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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Call for proposals for New Music Biennial 2017

2nd Edition of New Music Biennial to contribute to Hull UK City of Culture 2017

Following the success of the inaugural New Music Biennial in 2014, PRS for Music Foundation today announces its call for proposals for **New Music Biennial 2017**. It is a PRS for Music Foundation initiative which is presented in partnership with Hull UK City of Culture 2017, London's Southbank Centre and BBC Radio 3.

New Music Biennial 2017 will comprise 20 new pieces of music: ten brand new works and ten pre-existing works that have been composed within the last 15 years. The New Music Biennial includes new music from across all genres: from classical and chamber opera to jazz, folk and electronic. Works should be no longer than 15 minutes in duration in response to the New Music Biennial's aim to create a pop-up, interactive way for audiences to discover new music. The deadline for applications is **12 November 2015** and the final programme will be announced in **December 2015**.

The winning compositions will be selected by a prestigious and diverse panel of judges including **Vanessa Reed** (Executive Director, PRS for Music Foundation), **Judith Weir** (Master of the Queens Music), **Sam Hunt** (Executive Producer, Hull UK City of Culture), **Gillian Moore MBE** (Director of Music, Southbank Centre) and chaired by BBC Radio 3 Controller, **Alan Davey**.

Throughout 2016 the new pieces will be composed and rehearsed and all twenty commissions will receive public performances throughout the UK in 2017, culminating in two celebration weekends in Hull on 1 & 2 July as part of Hull UK City of Culture 2017 and 7- 9 July at London's Southbank Centre.

The premieres will form part of Hull UK City of Culture 2017 which has four central themes: Made in Hull, welcoming the world to the city; Roots and Routes, celebrating Hull's connections; Freedom, exploring the city's role in ending global injustice; and Tell the World, exploring what is next for this unique place.

The New Music Biennial will be broadcast across BBC Radio 3 in addition to being performed across the UK and as part of the two celebration weekends in Hull and at London's Southbank Centre and hopes to reach over 500,000 people.

New Music Biennial 2017 is supported by Arts Council England, Creative Scotland, The John S Cohen Foundation and NMC Recordings.

Vanessa Reed Executive Director PRS for Music Foundation said,

"We're very excited to be launching today the call for proposals for the New Music Biennial 2017 and to be part of the official programme for Hull UK City of Culture in just over a year's time. I'm sure we will receive an array of high quality and imaginative proposals from across the UK and I'm glad that this time round we'll be programming existing repertoire that deserves to be heard again alongside brand new commissions."

Martin Green, Chief Executive and Director of Hull, UK City of Culture 2017 added: *“Hull will showcase the very best of the UK’s arts and culture in 2017 and the aims of the New Music Biennial chime perfectly with our own commitment to supporting artists who are creating exciting new work of the highest quality. We are delighted to be able to present the Biennial’s new commissions as part of our 2017 programme.”*

Gillian Moore, Director of Music, Southbank Centre said: *“The New Music Biennial is such an important platform and we’re thrilled to celebrate once again the talent and diversity of composers working in the UK today. Southbank Centre is committed to presenting new music in ever-more innovative and engaging ways, and through these performances and supporting programme of workshops, talks and debates, we look forward to inspiring many people with the sheer excitement of music-making.”*

Paul Frankl, Editor, BBC Radio 3 said: *“With its emphasis on performance, innovation, creativity and supporting new talent, New Music Biennial is exactly the sort of bold and distinctive programming central to BBC Radio 3 and our audiences. We’re proud to be involved once again and look forward to bringing our listeners more cutting edge contemporary music in partnership with PRS for Music Foundation.”*

For more information about the New Music Biennial visit www.newmusicbiennial.com

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Notes to editors

PRS for Music Foundation is the UK’s leading charitable funder of new music and talent development across all genres. Since 2000 PRS for Music Foundation has given more than £20 million to over 5,000 new music initiatives by awarding grants and leading partnership programmes that support music sector development. Widely respected as an adventurous and proactive funding body, PRS for Music Foundation supports an exceptional range of new music activity – from composer residencies and commissions to festivals and showcases in the UK and overseas. www.prsformusicfoundation.com

Hull won the bid for **UK City of Culture 2017** in November 2013, warding off Dundee, Leicester and Swansea to claim the one year title. The initiative, administered by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, was inspired by the significant social and economic benefits for Liverpool, when it was European Capital of Culture in 2008. During the year, there will be an extensive arts and cultural programme across all artforms and the current proposal includes 15 national and international commissions, 12 artists’ residencies, 25 festivals and eight major community participation projects. www.hull2017.co.uk

Southbank Centre is the UK’s largest arts centre, comprising three iconic buildings (Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Hayward Gallery) and occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London’s most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Building on this rich heritage, Southbank Centre offers an extensive artistic and cultural programme including annual and one-off themed festivals and classical and contemporary music, performance, dance, visual art and literature and spoken word. www.southbankcentre.co.uk

BBC Radio 3 broadcasts high-quality, distinctive classical music and cultural programming, alongside regular arts and ideas programmes, jazz and world music. The station features more live classical music programming than any other and is the home of the BBC Proms - broadcasting every Prom live and more than 600 complete concerts a year - alongside daily speech programming, 90 full-length operas, over 25 drama commissions and over 20 new BBC music commissions a year. Radio 3 is the most significant commissioner of new musical works

in the country and is committed to supporting new talent, from composers to writers and new young performers, through schemes such as New Generation Artists and New Generation Thinkers. www.bbc.co.uk/radio3

Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2015 and 2018, we plan to invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. www.artscouncil.org.uk

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. We enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. We distribute funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. For further information about Creative Scotland please visit www.creativescotland.com.