



New Voices: a new Talent Development Programme for new ideas, new sounds and new music

Do you create or compose your own music or sound? Then this could be the opportunity for you!

Taking the successful models, wonderful partnerships and expertise from our previous **Embedded** and **Portfolio** Programmes, as well as our **Pathways** Programme we are thrilled to announce and introduce you to New Voices, Sound and Music's reimagined Talent Development Programme.

We are looking for composers and artists creating their own original new music and sound to be part of New Voices.

New Voices aims to be representative of the diverse range of composers working across the UK today.

Overview

- Become part of New Voices, an 18 month Talent Development Programme tailored to your needs
- Get the benefit of 6 months of bespoke, external and expert **coaching and mentoring**
- Explore and realise your creative ideas and ambitions, in your own style, in your own way
- Join a network of your creative peers from across the UK, who will be going through the New Voices programme at the same time as you

- Be part of a unique supportive residential weekend with these peers and with Sound and Music staff
- Make public facing work for audiences, through your own creative activity and collaborations, and/or through working with other organisations
- Receive a bursary of £1,500, travel and accommodation expenses, plus a production grant of up to £6,000 if you are organising the final public outcome yourself
- Work with Sound and Music to produce digital as well as live outcomes of your work

Sound good? Great. At this stage, you only need to **register your interest**, and then we will get in contact to discuss and to find out if this opportunity is a good fit.

If you need any other support to access this opportunity, or need this information in another format then we're here to help, so please do contact us: richard.whitelaw@soundandmusic.org

Keep reading to find out more.

“Anyone working with Sound and Music in this capacity will be helped not just through the opportunity to create and perform a work, but also from learning the skills necessary to forge their own careers as composers.” Blasio Kavuma – Participant on the 2017 Pathways Talent Development Programme

Who are Sound and Music?

We are the national charity for new music in the UK. Our mission is to maximise the opportunities for people to create and enjoy new music.

Our work includes composer and artist development, partnerships with a range of organisations, audience development, touring, information and advice, network building, and education.

We champion new music and the work of UK composers and artists, and seek to ensure that they are at the heart of cultural life and enjoyed by many.

Why have we created this programme?

After many years working with brilliant and inspiring composers from across the UK to create ambitious new music we have learnt, felt and heard many things.

The world is constantly changing, and the needs of people creating their own music and sound across the UK today are changing in response to this.

It is our role at Sound and Music to adapt to these changes and your needs in order to support the creation and celebration of new music, both for now and for the future.

We believe that in order to work with a wider range of composers and to hear more innovative and diverse work we need to think a little differently; to address barriers and be more reflective of today's society.

We want to open our ears and work with all those who want to work with us.

Could you be a part of New Voices?

We want to work with people who are passionate, determined and excited to explore their own personal development as a composer or creator of new music or sound.

We want to support you to make the most of everything this programme offers and we want to help you build your practice, and in order to do this we will need some examples of your work.

Whether you live in an urban or rural environment, whether you trained at a conservatoire or are self taught, whether you produce electronic or acoustic work, or whether you have many years' experience or consider yourself 'emerging'. We know there isn't one model that will or should fit everyone.

This programme is designed to be flexible and to build upon your existing activity, and we will work to fit around you, your lives, children, jobs and other commitments.

Composer? Creator? Educator? Sound maker? Sonic artist? Here at Sound and Music we know that defining yourself and your work is for you, and not for us to try and do...

New Voices - a new programme, for new ideas, new sounds and new music.

We believe that equality and inclusivity is the key to the success of this programme, both for artists and audiences.

We want to support composers from all backgrounds, ages, stages and styles; and we don't want our processes or perceptions of what we're like to put you off applying to work with us (and we know it can!)

We want to work with **you**, as your new voice could just be what we have been waiting for.

How does New Voices work?

There are five steps to the programme:

1. One call for all

We will run one open opportunity for composers per year, starting from autumn 2017.

This will be a chance for you to register your interest in working with Sound and Music and to become one of our New Voices. At this stage

(unlike how we have worked previously) there will be no partners or other organisations in place. This is a completely ‘composer and artist first’ approach. We want to work with you to tailor our programme around your needs, and to be flexible about how and who you might want to work with.

Register first, apply later

To register your interest in New Voices all you need to do is to drop us an email to our Director of Programmes, Richard Whitelaw: richard.whitelaw@soundandmusic.org and we will get back to you to ask you some simple questions so that we can register you, and you’re done.

That’s all it takes.

