

TURNER SIMS Southampton

Mayflower 400 music commission Outline brief for composer

Background to Mayflower 400 (<https://www.mayflower400uk.org/>)

The 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower from the UK to America takes place in 2020, with activities planned in towns and cities across the country.

For Southampton, Mayflower 400 is an opportunity to:

- celebrate a city and a community, built on journeys and migration;
- tell the city's story in all its richness;
- celebrate all the people of the world who have made Southampton their home and those who have found sanctuary here;
- ensure Southampton continues to be a welcoming city;
- creatively explore the City's wider and longer history as a marine city and gateway to the world;
- look at who we were, who we are, how our city has grown and to re-think our cultural and maritime future.

Mayflower 400 arts and heritage activity in Southampton

In January 2020 Arts Council England (ACE) granted Southampton City Council (SCC) a £269,000 National Lottery Project Grant to fund a series of artistic projects and commissions to support the city's Mayflower 400 Anniversary programme.

The cultural programme will use the anniversary as an opportunity to reconnect communities to their maritime past and to tell stories of journeys, migration, identity and sanctuary; building empathy and greater cross-cultural understanding. Working with partners across the city, the grant will enable the development and delivery of ten projects, including a new music commission at Turner Sims (TS), Southampton's concert hall. Other projects include a community arts programme led by Solent University's Showcase Gallery; two large-scale community dance projects, one led by Art Asia as part of the Southampton Mela and one by ZoieLogic Dance Theatre; a light-art project for Weston Shore and the city centre delivered in partnership with Audacious and Light Up Poole; a new outdoor work by Requardt & Rosenberg,

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commissioned by Stomping Ground and produced by The Place; and 'A Mile in My Shoes' delivered by The Empathy Museum.

SCC are leading the overall programme. The Council are also making investments into heritage projects during the year, including four exhibitions at City Art Gallery, SeaCity Museum and Tudor House Museum and Gardens, and a renovation of the Mayflower Monument. This will include the addition of new plaques acknowledging the impact of the ship on Native American communities and celebrating Southampton's global role in migration and transmigration.

Caterina Loriggio, Mayflower 400 Anniversary Director, said: "This investment will help us reach and inspire many people who, for a variety of reasons, do not usually get to engage with the city's art programmes. We see the anniversary as an opportunity to work with communities to creatively explore self-identity, migration and transmigration, to celebrate the people of the world, such as the Mayflower passengers, who throughout history have come to, or through, Southampton in search of a new life, helping build our enviable reputation as Gateway to the World."

Music commission project description

TS is working with SCC to produce a new music commission celebrating the lives of Southampton's migrant communities. An experienced composer is being sought to create a set of choral pieces based on pre-existing and new oral histories of BAME and migrant elders. Stories will be sourced through the City Archive and a new National Lottery Heritage Fund oral history project, and the final pieces performed by local choirs and BAME/migrant community musicians.

SCC and TS will work with local arts and music organisations, city partners and faith groups to unearth hidden BAME/migrant musicians. Through an open workshop, a group will be selected to make up a team of 10 musicians representing different cultures and musical genres.

Throughout the year, the composer will develop the score with the musicians and from September, offer monthly workshops with circa four choirs who will eventually come to perform at TS in November. After the project is completed, the composer will rearrange the pieces, to enable them to be made available online for free use by local choirs, as well as arranging one or two pieces for schools' use.

Project aims

The key project aims are to deliver a process and outcome which:

- celebrates, relates, and responds to the unique qualities of Southampton;
- encourages a sense of place and community;
- engages local people;

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- creates original music in any genre;
- finds new ways of involving people in music;
- ensures Mayflower 400 has a positive, lasting-legacy for communities, artists and cultural organisations.

The project will deliver these aims through two elements: nurturing and establishing new collaborations between local choirs and musicians, and the devising of a new choral work for Southampton. Through this activity the project aims to create a sense of community and belonging.

