

Tri-borough Music Hub Commissions Ambitious New Work

The Tri-borough Music Hub, together with the Royal Albert Hall and Royal College of Music, will lead an ambitious new musical project, kindly supported by generous funding granted from John Lyon's Charity to the Royal Albert Hall

'Convo', an exciting new piece by rising London-based composer and Royal College of Music graduate [Charlotte Harding](#), will be premiered in March 2019. Thanks to core-funding from John Lyon's Charity, this ambitious project will see young musicians from schools across Hammersmith and Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster working together on a world premiere which will be performed at the Royal Albert Hall.

'Convo' is a musical journey through human evolution. From our first interactions with nature to a 21st century saturated in technology, this stunning new piece explores the ways in which music gives us voice. Winner of the prestigious RCM Queen Mother Rosebowl award, Harding said *"I am thrilled to have been commissioned to create a work for this incredible project and am very much looking forward to the exciting, innovative and collaborative music-making ahead."*

She sets the piece out in three movements. The first, *Earth Calling*, will explore the relationship between nature and musical communication, from birdsong to folk songs. The second movement, *Pen to Paper*, will focus on the development of music notation starting from the early cuneiform tablets of the Ancient Near East, through to contemporary graphic scores. The final movement, *Devices*, will reflect the colossal impact of technology and will feature rhythmic Morse Code sections, music for the moving image, and much more!

Following the Tri-borough Music Hub's (TBMH) award-winning [Seven Seeds](#) project in 2015, this rollercoaster through time will involve over 1,000 students across the three Local Authorities in its most ambitious project to date. This new large-scale event will be the culmination of an extensive two-year project of development across the TBMH which aims to embed best musical practice as an essential part of school life, giving invaluable musical opportunities to all pupils in the area irrespective of their background.

But the project is not just about a final performance. Manager of the TBMH, Stuart Whatmore says *"As well as improving the musical life in our schools, we will also seek to strengthen the Hub's ensembles so that high quality performance opportunities and progression routes are available to all."* Beyond the performance, the project will also support schools in other ways. *"In addition to the benefit for the pupils involved there is an ongoing need to support teachers in the delivery of music tuition to provide them with professional development whilst supporting schools as organisations in their own right."* When asked about his collaboration with Harding, Whatmore said that, *"We are thrilled to be working with Charlotte and can't wait to hear the end result!"*

The TBMH and Charlotte will be working with a core of pupils, schools and ensembles through the 2017-18 academic year in a research and development phase to create musical ideas that will be woven into the final piece. The finale performance at the Royal Albert Hall on 7th March 2019 will see a massed instrumental ensemble of TBMH young musicians playing side-by-side with professional musicians. They will support a massed chorus of almost a thousand primary, secondary and special school pupils. Further details about how schools can get involved will be released during the coming summer term.

Anna Hoddinott, Grants and Communications Manager at John Lyon's Charity says *"We are delighted to support this strategic project that promises to increase the breadth and quality of music-making for pupils and schools."* When commenting on the vision of the Hub, Hoddinott said, *"Working with the Royal Albert Hall and the Royal College of Music, the Hub is leading this innovative project in order to embed best musical practice as an essential part of school life, giving opportunities to all pupils regardless of their background and this chimes with our own goals as a grant-giving trust."*

Flo Schroeder, Education & Outreach Manager at the Royal Albert Hall says *"We are thrilled that the Royal Albert Hall has been awarded funding from John Lyon's Charity for this exciting project; we are passionate about championing music education and we are sure this project will provide an unforgettable experience for the young people taking part."*

Speaking of the success of Harding since she graduated from Royal College of Music, Hayley Clements, Head of Learning and Participation at the RCM says *"Charlotte has written and produced music for many high profile clients and concert halls, fusing her colourful musical background and classical training with her passion for live musicianship, creative approaches and high level production. We are very much looking forward to working with Charlotte."*

With more funding yet to secure, the TBMH, along with the Royal Albert Hall and the Royal College of Music, have an ambitious period of fund-raising ahead. Speaking of the challenges, Whatmore said, *"We are confident that we will be able to raise the remaining funding required for this excellent musical experience for our pupils and we hope that the funding from John Lyon's will inspire others to support this worthwhile project."*

For more information about 'Convo', contact the Music Hub info@triboroughmusic hub.org. Visit the [website](#); sign-up to the monthly [e-newsletter](#); or follow us on [twitter](#).

ENDS

Background Information and Appendix

Project Overall Aim:

This project will, first and foremost, support children's musical development. Pupils taking part in this project will gain a great sense of achievement, and experience increased confidence and motivation. The chance to perform at a world-class concert hall, as part of the premiere of a specially commissioned new work of the highest quality, will be a unique and inspirational experience for them. The musical provision on offer throughout the project will be of the highest quality and the impact on the students taking part will be significant.

Charlotte, supported by a team from the partner organisations, will lead a series of workshops in schools to gather pupils' input into the large scale new composition. The new work will be written for massed instrumental forces and massed choirs, and will reflect the diverse cultural mix in the Tri-borough area, incorporating a variety of musical genres and potential collaboration across a range of art forms.

As well as contributing to the creative composition process, 1,000 plus children will get the opportunity to perform at the Royal Albert Hall. This will raise the standard of singing in our schools, instrumental playing in our area, and further embed music as an integral part of school life.

