



Choral Composition and Schools Performance Commission Invitation to Submit Proposals

Introduction

Proposals are invited from suitably experienced musicians for the composition of a new creative and unique piece of choral music that is inspired by the Land of Oak & Iron and its heritage and is composed working alongside an identified group of students from a local secondary school. The composition should be suitable for teaching within secondary schools within the lifetime of the project and for performances at a number of the celebratory events and activities that will punctuate the period of the project. Due to the nature of this project we would welcome proposals from composers and musicians living within the North East of England with a particular interest in those with connection with the Land of Oak & Iron programme area.

The Land of Oak & Iron

Our Vision

Working with local communities to celebrate, conserve and enhance our natural, industrial and cultural heritage. With partners, we will deliver a legacy of job creation, tourism, regeneration and economic benefits.

To achieve our vision the Partnership will deliver a £3.4 million programme with 14 interlinked projects from 2016-2020, that will create opportunities for the long term sustainability of its heritage, people and communities. Funding of £2.2m was awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund in December 2015 with £0.6m match funding and £0.6m of 'time in kind' pledged.

Our Geography

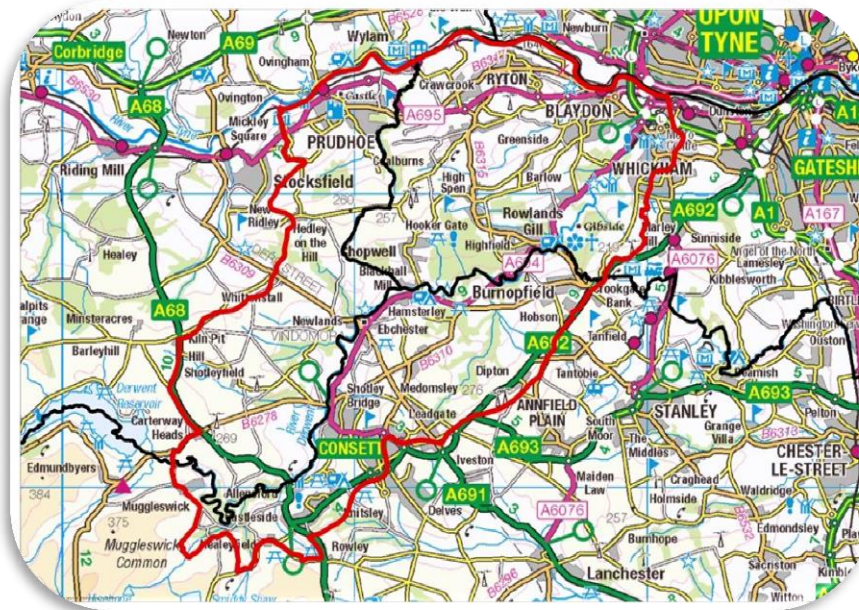
The Land of Oak & Iron Landscape Partnership is centred on the Derwent Valley, North East England. Set in the countryside to the south of the Metro Centre in Gateshead, it includes parts of the three Local Authorities of Gateshead, Durham and Northumberland. The area covers 177km² and is home to approximately 112,000 people.

One end is more rural, bordering the Derwent Reservoir and North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The boundary then follows the River Derwent down to the River Tyne where it is much more urban, bordering the edge of Newcastle and Gateshead town, including the Metro Centre. Although it is predominantly rural, the area has a number of larger towns and villages, including Consett, Shotley Bridge, Blaydon, Prudhoe, Ryton, Crawcrook and Winlaton Mill.

Our Heritage

Underpinned by the wealth of minerals, abundance of woodlands, water power from the River Derwent, and infrastructure from waggon ways and railways, the Land of Oak & Iron was once home to a variety of innovative industries including world leading iron and steel making. Spanning the 16th -20th Centuries this produced a landscape rich in natural, industrial and cultural heritage. The industrial developments attracted significant wealth, large settlements and the development of a vibrant dance, music and literary scene. Today there are some nationally and globally significant remains of the industry, a distinctive natural landscape and fascinating culture, but it is a landscape and heritage that is at risk of loss.

