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**Composer-Curator 2021 – Regional Programme**

**Presented in partnership with** [**Back to Ours**](http://www.backtoours.co.uk/)**, Hull and** [**Sunderland Culture**](https://sunderlandculture.org.uk/)**.**

**Applications will open on Thursday 18th February and close on Sunday 4th April at 11:59pm.**

Are you a composer or music-creator based in or with a meaningful connection to Hull or Sunderland or the surrounding regions? Looking to create your own music events? Do you care passionately about building a thriving, inclusive and sustainable community for new music in one of these cities? And do you want to work with local organisations to make this happen?

Sound and Music invites proposals for the 2021 Composer-Curator programme, this year presented in partnership with [Back to Ours, Hull](http://www.backtoours.co.uk/) and [Sunderland Culture](https://sunderlandculture.org.uk/), with mentoring support from [Supersonic Festival](https://supersonicfestival.com/).

[Link to download application form](https://soundandmusic.org/2021_composercurator_application-form_final-1/)

[Link to FAQs](https://soundandmusic.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021_Composer-Curator_FAQs_FINAL.docx)

[Submit your application for Composer-Curator 2021](https://airtable.com/shrskYhpBglWf7CDT)

**1. What is Composer-Curator?**

Composer-Curator supports outstanding projects across the UK that are curated and produced by composers, music-creators and collectives from any background. Whether you are trained in music or self-taught, have many years of experience or consider yourself ‘emerging’ - we want to hear from you!

The type of project you might produce could take any form - from outdoor performances to DIY gigs, orchestral concerts to club nights, gallery installations to live streams, and even panel discussions and workshops. Projects can be presented in any genre including jazz, electronic, grime, folk, non-western music, contemporary classical, in fact just about any form of experimental new sound and music.

We are particularly interested in projects that place audiences and communities at the heart of the work and that engage them in new and exciting ways. For example, by exploring different sites, spaces and methods of presentation - whether that be online, live (when possible) or a hybrid of both.

[**You can find out more about the type of projects we support and previous Composer-Curators here**](https://soundandmusic.org/post/meet-our-2020-composer-curators/)**2.** **How will Composer-Curator 2021 work?**

Following the challenges and learnings from Composer-Curator 2020, for 2021, we want to build on our commitment to bringing new music to more people, who may not normally have access, in more places locally. 

To do this, we have developed this year’s programme in partnership with [Back to Ours](http://www.backtoours.co.uk/) and [Sunderland Culture](http://www.sunderlandculture.org.uk/) to support composers, music-creators and collectives who have a meaningful connection to Hull, Sunderland or surrounding regions, to produce new musical projects for their communities.

**Composer-Curator offers:**

* A contribution to project costs (up to £4000 depending on project needs)
* Skills development sessions, workshops and mentoring from leading professionals that will be shaped around your interests
* Practical support and guidance on fundraising, marketing, budgeting, audience engagement, data collection, reporting and evaluation, venue sourcing and event production led by Sound and Music
* Focussed regional and expert support including local audience and media insight, networking and contact building provided by [Back to Ours](http://www.backtoours.co.uk/) and [Sunderland Culture](https://sunderlandculture.org.uk/).
* Expert mentoring sessions provided by Lisa Meyer, Artistic Director at [Supersonic Festival](https://supersonicfestival.com/).
* Opportunities to have your work featured on Sound and Music, Back to Ours and Sunderland Culture’s social media channels, e-communications and platforms including the [British Music Collection](https://britishmusiccollection.org.uk/) and [The Sampler](https://thesampler.org/)

**3. What do we mean by ‘meaningful connection’?**

Firstly, we don’t mean that the composers and music creators need to live or be based in these cities. Although that would be brilliant, but we are looking to support people who have some connections to these places and surrounding regions – maybe through family, study, previous work or similar – we do want people who understand these cities, their current scenes and their audiences.

We believe this is essential to this programme’s success.

**4. Programme overview**

If you are selected for Composer-Curator 2021, you will work with us for approximately 10 months. Composer-Curators spend an initial period refining their projects with the support of the Sound and Music team and the partner in your chosen city, before moving on to the production stage culminating in two or more public-facing events to take place between May 2021 and March 2022.

**5. Covid-19 Adaptations**

With the continuing situation surrounding Covid-19, we understand that the programme’s usual focus on live events may have to shift. Given this context, applicants proposing live projects should give consideration to how their projects can be reframed to use a hybrid live/digital, or exclusively digital delivery method, as required. Composer-Curators will work with their Creative Project Leader to review any changing circumstances relating to Covid-19.

