

## Person Spec and Composition Brief for Tri-borough Music Hub Project 2017 – 2019 with Royal Albert Hall and Royal College of Music

### Introduction

The award-winning Tri-borough Music Hub (TBMH) is the lead organisation that oversees the delivery of music education in three West London boroughs - the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea; the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham; and City of Westminster - working with schools, pupils and the workforce. It is a centralised Local Authority service which receives core funding from the Department for Education via the Arts Council England.

**Mission Statement:** *The Tri-borough Music Hub aims to provide opportunities for all children to develop a life-long love of music and realise their musical potential whilst developing their personal and social identity. Young people will be able to choose from a broad range of progressive musical pathways provided in partnership with outstanding music organisations that are committed to our ethos.*

### Background

On 23 June 2015, the Tri-borough Music Hub, in collaboration with our partners and schools, staged the world premier of *Seven Seeds* at the Royal Albert Hall. The event celebrated three years of the TBMH and brought together a wide range of extraordinary organisations, professional and amateur, alongside over 1,200 school-aged performers in one of the world's leading venues.

It was a very special performance that required enormous planning, collaboration and partnership working. The ultimate benefit of producing *Seven Seeds* was in raising the quality and standards of music-making within schools and exposing children and young people to a new and exciting opportunity and life experience. For the TBMH this event demonstrated our ambition, innovation and commitment to partnership and ensuring the highest-quality music education for all young people.

*Seven Seeds* successfully demonstrated what can be achieved with a clear vision, world class partners and a commitment to innovation, excellence and inclusion.

In May 2016 TBMH was awarded the RPS Learning & Participation prize for *Seven Seeds*, the first time that a Music Service/Hub has ever won an RPS award – Appendix A Press Release.

### What next?

Following the success of *Seven Seeds* the TBMH is now planning the next super-large-scale event which will happen on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in the RAH. This performance will be preceded by two years of development, planning, school engagement, and musical progress for all involved between 2017-2019.

In order to realise this next step the TBMH, with the RAH and RCM, is looking to engage and work with a creative artist/composer who will be able to deliver our vision. The rest of this document outlines the process, including:

- Composition brief
- Projected Timeline
- Person Specification
- How to respond to this



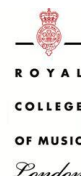
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### Composition brief

The Tri-borough Music Hub is seeking to commission a major new work (of duration c.60-70 minutes) for massed instrumental and vocal forces for performance at the Royal Albert Hall on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019. This performance will be preceded by a large scale educational programme of creative workshops in schools and with TBMH instrumental ensembles; with some of the ideas and outcomes of these workshops being incorporated into the final work.

The musical forces:

- A large fixed ensemble of players (from the existing TBMH ensembles/orchestras plus additional players from schools) of varying ages and abilities from upper key stage 2 to key stage 4. Ensemble size will be circa 120-150 instrumentalists.
- A massed choir of varying ages and abilities from upper key stage 2 to key stage 4 from existing TBMH choirs and massed school pupils singing. Massed choir size will be circa 600-1000 voices.
- There will be an element of side by side playing/singing with professional musicians from TBMH Partner organisations, and TBMH tutors
- A range of genres will be represented i.e. orchestra, folk ensemble, big band, rock band.

Creative starting points:

- At the heart of this work will be a true representation of the diverse cultural mix in the Tri-borough area, incorporating a variety of musical genres and potential collaboration across a range of art forms (although the performance event will be music focused only)
- The musical language should be broad ranging, with allusions to the musical and cultural history of the last century. Musical genres of importance to refer to might include 1920s show tunes, jazz and swing, prog rock, 60s era popular music, going through to the present day, including film/video game music
- As well as original composition, an element of curatorship could be involved i.e. some existing material can be reworked and incorporated where relevant (pending necessary permissions). Co-creating with pupils/ensembles should also be incorporated into the final outcome.

Learning outcomes:

- To inspire, enable and energise young people to access the arts and develop a life-long love of music
- To teach creative skills and techniques throughout the course of the schools workshops
- To challenge More Able (G&T) students through specific focused activity developing improvisation and composition skills
- To have a greater understanding of and appreciation for diverse musical genres and traditions; recognising the cultures from which they originate.

The new work will be linked to an ambitious programme of work in schools throughout the Tri-Borough area starting in 2017/2018, running throughout the 2018/19 school year, and culminating in the March 2019 performance at the Royal Albert Hall. Any 'learned' elements of the work to be prepared in schools should be complete and available for use from September 2018.



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## Projected Timeline

Summer term 2017 Autumn term 2017	Mapping and Planning Instrumental Recruitment commences Ensemble support and mentoring commences
February 2018 Spring / Summer terms 2018	Half term instrumental course, kick-starting creative work R&D work with schools/pupils, creative work takes place
Summer 2018 Autumn term 2018	Commission work completed Schools attend first CPD training session and take away all resources for the massed aspects TBMH ensembles start to learn the core music
Spring term 2019 March 2019	Massed rehearsals for choir and ensembles Performance at Royal Albert Hall

## Person Specification

The TBMH, with RAH and RCM, are looking to work with someone:

1. Who can deliver the composition project brief.
2. Who has a proven track record of writing major works for arts organisations, schools and young people; including scoring for instruments and voices.
3. To work creatively and collaboratively with young people, schools, professional musicians to co-create elements of the performance piece.
4. Who works to a strict timetable, has the ability to meet deadlines and who is efficient.
5. Who is enthusiastic about music education and the important role that it plays

## Fee

There will be a fixed fee for the overall commission, circa £12k. Any additional workshop days will be paid at £250 per day (at present 13 additional days are projected).

