

Writing the Future

An open call for music creators

The London Sinfonietta is seeking music creators to join the next round of **Writing the Future** – an opportunity to make a new work and build a new creative working relationship with the ensemble. The project will culminate in a performance of each new work by the London Sinfonietta.

London Sinfonietta

The London Sinfonietta is a contemporary music ensemble of world-class musicians performing instruments predominantly found in the western classical tradition. You can discover more about us through our webpage <https://londonsinfonietta.org.uk/about/our-mission>. The ensemble performs works for solo instruments, chamber group, ensemble and symphony orchestra sized works. It regularly performs in collaboration with artists from other art forms including video, dance, theatre and visual art and has a proud tradition of commissioning and performing ground breaking, challenging repertoire that reflects the society we live in.

The Scheme

We are offering four music creators the challenge of creating something new within your own practice, using the resource of the London Sinfonietta. We invite you to develop a new performance idea that can be realised by a small ensemble with up to six London Sinfonietta musicians. In recognition of our on-going wish to challenge the status quo and champion change, we are looking for project ideas which would expand the possibilities for a contemporary music ensemble, reflecting our evolving role as an ensemble in the 21st Century. This could include collaborations with other art forms; works that speak to a specific community; engagement with a contemporary issue or place; works created for the digital platform.

Who Can Apply

Our call is open to all music creators, whether or not you are familiar with notating for musicians. We are looking to work with music creators from all cultural and musical backgrounds who are passionate about their art form and would like the opportunity to apply that experience to writing for a contemporary music ensemble. We are particularly seeking relationships with artists from a non-classical background such as sound artists and improvising musicians, as well as music creators from historically under-represented groups or communities such as artists representing the Global Majority, LGBTQ+ communities, and those who identify as disabled. The London Sinfonietta is signed up to the PRS for Music Foundation's *Key Change* initiative, achieved this gender balanced commissioning in 2022, and is now committed to sustaining this balance. Participants must be 18 or over and be resident in the UK throughout the duration of the scheme.

To support you as you develop your idea, we will offer a bespoke set of opportunities, including:

- **Bursary** of up to £2750 to develop and create a new work.
- **R&D** of up to £3000 managed by the London Sinfonietta to support the development of the work. This will be tailored to your needs but could include workshop opportunities with musicians and/or time with a sound engineer, dancers, video designer or dramaturg to evolve new ideas, as well as location-based research or training opportunities.

- **Mentoring** will be a fundamental element of support on offer. London Sinfonietta has existing relationships with a wide spectrum of music creators who can act as artistic mentors (from composer George Benjamin to songwriter/composer Mica Levi, to electronica artist Squarepusher and jazz artist Marius Neset) whom it can ask to support individuals in creating their best work on the Writing the Future programme. In addition, we will appoint you a production contact from the London Sinfonietta team. This three-person team (yourself, the artistic mentor and the production contact) will meet across the development period of your project to support both its creative ambition and its smooth production process.
- **Practical Resource** such as a professional arranger or copyist as required.
- **Be part of the London Sinfonietta community** and our network of musicians, artists and collaborators. This would include access to London Sinfonietta rehearsals concerts and receptions; an ongoing relationship with the ensemble; the advice of our administration team who have experience in promotion, producing, outreach, finance and fundraising.
- **Showcasing** of the completed work in the London Sinfonietta's upcoming programme.
- **Digital capture** of the final performance.
- **Evaluation:** All participants will be invited to take part in a Critical Response Evaluation Process, where participants will have the opportunity to comment constructively on each other's practice and ideas.

If you need support towards travel, accommodation and/or access needs please let us know.

As part of the scheme participants would need to be prepared for all elements of the scheme to be fully documented and to allow these materials to be used for evaluation, educational and promotional purposes, and to be prepared to take part in the evaluation of their experience of the scheme.

How To Apply

Applications are now open. To apply for the scheme please provide the following information using this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/i188FCkREE>

1. Completed Personal Details
2. Tell us about your new project idea for working with us that could be developed and created through the scheme [This can be either in writing in the application form or submitted as a video of no more than 90 seconds.]
3. Tell us: about you and the music you create; why you are interested in London Sinfonietta; how you think our input can specifically support your development. [This can be either in writing in the application form or submitted as a video of no more than 90 seconds.]
4. Include at least three examples of works you have created which demonstrate your style
5. Provide details of two referees

In addition, we will ask you to complete an Equality and Diversity Monitoring form, once you have submitted your application. This form is not used in the selection process and is kept in an anonymous format for monitoring purposes only.

The deadline for applications is **Monday 22nd January 2024**.

Meet us to find out more

If you're not yet sure whether this scheme is right for you, or would like to hear from previous Writing the Future artists, or if you would just like to know more about us, you can meet us on the following dates:

- **In person**, Friday 17 November at the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer – time tbc
- **Online (zoom)**, Wednesday 29 November at 1.30pm (max 90 mins)
- **Online (zoom)**, Tuesday 5 December at 7.00pm (max 90 mins)

If you want to attend any of these sessions, please send us an email to confirm your preference and we will send you more detailed information and / or links to the zoom sessions.

To reserve your place, please email writingthefuture@londonsinfonietta.org.uk letting us know of any access requirements you may have.

You are also welcome to send any other queries you may have about the scheme and your potential involvement in it to writingthefuture@londonsinfonietta.org.uk

Timescale For The Project

- Application deadline: Monday 22nd January 2024
- Successful applicants informed by April 2024
- Project scoping and Mentoring Teams put in place: April 2024 to Summer 2024
- Summer 2024-March 2025: R&D, progression of new work, mentoring, creative development meetings with Artistic Lead
- Deadline for completed work: April 2025
- Performance likely to happen from June 2025 into the 2025-2026 season
- Completion of Evaluation: Summer 2026

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