

Open Call

Open Call is an initiative to support music creators in laboratory-style commissions; offering opportunities to challenge compositional practice, explore working in new ways and provoke dialogue between composers, ideas and audiences. In 2018 /2019, Spitalfields Music is working with Rich Mix to support three artists to execute their project idea, working towards to a public work-in-progress showing in June 2019.

Part of our Artist Development strand supported by Help Musicians UK's National Grants Programme and PRS Foundation's Open Fund, Open Call is a direct response to our commitment to broaden and diversify the artists we work with, offering opportunities to as wide a range of artists as possible, specifically BAME, female and disabled artists. Based in Tower Hamlets, we want to reflect our local community, support the most exciting musicians from all backgrounds, and provide role models for the communities and young people we work with. We have committed to 100% of our artists involved in our Open Call initiative coming from an underrepresented background in the music industry.

We want to work with artists who are critical thinkers, who create work that pushes boundaries and explores new ways to connect with audiences. We are looking for music creators who want to explore the big ideas facing our world, who want to create work that is relevant and integral to people's lives and who want to challenge perceptions of how music can be created, performed and experienced. We welcome music creators at all stages of their career, but specifically those who recognise a need for new impetus to stretch their creative practice.

This year we are asking people to respond to the following provocation: **Culture for a Changing City**

We are looking for music creators who:

- are from underrepresented backgrounds, specifically BAME, female and/or disabled
- are based in the United Kingdom;
- are able to commit the necessary time to develop the piece from February – June 2019 to fully make the most of this opportunity;
- create outstanding original new music;
- are naturally collaborative, curious and open;
- are prepared to push themselves and take risks;
- are excellent communicators and open to sharing their work and receiving feedback;
- believe music should examine big ideas and be relevant and integral to people's lives;
- are interested in challenging perceptions of how music can be created, performed and experienced.

As an Open Call artist, you will receive:

- Five days with a Spitalfields Music producer to support you as you develop your idea
- Three sessions with an artistic mentor (to be identified in conversation between the artist and producer)
- A development fee of **£1,500** to cover your time: for example, in developing/creating the work, meeting with your mentor and producer, research and collaboration, sharing your creative process with audiences through interviews and blogs, and presenting the work in progress
- A project budget of £2,000 to realise the work-in-progress performance.
We imagine this could be used, for example, to collaborate with other artists or art forms, to bring in specialist equipment, to create prototypes, to facilitate any digital or technical element, or to create any material that runs alongside the project
- Two group sessions with the other Open Call artists: a chance to spend time sharing experiences, ideas and challenges
- A platform in June 2019 to present a work-in-progress of your material at Rich Mix, including support to deliver this event

Introductory Workshop: Wednesday 14 November, 7.00 – 8:30pm

This event, held at Rich Mix, will explore the provocation with leading composers, producers and the Open Call team. We have designed the workshop to involve everyone who attends, stimulate conversation and debate and to support you to develop your ideas before sending your final proposal. We will share our ambitions for the project and what we are looking for in applications, and there will be time for you to ask questions.

Attendance at this event is not essential but we strongly encourage you to attend, as it will support you with your thinking as you develop your ideas for Open Call, will help us get to know you, and will be a great opportunity for personal development and networking.

The workshop is free but there are limited places offered on a first come, first served basis. Please book your place by emailing tracy.virr@spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk

How to apply

Please send your completed application form to tracy.virr@spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk by **5pm on Friday 7 December** along with:

- Details of two referees
- A simple video of no more than 2 minutes, telling us about you, what interests you, your approach to work and your ambitions
- 2 examples of your work (recordings/video/images/reviews etc)
- A completed Equal Opportunities & Diversity Monitoring Form

Please note that you must have the right to work in the UK if you apply.

Key dates

- Introductory Workshop: **7pm Wednesday 14 November 2018**
- Application deadline: **5pm Friday 7 December 2018**
- Shortlisted applicant interviews: **w/c 21 January 2019**
- Successful applicants informed: **w/c 28 January 2019**
- Work in progress showings: **6/7 June 2019**

If you would like to book to attend the workshop, or if you have any questions about **Open Call** or the application process, please contact Tracy Virr on tracy.virr@spitalfieldsmusic.org.uk