



International Society for Contemporary Music
Société Internationale pour la Musique Contemporaine
Internationale Gesellschaft für Neue Musik

Sound and Music

ISCM World Music Days 2021 –
Shanghai and Nanning
September 17-20, 2021 (Shanghai) September
21-25, 2021 (Nanning)

Call for works

**If you require this document in any other format please contact
alex.noble@soundandmusic.org**

Sound and Music/ISCM British Section Deadline: 22nd February 2021

Summary

The ISCM World Music Days festival is an annual international showcase of new music from around the world, attended by many international delegates as well as attending composers, producers and programmers.

Sound and Music, as the official British member of the ISCM (International Society for Contemporary Music) is entitled to select and submit 6 works that meet the specified categories and criteria, for consideration by an international jury. One of these works is guaranteed a performance during the festival. Sound and Music will publicise the 6 successfully submitted composers and works via our website and communication channels, as well as the final selected work(s) in due course. Sound and Music will also work with the selected composer(s) with the aim of securing sufficient funding to attend the ISCM World Music Days in Shanghai and Nanning.

This year there are 12 categories for different ensembles with specified forces (see below). You can submit works by sending a PDF version of the score plus an audio or video recording of the work (if available), or audio/video documentation if the work does not have a written score. Please see

below for further information on the categories and what you need to include with your submission.

By submitting works to this Call, composers are agreeing that if their work is selected for performance/presentation that they grant automatic permission for the ISCM performance/presentation of their work to be recorded, broadcast, and streamed from the website without additional financial liability to the ISCM or the Festival Organizers.

The ISCM Britain shortlisting and selection process is run in line with [Sound and Music's Fair Access Principles](#).

This call represents the latest information from the Chinese festival organisers but of course given the global pandemic the situation may change. We will communicate all further information received and ask for your understanding.

Work Categories

Category I: Orchestral Works

- Instrumentation: 3 fl (II=picc, III=picc,afl). 3 ob (III=corA). 3 cl (III=bcl). 3 bn (III=dbn). – 4 hn. 3 tpt. 2 trbn. 1 btrbn. 1 tuba – 3 perc. 1 timp. 1 hrp – full strings
- Soloists are NOT allowed in the Composition, nor Piano.
- Works shorter than [12 minutes] will be given priority.

Category II: Works for Chinese Orchestra

- Instrumentation: 2 Bangdi (I=Xiaodi, II=Qudi 2). 1 Qudi. 2 Xindi. 2 Soprano Sheng, 2 Alto Sheng. 1 Bass Sheng. 2 Soprano Suona. 1 Alto Suona. 1 Tenor Suona. 1 Bass Suona. 1 Guan in C. 2 Yangqin. 2 Liuqin(II=Zhongruan). 4 Pipa. 4 Zhongruan. 2 Daruan. 1 Sanxian. 2 Guzheng. Timpani. 3 perc. Chinese Strings (Gaohu, Erhu, Zhonghu, Violoncello, Double Bass).
- Soloists are NOT allowed in the Composition, nor Piano.
- Works shorter than 12 minutes will be given priority.

Category III: String Quartet

- Works shorter than 8 minutes will be given priority.
- Extended techniques are allowed.

Category IV: Chamber Music Group A

- Works shorter than 8 minutes will be given priority.
- Instrumentation: 1 fl. 1 cl. 1 vln. 1 vc. 1 pno.
- Composers may choose any combination of 2 – 5 among the above instruments.
- Extended techniques on each instrument allowed.

Category V: Chamber Music Group B

- Works shorter than 8 minutes will be given priority.
- Instrumentation: 1fl. 1ob. 1cl. 1trbn. 1perc. 1pno. 2vln. 1vla. 1vc. 1db. 1dizi 1erhu 1pipa
- Composers may choose any combination of 6 – 14 among the above instruments, but at least 1 must be included from Dizi, Erhu, or Pipa.
- Extended techniques on each instrument allowed.
- The intro video of Chinese Instruments: Dizi, Erhu, and Pipa will be posted on the official website: <https://nmw.shcmusic.edu.cn/>.
- The list of percussion instruments is attached at the end of Call for Works.

Category VI: Choir Works (SATB)

- Works shorter than 5 minutes will be given priority.
- It can be *a capella*. If not, the only instrument that can be included is piano.
- Extended piano techniques will not be accepted.

