**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-April 2018, part of the UK City of Culture programme. Multiple award winning composer BRIAN IRVINE is one of seven 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.

Brian Irvine is working with selected pupils from four East Hull Schools in 2017-18: Estcourt, Mersey, Maybury and Spring Cottage Primary Schools. The end product will be creation of a suite of songs which will be showcased in a sharing event at Freedom Centre, Preston Road on 22 March 2018, with all participants coming together.

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 East Hull Schools**

**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 young people Brian will empower students to create songs that reflect their lives in Hull today. Each of four participating schools will contribute two new songs, which will result in a suite of 8 songs in all. All schools will learn each others songs and come together to share this suite at the end of the project.

**Proposal**

A series of creative learning workshops with pupils in participating primary schools as part of the PRS New Music Biennial Composer Residency, led by award winning composer Brian Irvine, with supporting musicians including vocal leader Em Whitfield Brooks, who specialises in encouraging young singers to explore their vocal and creative potential.

Brian will work with pupils to create new songs. All the songs will be shared with all participating schools and Em will support teachers in schools to help the participating children to learn all the songs. Each pupil will have a chance to create new music, and contribute which represents the collective work of the whole residency.

Visiting instrumental players will support in the latter stages with adding layers of instrumentation for the final sharing of work created.

Recordings of music created in the residency may be made, for sharing purposes.

**The Workshop Programme**

Each workshop session led by Brian is fundamentally about developing composition and singing performance skills in young people in a hugely fun and hands on manner. Brian would like to work with two class groups in each school of between 10-30 children aged 7-11yrs (a maximum of 60 pupils per school).

Work will involve:

* writing of lyrics and words as well as the composing of melodic, harmonic and rhythmic motifs
* invention and performance of movement based ideas
* opportunities for drawing and musical character invention.

It is envisaged that the project would be delivered across 3 half day creative sessions with Brian Irvine in each school, two delivered with the support of Em Whitfield Brooks, plus 4 half day sessions focused on singing and learning the songs led by Em Whitfield Brooks on her own.

The group or classes should be the same for every session to ensure continuity.

The project would be delivered in half day blocks of time (to be coordinated by project manager, Clare Drury) on Thursdays and Fridays as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Artist** | **School A\*** | **School B\*** | **School C\*** | **School D\*** |
| Brian Irvine | Morning 25 Jan | Afternoon 25 Jan | Morning 26 Jan | Afternoon 26 Jan |
| Brian Irvine & Em Whitfield Brooks | Morning 1 Feb | Afternoon 1 Feb | Morning 2 Feb | Afternoon 2 Feb |
| Brian Irvine & Em Whitfield Brooks | Morning 8 Feb | Afternoon 8 Feb | Morning 9 Feb | Afternoon 9 Feb |
| Em Whitfield Brooks | Morning 22 Feb | Afternoon 22 Feb | Morning 23 Feb | Afternoon 23 Feb |
| Em Whitfield Brooks | Morning 1 Mar | Afternoon 1 Mar | Morning 2 Mar | Afternoon 2 Mar |
| Em Whitfield Brooks | Morning 8 Mar | Afternoon 8 Mar | Morning 9 Mar | Afternoon 9 Mar |
| Em Whitfield Brooks | Morning 15 Mar | Afternoon 15 Mar | Morning 16 Mar | Afternoon 16 Mar |
| All | All day 22 March | All day 22 March | All day 22 March | All day 22 March |

**All participants plus support staff would be required all day on 22 March**

\*please liaise with Clare Drury regarding your availability for schedule slots A to D.

In addition Brian will be available to meet with schools on the mornings of 27 and 28 Nov 2017 to discuss the project and answer any questions.

**Session outline**

Ideally Brian would prefer to work across a whole half day block with two classes of children coming together.

However, Brian can also run creative workshop sessions with two individual classes. In this scenario it is envisaged that each session would last approx. 45 mins - standard lesson time, and schools would receive two workshops in a half day block.

Sessions with Em Whitfield Brooks would follow the same structure, and it’s suggested that in later stages the project would benefit from bringing both classes together for combined rehearsals.

The sessions are aimed at inspiring young music makers, composers and performers. The session will demystify composition and equip teachers with a simple but effective methodology to engage in highly creative compositional activity. It is a methodology that is exhilarating, exciting and joyful and places young people at the centre of an imaginative creative process.

**Sharing**

We plan to celebrate this work with a sharing day at Freedom Centre all day on 22 March. The morning will bring participating pupils and staff from all four schools together to rehearse, with a performance in the afternoon.

Hull 2017 can cover the cost of coach hire to transport children between school and Freedom Centre on 22 March.

**Workshop timetable**

The majority of workshops will take place with a class group (up to 30 pupils), with opportunities as the project progresses for wider work within the school.

**Commitment required from the school**

This is a free offer to the school, funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, as part of the PRSF for Music’s New Music Biennial. However, there would be a commitment required from the school as follows.

A clear space in the timetable on the dates above including performance

Sufficient staff to manage the number of pupils involved

Provision of a workshop and rehearsal space with a piano or keyboard, e.g. a good sized, clear room or hall

Provision of paper and drawing materials

A large whiteboard or flip chart with markers

Co-ordination and supervision of pupils involved in performances (including safeguarding children outside of school premises, and securing parental permissions etc).

Communicate with parents of children participating in the project, and co-ordinate children bringing packed lunches on the final celebration day 22 March 2018.

Share basic information regarding participants with Hull 2017 and University of Hull who are evaluating the composer residencies programme.

Teachers should be actively involved and see this as CPD

Signed (on behalf of Hull 2017) Date

Signed (Head Teacher/SLT) Date

Signed (Lead Teacher) Date

PRS Foundation’s New Music Biennial residency programme is generously supported by Hull UK City of Culture, Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Arts Council England. [www.newmusicbiennial.co.uk](http://www.newmusicbiennial.co.uk/)

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