



SUPPORTING &  
CHAMPIONING  
VOLUNTARY MUSIC

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# Information

Sheet No. 18

## Adopt-a-Composer Scheme

Applications are invited each year from Making Music performing groups who would like to be considered for the annual Adopt-a-Composer scheme.

From May 2009 Making Music members will be able to download an application form from [www.makingmusic.org.uk](http://www.makingmusic.org.uk) (Members' Area – Information Sheet number 18b), or can request a copy or ask for more information by contacting Making Music on [info@makingmusic.org.uk](mailto:info@makingmusic.org.uk) or 020 7422 8280.



### 1. The Adopt-a-Composer Scheme

Adopt-a-Composer pairs amateur choirs, orchestras, and ensembles with a composer for one year. The composer has the opportunity to get to know a performing group and write a piece especially for them to premiere. The group has the chance to contribute to the creation of a new work by one of the UK's most promising composers.

Adopt-a-Composer is a scheme funded by the PRS Foundation and run by Sound and Music and Making Music.

### 2. Who is eligible to apply?

All Making Music members are eligible to take part in this scheme if they are:

- Interested in working closely with a composer and performing a new work.
- Able to arrange time in their schedule to rehearse and perform a new piece in their 2009/10 season (see page 2 for the scheme timetable).
- Enthusiastic to get involved in contemporary music and the composition process.

### 3. Benefits of the scheme for member groups

- A new piece of repertoire tailored to the strengths and personality of the group.
- A working relationship with a skilled and committed composer.
- An understanding of the process of creating new music and the capacity to undertake this again independently.
- The opportunity to be recorded by BBC Radio 3, for possible broadcast on national radio.
- A new and exciting experience, in which 36 Making Music groups have now participated.

## 4. Who else is involved?

Each pairing will be appointed with a mentor whose role will be to act as a musical amateur during initial meetings when the composer and performing group are getting to know each other. They will also act as a source of ongoing advice to both composer and group as the work is composed, in musical and practical terms.

The mentor will be somebody who is experienced in this field. They will attend sessions with the composer and be available for email and telephone contact.

## 5. Timetable for Adopt-a-Composer

- 29 June 09           Deadline for performing member groups wishing to participate
- July 09               Group selections announced, and selection of composers offered
- August 09           Confirmation of pairings announced
- September 09       First meeting with composers, group representatives, and mentors
- November 09       Workshop introducing composers to group members
- January 10          Workshop of new pieces in progress
- February 10         Meeting for all scheme participants (held in London)
- July 2010           Residencies end, all performances to have taken place

## 6. Financial aspects

The composer costs, fees for the mentoring composer, and all expenses related to the placement of the composer will be paid by the PRS Foundation. Travelling expenses for scheduled visits to London will be paid for via Sound and Music – details are provided on the day. The only costs to participating member groups will be the allocation of sufficient rehearsal and performance time.

The composer retains all rights to the score.

Groups should inform both Sound and Music and Making Music when the premiere is to take place. Sound and Music will provide print and logos to be included in publicity material and both Sound and Music and Making Music will assist in marketing the event – e.g. by placing information on their websites. Groups will be asked to complete a feedback form and provide programmes of the event after the premiere.

## 7. Contact details

The Making Music contact for the Adopt-a-Composer scheme is Evan Dawson. Groups may contact Evan via Making Music at any time for support during this period.

Email: [evan@makingmusic.org.uk](mailto:evan@makingmusic.org.uk)

Please visit the Opportunities section of [www.makingmusic.org.uk](http://www.makingmusic.org.uk) for details on the current composers and groups affiliated with this scheme.

## 8. Further information

**Sound and Music** is the UK's landmark agency for new music and sound, working in partnership with complementary organisations to raise awareness of this vital and inspiring art form.

It brings together practitioners, producers and promoters under one roof, with the ambition to attract bigger and more diverse audiences to engage with innovative and sometimes challenging work

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South Wing  
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The **PRS Foundation** is the largest independent funder for new music in the UK. The foundation provides all the financial backing for the Adopt-a-Composer scheme. Please visit [www.prsfoundation.co.uk](http://www.prsfoundation.co.uk) for further details.

Please note that groups submitting an application to the Adopt-a-Composer scheme will not be eligible to apply in the same year to any other scheme operated by The Performing Right Society Foundation.

PRS Foundation  
29-33 Berners Street  
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This information sheet can be made available in large print and other formats on request. Please telephone 020 7422 8280.

We hope you find this Making Music document useful - it is intended to give a reasonable summary of the position at the time of writing. If you are aware of any changes to the situation described or have suggestions for further information to be included please contact the Membership Services Team at Making Music 020 7422 8280 or [info@makingmusic.org.uk](mailto:info@makingmusic.org.uk). Please note that no responsibility for loss occasioned to any person or group acting or refraining from action as a result of any of the contents of this information sheet can be accepted by any of the authors or by Making Music, the National Federation of Music Societies.

Members of Making Music can download this and other information sheets from our website, [www.makingmusic.org.uk](http://www.makingmusic.org.uk), where the latest version will always be available.