If you have any questions about the process you can start asking us straight away. Your email address will help us to send more details of the application process directly to you when it goes live. You’ll be in touch with the person running the process and you can raise any questions you have at any time.

Application

When our application process goes live we’ll send you all you need direct to your email. There will be an application form and you will need to have two examples of your work that you can send us links to. We’ll also ask you to write a bit about yourself and your artistic work.

2. Selection of New Voices

Selection is, unavoidably, a competitive process, since we are committed to the programme being open to anybody to apply. An independent and diverse panel of experienced and expert selectors will listen to your work and read your application; they will help Sound and Music find a broad and talented group of composers to work with.

We will select a group of composers to interview and from that group select our New Voices for 2018. Sound and Music supports composers' travel to interviews and we work with candidates to make sure that all interviewees can attend or join via Skype if physical attendance is not possible.

You will know who is assessing your work and we will be able to answer any questions you have at every step of the journey.

3. Coaching and Mentoring

As part of being a New Voice, you will have the additional benefit of six months of bespoke, professional and external support from our network of trusted Coaches and Mentors.

We have **talked about the benefit of coaching and mentoring** before and we believe this important extra support can bring a huge professional benefit to composers. It is a priority for us to find people for you to work with who will be supportive and interested in you and your work, whatever stage of your career you are at.

4. Creating new work for public performance

The Coaching and Mentoring phase of the project is when you will develop ideas for the new work or project that you want to realise. You may have clear ideas when you start, or these may emerge in time.

This could be through working with another partner organisation such as a venue, an ensemble, an orchestra, a gallery or through your own collaborations and experiments.... or something else entirely!

We have a growing list of partner organisations who share our values, access to many leading composers and artists, and the commitment to help you to realise your vision. We understand that there are many different approaches to creating work. This is the exciting and important part of the process where you will have **time and freedom** to explore, to

experiment, to adapt and change your developing ideas. And you will be supported and encouraged to take creative risks

After your 18 month period as a New Voice one or more of your works will be presented to the public.

We care about people hearing your creations, about new people discovering your work and about how we can present new music that engages. So we also want to experiment with new ideas, new approaches and new ways of employing technologies to build and sustain listeners during your time with us and beyond.

This is an integral part of being one of our New Voices.

5. New Voices Network

We know how important it is for composers to establish new networks and contacts, especially with their peers. And Sound and Music is here to help you do that.

By recruiting all of our New Voices at the same time we will encourage and enable you to go on this journey together. By creating a community you will have access to other creators giving you the chance to meet, to hear each other's work and to share your experiences during your time with us. So, to help this happen every one of our New Voices will be invited to a residential weekend somewhere in the UK.

Our Selection Criteria

To apply for New Voices you must –

- Be over 18 years old
- Not be in full time undergraduate education
- Have been based in the UK for the last 2 years
- Plan to remain resident in the UK for the 18 month duration of the programme

- Not have been on our Embedded or Portfolio programmes previously
- Provide at least two recordings of your works

We will make our final decisions based on the following criteria:

We are looking for people who have original ideas and the ambition to create truly unique, high quality work, in whatever form. As part of New Voices you'll need to be ready to undertake self-reflection and evaluation in order to make the most of your involvement. You'll need to be able to reflect on your work, why you do it and when you feel it's been successful. We can help you with this but it must be something that you are interested in exploring.

You'll need to have created some work already, and probably presented it to an audience. You'll need to have at least two recordings so that the panel can hear your work, which can be either audio or video. New Voices is open to composers across the age and experience spectrum, but if you really are just starting out then you might want to gain a little experience before applying.

Sound and Music is also committed to making the New Voices group of composers representative of wider society in terms of gender, ethnicity, disability, socio-economic background and other 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.**

Next Steps

We hope you like what you hear. We hope you are excited, perhaps intrigued and most of all keen to join us and become one of our future New Voices.

New Voices, Sound and Music's Talent Development Programme for 2018, is now open for registration.

Registration for New Voices will close at noon on Tuesday 17th October 2017.

Once you have registered your interest, and spoke to one of our team, you will be sent an email with information on how you can apply for this opportunity.

Interviews will be held in early 2018 and we expect to announce the selected composers in January, after which the coaching and mentoring stage will begin in February.

If you need any extra support with this process, have special requirements or need any of our information in different formats please contact us directly: Director of Programmes, Richard Whitelaw:
richard.whitelaw@soundandmusic.org

If you are unsuccessful in your application and would like to know why, we will give you tailored personal feedback.

New Voices is kindly supported by:



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