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**Composer-Curator 2022 – Hull and Sunderland**

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

**Applications will open on Friday 28th January and close on Sunday 13th March 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? Are you looking to curate and programme 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 2022 Composer-Curator programme, which for the 2nd year is presented in partnership with [Back to Ours, Hull](http://www.backtoours.co.uk/) and [Sunderland Culture](https://sunderlandculture.org.uk/), with mentoring support available from [Supersonic Festival](https://supersonicfestival.com/).

**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 curate 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 local 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 contexts- whether that be online, live, or a hybrid of both.

Projects presented as part of the 2021 programme have spanned a truly unique and diverse range of people, genres and performance contexts including a surreal musical experience along Hull’s Humber Street, a 12th century inspired choral and underground dance music mash-up at The Atheneum, Sunderland, performance training, workshops for young people in a mobile recording studio in Hull, an underwater sound exploration of the River Wear and a brand new experimental music festival in Sunderland City Centre.

[**You can find out more about the projects we have supported in Hull and Sunderland and the 2021 Composer-Curators here**](https://soundandmusic.org/post/meet-our-2020-composer-curators/)**2.** **How does Composer-Curator 2022 work?**

In line with our commitment to ensure that more people can access new music locally and to support the development of cultural communities across the UK, the 2022 Composer-Curator programme will continue our partnership with [Back to Ours](http://www.backtoours.co.uk/) and [Sunderland Culture](http://www.sunderlandculture.org.uk/). Our aim is to continue to support composers, music-creators and collectives who have a meaningful connection to Hull, Sunderland or surrounding areas, to produce new musical projects for their communities and shape their local music scenes.

**Composer-Curator offers:**

* A contribution to project and production 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 currently 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 areas – 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**

Successful applicants to Composer-Curator 2022 you will work with us for approximately 10 months. You will spend three in the Development Phase – refining your project idea with the support

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 September 2022 and February 2023.

**Key dates:**

* **Application deadline:** Sunday 13th March, 11:59pm
* **All applicants notified:** Friday 8th April
* **Interviews:** week commencing 11th April
* **Decisions communicated with interviewees:** Wednesday 20th April
* **New cohort announcement:** Thursday 12th May
* **Composer-Curator Induction Day and launch of programme:** Early June
* **Development Phase begins:** June – September
* **Mentoring session 1:** September (dates TBC)
* **Delivery Phase begins:** October 2022 – February 2023
* **Networking sessions in Hull and Sunderland:** October
* **Mentoring session 2:** January (dates TBC)
* **Evaluation Period and programme end:** 31st March 2023

**5.** **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 2021 was £3600**

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.

**Fair pay**

You must also demonstrate how you plan to pay yourself for the time you spend working on the project. This should be in the form of a time-specific fee. Please estimate the time you will spend working on the project in days and show your overall amount as a total of your daily fee multiplied by the number of days you will be working on the project.

Sound and Music are committed to making sure those who work on your project are properly and fairly paid. This is the same whether it is for yourself or for your collaborators, we want to see how fees for artists and other people involved with your project are paid according to guidelines set by relevant bodies such as the Musicians Union and The Artists Information Company.

**6. 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 2022, 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.

**7. Eligibility**

To be eligible for the Composer-Curator 2022 programme you must:

* Be over 18 years old
* Be based in the UK and plan to remain resident for the 10-month duration of the programme
* Not be in full-time, undergraduate education
* Not have been selected for Composer-Curator previously or currently be on another Sound and Music programme (eg. New Voices or Adopt a Music Creator)
* Have a clear and meaningful connection to either Hull or Sunderland

**8. Application**

The application process will open on Thursday 27th January and will close on Sunday 13th March 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; the impact the project will have on the local community, 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 you will attract and engage the community there, how many people you hope to reach and how you will go about reaching them. Remember it is not possible to reach everyone so try to be as specific as possible. Consider focusing on people from specific demographics such as age, gender or socioeconomic background, or those with particular interests or behaviours.

**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.

**9. Infrequently Asked Questions Session**

 In this Zoom session, we invite anyone who is thinking about applying to hear directly from the Sound and Music team about the application process, the wider programme and to ask any questions you might have.

**Thursday 17th February, 6-7pm.**

Please register in advance by following this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvfuCorzktHt2OroGkaJ\_b-jeKsHpJP1Kd

**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

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

Applications will be made by the Sound and Music team, 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.
* Strong budget management and a clear outline of income and expenditure.
* Value for money - how many people are expected to benefit from the project.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview over Zoom, with the names of the interview panel provided in advance. This will include an external panelist. We will inform applicants in writing within six weeks of the closing date.

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. Alternatively, please consider attending our Infrequently Asked Questions Session via Zoom on Thursday 17th February, 6-7pm.

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

          