## How to respond to this / next steps

By noon on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December:**

1. Send your CV and a covering letter outlining why we should consider you.
2. In no more than 300 words outline your initial idea about how you would respond to the brief and how you would approach it.

The above should be emailed to [stuart.whatmore@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.whatmore@rbkc.gov.uk), Manager of the TBMH. If there are any further questions relating to this document please contact Stuart via email or phone 020 3745 6024.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to present in person on 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at the RAH, to give a more detailed overview and to discuss the project.



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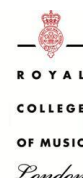
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***APPENDIX A: Press Release May 2016 following RPS Award  
Kids' classical piece scoops national award***

*A GROUNDBREAKING piece of music, written by hundreds of children across London and performed live before an audience of thousands, has won a prestigious national award.*

**Seven Seeds**, created by pupils from 63 schools – primary, secondary and special – and overseen by acclaimed composer John Barber and librettist Hazel Gould, was recognised on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May at the Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards, where it received the Learning & Participation prize. This is the first time that the RPS has given an award to a Music Service or Music Education Hub.

*The project, which was commissioned by the Tri-borough Music Hub and its strategic partners – the Royal Albert Hall, Royal College of Music and Aurora Orchestra – was commended for its “inclusive nature...which created a musical legacy of excellence and raised aspiration for future arts engagement. Its rich, sophisticated and uncompromising musical language was accessible to young people, irrespective of age, ability and culture”.*

Accepting the award, **Tri-borough Music Hub Manager Stuart Whatmore**, said: “Seven Seeds provided a focal point for celebrating musical talent and diversity within our local areas, bringing together the musical partners to support children in fulfilling their potential and uniting the community in celebration of musical achievement.

“It also provided a high-quality way of engaging with our local schools and raising standards of music-making in the classroom. We are extremely grateful to the support of all our partners involved in this event and to the John Lyon’s Charity, Golsoncott Foundation and the Mercer’s Company for their support and for helping us to bring music and the arts to a wider group of young people.”

**The Royal Philharmonic Society (RPS) Music Awards**, supported by BBC Radio 3, are arguably the UK’s most important awards for live music, and celebrate the vibrancy of classical music-making. Each of its 13 awards is decided by an independent expert panel and designed to celebrate excellence, creativity and understanding.

Seven Seeds was a three-year music project which culminated in a live premiere at the Royal Albert Hall on 23 June 2015. The performance featured over 1,200 young singers and instrumentalists, alongside musicians from Aurora Orchestra, Southbank Sinfonia, Albert’s Band, and The Bach Choir; students from the Royal College of Music and Royal Academy of Music; Chickenshed Theatre; Inner Voices; professional soloists, and conductor Nicholas Collon.

**Composer John Barber and Librettist Hazel Gould**, said: “Seven Seeds is a large-scale oratorio with full choral and orchestral forces that has young people at its creative heart. Watching the final performance and hearing so many voices from such different places singing, as one, was completely overwhelming.”

To see a documentary about the Seven Seeds project click [here](#). To watch the full performance, go [here](#). For more information about the Tri-borough Music Hub, visit [www.triboroughmusicclub.org](http://www.triboroughmusicclub.org).



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## **APPENDIX B: Music Hub core and extension roles**

The overriding strategic purpose of the TBMH is two-fold:

- (1) to *engage with all schools* in the Tri-borough area, in order to reach all pupils and provide them with access to high-quality music education opportunities.
- (2) to *raise standards* and support musical progression for all pupils.

This is supported by the overarching themes of all TBMH provision, as stated in our Music Strategy: **Engaging; Inspiring; High Quality; Progressive; Sustainable.**

The TBMH has a Strategic Partnership with the Royal Albert Hall and the Royal College of Music with both organisations substantially contributing to, and supporting, the music education within the three boroughs.

The TBMH receives core funding from the DfE via ACE to ensure that children aged 5-18 have the best possible access to music education. There are four core roles and three extension roles as outlined in the National Plan for Music Education which every Music Education Hub must deliver against:

### **National Plan for Music Education – Core Activities**

1. Ensure that every child aged 5-18 has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument (other than voice) through whole-class ensemble teaching programme for ideally one year (but a minimum of one term) of weekly tuition on the same instrument.
2. Provide opportunities to play in ensembles and to perform from an early stage.
3. Ensure that clear progression routes are available and affordable to all young people.
4. Develop a singing strategy to ensure that every pupil sings regularly and that choirs and other vocal ensembles are available in the area.

### **National Plan for Music Education – Extension Activities**

5. Offer CPD to school staff, particularly in supporting schools to deliver music in the curriculum.
6. Provide an instrument loan service, with discounts or free provision for those on low incomes.
7. Provide access to large scale and/or high quality music experiences for pupils, working with professional musicians and/or venues. This may include undertaking work to publicise the opportunities available to schools, parents/carers and students.



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