**6.** **Finances**

You may request up to £4000 from Sound and Music towards the cost of your project but should bear in mind that our offer may be lower and will be determined by the needs of the project.

**The approximate amount awarded per project in 2020 was £3500.**

When applying, you should specify at least one other source of income which is either confirmed or expected. This could be another grant or bursary, or through ticket sales. You do not need to have this funding confirmed at the time of application.

**7. Audience development and engagement**

Engaging new audiences and communities with new music is central to the Composer-Curator programme. We want to support projects that help us to understand who is drawn to new music across different parts of the country, who isn’t and why. We want to understand the needs of both artists and audiences locally and bring them together to experience something truly memorable.

To help deepen this understanding, Composer-Curators are asked to help us gather physical and digital audience data, and to set specific and measurable goals for growing, reaching and diversifying audiences through your projects.

In 2021, all projects selected will be part of Culture Counts’ [Impact and Insight Toolkit](https://impactandinsight.co.uk/), a new resource to help Arts Council England’s funded organisations to evaluate the impact of their work on the people who experience it - support on using the Impact and Insight Toolkit will be provided to successful applicants.

**8. Eligibility**

To be eligible for the Composer-Curator 2021 programme you must:

* Be over 18 years old
* Be based in the UK
* Not be in full-time, undergraduate education
* Not have been selected for Composer-Curator previously or currently be on another Sound and Music programme
* Have a clear and meaningful connection to either Hull or Sunderland

**9. Application**

The application process will open on Thursday 18th February 2021 and will close on Sunday 4th April at 11:59pm.

We are able to fund three projects in each city (six projects in total).   
  
In the application form you will be asked to provide:   
  
**1. Outline of the proposed project** **(up to 800 words or a 4 minute video).** This should describe the project and the artists you want to work with and why; your connection to  either Hull or Sunderland; how you will attract and engage an audience there and the impact the project will have; and a timeline for successfully delivering the events.

**2. Applicant statement (up to 500 words or a 3 minute video).** This should describe any relevant experience you might have; and why the programme is right for you at this time.

**4. Audience objectives.** This should describe who your project is aimed at, how many people you hope to reach and how you will reach them.

**3. Project budget (a template is provided for this section with advice as to what costs to consider).** The budget should include full estimated and anticipated expenditure and income relating to the project.

**10. Accessibility**

We can offer alternative application methods, extensions for the application process, as well as financial support for anyone who needs to pay for additional access support, including at interview stage. We want to accommodate any access needs you might have, so if you require any additional support, please contact [alex.noble@soundandmusic.org](mailto:alex.noble@soundandmusic.org)

**11. How we make our final decision**

Applications will be made by the Sound and Music team, an external assessor, in consultation with the Back to Ours and Sunderland Culture who will each be involved with the selection for their areas. Decisions will be made in line with our [Fair Access Principles](https://soundandmusic.org/our-impact/fair-access-principles/).  
  
The selection panel will use the following criteria to review all applications:

* Curatorial originality and ambition, and a high-quality artistic programme/output.
* Clear and relevant connections to Hull or Sunderland and understanding of the local context.
* A commitment to building audiences and increasing engagement with new music in Hull or Sunderland, along with an awareness of the type of people you want to reach through the project and a strong sense of how you are planning to do that.
* A clear alignment between your work and the work of Back to Ours or Sunderland Culture either through their programming, their location or their audiences.
* Strong budget management and a clear outline of income and expenditure.
* Value for money - how many people are expected to benefit from the project and how?
* Commitment to delivering the project using either a hybrid live/digital approach or exclusively digital should COVID-19 restrictions continue during the programme.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview over Zoom, with the names of the interviewers provided in advance. We will inform applicants in writing within four weeks of the interview.

Sound and Music is committed to ensuring that the Composer-Curator cohort is representative of wider society in terms of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, disability and socio-economic background. A group of Composer-Curators that brings together a wider variety of backgrounds is hugely exciting for us artistically, as well as enabling us to deliver on our commitment to fairness and equality for all.  You can read a copy of our [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy here](https://soundandmusic.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020_EqualityDiversityandInclusionPolicy.pdf).

**Contact us:**Wondering if this programme is right for you? Unsure about how it works? Please check our FAQ’s. These pages are updated regularly in response to new questions or comments.

If you can’t find the answer to your question or need these documents in another format, please contact Heather Blair, Creative Project Leader – [heather.blair@soundandmusic.org](mailto:heather.blair@soundandmusic.org)

          