



PRESS RELEASE
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SOUND AND MUSIC ANNOUNCES RENEWED VISION AND LAUNCHES PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Sound and Music, the organisation that exists to nurture and promote new music and sound, today launches a public consultation based around a renewed vision. Sound and Music is seeking the input of the composers and creative artists at the heart of the organisation's work, as well as others interested in new music including arts organisations, educators, producers, performers, and audience members.

Under its new Chief Executive Susanna Eastburn, Sound and Music is in the process of conducting a review of its current programme and beginning to develop its plans for the future.

In the future Sound and Music will put the composer at the heart of its work. The organisation's role is to foster ambitious, high quality work and to enable as many people as possible to engage with and be inspired by it. More emphasis must be put on an open and inclusive approach starting with the needs of composers and others involved in creating new work. Talking directly to composers and creative artists, and involving them in helping to shape Sound and Music's plans, will be at the heart of the organisation's work. Sound and Music will also adopt a collaborative approach working closely in partnership with musicians, artists and other organisations, to encourage new networks and innovative thinking, to support those working in the new music sector and ensure that new music thrives across the country.

This consultation is the first step in starting to achieve these goals. It will enable composers, and anybody interested or involved in new music, to express their views on the priority areas of focus for Sound and Music. The consultation includes questions about Sound and Music's past and current activities, how it communicates, and a specific question on the development of the British Music Collection now safely housed with the University of Huddersfield and catalogued digitally including sound clips and score excerpts.

Sound and Music will publish the findings of the consultation process in January 2013.

Susanna Eastburn, Chief Executive of Sound and Music, commented: 'This consultation is an important step for Sound and Music towards involving composers, artists, and the wider sector more directly in shaping our work. I am looking forward to hearing the views and ambitions people have for Sound and Music, and using that insight to shape the next steps in our development.'

'This is a great time for new music in Britain. Despite the challenges posed by the economic downturn and heavy cuts in the public sector affecting both arts funding and the livelihoods of so many, the UK is arguably the most stimulating place in the world for composers or lovers of new work. Cultures, styles and influences meet and mingle here in a uniquely British way - a heady mix from which our composers and artists can draw their inspiration, take or ignore what speaks to them and forge their own voices. Ambitious and distinctive new work is being created in traditional forms and in forms that defy explanation, across and between genres - work that calls upon the exceptional skills and musicianship of performers, as well as ever-evolving ways of making and communicating music digitally.

'However, there is far more work to do to help talented composers and creative artists at different stages, wherever they are based, to develop and stretch their imagination and skill, take risks and explore new territory, and to connect with audiences and arts organisations both here and internationally. This is what Sound and Music exists for.'

Notes to editors:

Sound and Music

Sound and Music's vision is to create a world where new music and sound prospers, transforming lives, challenging expectations and celebrating the work of its creators. We exist to nurture and support talented composers and artists to create distinctive new work that inspires a broad audience. Our work includes composer support and development, partnerships with a range of organisations, live events and audience development, touring, information and advice, network building, and education. We champion new music and the work of British composers and artists, and seek to ensure that they are at the heart of cultural life and enjoyed by many.

www.soundandmusic.org

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