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Call for proposals for Sound and Music's Composer-Curator Programme

Do you create unique work? Put on your own events? Interested in understanding your audiences? Exploring digital technology? Looking to do the next big thing? Apply to be a Composer-Curator!

Sound and Music is seeking proposals from composers and creators from across the UK to be part of the 2018 Composer-Curator programme.

Composer-Curator supports artists from a range of disciplines who are looking to curate and produce their own events – tours, festivals and concert series to name but a few.

Curating allows you to generate a unique space for your own creative vision and the freedom to realise it, bringing together composers, performers and settings of your choosing, Composer-Curator enables you to share your work with curious audiences. It can also be a fantastic way of building new networks and, in the long term, creating new models of sustainability for the new music sector as a whole.

In addition to physical events, this year we are looking for at least one digitally focused project that really pushes the boundaries of music and tech!

This opportunity is now live and will close at **12:00 pm** on **Monday 5th February 2018**

Find out more about Sound and Music previous Composer-Curators and their projects [here>>](#)

<u>Application Guidelines</u>

Project Requirements

- We are interested in proposals for festivals, touring projects and concert series (e.g. consisting of at least 2 events) - Proposals for a single concert, event or exhibition are not eligible
- Proposals must also feature work by at least one British composer (in addition to the applicant)
- Activity must take place within the UK between May and November 2018 (with some flexibility)

- The curation of each programme must be clear. Composers need to show how their programming decisions have been made
- It is our expectation that programmes will be gender-balanced and diverse (see selection criteria), unless there is an exceptional reason as to why this is not possible
- Although not strictly a requirement, we are particularly interested in projects that have a strong digital component, such as a podcast, live stream or performances involving digital technology

Financial requirements

- We cannot support activity taking place within the context of an organisation receiving core funding, such as the Arts Council's National Portfolio programme or through local authorities or higher education institutions. However, projects receiving funding from other sources (such as the Arts Council's Grants for the Arts programme or PRS for Music Foundation) are eligible
- Sound and Music may be able to offer advice with applying for additional funding from other sources through reviewing applications and advice from Arts Council England representatives
- We are unlikely to support a project for which Sound and Music is the sole source of income. Please remember that ticket sales count as income

Data capture/ sharing agreement

We are trialling a new way of helping Composer-Curators to grow their audiences through collecting audience data.

Composers, with the help and guidance from Sound and Music, will complete the following:

- All selected composers will be required to complete the pre and post-project data capture forms measuring online audiences in order to measure impact and engagement
- All selected composers are required to devise a creative way to capture live audience data at their events either through ticketing or other creative methods
- All selected composers will be required to sign a data sharing agreement and expected to negotiate data sharing agreements with venues and partners. We encourage composers to think about data sharing as early as the time of application
- All data will be held in line with the 1998 Data Protection Act and only used in a research capacity. The collection of this data will help in the development of understanding new music audiences within the UK. You can find out more about the sharing of ticketing data here

Audience Engagement

- Proposals will need to demonstrate a commitment to audience engagement, audience accessibility, and deepening collective understanding of target audiences. We are particularly looking to support activity which connects with new audiences and areas of low arts engagement in the UK. (We are interested in working with those selected to better understand and grow audiences for new music outside

established cultural institutions, including enabling composers to effectively build their own sustainable audience following)
- Proposals that include participative projects targeted at specified audience groups are eligible

Applicant Eligibility

- Applicants must be over 18 years old and based in the UK, and must not be in full time undergraduate education
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate some previous experience in curating, programming or event production
- Collaborative applications involving producers and performers, as well as composers, are welcome. However the curatorial involvement of the composer must be central
- Applicants that have previously been selected for this programme are not eligible
- We are looking to create a balanced and diverse programme and are keen to support and work with new people. Find out more about our Equality and Diversity Policy [here](#)

Selection Criteria

We will make our selection based on the following:

