



Doncaster Music
Education Hub



South Yorkshire Music Education Consortium – Call for Bids

Commission for Jazz Musician / Composer / Workshop Leader

In November 2017 the South Yorkshire Music Education Consortium (Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Music Education Hubs) have been invited to perform a massed item at the Music for Youth Schools Prom at the Royal Albert Hall. We are seeking a musician or a group of musicians to compose a 10 minute “Jazz Oratorio” for large Jazz Collective and Massed Primary voices. Details of the proposal can be seen below.

****THE APPLICATION PROCESS CAN BE SEEN ON PAGE 4****

Who do we want?

A musician / musicians who will inspire a love of creativity, improvisation and the wider genre of Jazz and create an inspiring piece of music.

We would welcome applicants from individuals who are all round Jazz musicians, composer/orchestrators and workshop leaders OR from a collection of musicians who share the skills i.e. a composer arranger who works alongside an established Jazz musician who will lead workshops in an inspiring way.

What do we want?

1. A person or people to lead 4 workshops on Sundays between Jan and April with a collective of intermediate and advanced jazz musicians. We also need the musician(s) to work with a selection of primary school children in a creative session to contribute to the writing of songs for children’s voices.

The workshops will explore different styles of jazz and will contribute to a creative process which will lead to the composition of a performance piece for the Albert Hall Prom (see step 2 below).

2. The same person or a partner to compose a 10 minute “Jazz Oratorio” to be performed at the Royal Albert Hall for a large Jazz collective (200 musicians) and a massed choir of children’s voices (around 500 children)

The songs that are incorporated into the oratorio must be appropriate for children’s voices in terms of range and strophic flow – applicants must demonstrate previous experience of creating this kind of music (or talk to us about how we can ask a partner to support with this)

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What is the project?

Below is the outline of the project successfully submitted to Music for Youth. Whilst we would like the successful applicant to add their own stamp to the process it needs to follow the brief outlined below:

“A ‘Griot’ is a 16th Century West African storyteller, singer, musician, and oral historian. Griot’s train to excel as orators, lyricists and musicians and were the record keepers of all births, deaths, marriages throughout many generations of the village or family.”

Building on our hugely successful inter – hub collaboration between the South Yorkshire Hubs for the Music for Youth Twinning Pilot in 2016 Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield propose to team up again . We intend to develop and implement an exceptional programme to enhance the development of Jazz Education in the Region. As part of a wider plan to establish South Yorkshire as a centre for excellence in Youth Jazz the four hubs propose to present an inclusive, cross key-stage performance of a newly commissioned jazz work. The work will be performed by an established core of exceptional young musicians at intermediate and advanced level, who will have crafted and created a composition led by a renowned professional Jazz Musician. This Jazz Musician will be commissioned subject to a successful application. All four hubs are experienced at commissioning artists in this manner. A children’s chorus will form the backdrop to the performance, they will perform songs and vocal improvisations they have learnt, in school, complementing cross-curriculum themes linked to Black History Month (October), storytelling and creative writing. All the songs will be underscored by the large “big band” which will knit the whole musical experience together seamlessly. The large ensemble will add the depth and quality needed to underpin the performance whilst the children’s chorus will add the wow factor and will swell numbers. Both the musical and curriculum materials will be devised by the commissioned artist in collaboration with Jazz and Education specialists from each hub alongside the “experienced” young musicians. The performance will include strong elements of improvisation; snippets of creative writing narrated by the performers and will of course take us on a journey around the musical genre of Jazz – starting way back with the “Griots”.

The key aims of the project are:

- To develop new work for performance by an instrumental ensemble (big band) of approx. 150 intermediate and advanced musicians from the four participating hubs, with a massed children’s chorus of primary school children (3/4 schools from each hub).
- To commission a new work of the highest quality in the jazz idiom, drawing on prior creative work with the instrumentalists, with songs and vocal improvisations for the chorus.
- To involve both experienced musicians as well as young people who have not experienced this scale and profile of performance opportunity before.
- To involve up to 650 young people in the project, actively targeting a diverse group of young people to participate in the performance in keeping with the link to Black History Month.

TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES AND PREPARATION

Jan 2017 – April 2017: *Young Regional Jazz Musicians create the composition in half termly, regional workshops led by Commissioned Artist(s) and Consortium Staff.*

April 2017: *Commissioned Artist takes materials from the workshops to complete a 10 minute composition which includes roles for all the performing musicians, elements of improvisation will tie together 2/3 songs for children’s voices. The artist / hubs will also devise bespoke cross-curriculum materials to support the musical learning in the primary schools who engage in the project.*

June 2017 – *Composition complete ready for launch on 21st June*

From June 21st Onwards: *CPD for primary class teachers to launch the songs and cross curricular materials*

September 2017: *Primary schools begin to prepare songs and work through creative materials with support locally from their Music Hub. Jazz Musicians work up the final composition locally on a weekly basis and regionally once a month.*

October / November 2017: *Days of rehearsals and practice performances to bring the whole piece together.*

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****APPLICATION PROCESS****

We expect all applicants to demonstrate skills in:

- **Jazz improvisation and creativity**
- **Composing and arranging for large forces**
- **Writing songs for children's voices.**

Phase 1 – Expression of Interest – by Midday on Thursday 15th December 2016 to:

Ian Naylor, Head of Music Education Sheffield ian.naylor@sheffield.gov.uk

Interested artist / artists should submit a simple expression of interest demonstrating experience of and examples of similar previous projects (ideally with video, audio or scores). A brief outline of a proposal to deliver the project (no more than 250 words) and availability to deliver the work as above. Please outline here if you will be proposing to deliver the whole project yourself or if you intend to work in partnership with a range of artists / composer. *There is no need to provide detailed outline of the project or costs at this point.*

Applicants will be shortlisted at this point, successful applicants will then be asked to submit a full proposal including costings in Phase 2.

Phase 2 - Detailed Proposals (selected applicants only) by Midday Thursday 5th January 2017

At this point applicants will be asked to provide a full project outline including proposed content of workshops, confirmation of collaborations with other musicians, how you will deliver the final composition and costs (inclusive of travel). Full details and application form will be sent to invited applicants on Friday 16th December 2016.

We welcome informal conversations from interested artists at any point before the submission of expressions of interest if there are any questions or clarifications.

Please direct these in the first instance to Ian Naylor, Head of Music Education Sheffield or to the head of any of the partner Music Hubs if you already have an established contact with them.

ian.naylor@sheffield.gov.uk 07989 258886

As we are committed to the safeguarding of children and young people all musicians and artists who engage in the project will need a full enhanced DBS check and will be given a safeguarding briefing prior to work commencing.

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