



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 musician SAM LEE, 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 Trinity Academy 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 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 Watsons, who would go on to forge one of the most influential family dynasties in British folk music."

Proposal

A series of creative learning workshops with Trinity Academy as part of the PRS New Music Biennial Composer Residency. The workshops will be 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 gather local source materials, seeking out members of Hull's Trinity House Brethren 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.

We want to encourage the students in schools to engage with local stories and characters and - inspired by Hull's tradition-bearers - to create their own songs celebrating Hull's heritage.

The Workshop Programme:

Across the programme pupils will develop skills in listening, singing, lyric writing, composition, group playing, learning repertoire and improvisation.

During the process they will:

- Practice listening and how to enhance deep listening.
- Work on the quality of their singing and using their voices.
- Compare performances of the same song to highlight stylistic differences in ornamentation and diverse performance styles.
- Investigate the process of song collecting and be encouraged to find their own stories and songs from family elders/family friends.
- Explore methods of recording.

The final output will be to:

- Develop their singing ability.
- Create and compose music on their own and with others.
- Perform their own music to other participants and to the public.

Broader learning

The workshops will touch on other areas including:

History: local history and broader maritime and traveller history through the lens of Hull. Case studies such as the drastic diminishing of the local fishing industry in the mid 1970s with (hopefully) songs and stories related to this.

Colourful/engaging historical details such as the unique fashion of the local trawlermen's flamboyant suits from mid 50s to 70s.

Geography: looking at the migration paths of the Gypsy people from India as context for the music. Trinity Brethren - history of fishing industry in the North Sea, merchant seamen, wartime naval contextualisation across the centuries.

English: creative writing, appreciation of local dialect / gypsy dialects / historical dialects through song/stories.



Outline schedule

Stage 1 - Exploration of local folk songs, lore and story-craft from historic and newly collected local sources, developing the skill of listening. Linking in with Sound and Music's '*Minute of Listening*' resource which has been distributed to all schools in Hull by Hull2017.

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 topic by using the local stories we 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.

Composition of new songs

Stage 4 - We will rehearse the new songs with the participants to prepare them for the final sharing session and performance.

Stage 4 - Sharing Performance Hull City Hall Saturday 24 June - We will celebrate the new pieces of local folk tradition we have generated with the community groups who have helped to inspire us and the other residencies across Hull.

Final performance. There are five composer residencies for the New Music Biennial (NMB), including Sam Lee. 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.

Workshop timetable

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

14 & 15 Feb

28 Feb & 1 March

14 & 15 March

4 & 5 April

25 & 26 April

9 & 10 May

22 & 23 May

13 & 14 June

24 June - group sharing at Hull City Hall



2 July - Performance in Princes Quay

Guest Artists

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 from Hull

Commitment required from the school

- A clear space in the afternoon timetable on the dates above including performance
- Sufficient staff to manage the number of pupils involved
- Co-ordination and supervision of pupils involved in performances (including safeguarding children outside of school premises, and securing parental permissions etc).
- Teachers should be actively involved and see this as CPD
- Whiteboard
- Facility to play recorded music
- Instruments if possible
- A good sized, clear room or hall



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