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### Call for *Portfolio*: **Noh Theatre Music**

*Portfolio* is a Sound and Music artist development programme.

Aimed at talented composers at an early stage in their career, Sound and Music's *Portfolio* scheme provides a key development opportunity for composers to create new work with and for some of the UK's leading ensembles and presenters of new music. *Portfolio* enables them to develop their portfolio of work and gain vital artistic and practical insight and experience in working with professional ensembles and presenting organisations, and delivering new work to public audiences.

Selected composers are invited to develop small-scale, short new works. These works will be developed through a series of workshops during which the composer will work in close collaboration with the performers supported by an experienced composer mentor. The process culminates in a public performance of the new work within the performer's performance schedule.

As part of the *Portfolio* programme, **Sound and Music**, **mu:arts** and **Royal Holloway, University of London** offer a fascinating and unique opportunity for two composers to develop skills in writing for the music instruments of the Japanese noh theatre. No previous knowledge of noh necessary. Composers will attend the three week-long summer residency Noh Training Project UK at Royal Holloway (<http://nohtrainingprojectuk.org/>) in order to develop an in-depth knowledge of noh. Their works will be premiered at Kings Place in May 2016 as part of a two day noh festival. Composers will have the opportunity to develop their new pieces in three workshops, and will work closely with eminent noh musicians including *nohkan* flute player **Yukihiro Isso**. Mentorship will be provided throughout the residency by master noh practitioner **Prof. Richard Emmert**.

Noh is a theatrical art form that has been handed down through generations and been labelled one of the world's oldest performing arts. It has also been designated an "Intangible Cultural Heritage" by UNESCO. Noh is a total art form comprised of drama, music and dance elements. While often compared to western opera, the differences can be quite startling. Due to the use of masks in noh masks, one can call noh a "mask drama." There are many symbols and subtle allusions to Japanese cultural history deeply ingrained in the choreography and music.

The music of noh consists of chant and song, *nohkan* flute and three drums (kotsuzumi shoulder drum, *otsuzumi* hip drum and *taiko* stick drum). The latter are used for drum calls which create tempo variation and noh's distinctive sense of 'ma', or space - qualities which have inspired western composers throughout the last century. *Nohkan* flute is used complexly and creatively to convey atmosphere, dramatic tone, and emotional intensity.

#### **Details:**

- The opportunity is to develop and deliver a new work that responds to noh theatre which uses but is not limited to the core noh music instruments
- The opportunity will be scheduled around a 3 week residential in the summer and up to three workshops between September 2015 and May 2016
- It will culminate in a performance in May 2016

- The proposal must be a new work (not something already written or in development).
- Composers will work with experienced Japanese noh musicians on this project, a composition mentor, and will be able to seek guidance and advice from partners Royal Holloway and mu:arts
- The premieres of the *Portfolio* commissions may be partnered with another performance in order to maximize audience and press
- All travel and accommodation costs for the workshops, residencies and performance will be covered, as well as the costs of producing materials

### Timings for the project

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2015                       | Deadline for applications                             |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2015                      | Notification of interview                             |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2015                      | Interviews  |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2015                      | Notification of selected composers                    |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> August 2015 | Noh Training Project UK residential                   |
| Autumn 2015 – May 2016                          | Workshops   |
| May 2016  | Completed works incorporated into public performances |

### Selection process

A selection panel will shortlist individuals for interview. The panel will include an independent composer, Dr Ashley Thorpe (Royal Holloway), Akiko Yanagisawa (mu:arts) and a representative from Sound and Music.

### Eligibility:

- You must be resident in the UK at the time of application and for the duration of the scheme
- You must not be in full time undergraduate education
- This must represent a significant development opportunity for you
- You must be available for interview in London on the appointed date
- You must be able to meet the schedule as outlined above
- You may apply for more than one Sound and Music professional development scheme (Embedded and Portfolio) but no single composer may take up parallel residencies within any one scheme. E.g. you may only take up one residency at any one time. If you choose to do so, please submit separate applications for each call.
- No single composer can take up more than two consecutive residencies (Embedded/Portfolio) within any one scheme. E.g. A Portfolio residency followed by another Portfolio residency. However you may take up two different schemes consecutively, providing each residency presents a significant development opportunity for you. a composer engaged in a current Sound and Music project (e.g. Adopt a Composer, Composer-Curator, Touring, Higher Education Programme) may apply to a residency in a different scheme and vice versa. E.g. you can take up a Portfolio or Embedded residency at the same time as another project.
- Sound and Music actively seeks to encourage a diversity of applicants to its programmes. If you are selected, we will do our best to accommodate any particular needs you may have. A copy of our Equality Policy is available on our website here: [www.soundandmusic.org/knowledge-hub/evidence-hub](http://www.soundandmusic.org/knowledge-hub/evidence-hub)

### How to apply

If you wish to apply for this project please complete the online form which can be found here: <http://www.tfaforms.com/291017>

As part of your application, please provide:

- A CV, including a list of works (as one document, 2 sides maximum)
- Two audio examples of your work uploaded to the above online form
- Up to two examples of works in PDF format (optional)
- A statement about why you would like the opportunity (on no more than one side of A4) with responses to the following questions:
  - Why would you like to be on this scheme?
  - How do you feel you would benefit from it as a professional development opportunity?
  - Details of the work you would like to develop and your compositional approach
  - What are your other commitments for 2015-2016
  - A completed equal opportunities form

For any queries, please contact Angharad Cooper (Creative Project Leader) at Sound and Music on [angharad.cooper@soundandmusic.org](mailto:angharad.cooper@soundandmusic.org) or 0207 759 1806

**The deadline for this call is noon 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015**

Late applications cannot be considered

We will acknowledge receipt of your application when the call closes

**Prof Richard Emmert** is NTP UK's Co-founder and Artistic Director. He is one of only a handful of non-Japanese Noh experts fully qualified to teach Noh in Japan (where he has lived since 1974) and abroad. As well as performing and teaching Noh all over the world, he is also a Professor of Music and Theatre at Musashino University in Tokyo.

**mu:arts** is a London based independent creative producer/curator specialising in culture and arts primarily of Japan. We aim to deliver excellent artists and productions and are keen to promote cross-cultural and inter-disciplinary collaborations.

**Royal Holloway** is a college of the University of London, with world-leading departments in Music, and Drama and Theatre. The college has the only permanent Japanese Noh theatre in Europe.

**Sound and Music's** vision is to create a world where new music and sound prospers, transforming lives, challenging expectations and celebrating the work of its creators. Our work includes composer and artist support and development, partnerships with a range of organisations, live events and audience development, touring, information and advice, network building, and education. We champion new music and the work of British composers and artists, and seek to ensure that they are at the heart of cultural life and enjoyed by many. [www.soundandmusic.org](http://www.soundandmusic.org)



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