Category VII: Solo Piano Works

- Works shorter than 8 minutes will be given priority.
- Extended techniques allowed on piano; performers are allowed to play inside the piano.
- Prepared piano works will not be accepted.

Category VIII: Percussion Works

- Works shorter than 8 minutes will be given priority.
- The list of percussion instruments that can be used is:

6 Tom-toms
5 Suspended Cymbals
2 Tambourine
2 Snare Drums
3 Triangles
1 Bass Drum
1 Marimba
1 Vibraphone
1 Glockenspiel
1 Xylophone
1 Cymbals (paired)
1 Wind Chime
2 Maracas
1 Tempo Block (5 Blocks) 2 Bongo
2 Conga
1 Tam-tam
4 Timpani

If the work requires any percussion instrument not listed above, the composer must bring the instrument to the rehearsals and concert.

- Compositions may be for 2-8 percussionists.

Category IX, X, XI, XII: Electronic Music

- Works shorter than 10 minutes will be given priority.
- There are four (4) Electronic Music Categories; be sure that the composition submitted fits one of these.

Category IX : Electronic Music (Fixed Media/Tape Music Only)

- Composers must provide an audio file of the work in .wav format. The audio file can have maximum 8 channels. (Format options are: stereo; 4 channels; 5.1; and 8 channels.)
- Composers must supply a diagram showing the speaker layout.

Category X : Electronic Music with 1 Instrumentalist (Fixed Media/Tape Music)

- Composers must provide an audio file of the work in .wav format. The audio file can have maximum 8 channels. (Format options are: stereo; 4 channels; 5.1; and 8 channels.)
- Composers must supply a diagram showing the speaker layout.
- Only one (1) instrument should be included, selected from the following instruments: Flute; Oboe; Clarinet; Bassoon; Horn; Trumpet; Trombone; Violin; Viola; Violoncello; Dizi; Erhu; or Pipa.

Category XI : Electronic Music (Live Electronics Only)

- Only one (1) Operator is allowed for live performance.
- It is recommended that the Composer or the operator bring their own laptop for the live performance. Only 1 laptop is allowed in the performance.
- No instrument can be linked to the electronics in this Category. The work can have maximum 8 channels, and the composer must supply a diagram showing the speaker layout.
- Any special sensor or devices that the composer used should be brought to the performance by themselves. We don't provide any kind of sensor or trigger devices.
- If the composer needs to use our Mac or PC for performance, the only software we can provide is Max-MSP. We strongly recommend you bring your own laptop.

Category XII: Electronic Music (Live Electronics with 1 instrumentalist)

- The performance allows only 1 operator and 1 instrumentalist in this Category.
- Only one instrument may be selected from following instruments: Flute; Oboe; Clarinet; Bassoon; Horn; Trumpet; Trombone; Violin; Viola; Violoncello; Dizi; Erhu; or Pipa.
- The selected instrument can be linked to the electronics. But the sensor or any linked devices should be provided by the composer.

- We strongly recommend that the devices that the composer provides are common and universal, with connecting ports such as USB2.0, USB3.0, USB-C or any audio port. Bluetooth is recommended for any wireless connections.
- We suggest the Composer or the operator brings their own laptop for the live performance. Only 1 laptop allowed in the performance.
- The work can have maximum 8 channels, and the composer must supply a diagram showing the preferred speaker layout.

Guidelines for making an Official submission to the ISCM British Section

- There is no fee to apply via this route.
- Applications via the official ISCM British Section's call must be made by the composer directly, as opposed to via their publisher/agent or another third party
- Composers of any age or point in their career may apply, whether or not they have a publisher or have had international performances previously
- Our aim is to submit a balanced and representative shortlist of six high quality works to the ISCM. Therefore we particularly welcome submissions from composers from under-represented backgrounds, including composers who are women, LGBTQI+ composers, composers who are ethnically and culturally diverse, disabled composers and composers from lower socio-economic backgrounds. We recognise the many barriers that can prevent composers from accessing opportunities and are working hard to address them
- Works must fall into one of the following 12 category requirements above. The relevant category (and subcategory if applicable) for the work must be stipulated on the application for the application to be eligible
- Preference is given by the International Jury to shorter compositions (except where specifically noted in a category description) and to pieces composed since 2012
- Works submitted to the British Panel for the previous three years' ISCM World Music Days festivals (New Zealand, 2020; Estonia, 2019; Beijing, 2018) are not eligible
- Composers of works selected for performance during the previous 5 ISCM World Music Days Festivals are not eligible to apply
- To submit a work to the Sound and Music/ISCM British Section (as opposed to directly to the ISCM International Jury) you must be a British Citizen or hold a British Passport
- Composers from Northern Ireland are permitted to apply to either the Irish or the British Section, bearing in mind the stipulation that composers may only submit one work in total
- Composers from Wales are eligible to apply to either the Welsh Section or the British Section, bearing in mind the stipulation that composers may only submit one work in total. Anyone living and working in Wales is encouraged to apply via the Welsh Section which is administered by [Ty Cerdd](#)

