**SAM LEE PRSF NMB Buckingham Primary School Workshops Proposal**

**(as part of Hull City of Culture)**

**Introduction**

Music and culture have the power to bring us together, inspire us, and teach us about world around us and also ourselves. Through strengthening the ties between Hull’s folk traditions and school children we will strive to help deepen perceptions of the history of the city and the myriad strands of stories, song and culture weaving themselves together into the life and breath of Hull today.

As Hull Folk and Maritime Festival states:

*Hull has a strong folk tradition; its status as a major port over the centuries meant that ideas and influences from different cultures and nationalities have been readily assimilated, adding to the diversity and richness of those traditions, while the city played an important part in the post-war folk revival, with the establishment of The Folk Union One Club above Ye Old Blue Bell pub in 1963 by The Watersons, who would go on to forge one of the most influential family dynasties in British folk music.*

**Proposal**

We would like to propose a series of creative learning workshops with Buckingham Primary School as part of Hull City Of Culture, figure-headed by Mercury Prize nominated folk singer, song collector and promoter (of BBC award winning Nest Collective) Sam Lee and led by our workshop leader, musician and songwriter Jack Durtnall.

**With a song and story collector’s approach we will be gathering local source materials, seeking out members of Hull’s Trinity House Brethren (a charity serving seafarers and their families) and local gypsy and traveller communities to share their songs and stories with local school students.**

* We will be working with a documentary film crew to help build resource material alongside our field recordings – subject to budget
* we are hoping to create opportunities for members of these diverse communities to visit the school to share their wisdom in person.

Through both of these avenues, we want to encourage the students in schools to **engage with local stories** **and characters** and to **be inspired by local knowledge of their surroundings and heritage from Hull’s tradition-bearers**.

We would like to use these stories and songs as a way to broaden students’ social and historical perceptions of Hull and the variety of communities dwelling in and around the city.

**The Workshop Programme**

Stage 1 – exploration of local folk songs, lore and story-craft from historic and newly collected local sources, developing the skill of listening.

Stage 2 – The students will progress to learning folk songs related to a variety of aspects of Hull life through the ages and its communities and occupations.

We will delve further into this multi-disciplinary topic by using the local stories we will gather to inspire creative writing through the medium of folk-song composition and both fictional and non-fictional storytelling, creating the space for individuals from the classes to share personal stories and insights.

Stage 3 - We will explore the skills of improvisation – such as improvisatory call and response in Sea Shanties.

We will strive to complement the school curriculum with the benefits of the cross-curricular links of these workshops to Music, History, English and Geography in Key Stages 1 and 2.

Stage 4 – we will rehearse the new songs with the participants to prepare them for the final sharing session and performance

Sharing - We hope to celebrate this work in the summer term with a performance of the new pieces of local folk tradition we have generated to the community groups who have helped to inspire us.

**Final performance.** There are five artists in residence for the New Music Biennial (NMB), including Sam Lee.

All those participants who have been working with the artists are invited to present a small of their work as part of a large public performance involving all the participating groups. This will be held on Sunday 2nd July. The composer James Redwood will be curating this concert and bringing the pieces together.

**Workshop timetable**

The workshops will be led by Jack Durtnall. Sam Leewill oversee and mentor the workshops with four-to-five visits over the course of the programme.

14 & 15 Feb

1 March

15 March

5 April

26 April

10 May

23 May

14 June

24 June – group sharing

2 July - Performance

**Guests**

During the workshop programme we will bring in guest artists to offer complementary expertise:

Belinda O’Hooley and Heidi Tidow, an English folk music duo of singer-songwriters from Yorkshire

Richard O’Neill, a Romany gypsy storyteller and educator from the North East;

Sam Pirt, an accordion player and music educator.

**Commitment required from the school**

* clear space in the afternoon timetable on the dates above including performance
* sufficient staff to manage the number of pupils – teachers should be actively involved and see this as CPD
* whiteboard, facility to play music
* good sized, clear room or hall