

Streetwise Opera's Composers in Residence Brief 2018-2019

[Extended deadline and updated brief]

Award-winning national charity Streetwise Opera is excited to announce its Composers in Residence scheme for 2018-2019, supported by PRS Foundation. We will be commissioning five composers to develop five short operatic choruses that will be dramatised for performance during our Opera Hour season in spring 2019.

Streetwise Opera is one of the UK's leading commissioners of contemporary opera, having commissioned 19 composers over the past 12 years including Orlando Gough, Anna Meredith, Will Todd, James MacMillan, Anna Appleby and Mira Calix. Our artistic policy is to combine existing classical repertoire with new music to create inspiring new opera. We are committed to investing in music creators and giving our performers, who have experienced or are at risk of homelessness, the opportunity to work with the highest quality artists, through new music that inspires and challenges them.

This is our third Composer in Residence scheme supported by PRS Foundation, following successful residencies in 2014/15 and 2016/17.

About the commission

We will be selecting one composer for each of the five regions where Streetwise Opera runs its programmes, Greater London, Greater Manchester, Nottingham, Teesside and Tyneside, to compose:

- A chorus [up to 5 minutes] inspired by the theme 'Community and Belonging'

Instrumentation will be for piano with other potential instruments to be agreed.

Composer in Residence support

- As well as the half day training day on 14 September, the five composers will be offered mentoring by composer Errollyn Wallen MBE
- Composers will be fully supported by the Artistic Director of Workshops and the Head of Programme, and will be able to visit workshops and liaise with workshop leaders throughout the process

Eligibility

- Aged 18 years or older
- Open to British citizens or residents in the UK
- We wish to support local talent, but applications are open to everyone
- Available for interview on 12 July, for training on 14 September and to visit four Streetwise Opera workshops between September and November 2018
- Experience in setting words to music is essential and experience in writing text is desirable
- We are interested in composers at different stages of their career and from all backgrounds

Payment

- Each composer will receive a fee of £1,000, and those outside London will be paid travel expenses to attend the interview on 12 July and training half-day on 14 September in London
- We are unable to pay for local travel expenses to attend workshops, rehearsals or performances

Timeline

- 1st July – Application submission deadline
- 12 July – Shortlisted candidates interviewed in London
- 14 September – Training half day in London
- 17 September - 26 November – R&D, workshop visits and drafts
- 26 November – Final delivery deadline for the chorus

Application process

Please send your application to info@streetwiseopera.org by midnight 1st July 2018, with the subject line 'Composers in Residence application'. Applications must include:

- Your CV [max. two pages], please make sure to include your postal address
- A 200 to 300-word statement outlining your interest in the project, and your thoughts on the theme 'Community and Belonging'
- Electronic scores for two vocal pieces that you have composed
- Links to recordings of these pieces if available – for pieces with a duration over 5 minutes, please identify a 5-minute excerpt that we should listen to
- A completed Streetwise Opera equal opportunities form

About Streetwise Opera

Streetwise Opera is an award-winning national charity that uses music to help people make positive changes in their lives. Working with people who have experienced or are at risk of homelessness, we run workshop programmes across England and stage critically-acclaimed operas.

Our productions platform the skills of our performers in a professional arena, showing that whatever life throws at them, they can achieve great things. Underpinning these, our workshop programme offers a dependable source of creativity in lives where everything else can be changing.

Streetwise Opera also runs With One Voice, an international movement which seeks to build the arts and homelessness sector globally through exchanges in policy and practice.