 25th anniversary piece for the Gould Piano Trio** (Commissioned by Glen Gould Trio (Welsh based)

At the age of 17 Mark Simpson became the first ever winner of both BBC Young Musician and BBC Proms/Guardian Young composer of the Year. In 2015 he was appointed Composer in Association of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. The new work by Mark will form the centrepiece of the Gould Piano Trio’s 25th anniversary celebration, impressed by Mark’s high profile appointment as the BBC Philharmonic’s new Composer-in-Association, as well as critical acclaim following his latest premiere of a large scale oratorio at the Manchester International Festival.

**LAURENCE CRANE**

Laurence Crane was born in Oxford in 1961 and studied composition at Nottingham University. His music is mainly written for the concert hall, although his list of works includes pieces initially composed for film, radio, theatre, dance and installation.

He has worked with many ensembles in the UK and abroad, including Apartment House (UK), Plus-Minus Ensemble (UK/Belgium), Ixion (UK), London Sinfonietta (UK), Ives Ensemble (Netherlands), Orkest de Volharding (Netherlands), Cikada Ensemble (Norway), asamisimasa (Norway), Ensemble Kore (Canada) and 175 East (New Zealand).

**Laurence Crane – *Pieces About Art*** *(*Commissioned by EXAUDI)

Composition Professor at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Laurence Crane was commissioned by EXAUDI vocal ensemble in 2014 to write a new work for them. Initially wanting to use the words that had been written by American artist Bruce Nauman, titled *First Poem Piece*, which Nauman had engraved on a metal sculpture exhibited in a show in the late 1960s, Laurence was denied permission to use the text. Immediately putting his disappointment to one side, Laurence made the decision to write a text based on this permission email while concealing Nauman's name from the score. It is a piece is all about the composers struggle to get permission to set the text. There are sections of wordless music in this movement, perhaps suggesting that if permission had been granted then this is where Nauman's words would be.

**JOCELYN POOK**

Jocelyn Pook is one of the UK’s most versatile composers, having written extensively for stage, screen, opera house and concert hall. She has established an international reputation as a highly original composer winning her numerous awards and nominations including a Golden Globe, an Olivier and two British Composer Awards.

Often remembered for her film score to *Eyes Wide Shut*, which won her a Chicago Film Award and a Golden Globe nomination, Pook has worked with some of the world’s leading directors, musicians, artists and arts institutions – including Stanley Kubrick, Martin Scorsese, the Royal Opera House, BBC Proms, Andrew Motion, Peter Gabriel, Massive Attack and Laurie Anderson. Pook has also written film score to Michael Radford’s *The Merchant of Venice* with Al Pacino*,*which featured the voice of countertenor Andreas Scholl and was nominated for a Classical Brit Award. Other notable film scores include *Brick Lane* directed by Sarah Gavron and a piece for the soundtrack to *Gangs of New York* directed by Martin Scorsese.

With a blossoming reputation as a composer of electro-acoustic works and music for the concert platform, Pook continues to celebrate the diversity of the human voice. Her first opera *Ingerland*was commissioned and produced by ROH2 for the Royal Opera House’s Linbury Studio in June 2010. The BBC Proms and The King’s Singers commissioned to collaborate with the Poet Laureate Andrew Motion on a work entitled *Mobile*. *Portraits in Absentia* was commissioned by BBC Radio 3 and is a collage of sound, voice, music and words woven from the messages left on her answerphone.

Pook graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 1983, where she studied the viola. She then embarked on a period of touring and recording with artists such as Peter Gabriel, Massive Attack, Laurie Anderson and PJ Harvey and as a member of the Communards. She also tours extensively with The Jocelyn Pook Ensemble, performing repertoire from her albums and music from her film scores.

Pook won an Olivier Award for the National Theatre’s production of *St Joan*, and for her music-theatre piece *Speaking in Tunes* she won a British Composer Award. She won a second British Composer Award for her soundtrack to *DESH*, which accompanies Akram Khan’s dance production of the same name. In 2014 Pook composed the score for a new dance piece Lest We Forget choreographed by Akram Khan for English National Ballet to mark the centenary of the First World War.

In August 2017, National Theatre of Scotland’s trans-themed double bill of *Adam* and *Eve* will premiere at the Traverse features and *Adam* features music by Pook, with a digital community choir of trans and non-binary individuals.

**Jocelyn Pook – Anxiety Fanfare and Variation for Voices** (Commissioned by the Mental Health Foundation)

First commissioned by the Mental Health Foundation for Anxiety Arts Festival London 2014 and premièred at the Wigmore Hall, London this work extends the multi-award winning composer Jocelyn Pook’s interest in the experience of mental illness, which she explored in her ground breaking 2012 work Hearing Voices. The Fanfare is written in five movements and draws on the unique potential of professional and nonprofessional singers. The fanfare will be rehearsed and performed with a community choir composed of mental health service users and professionals.