- Artistic originality and inventiveness of proposed programme
- Commitment to developing a digital component for the project
- Variety of musical styles, and of featured composers
- Enthusiasm and commitment to understanding and building audiences, both online and offline
- Reach of proposed programme (number of performances, geographical contexts)
- Demonstrable understanding of the regional and local context for live music (digital projects should demonstrate an understanding of the current media environment)
- Previous experience of curating and producing events

Ensuring we are working with a diverse range of people. Sound and Music is committed to making the Composer-Curator cohort as representative as possible of wider society, in terms of gender, ethnicity, disability, socio-economic background and marginalised or disadvantaged groups. A cohort that brings together a wider variety of backgrounds is hugely exciting for us artistically, as well as allowing us to commit to fairness and equality for all.

What We Offer

Sound and Music will provide a grant for all selected projects, as well as support in audience development, marketing and communications.

Financial contribution

Grants will be made in the region of £3,000 to £6,000.

For reference, the average grant awarded during the 2017 programme was £4,000. £19,000 has been allocated towards the 2018 programme, with a view to supporting 4-5 projects in total. Please bear this in mind when finalising your budget.

Applicants are to request a set amount, however Sound and Music may offer support for your project at a reduced grant.

An example of a project budget may include the following projected costs (not exclusively):

- Venue hire
- Artists fees
- Travel / accommodation
- Marketing costs
- Advertising
- Subsistence
- Tech/equipment hire
- Stage management/audio engineer
- Photographer/videographer

There are some areas in which we are cannot to be able to offer support, due Sound and Music's capacity constraints. These areas include graphic design, printing, advertising, videography / photography and PR services. Please do consider the cost of additional help in these areas within your proposed budget.

Marketing and Communications

- Support provided via Sound and Music's digital platforms will include website announcements, e-communication, media database access, social media promotion, and opportunities to have blog pieces featured on our platform The Sampler
- We will be featuring each artist and their work on the Sound and Music podcast series
- The nature and level of support required will be based on an assessment of each composer's needs, as established and agreed between both parties from the outset

Selected composers will be required to adhere to Sound and Music's branding guidelines, which can be found on our website here. Venues and partner organisations that receive or benefit from any part of the grant will also be required to do this. We encourage composers to discuss branding requirements with venues and partners as early as the time of application.

Professional Development

Selected composers will be invited to attend a networking, skills sharing and marketing support day on **14th May 2018**, as part of their induction to the programme.

Box Office Split

Selected composers will be expected to come to a box office split agreement with Sound and Music, where **25%** of all box office takings are retained by Sound and Music. This needs to be clearly accounted for in your activity budget.

We take a share of your box office takings because Composer-Curator is a form of business activity for us and, as such, a share of your VATable income needs to come to us. We work in this way in order to sustain the programme and our organisation. We will not add VAT to invoices for 25%; we will absorb it ourselves. If you have any queries regarding this feel free to contact info@soundandmusic.org

Additional Assistance

Sound and Music seeks to encourage applications from a diverse range of candidates to its programmes. If you are selected, we will do our best to accommodate any particular needs you may have. A copy of our Equality Policy is available on our website here.

If you require assistance on your application and any special requirements, Sound and Music are on hand to assist. Please get in contact via info@soundandmusic.iorg to request this.

Further Information

We know from previous years that the demand for this programme is high and there will be many brilliant projects that we simply cannot fund.

Please visit the website for information on the composers supported thus far via the Composer-Curator programme.

If you would like to submit an application to Composer-Curator, please complete the online application form here and equal opportunities form here.

The deadline is 12:00 pm 5th February 2018; late applications will not be considered.

Please ensure you have read the criteria and guidelines carefully before making a submission.

Sound and Music hopes to have informed applicants of the results within 3-4 weeks of the deadline.

If you have any questions about this programme, please contact Sound and Music at info@soundandmusic.org // 020 7759 1800.