



OPUS2018 Submission Brief

Britten Sinfonia has a history of innovation and excellence. Renowned for adventurous programming and a dynamic new approach to performing, over our twenty-five year history we have aimed to expand the horizons of what an orchestra 'could' or 'should' be and of how people engage with us and our music-making. In 2013, the OPUS composition competition was launched to further this vision with the goal of discovering an exciting new compositional voice.

Now entering its sixth year, OPUS winners are among the best up-and-coming compositional talents in the UK, however we want to push the boundaries further, widen the parameters, challenge ourselves and our audience and discover new musical terrain and all the creative potential therein.

With this in mind, OPUS2018 presents a new challenge to composers, retaining the core values true to both the competition and Britten Sinfonia as an organisation and evolving the competition and the At Lunch programmes in which the winning commission is couched.

OPUS 2018 combines folk singer and BBC Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the Year 2018, **Hannah Rarity**, with a piano quintet of Britten Sinfonia musicians to form the ensemble for which the OPUS competition winner will be invited to write. Working with emerging talent from a non-classical field and including the use of text for the first time introduces a new and exciting edge to OPUS: allowing us to continue the search for a unique, new compositional voice, challenging shortlisted composers to expand their existing musical knowledge, opening the competition to a potential new and alternative range of entrants and audiences alike.

Submission Criteria

Composers are invited to submit one existing composition (score and recording) for chamber forces, accompanied by a one minute sketch for folk singer, string quartet and piano.

Competition entrants should also submit a concept proposal for their artistic collaboration with the combined ensemble, including an explanation of their reaction to the commission brief and how they intend to develop their sketch. Composers should also consider their specific skills, potential audience and the venues in which their work will be presented.

Workshop and Performance opportunities

Alongside world premiere performances of the selected commission in venues including those in Cambridge and Norwich, the piece will also be included in our At Lunch concert series at Wigmore Hall, London. Composers are permitted to make an archive recording of

their piece for their records of one of the performances, and further broadcast opportunities may present themselves nearer the time.

In January 2019, five shortlisted composers will be invited to participate in a public workshop day with **Sir James MacMillan**, Hannah Rarity and Britten Sinfonia musicians to focus on the commission, exploring instrumental techniques and capabilities as well as style and form.

The winning composer will then be selected by a panel, commissioned and invited to attend rehearsals in March 2019 prior to the world premiere performance.