**PRS New Music Biennial 2017 – Composer Residency**

The PRS New Music Biennial Composer Residency project is an embedded community participation project in Hull, running from January 2017-March 2018, part of the UK City of Culture programme. Multiple award winning composer BRIAN IRVINE is one of five composers undertaking residencies, working in Hull, so that local communities can spend time and create music with some of the New Music Biennial’s brilliant music creators.

Each residency will lead to the creation of music involving community participants, which will be showcased in a sharing event at Hull City Hall on 24 June, and extracts from the resulting work will be presented as part of the PRS New Music Biennial Festival weekend (2 July) woven together into a large-scale culmination piece, bringing together community participants and musicians from all five residencies for a ‘supergroup’ moment.

The residencies form an important part of Hull UK City of Culture 2017, and involvement offers an opportunity to be creatively involved in Hull2017.

**Proposal for The Crossings and Emmaus Workshops**

**Introduction**

Music and culture have the power to bring us together, inspire us, and teach us about world around us and also ourselves. Through working with people who have recently come to Hull, exploring the themes of music which sustains us through hardship, and creating music with groups in the community we will strive to help deepen understanding of how music can sustain us and the myriad strands of stories, song and culture weaving themselves together into the life and breath of Hull today.

**Proposal**

We would like to propose a series of creative learning workshops with The Crossings and Emmaus Hull, as part of the PRS New Music Biennial Composer Residency, led by award winning composer Brian Irvine, with the support of university students and supporting musicians.

Brian is working in the community with a range of people in an area centred around East Hull, to create new material. Brian is going to work with older people in Buckingham Day Centre, with residents of Pickering and Ferens Homes who will form the Big Elastic Band, and with pupils at Mersey Primary School. This work will take place concurrently with work with participants at The Crossings and Emmaus.

Each person involved will have a chance to create new music together. Sessions will commence separately, but it is hoped that residents of The Crossings and Emmaus will come together to work together as the project progresses.

The residency has two post graduate music students who will also be involved in supporting the delivery of some sessions in the community.

No musical experience is necessary, just a desire to explore creatively. Brian will work closely with participants and the finished outcome will be steered by the needs and interests of those involved.

Recordings of music created in the residency will be made, for sharing purposes, and extracts of performances of material may be submitted to be included in the next pack of Sound and Music’s ‘Minute of Listening’ application.

We are exploring the possibility of working with a documentary film maker to help build resource material alongside our field recordings – subject to budget. Some filming of the residency will take place.

**The Workshop Programme**

Each workshop session led by Brian is fundamentally about developing composition and performance skills in people in a fun and hands on manner. Work will involve the writing of lyrics and words as well as the composing of melodic, harmonic and rhythmic motifs. Work may also involve the invention and performance of movement based ideas.

A draft schedule of dates is listed below:

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| Thurs | 02-Mar-17 | 6pm Emmaus |
| Thurs | 06-Apr17 | 6pm Emmaus |
| Thurs | 04-May-17 | 6pm Emmaus |
| Thurs | 25-May-17 | 6pm Emmaus |
| Thurs | 01-Jun-17 | 6pm Emmaus |
| Thurs | 22-Jun-17 | 6pm Emmaus |
| Fri | 23-Jun-17 | Groups coming together - arrangements to be confirmed |
| Sat | 24-Jun-17 | Sharing event at Hull City Hall (10am-4:30pm) |
| Thurs | 28-Jun-17 | rehearsal |
| Fri | 29-Jun-17 | rehearsal |
| Sun | 02-Jul-17 | performance at NMB Festival |

There may be an opportunity to perform some of the work in a presentation and sharing of what’s been created during the full residency programme, on the 24 June.

The making, composition and performing of new work by participants is a very organic processes and does not follow any one particular structure. Rather the structure and content of the sessions is determined by the people themselves in real time in association with Brian.

Sharing – We plan to celebrate this work in the summer term with a sharing performance at Hull City Hall on Saturday 24 June, of a selection of material we have generated with a performance by all participants of this residency, and the other residencies across Hull.

Final performance. There are five composer residencies for the New Music Biennial (NMB), including Brian Irvine. Selected participants who have been working with the artists will be invited to present an excerpt of their work as part of a large public performance involving all 5 residency groups. This will be held on Sunday 2nd July. The composer James Redwood will be leading this concert and bringing the pieces together into one whole ‘supergroup’ moment.

**Commitment required from Emmaus**

This is a free offer to Emmaus, funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, however, there would be a commitment required from the organisation as follows

Encourage and support people to get involved

A clear space on the dates above including performance dates

Sufficient staff to manage the number of participants involved

Provision of a space with a piano or keyboard

Provision of paper and drawing materials

A large whiteboard or flip chart with markers

Co-ordination of participants in performance settings

A good sized, clear room or hall

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