The map on the following page illustrates the project area with red line indicating the boundary.



The Project

Within the Land of Oak & Iron 14 interconnected projects will be delivered grouped into the following three themes:

1. **Investing in Heritage - Rediscovering Lost Landscapes** - identifying, enhancing and managing the little known natural and industrial heritage
2. **Investing in People – Forging a Stronger Future from the Past** - investing in people to develop skills, learn about the heritage and volunteer time
3. **Investing in Communities - Creating a legacy** improved access to and interpretation of the heritage, reducing negative environmental impact, expanding engagement and ownership, and promoting the area to make it a better place to live, work and visit.

This commission is a part of the Creative Interpretation project, which will contribute towards the Investing in Communities theme.

The aim of the Creative Interpretation project is to promote a better understanding of the fascinating history, landscape and cultural heritage of the area and sites within it. This will enhance the visitor experience across the Land of Oak & Iron programme area, through the provision of exciting, interesting and memorable activities. It will also inspire people to further discover, respect and appreciate the area into the future.

The Commission

Groundwork NE & Cumbria is looking for a composer-musician to support the creative aims of the bid through using the landscape and heritage of the area to inspire a new piece of choral work that is composed with and suitable for performance by, school children living in the valley (secondary school children aged 12 years +).

The composer will be responsible for the **production of parts** for use by the young people performing the work, it is expected that a set of parts remains with the school involved for potential future performances.

The aim is also for this composition to provide a musical theme that may be used for a variety of uses throughout the programme, including throughout events and performances delivered between



2018 and 2020. It is recognised that the Land of Oak & Iron is rich in traditional music and an approach to incorporate this within the approach is acceptable.

The artist practitioner will have a clear DBS Certificate and be able to supply two references and examples of school based creative projects. They will be able to show through a CV that they have the organisational abilities to develop and manage the project. They will be able to show examples of previous work where compositions were created with and or for children and young people.

The commission will commence in November 2017 with the first performances expected to be delivered from April 2018. Further performances are proposed for 2018-19.

Resource

Overall, a maximum amount of £5,000 is available for this commission. £3,000 of this is allocated to the composition stage which must include engagement with students from an already identified secondary school. An additional £2,000 will be made available to cover rehearsals and performance time for working with the students (at least four performances expected.) The overall fee available must cover all associated time and expenses.

The composition will remain the intellectual property of the composer, but the artist will permit the partnership, local schools, groups and community choirs the rights to perform the piece/ use recordings of the composition at community occasions of their choice. The composer is requested to acknowledge the original commissioner throughout any subsequent performances that they are involved with.

Operational Management

The successful composer/ musician will be appointed by Groundwork NE & Cumbria on behalf of the Land of Oak & Iron Landscape Partnership, as the lead organisation on the Creative Interpretation project. Operational issues will be handled by Grace Crawford, Programme Manager for Groundwork NE & Cumbria on a day to day and contractual basis.

Application process

Please apply via email to grace.crawford@groundwork.org.uk. Proposals should include the following:

- Organisation identity, including contact details, company registration number, date of registration and VAT registration number (if applicable)
- A short consideration of how you would meet the ambition of this project
- A copy of your up to date CV
- Name and contact details for two suitable referees
- Up to three relevant examples of music that you have previously composed. Please include either examples of composition, CD/DVD, mp3 sound files, YouTube links or similar.

All proposals must be received by **12pm on Wednesday 25th October 2017.**

Proposals will be reviewed by the Project Manager, the Land of Oak & Iron Partnership Manager, a representative of the Land of Oak & Iron board and two school representatives. All artists submitting proposals will be advised of the decision within four weeks of the date of submission.

Additional Information

If you have any questions or require any clarification, please call Grace Crawford at Groundwork NE & Cumbria on 01207 524803 or email grace.crawford@groundwork.org.uk.