



PRSF New Music Biennial 2019 **Artist Commission Brief: site-specific**

Following the extremely successful PRS Foundation New Music Biennial 2017, Absolutely Cultured (formerly Hull UK City of Culture 2017) is delighted to be working alongside the Southbank Centre London to host the next edition of the festival in 2019.

Absolutely Cultured is inviting artists to put forward proposals for a new site-specific commission to be part of the 2019 festival.

About PRSF New Music Biennial 2019

In 2017, the New Music Biennial presented over 25 musical events across venues in Hull and at the Southbank Centre involving a range of musicians including composer Ray Lee with his outdoor piece *Ring Out*, Errollyn Wallen's orchestral piece *Mighty River*, Mercury Prize-nominated acoustic-electronica trio GoGo Penguin and folk musician Eliza Carthy. Each composer performed a 15-minute piece of music, many of which were new commissions specifically for the festival.

New Music Biennial 2019 will showcase up to 20 pieces of new music, including brand new commissions and pre-existing works. These pieces will be performed at the two festival weekends in **London's Southbank Centre on 5 – 7th July** and in **Hull 12 – 14th July 2019** and will be broadcast across BBC Radio 3.

New Music Biennial 2019 is presented by PRS Foundation in partnership with Absolutely Cultured, London's Southbank Centre, BBC Radio 3 and NMC Recordings with generous support from Arts Council England, Creative Scotland, Arts Council Wales and the Richard Thomas Foundation.

About Absolutely Cultured

Built on the foundations of the company that delivered Hull's year as UK City of Culture 2017, Absolutely Cultured continues to play a leading role in Hull's future, as an arts company rooted in the city.

Absolutely Cultured will capitalise on the success of 2017, both through its own work and through working collectively with other partners in the city and colleagues across the cultural sector, to ensure Hull's reputation as a centre for creativity and culture is upheld.

Our core purpose is to commission and produce a high quality, ambitious, surprising and imaginative programme of cultural events. Our events inhabit and animate Hull's incredible outdoor spaces and we work with artists who create work which connects people and communities. We also continue to partner with national organisations to bring significant events to the city.



Alongside our commissioned work, we programme and run Humber Street Gallery, now a firm fixture in the ever-evolving Fruit Market area of Hull, and develop our award-winning City of Culture Volunteer programme, continuing the opportunity to put people at the forefront of the city's iconic voice.

In a city where creativity thrives, we are proud to commission a world-class arts programme for residents and visitors. Made in Hull, but with a far-reaching ambition, we are and always will be Absolutely Cultured.

What we are looking for

Artists are being asked to propose the creation of a new piece of ambitious, surprising and inspiring music or a sound installation to be delivered as part of PRSF New Music Biennial 2019. The piece should be proposed for an outdoor location or public space, rather than a more traditional venue or concert hall.

We are interested in proposals which explore the loose theme of “play”. This could be through offering audiences the opportunity to interact, influence or “play” within the piece, a playful response to the location or be influenced by games.

Proposals should take into consideration all of the following priorities:

- takes place outdoors or in public space
- contains distinctive and exceptional music and/or exploration of sound in a broad sense
- fits with the festival's vision to celebrate the breadth and talent of those making new music in the UK
- can reach a large audience of min 10k over the course of the festival period
- is accessible to a broad audience
- helps to reach new audiences for new and experimental music
- explores the theme of play

As a guide, in order to deliver against these priorities, proposals may choose to take one of the following formats:

- A durational installation which audiences can drop into
- A shorter length piece for a larger audience
- A large-scale piece with a participatory element

The artist may work within any musical genre and there is no restriction on the type of instrument, equipment or other material that can be used to create the piece. The chosen artist is required to do at least one short talk to an audience about the piece.

We also welcome proposals which include design or visual elements and we encourage imaginative and playful ideas.

Sites

The artist should create the piece to be performed / exhibited at a location in Hull City Centre. Ideally, the piece will also be performed in London, in or around the Southbank Centre. Final decision on whether one or both locations will be used will be discussed with the artist and with reference to the production budget. Please note the festival dates given above for each location.

Commissioning Process

Artists are asked to submit:

1. an expression of interest
2. outline budget and technical requirements
3. CV or portfolio of previous work and any images or audio clips to help explain the idea.

Expressions of interest should be broken down under the following headings (max. 400 words for each):

- **Idea** (What would you like to do? What is the inspiration for the piece? If you intend to work in collaboration with anyone, who would you work with and why? What is your process to develop and deliver the project?)
- **Format** (Where? – outdoors or public space? Any specific ideas for sites?) (What? – How will the piece be performed / installed?) (How? –What support is required to technically deliver the piece?)
- **Experience** (An outline of your relevant experience and previous work)

Please also reference the work's suitability for live recording or broadcast.

Outline budget and technical requirements

Please detail:

- Breakdown of the budget required to **create** the piece (fees, studio time, materials, collaborators, pre-production)
- Breakdown of the budget the artist would require to **realise/perform** the piece in one location (performer fees, other expenses)
- A list / description of any technical requirements to be managed by the event producer (on-costs).

An artist commission fee in the region of £10,000-20,000 is anticipated to cover the creation and realisation costs for the artist.

In addition, the event producer will cover the basic production costs / on-costs for presenting the work in each location, the value of which to be assessed and agreed between all parties.



Budgets should include all necessary travel and accommodation costs.

Absolutely Cultured will provide production advice and support to help realise the full scope of the project.

Timescale

- **23:59 Friday 19th October 2018** – Deadline for expressions of interest
- **Early November 2018** – Interviews/discussions with shortlisted artists / follow up meetings
- **Early November 2018** – Successful artist chosen and contracted.
- **November 2018 – June 2019** – Development and Production of full commission, with site visits and regular catch ups/progress reports submitted to Absolutely Cultured Producer. Composer gatherings with other commissioned artists.
- **EVENT DATES – 5 – 7th July 2019** at Southbank Centre, London and **12 – 14th July 2019** in Hull, location TBC.

**Artists must be available over all the specified installation, rehearsal and event dates.*

Next Steps

If we are interested in the submitted idea we will schedule a meeting to discuss it further.

If your proposal is accepted, you will enter into a full commission agreement with Absolutely Cultured to create the work.

Please apply with your expression of interest and response to the outlined brief to **lily.mellor@absolutelycultured.co.uk** by **23:59 on Friday 19th October**.