**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 Thoresby and Pearson Primary School 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 and school children 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 Mersey Primary School 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 will work 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 formerly homeless people who are residents at The Crossings and Emmaus projects.

This work will take place concurrently with work with pupils at Mersey Primary.

A key part of the project will include and opportunity to extend an invitation to parents of children to take part in the creative process, in possibly twilight workshop sessions with children, and for members of the wider community to share their songs and stories with local school students.

Each pupil will have a chance to create new music, and contribute to a whole new piece of up to 15 minutes which represents the collective work of the whole residency.

Pupils will work with

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

Visiting instrumental players from Brian’s band will support in the latter stages with adding layers of instrumentation for the final performance of work created.

Recordings of music created in the residency will be made, for sharing purposes, and extracts of performances of material will 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.

We are hoping to create opportunities for members of diverse communities to visit the school to share their stories and songs in person, if appropriate.

**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.

Each session ends in an informal performance of a piece that the children have written themselves. This performance should be in front of a small audience of teachers and perhaps another class.

Work will involve the writing of lyrics and words as well as the composing of melodic, harmonic and rhythmic motifs

Work will involve the invention and performance of movement based ideas.

Work will also include opportunities for drawing and musical character invention

Brian would like to work with a class group of between 10-30 children aged 7-11yrs.

It is envisaged that the project would be delivered across 4-6 sessions

The group or class can be the same for every session, or can be a different group each time - depending on the school’s preference.

Proposed to offer half day blocks of time (to be coordinated by project manager, Clare Drury) on Thursday mornings: 2 March, 6 April, 4 May, 25 May, 1 June, 22 June

Session outline:

Each workshop session would last 1 hour \* 45 mins is a standard lesson time

10 mins - ideas and words and image invention

30 mins - melodic, harmonic composing, singing, performing, movement invention

10 mins rehearsal

10 mins performance

The sessions are aimed at inspiring young  music makers, composers and performers. The session 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 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 Errollyn Wallen. 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 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.

**Guest Artists**

During the workshop programme we will bring in guest artists to offer complementary expertise, to be identified as the creative work unfolds, and communicated in advance to the school.

**Commitment required from the school**

This is a free offer to the school, funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, 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 space with a piano or keyboard

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).

Teachers should be actively involved and see this as CPD

A good sized, clear room or hall

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