Outcomes:

- To support the strategic place of music within schools and to continue to raise the standard of group singing in school
- To provide new opportunities for pupils to work with professionals with a common goal in a high quality performance event
- To increase participation in TBMH instrumental and vocal ensembles
- To provide pupils with the opportunity to explore creative work, giving them an insight into composition techniques
- To provide instrumentalists with regular mentoring support leading towards developing an exceptionally high standard of performance working alongside professional singers and players
- To build staff expertise and confidence through training delivered to school teachers and conservatoire students, creating a legacy of highly-skilled individuals who can increase the quality of music engagement opportunities in the Tri-borough
- Benefit the young people socially, through developing their musical skills, awareness, raising their aspirations and confidence

Stakeholders and beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of this project will be:

- a) **Massed singer pupils** – primary, secondary, SEND pupils
- b) **Instrumentalist pupils** – pupils who play in the TBMH's Youth Orchestra, Folk Ensemble
- c) **Schools (as organisations)** – TBMH supporting the strategic embedding of music in schools
- d) **Teachers (through CPD)** – TBMH supporting school teacher development in delivery of music
- e) **Partner organisations** – TBMH working with its partners to broaden and deepen their work with music education activities
- f) **TBMH as a whole** – the strategic engagement with schools, pupils, workforce, parents/carers, and the community

About Charlotte Harding

[Charlotte Harding](#) (b1989) is a composer/saxophonist originally from East Yorkshire. She studied composition at the Royal College of Music with Mark Anthony Turnage and on graduating was awarded the prestigious Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Rosebowl. Charlotte has written works for a wide variety of leading ensembles and soloists and is currently an associate composer with NonClassical. She is passionate about the role of music in education and health and has been involved as a composer, performer, and educator with a wide range of organisations including English National Ballet, Balletboyz, RCM Sparks and Chelsea and Westminster Health Charity. Charlotte also writes music for media including co-scoring the wildlife series 'Ingenious Animals' (OSF) which was broadcast on BBC1 last autumn.

About John Lyon's Charity

John Lyon's Charity was founded in 1572 by the Royal Charter that established Harrow School. The Charity now gives grants to benefit children and young people up to the age of 25 who live in nine boroughs in northwest London: Barnet, Brent, Camden, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Kensington & Chelsea and the Cities of London and Westminster.

The Charity's mission is to promote the life-chances of children and young people through education.

Since 1992, the Charity has distributed over £95million to a wide range of services for young people, including youth clubs, arts projects, emotional wellbeing initiatives, parental support schemes, sports programmes and academic bursaries.

About Royal Albert Hall

The Royal Albert Hall is the world's most famous stage. Over the past 146 years, it has hosted everyone from Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein and Edward Elgar to The Beatles, Bob Dylan and Adele. Last year, its breathtaking auditorium presented 397 events by the world's greatest performers – taking in rock, pop and classical music, dance, films, Cirque du Soleil and even tennis – with the magical setting and inspired artists creating amazing memories for audiences.

Opened in 1871 to fulfil Prince Albert's vision of a central hall to promote the arts and sciences, the Hall is a registered charity that remains true to his founding ambitions within a modern context. It hosts over 400 events a year in its secondary space, the Elgar Room, and beyond, broadening the Hall's appeal to incorporate younger and more diverse audiences.

Its Education & Outreach programme reaches more than 195,000 participants each year, working with schools, young people and the community, as well as other charities such as Music for Youth, as part of its extensive public benefit remit.

About Royal College of Music

RCM Sparks is the Royal College of Music's ground-breaking learning and participation programme who have been a Strategic Partner, guiding and supporting the delivery of music-making for those in the Tri-Borough Area since the Hubs inception in 2013. RCM Sparks provides opportunities for everyone to make or learn about music. In 2015/16 RCM Sparks ignited creativity in more than **3100** members of the local community and trained **110** RCM students and graduates. Sparks workshops offer inspirational learning experiences for all regardless of financial means, with free or subsidised places on offer for children who are eligible for free school meals and their families, 'looked-after' children, children who live in social housing and their families, families who are eligible for housing benefit and families who are eligible for working and/or family tax credit.

RCM Sparks works in three areas. We work: in schools, in the community and in partnership with other arts organisations. Our work in 2015-16:

- RCM Sparks worked with over **1900 school participants** over **42 individual schools**, and **74** schools related to wider Hub and Sparks partnership work
- RCM Sparks offered over **879** community workshop places
- RCM Sparks worked with **545 different members of the community** during **32 workshops at the RCM**
- **49%** of young people and families engaged in the Community programme were from **lower socio economic backgrounds this year**, increased from 23% in 2013-14 and 41% in 2014-15
- **65%** of young people and families engaged in the Community programme and IntoUniversity programme were from **lower socio economic backgrounds this year**

About Tri-borough Music Hub

Who we are

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.

The TBMH Strategic Partners are two internationally renowned organisations - The Royal Albert Hall and The Royal College of Music. In addition a dedicated and quality-assured group of delivery partner organisations, with evidence of a successful track record, work to meet the TBMH's strategic aims. The TBMH works with all our schools including SEN and Alternative Provision settings.

Mission Statement

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

Our Aims

The overriding [strategic](#) purpose of the TBMH is three-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.
- (3) to ensure a **broad range** of **outstanding musical opportunities** for pupils, parents and the community.

Tri-borough Music Hub

Inclusive - Exceptional - Inspiring - Progressive - Sustainable



Royal Albert Hall



City of Westminster



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA



hammersmith & fulham



ROYAL
COLLEGE
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