- Composers from Scotland are eligible to apply to either the Scottish Associate Section or the British Section, bearing in mind the stipulation that composers may only submit one work in total. Anyone living and working in Scotland is encouraged to apply via the Scottish Associate section which is administered by the [Scottish Music Centre](#) and [New Music Scotland](#).

How to make an official submission via the ISCM British Section:

If you wish to apply, please supply the following documents and information **via the Sound and Music website [here](#)**.

Information required

Personal and contact information:

- Given names
- Family name
- Name as it should appear in the programme
- Date of birth
- Full Mailing address
- Gender you identify as
- Phone number
- Email address
- Website (if applicable).

Work information:

- Title
- Work Category
- Accurate duration
- Year of composition
- Statement of whether the work has been previously performed
- The score (.pdf document preferred), or audio/video documentation if the work does not have a written score – as described in the Work Categories
- An audio or video recording of the work (if available)
- Programme notes for the submitted work (maximum 100 words)
- Technical rider specifying all equipment necessary to perform the work
- Short biography of the composer (maximum 100 words)
- High-resolution digital photograph of the composer

This data will only be used for the purposes of this submission, in accordance with [Sound and Music's Data Protection and Privacy Policy](#).

Selection of works

Two members of the ISCM British Section will review submitted pieces and select six works for submission to the International Jury. Our submissions need to cover at least four of the listed categories. Provided Sound and Music meets these requirements, it is guaranteed that at least one work submitted by ISCM Britain will be included in the World Music Days Festival. For more information about previous works selected for World Music Days Festival, see Sound and Music's website [here](#)

For any queries, please contact Alex Noble at Sound and Music: alex.noble@soundandmusic.org

Deadline for applications

22nd February 2021

Late applications cannot be considered.

We will let you know no later than 17 March 2021 whether your work has been shortlisted for submission. Feedback will be offered to those not shortlisted.

Other information

Applying directly to the ISCM

Composers (or publishers or agents working on their behalf) may apply directly to the ISCM international jury.

More information on how to apply via this route can be found [here](#).

ISCM British Section

ISCM Britain, administered by Sound and Music, exists to promote the aims of the ISCM (International Society for Contemporary Music), both within Britain and in co-operation with other Sections.

The ISCM aims to promote contemporary music and raise its public profile, through effective global networking, communication and facilitation of multilateral activities between the members.

The ISCM's published mission is to:

- Raise the profile of contemporary music through the collective strength of the Society's global network and membership makeup.
- Pursue exposure, research and performance of contemporary music through initiatives by its membership, as well as collaboration with affiliated bodies.

- Showcase the diversity of contemporary music worldwide through the World New Music Days Festival.

World New Music Days

The World New Music Days Festival is an annual meeting of the ISCM, organised and funded by different sections each year, as a platform for musical exchange and a showcase of world contemporary music, without prejudice or bias on differences in musical expressions, styles, genres or media. It aims to be a meeting place for organisations, performers and composers around the world. World New Music Days takes place over consecutive days in the host country and can be organised in any format which suits the artistic and practical preferences of the organiser in accordance with ISCM Statutes, reflecting the diversity of contemporary music. The festival strives to represent all legitimate members of the ISCM in one way or another through the activities of its programs, such as performances, seminars, exhibitions, etc.

Sound and Music

Sound and Music's vision is to create a world where new music and sound prospers, transforming lives, challenging expectations and celebrating the work of its creators. Our work includes composer and artist support and development, partnerships with a range of organisations, audience development, information and advice, network building, and education. We champion new music and the work of British composers and artists, and seek to ensure that they are at the heart of cultural life and enjoyed by many. www.soundandmusic.org