The project brief is being kept as flexible as possible to allow for imaginative responses to these aims. The engagement of Southampton communities is an important part of the project, as is the creation of a high-quality artistic outcome.

We are open to different approaches to delivering the project and anticipate discussing this further with the appointed composer. Similarly, the format for the public performance of the final work will be subject to further discussion as the project develops.

Project personnel and reporting

In addition to the composer, a Project Manager will be appointed to work with the community choirs, and to co-ordinate arrangements for the musicians involved, and the final performances.

The day-to-day contact for the composer will be Kevin Appleby, TS Concert Hall Manager and Project Lead, and the Project Manager.

The composer and musicians will be expected to contribute to the documentation, monitoring and evaluation of the project, including collecting agreed quantitative and qualitative information.

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Project timeline

Date	Task	Task Lead
Feb	Call out for composer	M400 Director/TS
Mar	Appointment of composer	M400 Director/TS
	Appointment of Project Manager	M400 Director/TS
	First stories shared	M400 Director/TS
Mar-Apr	Call out for local musicians	M400 Director/TS
May	Workshop selection for musicians	TS
	Workshops with appointed musicians	TS
Aug	First rehearsals/testing with musicians	TS
Sep	Final music score shared with musicians	TS
Sep-Nov	Choir rehearsals (12 with composer)	TS
Nov	Rehearsals with musicians and choirs	TS
Sat 21 Nov	Dress rehearsal and performance 1 of 3	TS
Sun 22 Nov	Performances 2 of 3, and 3 of 3	TS

Budget

A budget of up to £16,000 is available to cover:

- commissioning fees
- all travel and expenses
- transcribing commissioned works for use after project
- 1 open workshop day with BAME/migrant musicians
- 6 workshop/rehearsal days with musicians
- 12 workshops with choirs
- Final rehearsal and 3 performances of the completed commission (Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 November 2020)

TS is holding additional budget to cover performance and production costs, marketing and project documentation.

How to apply

Please email Kevin Appleby at kma@soton.ac.uk with an expression of interest (this can be in written or visual format) no more than 2 pages of A4 for written submissions, recorded/filmed applications no more than 5 minutes.

Your proposal should include:

- Background on yourself and your composition history
- Why you are applying for this commission
- How you will respond to the themes outlined in this brief
- What type or style of music you want to create
- An example of any previous work, particularly involving combined professional and amateur musical forces

Shortlisted proposals will then be invited to a conversation with a panel of industry professionals to talk about your expression of interest in March 2020.

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Timescales

Applications open	Monday 17 February
Applications close	Monday 16 March at 12noon.
Shortlisting	w/c 16 March
Interviews	w/c 23 March
Composer announced	March
Project activity to begin	April

About Turner Sims (<https://www.turnersims.co.uk/>)



Turner Sims Southampton (TS) is a nationally renowned concert hall and live music producing organisation. With over 75 promoted concerts a year, some of them devised and programmed exclusively by TS with the artists involved, the venue plays a significant role in the creative scene in the South of England. Built for chamber music, the 350-seat venue based on the University of Southampton's main campus now hosts a wide-ranging programme with particular focus on classical, jazz, folk, and world music.

Presenting new music is integral to TS's programming with recent highlights including world premieres by Peter Edwards (as part of the national New Music Biennial 2017), Frank Zabel (for the Vienna Piano Trio), Jonathan Dove (a TS commission for clarinettist Emma Johnson and massed recorder players), and Sally Beamish (for the Endellion String Quartet).

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TS is part of the University of Southampton Library and Arts department (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/arts.page>), and gratefully acknowledges the support of ACE as one of its National Portfolio Organisations. Since 2018, Turner Sims has hosted and led the jazz development programme Jazz South.

Our media partners are leading magazines Gramophone, Jazzwise and Songlines. We are proud to be a member of the British Association of Concert Halls (BACH), Europe Jazz Network and Jazz Promotion Network.

KMA/CLv3
February 2020

Project partners and funders



UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton